



# Africa Workers Organizer

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***Forward to a Soviet France !  
Defend the workers gains in Cuba!  
We draw the lessons of the betrayal  
of the public sector strike.***

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**Down with the imperialist regime of the French 5<sup>th</sup> Republic and Sarkozy's government!**

**Out Thibault, Mailly and other union leaders who are the agents of the imperialists within the workers' movement! Break with the CP, NPA, Collective for revolutionary tendency in NPA, Lutte Ouvriere, Groupe Bolshevique, representatives of the labour aristocracy who will do everything to isolate the struggles of the workers and prevent the working class from taking the road to seize power.**

**For factory committees at every workplace to get rid of the treacherous leaders and to make the struggle for the workers to seize power a reality!**

**For workers self defence committees to defend against the imperialist state and their armed bands!**

**For an international Congress of workers, students, poor peasants, immigrants, rank and file soldiers and unemployed delegates in France from Britain, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Belgium, Romania, from the entire Europe, up to Russia and Ukraine, from all the French colonies and semi-colonies!**

**For a general strike across Europe and in the colonies and semicolonies! Expropriate all the imperialist banks, without compensation, placing them under workers control, to take back the pension funds they stole from the working class!**

**For the real independence of all the French colonies and semi-colonies, in the form of workers republics!**

**Do not let the treacherous leaders and fake 'left' groups betray the struggle of the workers to take power of France October 2010 as they did of the French May 1968!**

**For the defeat of Nato troops in Afghanistan! For workers to send weapons to the Palestinian resistance, and to block arms for the fascist Zionist state!**

In October 2008 the handful of imperialist bandits got together to rob the state coffers from across Europe, including the pension funds, causing a bankruptcy of the states, to bail out the imperialist banks. They stole 2.7 trillion euros from the entire working class in Europe and in France they stole, 360 billion euros with the support of the party of Sarkozy as well as the Socialist Party and the Greens.

Imperialists decided to place the burden of the states' bankruptcy on the



working class; therefore their servants, the union bureaucracy and anticapitalist left play the role of dividing the workers resistance to it. In the task of dividing the working class resistance to these attacks the imperialists had the support of all the Stalinist parties, the trade union bureaucracies, the so called anti-capitalist parties, the fake Trotskyists. So the first attack in Europe was launched on the masses in Greece by imperialism. Attacks were launched on Rumania and other ex-workers states in Eastern Europe. The left united in Greece to turn the masses' anger into elections; the Social democratic Pasok came to government on their own and when the Pasok accelerated the attacks the left refused to fight for the overthrow of the Pasok regime and organised several one –day actions to tire out the masses, merely to pressure the regime. The left refused to organise a real Europe-wide resistance against the united imperialists attacks on the working class in Greece. They left the Greek masses isolated. When immigrants were dismissed en masse the trade unions organised no real resistance and left the immigrant workers to fight on their own.

When the working class rose in Guadeloupe and Martinique, the New Anti-Capitalist Party's Besancenot went there to explain that the workers from Guadeloupe must ask for the 200 euros wage increase to be shared between their bosses and their state, since French taxpayers and the French state couldn't afford to pay for all of it. The Lutte Ouvriere turned the mass struggle into a trade union negotiation and refused to organise factory committees and workers councils when the masses were ready to build a dual power in opposition to the French imperialist regime- they failed to even call for the defeat of the French troops on these islands. And when the revolution in Madagascar began, Lutte Ouvriere simply ignored it. Thus the NAP and the Lutte Ouvriere acted to contain the revolutionary actions of the masses and sustain the rule of French imperialism.

In May 2010 the anti-capitalist reformist left in Europe gathered in the Counter-summit in Madrid. At the time Greece was burning and the masses were ready to overthrow the Pasok regime the leaderships of the bureaucracies and anticapitalists prevented every attempt of setting up organisms of self-determination and direct democracy and stood in the way of the arming of the workers, preventing the organizing and launching of the insurrection. The cowardly 'left', raising cries of 'for a Social Europe' called for a Europe-wide 'general strike' on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, that is, four months later. In this time the imperialists were able to regroup their forces and contain the revolution in Greece. They were able to inflict heavy blows on the proletariat in Greece, but have not yet completely defeated the movement. The core of the resistance was independent committees of Greek and immigrant workers, principally around the docks. The slogan of a 'social' Europe is nothing else but a begging bowl to the imperialists to continue to give crumbs to the proletariat to maintain their social benefits over the bones of super-exploitation of the immigrants and the working class in the semicolonies and colonies. It was a promise to the imperialists that they would keep the masses off the streets and keep struggles isolated and only organise



symbolic actions for the masses to blow off steam. These 'revolutionary' anticapitalists kept their word to imperialism by organising symbolic pickets of handful of workers across Europe on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. Only the masses in Spain forced a general strike and announced to the imperialists that they would not give up their gains without a fight. The imperialists not only continued their attacks on the masses but have indeed accelerated them. In Germany, Rumania and several other countries, workers have been forced to accept cuts in wages. In each case the worker leaders, the Stalinist parties, the world social forum and anti-capitalist left, kept their resistance on national terrain. The primeromarzo movement of the immigrants organised a Europewide general strike of immigrants on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, but they were kept isolated and separated from the rest of the working class.

**The workers are breaking with the capitalists and want to go up to the end in the fight against them in France but the leaders of the CP, the union bureaucracy, the Lutte Ouvriere, the NPA, the World Social Forum, the collective for a revolutionary tendency, are all preparing to betray every attempt of the workers to take the road for the seizure of power.**

While the Greek masses organised 6 general strikes within 8 months, the French masses have forced the union leaders to call 4 general strikes in 5 weeks. The latest general strike was on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010 when more than 3 million workers and students took to the streets. If there were so many people supporting the struggle, why did the leaders not occupy parliament as the masses did in Kyrgyzstan? The truth is the leaders deliberately held back the masses from taking over parliament and the imperialist banks. For weeks the trade union bureaucracy has opposed strike action by the French masses. Thibault, the leader of the CGT, called those who called for a general strike 'stupid' while the leader of the FO called for negotiations instead.

The masses are breaking from the treacherous leaders; already the workers in Ardenne, including the metalworkers at Peugeot, have called for an indefinite general strike. The railway, petroleum, port, airport workers and now the municipal workers, have embarked on an indefinite strike, with the petroleum workers leading the way by demanding that the retirement age be 55 as opposed to the government plan to raise the 65 year retirement age to 67. This raising of the retirement age means that the state has allowed the imperialist banks to steal workers pensions and that workers will be paying more to the capitalists and receiving reduced pensions. Students are starting to enter the struggle with hundreds of schools closing or being blockaded on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. The masses want to go on the offensive but the leadership limits the struggle to a defensive one, a struggle on the economic terrain and shielding the state from the masses' willingness to overthrow it. The chief enemy of the revolution advancing are the treacherous leaders within the workers movement. We need to kick out these traitors.



The state is preparing a counter-revolutionary blow against the masses. Already some key refineries were forced open with workers being threatened with 5 year jail sentences if they refuse to work; students have been threatened with 3 year jail sentences if they take part in a blockade with the working class. The imperialists know that if the youth unite with the workers, then the revolution will be unstoppable.

Not a single tendency, whether they carry the label Trotskyist or Socialist or Communist in France has raised the slogan: '*down with the Sarkozy imperialist regime*'; in fact all their slogans raised call for 'pressure' on the regime for it to back down on the plans. **Thus their slogans are deliberately crafted to limit the working class from struggling to take political power by its own methods. They want the struggle to remain on the economic terrain, the trade union level, the electoral level, that is, within the capitalist framework.**

The New Anti-Capitalist Party, the Collective for a Revolutionary Tendency within the New Anti-Capitalist Party (section of the FT-CI) call for an indefinite general strike, while the Lutte Ouvriere calls for an extension and broadening of the current strikes. But for all these tendencies a 'general strike' is really a general 'stayaway' where workers leave their workplaces and form pickets outside. In other words, they want to generalise the current format of the strikes, which are in the stalinist tradition of stayaways and work stoppages and against factory occupations. **This is a deliberate policy of Stalinism to pressure the capitalists but, crucially, to prevent organs of workers power developing within the factories.** The most 'left' of all these groupings (and the most dangerous) is the FT-CI (the Collective for a Revolutionary Tendency) which calls for committees of struggle and general strike committees, but fails to make the call for workers to **occupy** the workplaces. This is directly linked with all these groups failing to make the call for factory committees to be set up. **Factory committees** are those which unite all workers at the workplace, irrespective if they are unionised or not, or whether they are permanent or casual, French or immigrant. The call of these tendencies for a 'general strike' is limited to the chauvinist policy of not involving casual, temporary and immigrant workers. At best, the role of immigrant workers feature in their programme as a side issue of 'the right to documentation', not as a crucial part of the struggle for the working class to take political power. It is factory committees and delegates from these structures that will lay the basis for workers' councils (soviets) to emerge. This will mean that the existing intersindical structures which exist would be able to break free from their union limits and develop from pre-soviet structures to soviets. **The first task of the factory committees must be to combat and kick out the treacherous leaders. Without this key step, the fate of a general strike and of the struggle for power will still be in the hands of the class traitors.**



The failure to call for factory committees to prepare to occupy the workplaces has another consequence: when militant workers try on their own to occupy their workplaces, these tendencies have left them isolated. It is easy for the state to attack these vanguard workers and thus contain the most advanced elements of the revolution.

**The fight to set up soviets or equivalent structures and break free from the chains of the union bureaucracy can only have meaning if the first task is posed of expelling the treacherous trade union leaders from the unions.** Otherwise, in the final analysis the intersindical (or inter-union) structures will be chained to the very agents of imperialism within the workers movement, the union bureaucracy. *Not a single of the tendencies in France make the call for the immediate removal of this main obstacle of organising a decisive battle to overthrow the imperialist regime.*

The **Solidaires** union, the alliance partner of the South American **Conlutas**, raises the call for a general strike but only for its ranks. This policy of self-isolation and not challenging the bureaucracy of the leading unions, is divisive, especially at a time when the working class needs to unite against the imperialist regime. Objectively their policy of dividing the vanguard workers, assists the imperialists in these pre-revolutionary days. The NAP calls for 'unity' under these conditions and limits criticisms of the union bureaucracy as they do not to 'divide' the strike movement. The NAP defends the union bureaucracy, saying they are not sellouts (timoratas) thus doing a good service for imperialism to tie the masses to these class traitors. The NAP now calls for a French May 1968, **but in the absence of a fight to expel the treacherous leaders, the fight for working class power will remain in the hands of those who betrayed the fight for power in May 1968.** The Collective for a Revolutionary Tendency (FT-CI) criticises the union bureaucracy but calls for a national meeting of class fighters to become an alternate pole to the bureaucracy, but they too fail to call for the removal of the class traitors, the ones who call workers 'stupid' if they want a decisive fight with the imperialists. The FT-CI thus has a similar position as the Solidaires, of self-isolation and dividing the vanguard in times of revolution. The Lutte Ouvriere does not call to even pressure the union bureaucracy (perhaps they are even part of this bureaucracy?). They call for a threat of a general strike to pressure the Sarkozy regime and are thus one of the main obstacles for a real general strike to be organised and in the final analysis stand against the revolution. On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010, when millions of workers and students took to the streets, the Lutte Ouvriere was more interested in preparing the ground for their new electoral face, Natalie Arthaud, who proclaimed rather vaguely that if Sarkozy is inflexible the masses would make him back down not only over pensions but also on other matters. What is implied is that the masses should support Lutte Ouvriere in the 2012 elections. The Lutte Ouvriere are the most treacherous of all the tendencies as they stand in the name of the Fourth International and Trotsky and argue on the pension reform



that the capitalists have the money for pensions from the gains on past increases in productivity and on future increases in productivity. This means that the Lutte Ouvriere is saying to the imperialists: *'don't worry, there is enough money for pensions, we as Lutte Ouvriere will encourage workers to work harder to make up for any shortfall that there currently is.'* Most of the tendencies make no call for the **expropriation of the imperialist banks without compensation and to be placed under workers control**, nor even as a direct measure to take back the money which was stolen by the imperialists in 2008, not only in France, but across Europe and indeed from the world working class. The Lutte Ouvriere and FT-CI make mention of expropriation of the banks, but without raising the call for the expulsion of the treacherous union leaders, the fight for this demand remains in the hands of the class traitors.

They do not call for the defeat of their own imperialist in Afghanistan. Not a single tendency in France makes a call for **workers self-defence to be organised**. The police are shooting protestors eyes and brains out, they send attack groups to break through picket lines but not a single tendency is bold enough to raise the question of a **workers' militia**. If they take no measures to defend the isolated strikes that a breaking out now, how can they be taken seriously with their calls for broadening the strikes or for an 'indefinite' general strike? These are just words to still keep some respectability in the eyes of the masses so they can play their counter-revolutionary role of containing them now as they did in May 1968.

The policy of all these tendencies is **nationalist**, at the very time that the imperialist bourgeoisie is co-ordinating their forces across Europe, bringing in petroleum and other supplies from Belgium, Germany, etc to break the back of the strike. French banks, who were bailed out in October 2008, are interconnected with banks in other parts of Europe and the colonies and semicolonies, yet the tendencies limit the fight against these parasites to France. The very 'revolutionary' phrase-mongers that called for the one day all-europe general strike for the 29<sup>th</sup> September, have scattered like rats from a sinking ship. At the very time they should be raising a call and organizing an –all-Europe general strike to stop the broad offensive of the imperialists across Europe, they are hiding under the table. But there is a more sinister side to the nationalism of these tendencies. Today worker leaders from the heroic workers struggles in Guadeloupe are being tried and persecuted in French courts for refusing to give a sample of their DNA to the imperialist regime and for criticising the lackeys of the French imperialists. Not a single of these French tendencies have raised the call for the real independence of the French colonies and semi-colonies, which can only take the form of the workers in these countries expropriating all imperialist assets and banks and placing them under workers control. Lenin wrote on the Paris Commune of 1871 that one of the main lessons for the world proletariat was that imperialism was not 'patriotic', when there was a threat to the entire system of



capitalism, the imperialists would unite against the working class. The attacks by imperialism on the pension gains of the French proletariat is part of the same attack on the working class in Guadeloupe, Martinique, Ivory Coast, DRC, Madagascar, etc. Lutte Ouvriere has a presence in several of the French colonies and semi-colonies, yet they and the other tendencies do not even make the minimal call for equal pay for equal work and for the working class in the colonies to seize the moment when French imperialism is weak and to organise to expropriate all French imperialist assets, the only basis on which real independence from imperialism can start. In short, all these tendencies are social imperialist, opposing their own imperialist in words but siding with them in practice. Now that the working class in the French colonies are wanting to take to the streets in a general strike against French imperialism, the fake left, including Lutte Ouvriere, which also organises in Guadeloupe, has deliberately desynchronised the next step in the fight: the workers in Guadeloupe will strike on the 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010 while in France the next 'one-day' strike will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> October. Lutte Ouvriere's group in the Ivory Coast is very critical of US imperialism and its role in Madagascar but is silent on the role of French imperialism on the island.

The Socialist Equality Party (part of the International Committee of the Fourth International ICFI), while criticizing the tendencies for failing to organise selfdefence, nevertheless calls for independent committees independent of the unions, once again failing to fight for the expulsion of the union bureaucracy from the unions, landing up, similar to Solidaires and the Collective for a revolutionary Tendency of the NPA (the FT-CI), with self-isolation and dividing the working class vanguard in the time of revolution. The SEP also has a nationalist vision of the strike in France and sees no link to the revolution in the colonies and semi-colonies. The social imperialist vision of the SEP (the ICFI) will be fatal for the working class. If the working class in France are poised to seize power, then all the world's imperialist powers, including US imperialism will stand together to attempt to drown the French October in blood. This is the ABC of the lessons of the 1871 Paris Commune. Lenin also spelled out another important lesson from the 1871 Paris Commune, namely that the working class will pay dearly if it fails to go to the end in its clashes with capitalism-imperialism. The Communards gave a breathing space to the Versailles government. It appealed to them on a moral basis (for a social France) but the imperialists regrouped and drowned the uprising in blood. The tendencies in France have 'learnt' from the Paris Commune- they are not even prepared to take the first steps to call for the arming of the masses. They think they can appeal for a 'social Europe' while day by day imperialism sharpens their swords. Workers have wages cut and more are dying of hunger; health care is privatized and more workers are dying because they cannot afford the private health rates; workers are forced to work longer and more are dying before they go on pension. Now the few sectors that have started an indefinite strike stand isolated by the tendencies that claim to be in solidarity with them. Imperialism is preparing to drown the



resistance in blood. We are not neutral in this fight. In the final analysis the battle will be settled by force, in the streets.

In this time, the church, the middle class, the university professors, the mass media, the fake left, the upper layers of the labour aristocracy, will all pose as revolutionary and democratic and pro-worker, in order to betray the revolution from within.

Since 1998, US and French imperialism have plundered the DRC for its mineral wealth. Over 6 million were killed. Over the past 20 years the standard of living of the working class has dropped dramatically. The level of culture has dropped. Iraq and Afghanistan has been reduced by US, French, German and UK imperialism to a state of barbarism, to being torture regimes where more than 70% of those killed are civilians (working class), where imperialism instigates so-called inter-ethnic violence, but really creates a cover for the brutal slaughter of the working class resistance. And the treacherous 'left' like the NAP, the Lutte Ouvriere and others want workers to negotiate, unarmed, with the worst perpetrators of violence against the working class that has last been seen in the second imperialist war. The imperialist regime in Britain is unleashing attacks worse than Thatcher. All the left in Britain are sorry tailenders of Thatcherism. We call on the working class to kick out all these class traitors and to set up factory committees and to join the French workers at the barricades. No, the antagonisms between the workers, urban and rural are irreconcilable with the imperialists. The working class must take all the necessary measures to ensure its armed defence against the coming imperialist onslaught. We have to realize that the working class in the world is in a class war with the capitalists-imperialists. Either the system destroys us or we destroy the system. These are the stark choices that we face. Let us unite as the world working class to defeat these handful of parasites, the capitalist class and their system. We have nothing to lose but our chains.

All preparations must be made for a decisive fight for the working class to take political power with its own methods. This will only happen with the defeat of the reformist and counter-revolutionary tendencies within the workers movement.

Down with the imperialist regime of the Fifth French Republic and the government of Sarkozy!

For factory committees in every workplace to prepare for occupation of all factories, mines, capitalist farms, mines, banks, etc.

Out with the union bureaucracy from the unions and the workers movement

Down with the CP, NAP, Lutte Ouvriere, Groupe Bolshevique, Collective for a revolutionary tendency of the NAP, Solidaires, and all such groupings.

For general strike committees of delegates of workers, students, unemployed, immigrant workers, rank and file soldiers.

For workers self-defence committees

**For an organizing committee to refound the Fourth International.**



**All power to the broadened inter-union, general strike committees in France!**

For an international congress, convened by the organizing committee to refound the Fourth International, in France of worker delegates from across Europe and from the colonies and semi-colonies, to prepare a Europe-wide general strike and general strike in the colonies and semi-colonies!

For the expropriation of all imperialist assets and banks, without compensation, to be placed under workers control, in France, across Europe and across the colonies and semi-colonies! For workers republics in the colonies and semi-colonies!

For the retirement age of 55 irrespective of being a French, European or immigrant worker!

Equal pay for equal work, on a world wide scale!

Set up factory committees, uniting local and immigrant workers, permanent and casual workers, to prepare for a revolutionary general strike in the USA!

Out with the class collaborationist leaders from the AFL-CIO and the unions and workers organizations, in general.

For the defeat of Nato troops in Afghanistan! For the defeat of imperialist troops and their mercenaries in Iraq. Imperialism out of Iraq!

Workers to send weapons to the Palestinian resistance!

For a federation of Workers Socialist states of Europe! Down with Maastricht of the imperialist bandits.

In this fight the FLTI will be your firmest ally.

FLTI 20.10.2010 amended 25.10.2010

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**THE WORLD WORKING CLASS MUST PREVENT THE RESTORATION OF  
CAPITALISM IN CUBA  
BY THE CASTROITE BUREAUCRACY AND ITS PACT WITH IMPERIALISM  
AND LATIN AMERICAN NATIVE BOURGEOISIES**

Down with the restorationist Castroite bureaucracy!

Victory for the political revolution to position the Cuban workers' state as a stronghold of the Latin American and world socialist revolution!

***The Castroite bureaucracy commands the restoration of capitalism in Cuba***

The brutal attack of the Castroite restorationist bureaucracy against the Cuban working class is a fact. The Cuba State Council resolved to dismiss half a million workers in the next 5 months and another half million in the next five years. One million workers will be dismissed in total; i.e. 20% of Cuba's total labour force. Thus, the Castroite bureaucracy, who has been administrating the Cuban workers state and being partner with finance capital in joint ventures for exploitation of nickel, cobalt and tourism, today is attacking the heroic Cuban



workers, accusing them of being “slackers” who “earn wages without producing” and still “receive free health care and education”. Raul Castro stated clearly: “*We have to erase forever the idea that Cuba is the only country in the world where you can live without working*”. (Granma, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010).

As a part of the restoration offensive, the Castro brothers government and its capitalist-restorationist regime, in agreement with Obama, the big laboratories and high-tech medicine companies, need to dismiss most of the workers from the Cuban health system and liquidate free, high quality health for the people, a conquest of the revolution, in order to put it at the service of the transnational companies. That’s the way the Castroite bureaucracy is preparing give away the Cuban medicine, with the most qualified and cheapest doctors and staff in the world (public servants have a wage of 20 dollars), so the capitalist companies in medicine, manufacturing and research can conduct a billionaire business, transforming the island into a medical tourism playground for the world bourgeoisie.

The agreement between Castro brothers, the Cuban army, Obama and the imperialist companies is an attack on the working class, with dismissals of hundreds of thousands of workers. To make the joint ventures of the transnationals and the restorationist bureaucracy profitable, they need **hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers to build an industrial reserve army** to be used as blackmail against the workers who will be still producing and therefore increase the rate of exploitation of the workers in Cuba. That is how the Castroite bureaucracy wants to make the Cuban workers pay the cost of the world capitalist crisis, acting like any other bourgeois government!

This also means **a qualitative leap backward to attempt to liquidate the egalitarian consciousness of the masses**. The Cuban workers and peasants identify ‘socialism’, more and more with the increasing misery and suffering. This fake conscious was prepared for years by the Castroite bureaucracy, with very hard defeats they caused to the masses of the continent; and today is leaping backward when they try to justify the dismissal of 1 million workers by saying that they are “slacker” and “parasites” and that because of them the “Cuban economy is in crisis”, when the full responsibility is that of the Castroite bureaucracy. Cynics! Those thousands of bureaucrats that don’t produce anything are the only parasites on the island!

The Castro brothers and their gang is responsible for the crisis that is plunging Cuba down today; Because they applied for over 50 years the reactionary Stalinist utopia of “**socialism on one island**”. They refused to extend the Cuban revolution and this has caused the decay of productive forces in Cuba and imposed terrible sufferings on masses of the island.

***The world working class has defended for decades, with their combats, the conquests of the Cuban revolution***

Such an offensive with dismissals and privatizations by the Castroite regime against the Cuban masses is an **open attack to restore capitalism**. It was confirmed by Fidel more than a month ago, when he said to the imperialist media that the “*Cuban model doesn’t even work for us anymore*”

The Cuban bureaucracy defended the workers state against its own will, i.e. plundering it. But it has been a while that the bureaucracy could depend solely on the Cuban state for its privileges. From the start Cuba was a deformed workers state as the working class



went further than Castro and the bureaucracy ever intended, completely rooting out the capitalists. Castro first turned to the USA after the 1959 revolution and only when help was refused did he turn to the Stalinist CP of the Soviet Union.

After the events of 1989, world imperialism imposed capitalist restoration in the USSR, Eastern Europe and China, but it couldn't impose it in Cuba due to the huge combats of the masses on the continent, like in Nicaragua and El Salvador and across the whole of South America against military dictatorship, etc. The workers state was isolated and this allowed the bureaucracy to impose a **restorationist regime led by Fidel Castro** to start a process of bringing capitalism back. The bureaucracy, for the last 15 years, has been introducing different measures –like the 'dual economy' and joint ventures- in order to **develop the capitalist economy to the detriment of the socialist elements of the transitional economy**, leading the workers state to acute decomposition. The revolutionary struggle of the Latin American masses in the '90s and at the beginning of this century prevented Castro from delivering the final blow. But they couldn't prevent the installation of a restorationist Menshevik government, i.e. a government that consciously prepare the restoration of capitalism, as a direct agent of imperialism and which recycled itself into a bourgeoisie.

Today with the Latin American revolution out of the picture, thanks to the counterrevolutionary role played by the Castroite bureaucracy, mainly, we are witnessing a direct attack on the masses by this **Menshevik government, enemy of the working class, which has left behind its "Gorbachovian" phase and entered into its "Yeltsinist" phase; i.e. the phase where it imposes a decisive leap backward towards capitalist restoration.**

***The attack against the Cuban working class is an attack against the world proletariat! By the definitive restoration of capitalism in the Island, imperialism seeks a hard defeat on the continental masses***

World capitalism needs capitalist restoration in Cuba. To make the world working class and exploited masses pay for the costs of the world economic crisis, it **needs to dismiss one million workers in the name of socialism** who will be sent to the hell of unemployment, barbarism, and misery with the excuse of being "lazy" and "unproductive". It sets a great precedent of punishment against the proletariat at world level.

But besides, the entire international finance capital needs to finish off the Cuban workers' state –already in extreme decomposition- because it would mean a determined strike against the masses on the American continent, at worldwide level and against their anti imperialist fight.

If capitalist restoration in Cuba is definitively achieved, it would mean a great political victory for imperialism to **destroy the consciousness of the world masses that it is possible for it to take power, expropriate the bourgeoisie and conquer its own state.** The imperialist parasites are very much aware of the fact that this is the only way the proletariat can make them pay for the costs of their crisis!

This counterrevolutionary offensive, under the command of Obama, is part of the politics of US imperialism of regaining completely its backyard, the whole of Latin



America, as seen by the organized coup from its military base in Honduras, establishing 7 new military bases in Colombia, invading militarily Haiti and with its attempted coup in Ecuador. US imperialism makes all these at the same time when it unleashes a brutal attack against its own working class, leaving millions of workers unemployed, homeless, and attacking the immigrant workers with fascist sheriffs.

In this way, imperialism prepares the conditions for, once capitalist restoration is complete, conquering in Cuba a highly qualified labor force, to be used as slave workers in future sweat shops -maquilas-.

***The international counterrevolutionary politics of Castroism, the imposition of the “Bolivarian Revolution” on the American continent and the action of the leaderships of the Fifth International prepared the conditions to advance towards the restoration of capitalism in Cuba.***

Today the restorationist Castroite bureaucracy can launch its attack against the Cuban working class and the gains of revolution thanks to the vile action of the leaderships the world working class has at their head, first of all, Castroism itself.

As a correlation of the policy of “socialism on one Island”, the Castroite bureaucracy never tied its fate to the victory of the world revolution, but just the contrary; **it was a matter of life or death for them to strangle every revolutionary process. First, because their privileges as a caste emerged from the isolation of the workers state, and then in the ‘90s, in order to win the right to become a new bourgeoisie**, as yesterday Stalinism did in the former USSR. Yesterday we saw Castroism imposing its international counterrevolutionary policy by usurping the authority of the Cuban revolution, in Africa for example between the ‘60s and the late ‘80s where it, from the “left”, backed the bourgeois national liberation movements that expropriated the anti-colonial fight of proletariat and African masses. In the ‘70s and ‘80s Castroism prevented “new Cubas” by proclaiming a “pacifist road to socialism”, thus allowing the smashing of the Chilean revolution and the abortion of the Central American revolution.

Then, in the early 21th Century the revolutionary combats of masses hit in Latin America, the Castroite bureaucracy from the World Social Forum also prevented that in the American continent “new Cubas” developed. With the fake “Bolivarian Revolution” the revolution was expropriated and contained of Ecuador, Argentina, and Bolivia, the uprisings in Chile and Peru, the revolutionary combat of the Oaxaca communards in Mexico, and above all, the uprising of the US working class against the war and for the rights of immigrants. Castrism guaranteed the imposition of a continental popular front -backed at the same time by the labor bureaucracy and aristocracy from Brazil and from the whole continent -that besieged and strangled the mass revolutionary actions and submitted the working class to the bourgeoisie, country by country. And once this strangulation was achieved, the Castroite bureaucracy was the guarantor of the



counterrevolutionary pacts of imperialism with the native bourgeoisies to impose the surrender to the masses (as in Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras) and of the subordination of the US working class to the Democratic Party and then to the butcher Obama.

Now, after taking the Latin American and US masses off stage, the bureaucracy relies on a pact between imperialism and native bourgeoisies to take a definite leap backward to capitalist restoration. Now, it is the moment for the Castroite swine to act, since from the CONCLAT of Brazil, the Madrid Counter Summit, Socialism 2010 in USA-, they also guaranteed to put out the fire of the mass revolutionary responses confronting the world crac, like in Greece, Madagascar, and Kyrgyzstan, and for the moment, they contained the process of rupture with the popular front government of Evo Morales and his pact with the fascist Media Luna by the industrial workers of La Paz who faced the bureaucracy of COB, putting on the agenda that the Bolivian working class retake the path of 2003-2005 revolution.

***The working class must defeat the capitalist restoration!  
The fate of the Cuban workers state will be defined in the world class struggle!***

Today's alternative is: either capitalist restoration that will plunge the Cuban masses in misery, super-exploitation and will submit Cuba even more than during its colonial past; or **a political revolution to defeat Castroite restorationist bureaucracy, re-establishes the basis of the workers state and imposes workers democracy so Cuba could become a stronghold of the Latin American and world revolution.**

This capitalist attack, of the Castroite bureaucracy against the Cuban masses is the same attack that is being suffered by the world proletariat; it is the same attack that French government of Sarkozy is imposing, by expelling thousands of immigrants and by attempting to impose an increase of the retirement age; the same attack that the British Crown is launching to make the proletariat pay for the costs of the crisis with "blood, sweat and tears" –as former Prime Minister Gordon Brown stated a few months ago-; is the same launched by European governments and regimes to force the proletariat to pay the trillions of dollars that imperialist states put up to save its bankrupted banks, like Papandreu did in Greece.

**The defence of the Cuban revolution must be written on every struggle banner in every sector of the world proletariat that is entering into combat,** first of all the European workers who face the attack of their own imperialism; because there is no doubt that if imperialism manages to move forward decisively in restoring capitalism in Cuba, it will make imperialism stronger to increase its attack and make the masses of the world pay definitively for their crisis with more misery, starvation, genocides and new wars.



That is why the fate of the Cuban proletariat is linked to the European proletariat. Today the conquests of the Cuban working class live in the uprising of the Southern Africa proletariat against the Stalinist bourgeois governments and the anti-colonial struggle of the slaves of the 5<sup>th</sup> French republic in Guadelupe, Martinique and Guyana, who came out on a huge general strike on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Down with the Castroite restorationist bureaucracy, its plan of dismissals and sell out of the health system to the US monopolies!** Down with all the capitalist measures that undermine the basis of the workers state! No dismissals, no cuts on health and education budgets! Expropriation without compensation and re-nationalization under workers control of all the companies and branches of production and lands given to the imperialist monopolies! For the re-establishing of the monopoly of foreign trade and planning the economy in hands of the armed organism of direct democracy of workers, poor peasants and soldiers!

**Down with the privileges, ranks and decorations of the restorationist bureaucracy!** Against social inequality: **No more parasites of the bureaucracy: they all have to go to work with the same wage that the worker receives and in Cuban pesos!** **Down with the dual currency!** **Down with differential wages in the joint venture companies and imperialist monopolies!** **Down with the commercial secrets that hides the huge profits of the imperialist monopolies and their partners of the Castrist bureaucracy of the joint ventures!** Against the bosses exploitation in the 'joint venture' companies and against the attacks of the bureaucracy on the state companies: **Free organizing of unions and workers organizations to defend the revolutionary conquests of the Cuban proletariat!**

In order to defend the gains of the revolution, the bureaucracy must be overthrown with another revolution, a political revolution: **Down with the restorationist Castrist bureaucracy!** **For armed workers, peasants and soldiers councils with room only for the wide majority who lives with \$18 per month and doesn't have privileges, to defeat the bureaucracy and its officer caste associated with imperialism!** **For a government of armed workers, peasants and soldiers councils to democratically choose the path of the revolution!**

Let those councils take in their hands the military defence of the island in the face of any imperialist aggression! For the destruction of US Guantanamo military base! For the liberation of the anti-imperialist fighters of Middle East imprisoned under the Castrist bureaucracy's noses!

Down with the Stalinist regime of the CP-single-party of the restorationist bureaucracy! Let workers, peasants and soldiers councils choose which parties they recognize with the only requisite that they stand to defend all the gains of the revolution!



Down with the pacts of the restorationist Castroite bureaucracy and Bolivarian bourgeoisies with imperialism! Down with the pact of Chavez-Uribe against the Colombian resistance! Down with the pact of Evo Morales and the fascist Media Luna in Bolivia! Down with the pacts of submission of the working class to the Bolivarian bourgeoisies which are supported by the Castroite bureaucracy!

For the unity of the Caribbean working class in a single fight against imperialism: **For a congress of delegates from the struggling workers organizations in Cuba, Martinique and Guadalupe, together with their class brothers and sisters of Haiti, tormented by famine and epidemic of cholera and military occupation by US and France imperialist troops and by the gurkas troops of Latin America!**

The struggle against the restoration of capitalism in Cuba must be the war cry that unifies the American proletariat from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. Let's break the subordination of the working class to Obama, the Bolivarian bourgeoisies and their counterrevolutionary pacts supported by brothers Castro and the renegades of Trotskyism. **Let's stand together with our Cuban brothers and sisters! For a continental workers congress to fight the restoration in Cuba!**

The struggle to defeat the capitalist restoration in Cuba is the struggle to defeat the Castroite bureaucracy. This combat is part of the combat against treacherous leaderships of the international proletariat, which are centralized in the 5<sup>th</sup> International of Chavez, the "red" Mandarins of the Chinese CP, Castroism and labour bureaucracies and aristocracies, and its left wing of renegades of Trotskyism.

Against them, **the Cuban and world proletariat needs a revolutionary leadership to win: the 4<sup>th</sup> International re-founded under the program and principles of 1938.** We need the setting up of a working class party in Cuba as part of the fight to refound the Fourth International. The internationalists Trotskyists of the ILTF are in the front line of this task.

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## **On the betrayal of the public sector strike by the SACP and Cosatu leaders (also drawing the lessons of the municipal workers strike)**

To understand the strategy of the state in the August- September public sector strike as well as the response and role of the SACP and Cosatu leaders, we have to look at the international crisis of capitalism, the strategy of imperialism (the giant monopolies and banks that control the world) and the role of international Stalinism.

### **Who really controls the SA economy?**

There are 5 monopolies that control the bulk of the wealth in South Africa: Anglo American, Old Mutual, Liberty, Rembrandt, Sanlam. All of these monopolies are



controlled by the major US and UK banks. The biggest of the 5 monopolies is Anglo American who controls the coal, iron ore, diamond, gold, platinum, food industries, among others and has a controlling share in the SA Reserve bank. Most of the gold mines in South Africa are controlled directly by the Bank of New York.

In 2009, when over 1 million workers were retrenched, the declared profits of the companies in South Africa was R600 bn, of which at least R200 bn was repatriated to the imperialist centres such as the USA, France, Germany, UK, Japan. Considering that the capitalists always hide their real profits, the amount of profits shipped offshore must be much higher than what is reported publicly.

Anglo American similarly controls the economy of Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Liberia, and has a major stake in the DRC. (Anglo American is disputing against French imperialism in the rest of Africa and also has major interests in many other countries in Africa).

Imperialism has decided on a world division of labour that keeps intellectual property rights out of Africa while assigning to us the role of provider of raw, unprocessed materials for the imperialist companies. 'Underdevelopment' of Africa is part of the strategy of imperialism for Africa. Trillions of dollars of wealth are plundered every year from Africa by imperialism and a cynical few pennies given back in the form of 'Aid' at very high interest rates by the imperialist banks. In this way imperialism controls the number of people dying of starvation in Africa and maintains a pool of semi-starved virtual slaves to maximise their profits.

Imperialism, and Anglo American in particular, determines the state budget in South Africa. This is what the annual so-called budget process hides.

### **The crisis of capitalism and why the state wants to reduce workers wages and conditions**

Ever since about 1900 when the world was divided up among all the imperialists a period of decay started to set in. From then the only way the imperialists could extend their influence was through clashes with rival imperialists. Thus opened a period of war, counter-revolution, and of revolution.

Thus in recent decades there have been no new overall development of the productive forces. The capitalist world suffers not from too little but too many goods and means of production and not enough buyers. There is a crisis of too much, not too little. Under these circumstances the imperialists clash with each other, the survival of some will only happen based on other imperialists being pushed down. The capitalists resort to artificially raising prices to maximise their profits; for example a housing project next to Century City in Cape Town



produced housing units at R10 000 each but sold them for R400 000 each. The cost of producing cornflakes is R0.35 per packet but it sells for more than R15.00. In both cases the price is 40 times their actual value. In 2009 alone the capitalists dismissed over 50 million workers around the globe. In 2008-9 many of the imperialist banks such as Goldman Sachs, Citibank became bankrupt by selling houses at very high prices knowing that many would not be able to afford the repayments. When the bad debt piled up into billions, while millions of people across the world were being evicted from their homes because they could not pay, the bankrupt banks were paid billions from state funds to prevent them from collapsing. Because many banks have cross ownership with other industries, a collapse of the banks would have caused a collapse of the profit-making system of capitalism. Now that the states have been bankrupted, the burden for paying for the bailouts has been put on the shoulders of the world working class. Across Europe and the USA, many workers have had their wages cut, their conditions cut and many are being forced to retire later.

Across the semi-colonies like South Africa, Argentina, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Egypt, Ukraine, Korea etc, the capitalists, the imperialists, achieve their increased profit levels by forcing lower wage increases while at the same time massively increasing food, housing, electricity and transport costs.

The strike wave of 2009 in South Africa, triggered by the 13% increase won by the municipal workers created a problem for big capital. It was thus a conscious policy of imperialism to once again force down wages. This was especially necessary as imperialism remained in crisis on a world wide scale. The crisis of 2008 has continued and shows no sign of ending.

It was imperialism in general and Anglo American in particular that instructed the SA government to take measures to reduce the wages of workers. First they changed even the capitalist definition of 'inflation' to reduce the food component of the calculation, knowing full well that workers spend a huge percentage of their wages on food. Thus they manipulate official inflation to come down when in fact inflation for workers is sky-rocketing. Secondly the imperialists wanted to reduce the public sector workers wages. With workers inflation running at closer to 30%, the imperialists instructed the government to offer only 6.5%. The imperialists knew that if they achieved this it would set a benchmark for the rest of the working class and it would be easier for the capitalists to reduce all workers wages.

### **The international role of Stalinism and why the SACP and Cosatu leaders led the betrayal of the public sector strike**

Stalinism's policy of 'socialism in one country' led directly to the betrayal of workers' revolutions around the globe. 'Socialism' in Russia meant accepting that there was no link between the fight for workers to take power in the semi-colonies and also in the imperialist centres as part of the process of achieving Socialism. In other words, 'socialism in one country' accepts a co-existence with capitalism



on a world scale, that is, 'socialism' in one country and capitalism everywhere else. In February 1921 at a Congress of workers of the needle trades Lenin said: *"We have always and repeatedly pointed out to the workers that the underlying chief task and basic condition of our victory is the propagation of the revolution at least to several of the more advanced countries."* On the third anniversary of the October revolution Lenin said: *"We always staked our play on an international revolution and this was unconditionally right... We always emphasized the fact that in one country it is impossible to accomplish such a work as a socialist revolution."* Lenin, in his speech to the April 1917 conference of the Bolsheviks explains: *"To talk only of Russian conditions is a mistake... What tasks will arise before the Russian proletariat (working class) in case the world-wide movement brings us face to face with a socialist revolution- that is the principal question taken up in this resolution."*

Stalin's break with Leninism in 1924 by promoting 'socialism' in Russia because of its 'special conditions', was the beginning of a policy that led directly to the subordination of the Communist parties and of the world working class vanguard to imperialism. In 1925-27 Stalin's policy of 'special conditions' in China led to an alliance with the bourgeois nationalist Kuomintang. Its leader, Chang Kai Shek was even invited to the meetings of the Third International of Stalin as an observer. When the Kuomintang seized power they turned their guns on the Communists, massacring thousands of them. Such was the result of Stalin's 'socialism in one country under special conditions.

In many countries across the globe, the policy of 'socialism in one country under special conditions' has led to the formation of popular fronts (unions and Communist parties in alliance with social democratic parties or bourgeois nationalist parties). In each of these cases, the working class programme is subordinate to the bourgeois programme, even if the numbers of the capitalists are small. In South Africa the unions supported the multi-class formation called the UDF (United Democratic Front) which included the middle class, petit traders and was supported by imperialism. The UDF and now the ANC in government (which includes in its ranks millionaires and billionaires) which are supported by the unions and the CP, are examples of a Popular Front. In Argentina the CP supported the military dictatorship; in Chile in 1973 the CP supported the popular front which refused to arm the working class and take over the factories- they supported the appointing of Pinochet, a capitalist general to head the army (Pinochet later led the coup that drowned the working class and the Popular front government in blood); in the second imperialist world war Stalinism promoted the partitioning of Germany and Palestine (stalinist Russia was the first state to recognise the state of Israel- they divided the Palestine CP to create an Israeli CP as well)- they ordered workers to hand over their guns while the CP's took up positions in capitalist governments to help re-establish capitalist exploitative relations. In Eastern Europe Stalinism held the workers back from direct workers control.



Castro first approached the USA for assistance after the Cuban revolution of 1959; only when help was refused did he turn to the Stalinist Soviet Union CP who ordered him to join the Cuban CP. Castro's contribution across the Americas was to constantly remind the masses that conditions were not ripe for more Cuba's- he went to Argentina in 2001 and directly told the masses to accept a bourgeois government. In the USA, the CP and Castrism support the imperialist Democratic Party with the excuse that they are a progressive wing of imperialism! Today they still support Obama who continues to butcher the Afghan masses and ensures funding for the genocidal Israeli and Turkish regimes, among many others. Castrism's pact with Obama is today leading to the restoration of capitalism on the island.

In Africa Stalinism often refused to build CP's or workers parties or any independent organization of the working class and directed the workers to build and join the bourgeois nationalist pan-Africanist movements. These pan-Africanists were bourgeois nationalists who sold out the struggles of the masses for liberation for a few pennies from imperialism, becoming their lackeys through which imperialism still maintains their control of the Africa masses. Che Guevara did not promote a CP or even a workers' party in the Congo (where there were millions of mineworkers) when he came to Africa but directed the working class to join and support the bourgeois pan africanist movements.

In South Africa, the policy of Stalinism has been to subject the CP and the workers movement to an alliance with the bourgeois nationalist ANC, under the 'special conditions' of 'colonialism of a special type' and now a 'developmental state' where imperialism controls the means of production while more than 50% of those who can work, are unemployed.

There are countless examples of the betrayal by the Stalinist CP's of the workers revolution under the guise of 'socialism in one country and special conditions'. The class role of the Stalinist CP's of subservience to imperialism continue today around the globe, and is more stark in the current world capitalist crisis. In Greece, the CP (the KKE) isolated the workers uprising in 2009 and turned the struggle for power into a bourgeois election campaign. When the masses elected the Social Democratic party into government and this party accelerated the attacks on the Greek working class, the KKE refused to mobilise for the working class to take power- they deliberately organised one day strikes (in the form of stayaways from the workplaces) on days when the parliament was not sitting, so there would not be a direct political clash between the working class and the bourgeois parliament. The French CP, the so-called Euro Communists, the fake Trotskyists, all similarly protected the capitalist regimes across Europe. Under the current conditions the working class in Europe is starting to break from the CP's, the fake Trotskyists and the traditional leaderships within the workers' movement.

**The Transitional Programme of the Fourth International** states in the section of **Trade unions in the transitional epoch**: "*In periods of acute class struggle,*



*the leading bodies of the trade unions aim to become masters of the mass movement in order to render it harmless. This is already occurring in the period of simple strikes, especially in the case of mass sit-down strikes which shake the principle of bourgeois property. In time of war or revolution, when the bourgeois is plunged into exceptional difficulties, trade union leaders usually become bourgeois ministers.”*

The role that Vavi, Blade Nzimande, the Nehawu, the Sadtu, the Cosatu and CP leaders play is identical in class terms with that of Stalinism around the world, namely to act as the agency of imperialism within the workers movement to maintain and sustain the capitalist system.

When the million public sector workers went on strike they were immediately supported by the rest of the working class. Their fight went beyond a wage fight. It became a political fight against a capitalist regime that wanted to impose a wage reduction on the whole working class. The political fight of the whole working class against the regime was reflected in the workers forcing the Cosatu CEC to call for a solidarity strike of all sectors including the army, if the strikers demands were not met. As soon as the resolution was adopted, the CP and the Cosatu leaders worked day and night to betray it. The Cosatu and SACP leaders realised that if the industrial workers and the army came out in support of the public sector strikers, then a pre-revolutionary situation would develop, not only in South Africa, but in the whole Southern African region. The Cosatu leaders realised that during the strike the army and the police were split on class lines, either to active support of the strike or to a passivity where they would not shoot on a mass rising of the working class such as in the case of a general strike. The SACP and Cosatu leaders had to move quickly to protect imperialism from the anger of the working class. On the day the general strike was supposed to start the Mozambican masses rose up against the massive increase in the price of electricity, food and water. On that very day the Cosatu leaders called off the general strike and left the Mozambican masses isolated. The general strike in South Africa would have broken the isolation of the Madagascar workers, poor peasants and rank and file soldiers who had months before kicked the puppet of US imperialism, Ravalomanana, and who still distrust the Rajoelina government (a representative of French imperialism).

The treacherous role of the CP and Cosatu leaders was seen in the forcing of the workers mandate down to 8.6% despite workers inflation being 30%; in the postponing of the fight until after the soccer world cup; in their refusal to carry out their mandate for a general strike against the electricity price increases; in their twice suggesting a reduction of workers mandate to 7% and then 7.5%. The 21 day period was granted by imperialism for Vavi and other union leaders to go around the country to get workers to accept the sellout 7.5% figure. This was a good service to imperialism who could now use this figure to beat down other workers demands.



Despite the 7.5% final settlement figure, the mineworkers and several other sectors have continuously raised demands above 10%, which in itself reflects a continuation of the workers political struggle against imperialism and their capitalist government. The anti-Zuma songs sung from the platforms of the Cosatu marches in the presence of the Cosatu and CP leaders also show that the masses are beginning to break from the SACP and ANC. Despite the plea of the CP to the Nehawu Congress the delegates still removed some of their leaders who championed the betrayal of the strike.

The strike ended not because workers were defeated but because many realised that with the current leadership, the working class demands will be sold out. The further process of rejection of the Cosatu leaders and the SACP was reflected in the low turnout of the organised workers for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary rally in Johannesburg on 4 December. 500 buses had been hired but hundreds had to be cancelled as workers rejected being taken to yet another ANC election rally. The class hatred is increasing against the capitalists and their system as well as against the Cosatu and SACP leaders who act every day as agents of the imperialists in the ranks of the working class.

#### **Brief comments on the betrayal of the April 2010 national municipal strike**

For the first time in years both unions in the municipal sector came out of strike for the important demand of equal pay for equal work across the country. How did the SACP and 'left' betray the struggle?

1. There were no mass regional strike committees; this made it easier for the top leadership to betray the struggle;
2. the leaders only planned for 3 days and after that they sent workers home; workers had to depend on the shopstewards and the capitalist media to hear the progress of the strike;
3. They agreed of so-called wage curves which in essence agrees to lower wages in municipalities where the income is less- this not only breaks the fundamental principle of 'from each according to his ability to each according to his needs' it entrenches the difference between town and country. Of all things the prices of food and other basics is higher in the rural areas than in the cities. What this sellout proves that the only way to abolish the difference between the rural and urban masses is for the working class to take power into its own hands, no union or union negotiation will achieve this.
4. The workers demands were sacrificed for 'national pride' of the world cup. National pride means in essence that the capitalist make super profits while the workers are asked to wait and sacrifice their demands. The SACP leaders and the 'left' smothered the workers strike which would have further inspired a broader rebellion against the capitalist system.

At the time of going to press the municipal workers have still not received their back pay of the sellout deal in April. Municipal workers should remove their



treacherous leaders and replace them with worker leaders who are really prepared to defend and champion working class interests up to the end.

### **Imperialism uses current and ex-Cosatu leaders to take away tomorrow what workers have won today – the New Growth Path (Gear III)**

In November Ebrahim Patel (ex-Cosatu and Sactwu leader), Minister of Economic Development, announced 'his' New Growth Path strategy. This document takes Gear and Asgisa and presents the same elements as if they were new. This is old wine in a new bottle, or an old jacket with a new label. They largely depend on the strategy of US imperialism in the USA for a supposed moderation in pay and benefits of the CEO's and other higher paid middle class people, to justify cutting wages and gains of the working class. We comment on the main elements:

1. His highness Ebrahim Patel proposes a 'productivity accord'- in other words, workers must work harder to get wage increases. This is a blank cheque for more mass retrenchments. After more than 1 million workers were recently retrenched, this proposal by the ex-Cosatu leader is highly cynical- perhaps workers should send him to work for one day in a CMT sweatshop and see if he can be creative to push up productivity;
2. for workers earning between R3000 to R20 000- in other words, most of the organised workers, there is the grand proposal for inflation plus a modest increase. In other words, if official inflation is 3%, his highness proposes that workers be happy with 4% increase.
3. Those earning less than R3000 are not even addressed- no wonder the first organization to welcome the 'new' plan is Agri-sa- the organization that has members that still pay workers on farms on the dop system and who brutalise farmworkers daily with low wages.
4. the central areas of so-called job creation are infrastructure, agriculture, mining, manufacture and tourism- all really nothing new as none of them are based on tackling the existing monopolies.
5. EP's bright idea on infrastructure is to sell to workers a plan for nuclear power- in other words the plans of Anglo American for super-profits from electricity are being championed by this working class 'hero';
6. agriculture- EP's idea is to upgrade the ex-bantustans- this 'fearless' worker leader is so scared of imperialist control of the best agricultural land that he glorifies the starvation methods on exhausted land in the ex-bantustans- a real champion for imperialism
7. mining – he becomes the champion of exposing workers to early death in the deepest mines in the world- let the state take responsibility for the deaths while the raw materials will be handed over cheaply to imperialism;
8. manufacturing- this is a hoax as the sector he championed has been decimated even where Sactwu had major shares; perhaps he is referring to the beads market which is already flooded;
9. smiling tour guides- again a market completely flooded and completely at the mercy of imperialism.



10. EP's flagship project is the Competition Commission- really an import from the USA which regulates which imperialist has the right to steal from the masses and keeps their competitors down. The recent Pioneer 'victory' resulted in the 'loss' of profits of R160 million achieved by Pioneer **not** putting up their price by 20c.
11. after wages have been cut, EP puts into the hands of the capitalists a pledge not to raise prices (perhaps EP's head was in the sand over the past 2 years when the food, housing, transport and electricity prices have sky-rocketed); after wages are cut, EP hopes the noble capitalists will create jobs- this was exactly what Gear and Asgisa promised and failed to do.
12. another bright idea, limit workers access to their own pension funds- most workers die before reaching 65- this is nothing but a plan to further starve workers so that imperialism can have increased access to workers money and raise their level of profits;
13. The working class should save more? Most workers do not even have a slice of bread ; we have our water cut off and here his highness tells us to save more!
14. The above attack on the working class is called a 'social pact'; EP has a short memory: there was a 'social pact' called the RDP in 1993-1994, which the ANC and SACP put in the rubbish bin as soon as they settled in their chairs and new mansions.

#### **Drawing the lessons and the way forward**

1. Public sector workers and employees are not directly exploited and oppressed by imperialism; a strike in the public sector would be severely weakened if it stands isolated from direct support from the industrial workers. In fact the gains of the public sector workers is directly dependent on the support they receive from the industrial workers.
2. The fight for a living wage (whether in the public sector or private sector) means a fight against Anglo American and imperialism in general who are organised on a world scale; what we need is to fight for the expropriation of all imperialism here in Africa, around the world and indeed in the imperialist centres themselves.
3. Any initial gain made by the working class in struggle is immediately undermined by imperialism; to defend and extend the gains requires the working class to start the fight locally but end up with a fight against the world capitalist system;
4. The main Cosatu leaders are Stalinist, members of the SACP that is busy regrouping on a world scale to set up again the International of Stalin- these leaders play the role of supporting the plans of imperialism from within the workers movement; these leaders do everything to prevent the working class from setting up independent organization; they deliberately refuse to accept in the ranks of the unions the millions of Zimbabwean workers in South Africa as indeed they refuse to accept casual and 'illegal'



- immigrants thereby assiting the imperialist plans of dividing the working class on nationalistic grounds.
5. the shooting of strikers in the municipal, public sector, transport strikes and in community struggles for legitimate demands of the working class cannot be ignored; the threat of mass dismissal of strikers by the state, the shooting and bashing of the soldiers by the state, while imperialism makes hundreds of billions of profits never before seen, are also all signs that the state is a capitalist state and not 'developmental'
  6. The central programmatic point within the workers movement is to break with the bourgeois (capitalist) regime- this means breaking with the ANC and SACP; thus this also means the expelling the ANC-SACP bureaucracy from the leadership of the workers organizations, replacing of routine functionaries and careerists with new militant leaders;
  7. The same Anglo American, US-UK and French imperialism are the main ones who keep the masses in Africa in permanent semi-slavery and starvation;
  8. The path to Socialism in Southern Africa passes though the working class taking political power through its own methods in Southern Africa and in the imperialist centres; our fate is linked to the outcome of the huge fight of the working class in Europe at the moment;
  9. The freeing of the working class in Zimbabwe, DRC, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland, etc from their slave camps starts with a general strike, based on factory and workplace occupations in South Africa;
  10. Stayaways under the guise of 'general strikes' are used by Stalinism to protect imperialism from workers occupying factories, taking them over and setting up their own struggle organisms.
  11. Trade unions do not offer, and, in line with their task, composition, and manner of recruiting membership, cannot offer, a finished revolutionary programme, in consequence they cannot replace the *party*. (from the **Transitional Programme of the Fourth International**)
  12. We need a revolutionary programme around which to unite the working class in Southern Africa together with the working class in the imperialist centres. [such programme should include- expropriation of all the capitalists in the food sector, without compensation, and placing it under workers control; similarly expropriation of the banks, no compensation to the capitalists, placing it under workers control; expropriate all imperialist assets – no compensation- place under workers control- expropriate imperialism in Africa and in the imperialist centres; minimum wage of say R5000 tied to food, electricity and transport increases; permanent jobs for all; share the work among all who can work, irrespective if worker is 'local' or 'immigrant'- without loss of pay; in areas where there are peasantry such as the DRC etc, we need to build a worker –poor peasant alliance, etc] based on the programme to call for factory committees (irrespective if the worker is casual or permanent, local or immigrant) and linked to this a workers militia for self-defence against attacks from the state and any of



- their fascist gangs; we need to be clear that the fight for these demands and the full democratic programme can only be achieved if the working class takes power through its own methods;
13. The building of national revolutionary parties as sections of the Fourth International (refounding it) is the central task of the transitional epoch.
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## **On the threat to dismiss the 1200 suspended soldiers**

We salute the soldiers who were bold enough to take to the streets in August last year to march to the Union buildings. They came unarmed and had every intention of demonstrating peacefully. From the unfolding of events it is clear that imperialism (and primarily US imperialism) had every intention not only to disrupt the planned protest but to bash the soldier unions. Unarmed protestors were shot at, teargassed and brutally dispersed before organisers had proper chance to address them. In other words, imperialism deliberately wanted to create an incident to discredit the soldier unions. This, they hoped would sweep up the masses against the soldiers. Imperialism miscalculated. The Cosatu Congress later endorsed a campaign to promote the unionisation of soldiers and to defend the soldiers who were being victimized.

Across the channel the soldiers in Madagascar joined with the workers and peasant committees, and sided with the masses as they ousted the US puppet regime of Ravalomanana, who wanted to sell off one third of the island to the US-imperialist backed company, Daewoo. The soldiers took over the military bases, sent tanks into the cities with the slogan of 'we are with the people, we are the people'. Imperialism drew the lesson from Madagascar. They cannot tolerate soldier unions because such unions are based on a challenge to authority, in the final analysis a challenge to the instruction of imperialism who want to use the army as its last reserve to crush a workers' revolution.

This is why imperialism will not stop at dismissing only the 1200 who formed the vanguard of the soldiers unions; they will continue until every last vestige of progressive thought of being 'for the people' as the ex-liberation army combatants were taught, is wiped out. This is why imperialism instructed the government to hastily push through a militarised police within months. Imperialism needs a counter-revolutionary force that can put down the starving masses when it rises for bread, work, for services, for housing, for education, for health care etc. The world economy is not growing, so the only way for imperialism to increase their levels of profits is to dismiss more workers, to increase food, fuel and electricity prices more, it take back more from the working class. Imperialism knows the masses will rebel, they know that if and when a generalised uprising occurs across the region, the army, which is based on 'defence of the people' could see through the plans of the capitalists, and really defend the people against the terrible ongoing attacks by the capitalist class. This is what is behind the threat to mass dismiss the soldiers.



1. The first step must be a united front of the soldiers which cuts across union affiliation. (The attacks on the unions have more to do with preparing attacks on the broader working class than on an attack on 'unions' ). Thus we call for soldiers committees based on rank and file soldiers and the right of instant recall of elected delegates, irrespective if the soldier is not unionized or whether they belong to Sasfu or Sandu.
2. We need to campaign among the soldiers to reinforce and explain that the increases that they received really came because of the August march last year. Before then the army heads had been brutalizing soldiers for many years.
3. We need to encourage all soldiers to help form and to join workers locals in every industrial area and every working class area. The soldiers face the same problems of lack of housing, high food and fuel prices, high electricity prices, as the broader working class.
4. Forward to a national workers summit of delegates of employed , unemployed, urban and rural workers, of rank and file soldiers, of students, to discuss an emergency workers plan and a single campaign in defence of the broader working class against the ongoing imperialist attacks; delegates from workers, unemployed, rank and file soldiers to be invited from all countries in the region as we are exploited and oppressed by the same imperialism.

Forward to a general strike against the high electricity costs, high food prices, unemployment, against the attacks by imperialism on the soldiers.

The Cosatu leaders have failed to defend the soldiers, they have failed to carry out the resolutions of the past Congresses for general strikes. The SACP sits in cabinet and supports the mass dismissal of the soldiers. They support in practice the massive increases in the price of electricity to bail out imperialism with over R1 trillion (R1000 bn).

It is only the working class in power that can really nationalise, ie expropriate without compensation, imperialism and all its assets, no other class or multi-class formation can do this.

The SACP members should choose: either with the soldiers and the working class, or with the imperialists and their Cabinet.

The French working class has given a warning to all the imperialists, that we will not sit with folded arms while they launch their attacks.

Forward to an organizing committee to refound the Fourth International!

Issued 11 Nov 2010



## **Palestine Freedom of Movement Campaign picket at gates of parliament Wed 3 Nov 2010 from 12 noon**

**We protest against the jailing of leaders of the Popular Committees against the wall, Adeeb and Abdullah abu Rahma, by the Zionist regime;**

**Break the siege on Gaza and tear down all the walls and checkpoints**

The Palestine Freedom of Movement Campaign calls for protest outside the gates of parliament (corner Plein and Roeland streets) on wed 3 Nov 2010 from 12 noon to 14h00. US imperialism and its figurehead, Obama, wants everyone to believe that there is a peace process for Palestinians. The actions of the fascist Israeli regime prove the opposite, namely that imperialism is still waging war on Palestinians and so-called talks are just about Palestinians giving up more and more of their rights.

The capitalist world court in the Hague ruled that the wall being built in and around the West bank is illegal. The wall continues to be built and has taken away most of the water resources of Palestinians living in the West Bank and has taken away huge tracts of land from Palestinian villages. The Palestinians are waging a legitimate struggle against the wall and have been marching every week for the past 5 years against it. Now the Israeli regime has stepped up its harassment of peaceful protest. Leaders of the struggle against the wall in B'ilin and other villages are receiving heavy sentences by Israeli military courts for organizing peaceful protest. Adeeb abu Rahma has been sentenced to 1 year in jail, while Abdullah abu Rahma has been sentenced to 18 months in jail. These attacks by the Israeli regime (on behalf of imperialism) are very serious and it means that there is another attempt to smash the Palestinian resistance to imperialist terror. It means anyone leading peaceful protest could face similar sentences. The marchers are unarmed while the Israel army is the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest in the world.

Meanwhile the siege on Gaza has only been partly lifted and the Palestinians there live in a virtual concentration camp.

The US imperialists are the biggest funders of fascist Israel with annual contributions of \$2bn (R14 bn), mostly in arms, every year. In Europe, the brutal French regime is the biggest supplier of weapons to Israel. Thus the supposed concern by the European Union over the heavy sentences against Palestinians is sheer hypocrisy. The US puppet regimes, in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, etc are also co-responsible for the isolation of the Palestinians. Other capitalist regimes (puppets of US and French imperialism) such as in Argentina, put in jail activists such as Martino, whose only crime was to organise mass protest against the



Cast Lead massacres in 2008-9. The South African regime, maintains offices of the Israeli intelligence at OR Tambo airport and allows most of the diamond production from Anglo American to go to Israel for cutting and polishing, thus allowing US imperialism to sustain the daily attacks on Palestinians.

We salute the Pick 'n Pay workers in their strike against the anti-worker bosses. The American imperialist banks are the ones who really control the Ackerman trust which controls your company. Your fight is the same fight as the Palestinians and of the broader working class.

We call on workers to take action: Block the diamond and coal shipments to Israel; block all goods to and from Israel. Blockade and occupy Total and all French companies.

Free Adeeb and Abdullah abu Rahma and all Palestinian political prisoners!  
Free Martino!  
Free the resisters who refuse to serve in the Israeli army!  
Down with the French imperialist regime! Down with the US imperialist regime of Obama! Viva the working class resistance in France and in the colonies and semi-colonies!  
Tear down the Rafah border and all walls and checkpoints that keep Palestinians in concentration camps.  
For the unconditional right of return of all Palestinian refugees.

Further information: Fowzia ph 0739228310 , David ph 0713536345, Shaheed ph 0822020617 email: <a href="mailto:palestinefree2move@gmail.com">palestinefree2move@gmail.com</a>
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## **We support Dmitry Kalitventsev and the Ukrainian working class**

We hereby lodge our strongest objection to the victimization of the leadership of the Independent Miners Union (NPG), among them comrade Dmitry Kalitventsev, for merely standing up for the rights of workers to be paid what is due to them. In particular we raise objection to the links between the Ukrainian state and the oiligarchy of Krasnodonugol, whose figurehead is Rinat Akhmetov. These so-called billionaires are mere fronts for German and US imperialist banks that are the main reason why billionaires sprout like mushrooms in the rain amid millions of workers and rank and file soldiers being paid low wages and having to wait months for their salaries. The so-called Orange revolution is thus seen as a mere get-rich quick exercise among former stalinist bureaucrats who now are leading born-again capitalists. Indeed this was nothing else but a yellow counter-revolution to expropriate workers gains and to put them to the feet of world imperialism.



It is out of such harsh conditions of renewed plunder by imperialism, which wants to make the bread basket of the region into a basket case (a beggar in the land of plenty) that we can understand the actions of Roman Kamynin, who was driven to his actions by the starvation enforced by the state including all the state officials and court judges. You are the guilty ones and he is innocent. You have forced a system of starvation, where people die daily of preventable diseases, like in the semi-colonies such as South Africa.

The same German and US imperialists are also plundering us here and we stand shoulder to shoulder with Roman and Dmitry against you. We have obtained a list of your names and will be launching an immediate international campaign naming you, Akhmetov and other oligarchs as the modern day continuators of fascism, apartheid, the wordt capitalist plunderers, of the Ukrainian working class. We will take it to the miners federations, to the entire world working class movement. we will noe erest until Dmitry is reinstated and Roman is free.

We call on all workers in Ukraine, whether in the independent or official unions to unite against the state. It is time to raise again the banner of the Red revolution. In this the Workers International Vanguard League is your ally.

regards

**WIVL**

We publish the appeal from the Ukrainian independent miners

### **Appeal**

After presidential elections another persons and names have come to the rule in Ukraine, but the "new" power continues attack to fighting workers` trade unions in the same way, as well as "old" power. So, administration of "Krasnodonugol" (association of some mines in Lugansk region, belongs to billionaire Rinat Akhmetov which protege became the president recently) has decided to finish with «disturbers of calmness» - the fighting and originally independent workers` organization, Independent trade union of miners (NPG) mine «Imeni Barakova». «Last drop» for the director was that NPG has opposed deterioration of working conditions of miners.

Specially for Akhmetov`s enterprises "Krasnodonugol" and "Pavlogradugol" in the beginning of 2010 has been developed so-called «integrated system of compensation» - and, as a matter of fact, new worst job conditions. Besides, payment became nominal, and now it in many respects depends on individual relations of the management and workers. NPG has acted sharply against changes, naming their directed on transformation of workers into serfs. The new system doesn't correspond to requirements neither national, nor the international standards and norms of the organization of work.



The independent trade union has demanded to spend payment according to the branch agreement and laws of Ukraine. Also it has achieved that the state inspection of work in Lugansk region has demanded from a management of "Krasnodonugol" to eliminate infringements of the legislation concerning payment of miners. However owners of the company not only haven't executed court requirements, but also have dismissed a number of active workers NPG. And it is not the first attempt of punishment over members of trade union already. NPG named administration actions «not only a crime which was expressed in rough infringement of laws on work, but also punishment of trade union, of all workers` movement, attempt to transform workers in dumb slaves». Also has protested dismissals in a judicial order. As a result the majority of active workers nevertheless is restored on work, despite fierce resistance and judicial authority, and administration. They continue struggle against administration and owners of "Krasnodonugol". However NPG leader Dmitry Kalitventsev still dismissed.

It is necessary to help to be restored on work to the fighting trade-union leader! Solidary support is necessary from groups of working-class movement of other countries!

The Coordination Council of workers` movement of Ukraine (KSRD) asks to send protest letters to following addresses in Ukraine:

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President: Bankovaja str. 11, Kiev, 01220, e-mail: [press@apu.gov.ua](mailto:press@apu.gov.ua)

Cabinet of Ministers: Grushevsky's str. 12/2, Kiev, 01008, e-mail: [portal@kmu.gov.ua](mailto:portal@kmu.gov.ua)

State Office of Public Prosecutor: Reznitskaya str. 13/15, Kiev, 01601

Supreme Court: Pilipa Orlika str. 4a, Kiev, 01024, e-mail: [web\\_editor@scourt.gov.ua](mailto:web_editor@scourt.gov.ua)

Lugansk regional state administration: Heroes of the Second World War square 3, Lugansk, 91016, e-mail: [gubernator@loga.gov.ua](mailto:gubernator@loga.gov.ua)

And also to the Ukrainian embassy in your country.

Letter copy send to the Coordination Council of workers` movement of Ukraine (KSRD) and Edition of the newspaper « Worker`s Action»: [ksrd@pisem.net](mailto:ksrd@pisem.net)

<http://proletar.org.ua>

### **Why imperialism needs the 'Conference for the Democratic Left' as an option to contain the masses Part 1**

The economic crisis of world capitalism/imperialism in the present decade and



particularly the last 3 years, has compelled the capitalist classes and imperialism to increasingly pass the consequences of the crisis, both economic and social, onto the shoulders of the urban and rural working classes; including the urban and rural petit-bourgeois.

Wholesale retrenchments, cuts in wages and massive withdrawal of social services, such as health and education has been brutally implemented by the bourgeoisie and its state apparatus on a world scale. The extent and depth of their attack on the working masses is reflected by the corresponding rising resistance by the organised working classes throughout the capitalist world.

The 8 general strikes thus far in 2010 in Greece; the uprising in Kyrgyzstan; the victorious resistance in Linzhou China signifies a qualitative change in the psychology of the masses. A move to the left in the form of a crystallization of class consciousness where the question of the irreconcilability of class interests starts to take form. This implies that the political and social forces which are used by capital in the past to contain and suppress this danger of irreconcilable class interests is not sufficient and therefore not effective.

Trade union bureaucrats, social democratic reformist parties, Stalinists and the fake left are less and less capable of duping the mass and crushing their hostility to the capitalist system. The decreasing usefulness of these treacherous organisms in the workers movement is becoming abundantly clear to the capitalist classes and imperialism.

A dangerous situation if the form of a political vacuum could result in the sprouting of genuine revolutionary forces, to challenge the status quo and capitalism as a whole, could, and inevitably would, sooner or later take place. In fact imperialism capitalism is of the opinion that this possibility would arise sooner rather than later, and hence the emergence of the 'anti-capitalist' parties and at the same time the rise of fascist parties are rapidly appearing on the political scene of all the major imperialist countries. Those trends are also surfacing in the semi-colonial and colonial countries.

The formation of the Conference of the Democratic Left (CDL) must be viewed and analysed in the international and national context of the economic and political crisis in South Africa.

The analysis of the political forces, ie parties operating in the Southern African social milieu in containing and duping the mass into believing that the present social, political relations and conditions will be able to ultimately meet the needs of the impoverished and exploited mass, if certain economic and social changes are implemented, has been utterly discredited by the rapidly deteriorating conditions of life of the working class. The latest programme of the 'Growth Employment and Reconstruction' programme and the 'Accelerated Growth' programme have instead of alleviating the conditions of life, has been complete, deliberate misrepresentation of objective reality. In 2009 alone an extra million workers have been thrown into the unemployment queue. The health system has been progressively collapsing; the whole education system is destroying the cultural development of our youth.

Housing, water, sanitation, roads, transport, electricity (basic necessities for simple physical existence) are increasingly just a wishful hope of attainment in



a country which has the necessary resources to make it immediately available to every single person inhabiting South Africa, if not all of Southern Africa. On the other side of this tragic and unacceptable scenario, billions of Rands are raked in as profits by the big bourgeoisie. Mansions, fancy cars and salaries in the millions, parties and conspicuous consumption are enjoyed by every single member sitting in our national and provincial parliaments, the so-called representatives of the people.

Added to this is the deliberate and artificial creation of the black petit bourgeoisie and its hangers on. Through the process of 'black economic empowerment' by the imperialist bourgeoisie, such as Anglo American, Sanlam, Barlow Rand, Rembrandt, Liberty Life, Old Mutual, etc. To add insult to injury, even those enterprises that are state-owned (Iskor, Telkom) have been sold and still are being sold to further enrich the imperialist and its parasitic Southern African agents; the emerging black middle classes and bourgeoisie.

This scenario of wealth, opulence, on the other hand and the continuous struggle to acquire the basic needs for mere physical existence, is becoming rapidly clear in the minds of the vast majority of the impoverished mass. The realization that there is something fundamentally wrong in the whole system of social organization is becoming abundantly clear, not only to the advanced sections of the working class, but even to the servile, confused superexploited mass. Intense anger and frustration is boiling under the fragile surface, which must inevitably find expression in gigantic social eruptions on a national scale, which could and would spill over to the neighbouring countries. The above picture has not escaped the ideologues and think tanks of the ruling classes and imperialism. What forces are there at present at their disposal to maintain the status quo of the super-exploitation of the masses, is being analysed as insufficient. This is why imperialism is behind the creation of the Conference for a Democratic Left (CDL), which on the surface appears as being spearheaded by the SACP and the fake left; this is just one of several nooses being prepared by imperialism to contain the coming working class explosions. We may also add, this is why the Cosatu leaders are busy reviving the UDF (United Democratic Front), in this case building a 'new' front with several so-called civic society organizations- another measure to help imperialism contain the coming working class explosion.

Issued by Workers International Vanguard League

2 December 2010

[workersinternational@gmail.com](mailto:workersinternational@gmail.com)

**We support the unconditional right of the Hangberg community and the working class in general, to self-defence against state violence**



We support the unconditional right of the residents of Hangberg to self-defence against the violence of the police and the state. We cannot depend on the courts. The immediate task must be to build self-defence committees, uniting the masses of Hangberg and Imizamayethu. The bourgeois media remains silent on the institutional violence of homelessness and unemployment in the land of plenty. Millions are unemployed, millions are without decent homes, while the imperialists take over R200 bn in profit offshore every year. The state housing policy is **not** to build houses but to maintain the scarcity of housing so that the capitalists can continue to profit from it.

We call for the expropriation of the banks and all capitalist construction companies, to be placed under workers control; nationalise all the land; expropriate all imperialist assets place these under workers control; this is the way to achieve adequate housing for all, close to places of work.

We reject the call by the Cosatu leaders for the army to be sent in; we call for the rank and file soldiers to join hands with the residents of Hangberg.

The city acts against the Hangberg residents because they have identified the land for profiteering for their capitalist friends. The DA-ID and ANC stand together with the imperialists against the masses. The ANC government is in control of the SANparks which was a co-applicant for the eviction of the residents from the shacks on the mountain. The SANparks only withdrew after the ANC realized that they could use this resistance of the masses to gain votes for next year's local government elections. When the police shot the eyes out of 4 residents in what was a deliberate planned act of state violence against the homeless masses, the signatures of both the ANC and DA were on the eviction order. We stand with the residents of Hangberg, the rising masses of Mozambique, against the imperialists and their agents.

Just across the city, in Langa, it was the ANC that initiated the mass eviction of 3000 families from Joe Slovo. It was the ANC that sent the police to shoot the masses when they occupied the N2 highway. In Johannesburg the ANC sends private demolition teams, the red ants to evict the masses; in Durban and in Khayelitsha the ANC-SACP controlled

police have been unleashed on the Abahlahli. If the ANC-SACP government builds too many houses, the banks, who make money out of the desperation of the masses, will lose profits. The banks will never allow this. The ANC sits on the boards of the banks and have a direct interest in not building enough houses- more profits to the capitalist and more crumbs to the ANC fatcats. The DA are the direct agents of the banks and have always been open about their support for the capitalists. Billionaires like Sol Kerzner and Oprah can freely buy up the land but when the masses take a tiny piece of vacant land, we are shot at.

We call for the immediate dropping of charges against all the residents arrested in their fight against the brutal police.

#### **Beware the treacherous role of the Cosatu leaders and of the SACP**

Throughout this resistance of the masses in Hangberg, the Cosatu leaders have been championing the ANC as if the ANC will provide the masses with houses. This is sheer opportunism. The ANC has spent R100bn on the world cup while this money could have been used to solve the housing crisis overnight. The ANC is spearheading the massive increases in electricity so the international banks, the imperialists make super-profits while the masses are dumped in the dark, dying of preventable diseases. The new electricity scam programme for power stations that we do not need, will cost over R1000 bn. It is the Cosatu leaders that failed to carry out the mandate for a general strike against the electricity increases; these leaders sold out the public sector strike by twice proposing a sellout of less than 8.6%. They helped the capitalists because now the bosses will use the 7.5% to beat all workers to accept lower wages. The Cosatu leaders betrayed the mandate they had for a general strike in support of the public sector workers. The Cosatu leaders cannot be trusted to lead the campaign for part of the vast



open land in Houtbay to be used for housing for the working class. The SACP leaders are no different. Most Cosatu leaders are members of the SACP from where they get their direction to support the capitalist ANC. The SACP leaders are also cabinet ministers applying the policy of the capitalists; they were part of the sellout to prevent the general strikes against the electricity increases from taking place; they helped call off the general strike that would have supported the struggle of the public sector workers. Recently the SACP condemned the Abahlali for organizing barricades in their struggle for housing, the SACP called for the protection of the police stations. Thus in the month which the SACP calls 'Red October' they oppose the basic method of the October Russian revolution and all other workers revolutions. The SACP call for the protection of the police, the very ones who have shot out the eyes of the Hangberg protestors. It is the SACP who is reactionary not the rank and file of the masses who set up barricades every day against the capitalist system that starves us and oppresses the working class. Today the workers in France are driving truckloads of tyres to barricades against the state that is cutting their pension rights, but the SACP condemns the barricade. Indeed it shows that in the class struggle the SACP is on the same side of the barricade as the capitalists, the imperialists and their agents.

Out with the Cosatu leaders from the unions!

Break with the capitalists! Break with the capitalist ANC and SACP!

Joint Self defence committees between residents of Hangberg and Imizamayethu!

For vacant land in Hout bay to be shared among the working class in the area, principally that of Imizamayethu and Hangberg. Decent housing for all close to their places of work!

Unite the struggles of the abahlali and the working class in Houtbay!

Expropriate the banks, the capitalist construction companies, without compensation and place them under workers control! Nationalize the land to provide housing to all! Open up the unused space in all hotels and vacant buildings in the cities for accommodation for those without adequate housing.

For a national congress of delegates of employed , unemployed , urban and rural workers, immigrants, rank and file soldiers, students, to set in motion and plan of mass action to fight for houses , jobs, education,, health care.

We call for the setting up of an organizing committee to refound the Fourth International.  
18.10. 2010

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## **We support the workers at the GM Indianapolis stamping plant**

The Workers International Vanguard League from South Africa hereby conveys its warmest greetings of solidarity to the workers at the stamping plant of GM for opposing the treacherous leaders of the UAW who are so tied to the bosses. We salute your rejection of the attempts of the bosses to reduce your wages by 50%; we salute your throwing out of the UAW leaders from the your plant when they came with sellout deals. This is the way.

We have heard that the Opel plant in Germany is due to close. Indeed the capitalists have no loyalty to anyone, except profits. Recently, here in South Africa GM retrenched a number of workers. The motor companies here like GM, VW, BMW, Ford, Mercedes Benz have been subsidized by the state for many years, yet the wages of workers range from \$3-5 per hour. The leaders of the metal workers union here (NUMSA) work very closely with the bosses, the Communist party and the state.

In 1990 and in 2000 when workers occupied the plants of Mercedes Benz and VW, respectively, to protest against sellout deals, the union leaders sided with



the bosses to dismiss the workers. At Mercedes Benz, 600 workers were dismissed, while at VW 1346 were dismissed. The workers organisers their own rank and file committees at several workplaces in the region, they broke from the union. But what the result was that the courts, the bosses and the union leaders closed ranks to defeat these rank and file committees. The union expelled the 'trouble-makers' and they still control the workers, even though most of the rank and file are dissatisfied with the leaders. The strong fighters who have seen through the union leaders are outside the union and the fight against the treacherous leaders has been weakened. We relate this history because we are concerned that your tactic of forming the rank and file committee may not be good enough for what is required. We support the formation of this committee, make no mistake, but we also need to focus our fire on the union leaders. Nowhere do we see you raise the demand for 'Out the treacherous leaders from the UAW'. The UAW was built by your sweat and blood, why just give it up to the bureaucracy. A call of 'out the class collaborators from the UAW' will give direction to the other workers who are equally disgruntled with them. call on them to also form rank and file committees to help fight the bureaucracy. We have helped to form independent unions here and really, the motive of the workers who form such unions are honourable and express a healthy disgust against the traitors, the union leaders, but the effect is that the working class lands up divided in the face of the bosses- it becomes easier for them to put one against the other. When we have to break and form independent unions, yes these moments do come up, as the bureaucracy will do everything to drive out their opposition, but we have to do everything to show the broader rank and file, especially those who remain under the control of the leaders, that we are the champions of workers unity, we have to seek tactics of common struggle against the bosses.

Why do you not call a campaign for equal pay for equal work across all the GM plants around the world, for rank and file committees, to prepare for occupation of the plants , to raise the demand for the expropriation of the company, under workers control. But we cannot stop on a company or sectoral basis, we have to target the imperialist banks, which are the ones who are driving the conditions of the world working class to slavery and barbarism. The workers in France have raised the call for a general strike; why should we leave them isolated when the same banks are attacking us and stealing our pensions; the workers in Ukraine are being plundered and worker leaders such as Dmitry Kalitventsev of the independent mineworkers union has been victimised and dismissed, the workers are being pushed into slavery by the same imperialist banks, why should we leave them isolated. You as workers in the main imperialist heartland have the obligation to raise up a call for the expropriation of the world's imperialist banks; for independent committees to prepare a general strike; you have the power, give the lead, make the call, you will find that the unity of the industrial workers of the USA, of the immigrants, of the workers in Ukraine, of the workers in the semi-colonies, will answer your call.

Take a stand, stand with the world working class; we have nothing to lose but our chains. this letter is supported by the Independent Union of miners in Ukraine



## **The struggle of the 1386 VWSA dismissed workers- ten years on- a worker's perspective**

### **Forward to workers unity!**

It is more than a decade since the 1386 workers were dismissed from the VWSA plant in Uitenhage. The impact of this tragedy led to the fragmentation of families and divisions in the community because of the political confusion caused by the general secretary of Cosatu, Vavi. He clearly took the side of the VW bosses. He promised on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2000 that he would go to meet the VW bosses and report back to the striking workers the next day. [The ultimatum issued by the company expired on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2000]. Secondly Vavi promised to set up a commission of enquiry to find a solution between the problem of the workers and the officials of the union. To the surprise of the workers, he did not return, instead he appeared on national TV, accusing workers of refusing to go back to work and of being ill-disciplined, sending a clear message to the VW management to dismiss the workers. After the dismissal of the 1386 workers, some of them, who had chronic illnesses could not cope without medical Aid. Many workers died one by one and as a result of this there was a sudden increase in the number of orphans and street kids; some became involved in criminal activity in order to survive because many workers lost their houses and their only income. The banks were quick to re-possess the workers homes.

This tragedy can never be forgotten in the history of the working class. At the same time the tripartite alliance (ANC-SACP-Cosatu) have not stopped attacking the workers with further betrayals which demonstrates that the government and the big capitalist are two wings of the same bird; this shows that when you fight the capitalist you also fight the tripartite alliance. In the court proceedings there emerged evidence that even before the workers went on strike there was a meeting between the local tripartite alliance and the VW management planning to dismiss all militant and vocal workers. Part of the VW management were even on the executive of the ANC. This shows that the collaboration of the tripartite alliance with the capitalists is anti-worker in content and essence. Even a blind man can see the motive behind the dismissal of the 1386 workers was more to do with profit and production and strengthening the capitalist dictatorship as workers have witnessed. The total dysfunctional nature of the Cosatu local structure and of Numsa deepened after the mass dismissal and in the end many more groups of workers and shopstewards were dismissed. The question we need to ask workers: how long shall we keep these corrupt and sellout leaders in the ranks of our struggle? These leaders carry out the imperialist agenda of divide and rule so that workers can easily be exploited. What the capitalist fear most is when workers are united. Unity of the workers will remove their fear of the capitalist and will lead to workers taking control of production and the life of the working class first.



It is time for all the dismissed workers to call for unity of the workers inside and outside the factories and to form committees that will rebuild unity and rebuild the local Cosatu and strengthen all affiliates on the basis of independence from the capitalist, breaking with the ANC and SACP. Let us form one committee that will expose the corrupt leaders that sold the VW workers for personal gain (Vavi, Irvin Jim, Slumko Nondwangu, John Gomomo, etc).

**Editorial note:**

We recall also the political error the WIVL made by giving in to the pressure of the workers to help to set up a new union. This played into the hands of the bosses and the union bureaucrats who were happy that the fight became one of rival unions fighting each other instead of a unified campaign to remove the sellout leaders of Numsa and Cosatu.

We call on workers to reflect on the treachery of the ANC and SACP who spread the false promise that if workers drove the WIVL out of the area the ANC would see to it that all workers would be reinstated. This was a cruel cynical lie as the last 10 years have proven.

We refer the reader to our articles on France where we draw the lesson of the betrayal by the Stalinist Communist Party of the May 1968 rebellion that saw all the major factories occupied and taken over by the working class. Stalinism drew the lesson and since then called for stayaways rather than factory occupations as a means to protect the capitalists and imperialists from the working class. It is this approach that the SACP has deeply entrenched here in South Africa which left the Mercedes Benz workers isolated when they occupied their factory in 1990 when they discovered that part of the factory was used to manufacture weapons for the SA regime; in the same way the VW workers were isolated when they took over the factory in 2000. We need to realize that we are fighting international Stalinism, not only the sellouts in the union and workers movement.

Further we remember the heroic attempts of the working class to launch an international campaign among the workers in fighting the mass dismissals. What we need to realize is that fighting on a union basis will never be enough. We face international imperialism. This fight shows that for workers fight for democratic rights in the semi-colonies such as SA, workers need to take power here and in the imperialist centres. Thus, as the Transitional Programme declares, the central task is to build national revolutionary parties as part of the refounding of the Fourth International. There can be no national road to Socialism.

Let's get to work!