

Imperialism is deliberately instigating attacks against black workers and petty traders from the rest of Africa

A few days ago rumours started appearing in the capitalist press ('independent newspapers', ETV and SABC) about supposed threats of 'xenophobic' violence after the world cup. This is part of the psychological preparation of the masses for attacks on our black brothers and sisters, launched by thugs, who are directly and indirectly on the payroll of imperialism. This trend is similar to what happened in 2008 when the capitalist media initiated a frenzy of attacks, playing on the desperation of the unemployed and the nationalist chauvinism promoted by the ANC, on black African foreign workers and traders, mainly Zimbabweans. At the time there was a near revolutionary situation in Zimbabwe with even the generals fleeing to South Africa, claiming that the majority of the rank and file in the army were against Mugabe; imperialism knew that if the masses overthrew Mugabe in a revolution, they would lose not only their key agent in Zimbabwe (ie Mugabe) but the revolutionary uprising could spill over to South Africa and even go throughout the region. It is an old device of imperialism to put worker against worker when faced with the prospect of a revolutionary challenge. Thus the South African worker was swept up against the Zimbabwean and Somali worker. In 2008 the 'independent newspapers' publicized on their front pages, pictures of burning Zimbabweans while the police looked on, laughing and doing nothing. This demonstrated to the lumpen elements that they could attack their fellow African brother and sister and the state would do nothing. Everything was done to destabilise the workers in the region. Most of the thugs who murdered our brothers and sisters in 2008 are still on the street; this shows the complicity of the state and the ANC-SACP government in the plans of imperialism.

So why does imperialism now instigate the attacks on our black brothers and sisters?

The development of capitalism on a world scale means that more and more, commodities are the product of international exploitation of the working class; thus, for example, cellphones brings together the labour of workers in the DRC, the US, Europe, China and Japan. Capitalist production every day destroys national divisions and unites workers on a global scale; giant corporations and banks organise production on an international scale, reducing workers from different countries to wage slaves for small groups of competing imperialists. In Southern Africa, for example, the working class of the respective countries are all mostly under the control of the Wall street banks (and to a lesser extent UK, French, German and Japanese banks and monopolies); the development of capitalism in South Africa involved many years of labour of slaves from Malaysia and Indonesia, Chinese workers, workers from Mozambique, Swaziland, Malawi, Botswana, especially on the mines; but the mine bosses, always wary of the danger of a united working class resistance, have always deliberately promoted tribal and ethnic divisions and have deliberately instigated fights between different nationalities, in order to perpetuate capitalist control; now that over 2 million Zimbabweans are in South Africa and since 1994 there has been greater numbers of workers coming into South Africa from the rest of Africa, imperialism is greatly concerned about the growing unity of the working class and the growing class consciousness; the attacks on our black brothers and sisters are being instigated by imperialism as an attempt to nullify the growing threat of revolution, which all the more likely seems set to break out in the whole of Southern Africa; the attacks aim to divert the working class from fighting the real enemy (the capitalist-imperialist class) and to exhaust the working class by having to constantly fight off bands of thugs.

The world cup was a deliberate distraction from the hardships and massive attacks currently being waged against the working class; they have calculated that the masses would not be distracted for long and would soon turn to focus on the attacks; one of the major attacks on the working class and the lower middle class and even the smaller capitalists is the massive electricity price increases; Cosatu leaders have deliberately delayed the general strike against the electricity price increase as a service to their imperialist masters, knowing full well that there is unprecedented anger against the increases; on the ground the masses have on a large scale seen through the Zuma 'Polokwane' regime- imperialism knows there is a crisis of credibility for them and that there is no political force that can restrain the working class as all their agents are discredited; the Cosatu leaders deliberately delay even the symbolic call of a one day general strike as imperialism knows that any spark anywhere in the world will spur on a resistance anywhere in the globe (imperialism is drawing the lesson from the 7 general strikes in Greece this year and is doing everything possible to neutralise resistance even before it starts) ; thus all the forces, the imperialists and their lackeys in the workers movement work together against the masses; now as in 2008 we can expect the state repressive forces to work with the fascist gangs against the working class. The mouthpiece of imperialism, the capitalist newspapers and mass media play their role in instigating worker against worker violence. Some of the middle Anc leaders would no doubt act to put imperialism's plans into practice as they have done in 2008 by organizing and instigating the lumpen proletariat to act against fellow workers.

Dividing the working class is part of the international strategy of imperialism

In Rwanda in 1994 under the guise of Hutu-Tutsi violence and 1 million people killed, US imperialism was making a grab for power while the French and Belgians were pushed out; thousands of machetes were imported from US sweatshops in China to be used in the killing frenzy. US imperialism used Rwanda as a springboard to launch its attacks in the Eastern DRC to seize control of the cassiterite reserves (more than 70% of world reserves are in the region; this mineral is used for cellphones, laptops and playstations); US military commanders were spotted on the ground during the wars in the Eastern DRC; Rwanda exports more minerals than is mined there confirming that it is a conduit for plundered minerals from the Eastern DRC; Jonathan Oppenheimer (son of Anglo American's Nicky Oppenheimer) is director of Umicore, which is listed as smuggling cassiterite on the world market.

When the masses rose up in Kirgystan on 7 April this year, overthrowing the US puppet, Bakiev, and burning the parliament building to the ground, a leadership vacuum has allowed another US puppet, Rosa Utambayeva, to seize control of an interim government; but this 'new government' does not have support of the masses; what did imperialism do? They instigated a supposed 'ethnic fight between the Kirgiz and Usbeks; but it was really a move to smash and destabilize the workers who were still opposed to the regime; once hundreds of thousands were displaced and destabilized, the regime suddenly held 'referendum' which allegedly showed support for it;

Even here in South Africa, when the 1985 rebellion was in full swing the Anglo American and other imperialists instigated clashes between 'zulus' and 'xhosas' but this was really instigating fascist groups of the inkatha against the masses, hoping to smash the revolution completely; after more than 30 000 people were killed and a lull started in the masses, imperialism moved to stabilise the situation through the 1994 elections (and the interim government before then).

The way forward

What we need are joint self defence committees of workers from African immigrants and local workers to act against the lumpen provocateurs, and the state repressive forces who are directly and indirectly on the payroll of imperialism; but further than this, the best defence is to organise a real, indefinite general strike against the electricity increases and other attacks by imperialism; we need an emergency workers summit, with delegates from every workplace and from the unemployed and from immigrant workers, with delegates from the rank and file soldiers, to meet to prepare the way to combat the attacks by imperialism; we need to call to such a workers summit delegates from the workers movement in Zimbabwe as well as from Madagascar, and indeed from every country in the region; unions must open their doors to all workers whether casual or permanent, whether 'legals' or 'illegal'; equal pay for equal work, across the region, equal conditions for all workers across the region; expropriate the imperialist-capitalist class, without compensation, and place the means of production under workers control.

We cannot depend on the Cosatu leaders who are in alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP; they will at every step try to sabotage the revolutionary action of the masses. The cowardly ANC and SACP shrinks from fighting off the imperialist gangsters who are responsible for turning Africa into their private slave camp; while imperialism is in crisis, there are less and less crumbs from their masters' table for the aspirant black capitalists (amabhulu omnyama), so the cowardly ANC turns on our black brothers and sisters from the rest of Africa, doing their masters' bidding, for a few pieces of silver. Where the masses are organising against the thugs, such as in Du Noon, the imperialist protect the thugs by banning marches of the working class. Where the thugs attack small traders, the police encourage them to abandon their wares and do nothing while the thugs help themselves to the goods. We cannot depend on the state to defend the working class; this is why joint workers self-defence committees are necessary to act against the fascist thugs. Further, is it really a coincidence that Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite, Spar and Woolworths (a big section of the food gangsters) are major sponsors of 'independent' newspapers, one of the main instigators of imperialist propaganda fuelling the fascist attacks?

Let us not allow imperialism to put worker against worker, let us not allow fascist provocateurs to instigate attacks against the working class; workers of the world unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains; we have a world to win. We call for an organizing committee to be set up to work for the refounding of the Fourth International!

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