

## **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, who you can contact at the address above. we have also attached their letter of appeal below.