



# **The Spark**

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### **Farmworkers revolt against the capitalist system**

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## Editorial

### **Misinformation by mainstream media on the farm workers strike**

Deliberate misinformation put out by Independent Newspapers as if Fawu members were not consulted about the strike tomorrow and thus will not strike. The mainstream media is deliberately trying to divide the workers and thus weaken the strike. What Fawu members on the ground are saying is that they are worried about the scabs that the ANC leaders are organising to take their jobs during the strike- the workers are thinking about how to build unity where some workers are wavering, some are scared by the paramilitary presence on the farms- not an easy situation.

What is being ignored by the mainstream media is that 70% of the price of food goes to the major distributors and main retailers . They should open their books to workers' inspection. The main retailers and distributors are the ones who are mainly responsible for continued slavery on the farms. For mass demonstrations on those farms where workers are not united enough to strike. Nationalise the major distributors like KWV and retailers like Pick 'n Pay, without compensation, under workers control!

### **Day 1 of the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 farm workers revolt against the capitalist system**

Very important day in the farm strikes, many workers were locked out; bosses were driving up and down swearing at workers to 'v\*k off' if they did not come to work; police shooting rubber bullets; workers angry at dismissals of others who have 10 years or more service; workers in De Doorns are making a call for all workers across the country to come out and support them; they are committed to continuing the strike until their demands are met; they are saying that the major retailers must lower food prices; they are calling for lower electricity and transport prices, otherwise all these companies must be nationalised; they are concerned that ANC leaders in Bawusa are organising scabs for the farm bosses; the workers say this time there will be no more suspensions of the strike; the workers must be represented in talks- no to secret talks.

In a sense, this is the workers reply to the 8th Jan 2013 ANC speech and the recent ANC conference. The strike is set to intensify.....

### **Cosatu leaders misinformation on the 'Lula' moment**

The Cosatu leaders' take on the so-called 'Lula moment' is just one big hoax, designed to chain the masses to the ANC. The 'bolsa familia' in Brazil is just another name for a child grant, which already exists here; in fact it is worse than the current child grant as it is tied to school attendance. If the child misses school more than 15% of the time, the grant is taken away; the amount in Brazil per child is less than the child grant here- the child grant here is R280 but the bolsa familia is about R106. When the 'bolsa familia' was introduced in Brazil, other benefits fell away, such as the feeding schemes, cooking oil subsidies and stipends for 15-16 olds. here is one article which (although we do not agree with it, shows some of the negative aspects of this so-called saviour of the ANC (Lula moment) )

<http://www.economist.com/node/16690887>



As usual, the Cosatu leaders are silent on the level of theft from the country and region by Anglo American and other capitalists. Proof of this thefts was presented to the Cosatu Anti-Corruption Unit, but they have commented only that it is interesting and can be used for a future campaign. Even the Mail & Guardian prefers to dig up the hundreds of millions which are tied to Zuma but are silent on the trillions that Anglo American and others steal.

It is time to break from the ANC. Forward to a revolutionary working class party that is independent of the state and the capitalists.



## 16 12. 2012 **Message of Solidarity with farm workers- No reconciliation with the slave bosses**

We salute your heroism and courage in the fight against continued slave conditions on the farms. You are continuing the heroic struggle of the mineworkers and transport workers before you. Your struggle is a concern for all workers. Your demands are similar to the demands of workers everywhere. The fact that the Cosatu leaders have called off your strikes twice before does not mean that we should not stand together, shoulder to shoulder, with other Cosatu workers. In fact, the only guarantee of success in this fight is if workers, as they did at the start of the strike, unite as workers, irrespective of which union they belong to or even if they do not belong to any union.

We offer a few proposals for your consideration:

1. Form a committee on every farm- one farm, one committee, uniting all workers, irrespective of which union they belong to and irrespective of whether they are permanent or casual or seasonal, immigrant with or without papers;
2. Organise workers committees in every working class area so that workers from various farms are united with workers in the towns;
3. For a Central committee of delegates of farm worker committees and area committees;



4. No negotiations with any bosses or bosses organization or government if mandated delegates from the farm committees are not present;
5. We propose that each farm worker collects R1 per month to give as solidarity to the family of Michael Daniels (and the family of any other farm worker who was killed in this fight)
6. We need to realize that the strike of 9<sup>th</sup> January will not happen unless the farm worker committees themselves go around to all the farms;
7. There should be a uniform list of demands drawn up and sent to all the farm bosses and their organizations;
8. Farm worker committees should challenge the unions that they should accept members irrespective if workers are permanent or casual or seasonal an irrespective of their immigrant status.
9. Unions that have members in other parts of the food chain like transport, food processing, retail sector, should all be challenged to mobilise their members to come out in solidarity strike action should the strike on the 9<sup>th</sup> January go ahead;
10. Last but not least, unions that are in alliance with the ANC should be challenged to break their alliance with it as ANC leaders are labour brokers on the farms and are part of the farm bosses themselves and in fact they are part of the farm bosses who are refusing to pay the R150 per day which is itself very low.
11. Any farm that dismisses workers or refuses to reinstate workers should face intensified strike support action; we call for these and for all farms that refuse to meet workers demands to be taken over (expropriated without compensation) and run by the workers.

Aluta Continua! Forward to the unity of workers in the cities with the workers in the rural areas!  
Forward to an international independent working class party! Forward to Socialism!

Workers International Vanguard Party [www.workersinternational.org.za](http://www.workersinternational.org.za) ph 0822020617





## **Michaela Daniels**

Michaela Daniels is 8 years old. Her father will not be coming home any more. No more kisses or hugs or telling of stories. This will be the first Christmas that she will not see her father. No present, no picking up; no food, no money for school fees or clothes, no sweet, no chocolate.

The boss of the Graaff fruit farm where her father worked, Christo, was not at the funeral, nor has he even been to the house. Oom Christo is one of many farm bosses not prepared to pay the lowly R150 per day. The daily farm violence of slave wages and starvation is part of the Mandela legacy of 'reconciliation'. Oom Christo, Oom Rupert and Oom Oppenheimer roll in the butter while workers are expected to be happy and smile on empty stomachs.

The Grandmother, Magdalena Stuurman, worked for 18 years at La Plaisant farm and retired with a handshake and UIF card. She paces up and down, clearly still in mental pain. She walks to the front garden fence, almost hoping that this nightmare was just a dream, that her son may come walking back from the shop, at any moment. She is suing the Minister of Police over the death of her son, a process that may take years. Judging by the police statements at the Marikana hearing, the police are sure to lie, again. The police regret they did not have the time to place a stone in his hands, after the fact. 'Shoot to kill' is the official policy of the government.

### **How does the family survive?**

We call for those who still have a sense of humanity to stand with young Michaela, her mother and grandmother. If you cannot go there yourself, we will take it there on your behalf. On entering Wolseley, we met a young municipal worker who told us that the Granny was not at home and to ask anyone in town where in Pine valley they stay. We found the house easily (97 Madani Street).

### **How do farm workers' families survive?**

If the farm bosses have not universally given workers a minimum of R150 per day by 9th January 2013, we call for the masses to stand by the farm workers. Let us pressurise the Pick 'n Pay's, the Shoprites, the Spars, the Woolworths', the Tiger Brands, the Pioneer foods, the Premier foods; let us take our support away from the DA, the ANC and other capitalist parties. Let us form workers committees and join hands with the farm workers. No more conciliation with the slavery bosses. If you have papers or do not have papers, if are local or immigrant, let us join hands against the slavery governments and the bosses.

[Michael Daniels, 28 year old tractor driver was shot dead on the 14th Nov 2012, while on his way to the shops. He was killed by police using live ammunition; the police were carrying out the shoot to kill policy of the ANC-DA governments].



## **The SACP is in the pocket of the farm bosses**

The SACP held an augmented Central Committee meeting over the past weekend. Yet, despite all the top brass being present, the SACP in its statement of 2 Dec 2012, failed to call for support for the farm workers strike of the 4th December. The concern of the SACP leaders was that workers should not be violent and should not damage property. Not one single word by the SACP about the armed vigilante groups posing as security companies, nor about the fact that the farm bosses had bought up all the available live ammunition in local gunshops. Is this the voice of the vanguard of the working class? Or of the vanguard of the black capitalists?

The SACP claims that the 'first phase' of the democratic transition has passed and now it is the second phase of this transition. The SACP's analysis of the first phase of the democratic transition, is that it has passed the farms by. This is a complete falsification of events and covers up on the role of the ANC capitalists in maintaining slave conditions on the farms. We explain:

Billionaire ANC capitalist, Tokyo Sexwale, is a farm boss, having purchased the Bloemendal farm. We called the management of this farm to find out if they were willing to pay a minimum of R150 per day to workers. The farm management replied: 'We pay above the minimum wage, but to ask for R150 per day is a ridiculous ask.' There you have it, from the horse's mouth, the ANC capitalists are not prepared to end slave conditions on the farms.

We also called the BEE Director of KWV, the biggest wine exporter in the country, Mr Khutso Mampeule. We asked him, seeing that Phetogo Investments (now Whitmore 1), of which he is head, has received a R120 million cash injection from the IDC (public money), whether they would be prepared to take a stand and support a R150 per day minimum on the farms they source their grapes from. Mr Mampeule refused to give any support to any workers' demand, saying: 'it was too political'. How strange Mr Mampeule, it was not too political when you received R120 million from public money, R40 million from the wine bosses (SAWIT) and R40 million from KWV itself, to enable you to pose as a BEE capitalist parasiting on the continued slave conditions of farm workers?

Did it not occur to the 'vanguard' of the working class to question high food prices and the fact that 75% of the cost of food bought in the large retailers, goes to the large distributor like Tiger Brands and the retailer itself? And that only between 3% and 10% of the actual cost of food goes to the farm worker?

This was not a 'democratic advance' that passed the farm workers by, it was slave conditions being maintained by the BEE ANC capitalists for a few pieces of silver. We can understand why the ANC leaders made an amicable settlement not to sing the song 'kill the boer, kill the farmer' because it means singing that the black boere like Tokyo Sexwale and Valli Moosa, should also be dealt with by the masses. The truth is that the farmers have been killing farm workers with impunity for centuries- under the ANC govt, this is set to continue.

We support an indefinite strike by the farm workers until their demands are met but it is essential that the rest of the masses, victims of high food prices should also support them. We call for:



1. All members of the community should not take the jobs of the strikers;
2. Each farm to have a workers committee directly electable and subject to instant recall, without financial privileges; for workers self-defence committees as part of the farm committees;
3. The books of the large retailers, the large food processors (like Tiger Brands), the large commercial farms, the banks, should all be open to workers inspection to identify where the massive amounts of money for food is disappearing to. For anti-high price committees at every workplace, mine, community
4. R150 per day as a minimum on all farms immediately; towards R12500 for all farm workers per month, which should rise when prices rise;
5. Expropriation of all large retailers, banks, large food processors, large commercial farms, without compensation to the capitalists, all under workers control
6. Mobilisation towards a general strike in support of the farm workers' demands to end slave conditions on farms and for workers control over prices and the entire food sector.





# We respond to the LRP's economistic, nationalistic critique of the Occupy Wall Street movement

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On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 the League for the Revolutionary Party (LRP) published a critique of the Occupy Wall Street movement. At the time we had published a call for the Occupy Wall Street movement to transform itself into an 'Occupy White House' movement. In other words, for shifting the concentration from the occupation of open spaces and marches on the banks to marches on and occupations of buildings of parliamentary control. This was to begin to draw the lesson that the executive armed wing of the Wall street bandits is the state apparatus and that unless the working class overthrew the state apparatus, setting up workers' councils, the struggle to deal decisively with the gangsters on Wall street would never be achieved. The fact is the Wall street capitalists rule through the White House.

In the wake of the Iraq war veteran Scott Olsen being almost killed by the police in October 2011, the LRP argued for a march on the Oakland mayor and police chief, calling on them to resign, a step which they said could spark other political fights across the country which could have halted the attacks on the Occupy Wall Street encampments around the country. The LRP claimed that this step would help the masses break from electoralism. But surely, this would just be another form of setting in motion a bourgeois recall election- the message would have been: the mayor and police chief are anti-worker, they need to be replaced by other pro-worker elements- this was implied in the slogan of the LRP.

What should have been raised is the need for workers' self defence committees, centred on the factories and in this context a march on the mayor's office, denouncing the police as the armed wing of Wall street, and calling for their disbandment. And considering that many war veterans were supportive of the Occupy Wall Street movement, this would have posed the question to them that indeed, the biggest enemy is at home, their own regime.

This brings us to one of the major shortcomings of the LRP critique, namely its nationalism: The LRP ignores the role of US imperialism as the major world dominant capitalist force and that the Occupy Wall Street movement represented a split in the base that has been used for the past 100 or so years to terrorise the masses of the world. The slogan of we are the 99% against the 1%, represents a realization that sections of the middle class and, more importantly, sections of the military are breaking from their support for the imperialist capitalist class. Fundamentally too, huge sections of the working class in the main imperialist power were starting to question the role of their capitalist class as the main exploiter in the world and were beginning to protest against them. The revolutionary threat against the US imperialist capitalist regime is one of the most important factors that is constraining a direct US military intervention in the world today (compare this period to the period of the 2003 Iraq invasion). This is one of the factors swaying world conditions more towards the working



class today. Such a change in the world balance of forces completely escapes the LRP. When the Occupy Wall Street movement begins to raise a call for 'an end to all wars', it reflects a split in the military- the LRP simply rejects this as utopian and offers no way forward to advance and deepen the internationalist sentiments of the masses.

The question of how to consolidate and deepen the crack in the middle class base of US imperialism escapes the LRP. When Obama speaks of the middle class America, he is trying to blur the class lines. The LRP simply talks of a general strike without offering one concrete step of how to advance the current struggle towards it.

Instead of an internationalist programme, the LRP raises the demand for 're-industrialization'. This is a local brand of what chauvinist raised in Britain ('British jobs for British workers'). This is raising the begging bowl to capitalists like Apple, to bring back the jobs from China, or for other jobs to come back from Mexico and India, to the USA. How different is this from the Tea party? Where is the call for the working class in the neo-colonies to also get organised and rise up against the 1% of Wall Street? Unfortunately, they do not feature in the critique by the LRP.

When the Occupy Wall Street activists call for 'democratically-controlled' jobs, the LRP pours scorn over them and implies that workers are not really concerned about that but only a 'roof' and a 'job'. Thus the LRP discards the fight for workers' control. In the Transitional Programme's section on 'The struggle against imperialism and war', the demands are posed of workers control of the war industry and of confiscation of all their profits. The LRP does not raise these demands, nor of workers' control over the public works programme. In fact the LRP appears to support the bourgeois notion of raising taxes of the rich, instead of counter-posing this with the Marxist call for confiscation of their profits. Thus on the question of internationalism and workers' control, the supposedly middle class Occupy Wall Street movement is to the left of the LRP.

The LRP complains about the domination of the middle class and the anarchists of the Occupy Wall Street movement. The LRP does not reach out to the left anarchists who are pro-worker, nor do they raise the call for workers committees to be set up at workplaces in struggle, a necessary step in the fight against the union bureaucracy and the capitalist class.

Finally, the LRP does not even raise the question of workers joining COFI (Communist Organization for the Fourth International). Surely the struggle for working class power in the USA is an international question for the world proletariat. We call on the LRP to retake the path of internationalism, to break from its economism. As Lenin put it that the party can wait for the masses but the masses cannot wait for the party.

15 Dec 2012

WIVP



## On the crash of the military plane at Giant's castle

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Our hearts go out to the families of the soldiers killed in the air crash on Thursday 6 Dec 2012. The entire incident shows the disdain that the govt has for the soldiers.

1. There are military bases in the Eastern Cape; so why was the guarding of the Mthatha airport not simply just left in their hands? Why fly the teams from across the country? If it was really necessary to send soldiers from Pretoria, why did they not just hop on the usually half-empty flights from OR Tambo airport to Mthatha?
2. Since the 1930's, virtually every year there are major accidents involving DC-3's; these planes may have been a vast improvement of their erstwhile predecessors, but flight technology has moved on greatly since then- the planes do not have pressurised cabins so you cannot fly too high as you will simply not be able to breathe; the radar systems are either non-existent or if the plane has been modified, very basic; the plane is very sensitive to changes in centre of gravity (eg if all the passengers got up at the same time and went to a different part of the plane, it could cause the plane to spin out of control); The EU was considering banning DC-3's as far back as 2008 due to safety concerns- put simply, these planes are very old and metal fatigue becomes an increasing factor with each flight;
3. If the aim was to give flight practice to some pilots then surely other avenues could have been followed under a more controlled environment, such as airshows or flights when weather is not a concern;
4. The plane went missing at 945am; why did it take almost a day to find the wreckage? Surely in any crash scenario, time is of the essence?

No doubt, some opportunist capitalist will see a business opportunity out of this tragedy- you will soon see tenders for the purchase of new aircraft.

The bottom line is that these tragic deaths were preventable. The ANC-govt is anti-worker and is anti-soldier. They are safe in their luxury bunkers in Sandton and Nkandla, allowing Anglo American to strip the wealth of the country while the masses suffer untold hardship. This is the meaning of the 'national democratic revolution'. 7.12.2012



Picture of secret meeting in 1989 between Mandela and PW Botha



## **The SA Jewish Board of Deputies is trying to suppress a very necessary debate.**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1998, community station radio 786 hosted a programme discussing Zionism and Israel. This was close to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state of Israel. The station can be commended for raising this topic, one which most other media ignored. The station can be criticised for not clearly distancing itself from the views of their guest and indeed for their format (not having a spread of views so that if any of their guests raised any unsubstantiated point, it could be countered by others).

The founding fathers of Zionism claimed to set up Israel in historic Palestine as if it was 'a *land without people for a people without land*'. This lie was to hide the fact of the destruction of hundreds of Palestinian villages and several massacres by Zionist armed forces of the Palestinians in 1948 (as well as before and after this date). Hundreds of thousands of Muslim, Christian and Jewish Palestinians were driven from their homes. In 1949 the UN set up refugee assistance to Palestinians. Today, according to the UN (<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/refugees/>), of the 15.2 million refugees worldwide, 4.7 million, roughly a third (the biggest group), are Palestinian.

How and why was Israel created, who was responsible for the Holocaust and the ongoing Holocausts are very necessary discussions for those who claim allegiance to any democratic values.

It is now more than 64 years since the mass expulsion of Palestinians from their homes. The website of the Jewish Board of Deputies carries an article dated the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 ('*Distortion and lies accompany Israeli and Palestinian Activists in SA*'), where they argue that there should be limited right of return of the Palestinian refugees. In the same article they call for 2 states, with Israel and Palestine side by side. In another article on the website of the Board of Deputies, dated 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012 ('*Minister disregards due process in Label debate*'), they argue against the labelling of goods produced in the West bank as being made in 'Israeli Occupied territory'. So if the West Bank, which has over 600 Israeli military checkpoints and an Israeli apartheid wall that goes in and around it, is not 'Israeli occupied territory', then the only place for the limited return of Palestinian refugees is the Gaza strip (a narrow strip of land the size of an area from the harbour in Cape Town to Mitchell's Plain, a place which already has more than 1 million people and is already over-crowded).

In this way, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies airbrushes the existence of almost 5 million Palestinian refugees, an out and out Zionist position. Thus the SA Jewish Board of Deputies does not really speak for Jews in general but is really a mouthpiece for Zionism.

Is the denial of the return of these 5 million refugees not a great injustice? Why is it not discussed? Why is the Israeli state not pressurised into fulfilling this basic democratic principle? Groups such as Al Awda have done extensive research on the question of the right of return- they show that the land of historic Palestine (which includes the territory where Israel is), can easily accommodate all refugees and all those who are currently living there. Discussion on this central point is what the pro-Zionist SA Jewish Board of Deputies wants to avoid.



The Zionists and mainstream capitalist media would have us all believe that the Holocaust was about attempted extermination of Jews. This is a falsification of the essence of fascism:

*“Fascism in power, like Bonapartism, can only be the government of finance capital.”...*

*“Fascism is a specific means of mobilizing and organizing the petty bourgeoisie in the social interests of finance capital.”....*

*“The passage to fascism, on the contrary, is inconceivable without the preceding permeation of the petty bourgeoisie with hatred of the proletariat.”(Trotsky, 15 July 1934, **Bonapartism and Fascism**, from Marxist Internet Archive).*

Despite all the demagogic phrases and race hatred that Fascism espouses, in essence, its main enemy is the organised working class. Fascism is a policy, under conditions when it is under serious threat from being overthrown by the masses, of the industrial and banking capitalists against their mortal enemy, the working class. This is why fascist gangs are sent by finance capital to break up workers' organizations and that of Socialists and Communists, in the main. When the forces of fascism invaded France, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, North Africa, its main aim was territorial expansion and its concomitant smashing of the workers' movement, not primarily the extermination of Jews. Sixty (60) million people, including 6 million Jews, died in the Second World imperialist war, most of them at the hands of the fascists or in the fight against them. Surely all these lives are important, not just the focus on one group. The Zionists, who promote a one-sided view of the Holocaust, deliberately distort the real nature of the slaughter in order to provide a cover behind which to hide their crimes against the Palestinians.

Markuse Brajtman (17 December 2012, **Free Speech and the Holocaust**, Cape Argus) casts doubt on his own argument. He claims that because *'the Germans were masters at keeping records'*, we should all believe their figure that 6 million Jews were murdered by the Nazi regime. He wants us to believe that the word of a regime whose motto was *'a lie told often enough, would be accepted as the truth'*, should be accepted as an irrefutable source. If this is the only source of the 6 million figure, then indeed such figure should be subject to closer scrutiny. Perhaps the figure could have been higher, or it could have been less. Why do Brajtman and Vincent St Laurant Phillips (17 December 2012, **The Holocaust is a proven fact**, Cape Argus) keep silent about the overall total of the millions butchered by the Nazis, a figure much higher than 6 million? Unfortunately, they fall into the same error as the Zionists.

But for us, the central point of commemorating the Holocaust is not to dwell over a discussion of numbers. We accept that 6 million Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis; we accept that 60 million were slaughtered in the Second World imperialist war. **Surely the central point of commemorating the Holocaust is to send a message that such slaughter by forces of finance capital, or anyone for that matter, should never happen again.**

Does the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, which proclaims itself an arch defender of the memory of the Holocaust, say a single word against the any massacres of the capitalist forces since 1945? They are silent about the slaughter by the US regime of the masses in Vietnam; they were silent when the US-backed Indonesian regime slaughtered over 1 million Communists; they were silent over the 1994 Rwanda massacre which brought into existence a pro-US regime; they were silent about the imperialist backing of the armed groups in the DRC wars of plunder where over 6 million people were killed; they are silent over the massacres by US imperialist forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; they are



silent over the almost weekly killing of Palestinians by the Israeli regime since 1948; they are silent over the thousands of Palestinian prisoners being held under terrible conditions in Israeli jails; they are silent over the expulsion of thousands of African Jews who are imprisoned and then expelled by the Israeli state.

How can a group, which supports regimes that commit massacres, seriously be regarded as a defender of the memory of the Holocaust? The SA Jewish Board of Deputies does not even represent Jewish people in general. Did the SA Jewish Board of Deputies speak out against the bombing by the Israeli state of Synagogues in Lebanon during the 1975 war? No. Palestinian fighters defended the Synagogues- another fact airbrushed by the Zionists. The SA Board of Deputies represent that section of the Jewish elite that are pro-Zionist. They cannot be taken seriously when they claim that anyone is guilty of hate speech or Holocaust denial, when they deny the right of return of the almost 5 million Palestinian refugees to their land; when they are silent over the many capitalist atrocities since 1945, not least the mass expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their villages in 1948 by the fascist Palmach of the Zionists, the Sabra and Shatilla massacres and many others. How ironic that the Israeli regime, that claims sympathy because of the atrocities of fascism, is itself engaged in fascistic acts against the Palestinian masses. Criticism of Zionism is taken by St Laurant Phillips as an attack on the Jewish people, another error by him.

Ex-Zionist, Abram Leon, wrote a historic work entitled '**The Jewish Question**'. In it he outlines the historic development of the Jewish people in the pre-capitalist era as well as in the capitalist era. He points out, just as within any people under capitalism, class divisions developed. There developed impoverished working class Jews as well as capitalists. He concludes that 'Zionism is an excrescence' and that the dream of a Zionist society where all were equal, was a falsehood, that the proposed Israel would be a class society. Leon, who became a Fourth Internationalist, was one of many executed by the Nazis.

In 2011, hundreds of thousands of Jews, following the uprisings in Tahrir square and elsewhere, set up tent cities across Israel. They were demanding proper, cheap housing (they were not demanding demolition of Palestinian homes nor grabbing of Palestinian land); they identified the Israeli regime as their enemy. Less than 10% of Israelis control over 70% of the wealth. What is to be celebrated is that Jewish Israeli masses were beginning to unite with the Palestinian masses, against the Israeli regime. The SA Jewish Board of deputies does not speak against the Israeli elite, in fact it identifies with them. They do not represent the majority of the Jewish masses.

Radio 786 discredits itself when it hosts an academic, Dr Zakie, who claims that Jews were not gassed in the Nazi concentration camps but died of typhus. [This just proves once again that being an academic is no insurance against talking rubbish]. The Zionist Federation denies the existence of hundreds of Palestinian villages in the area which is now called Israel. The SA Jewish Board of Deputies denies that Israel was created based on the massacres of Palestinians. The Economist (yearbook 2012), does not even list Palestinians as a refugee group, let alone as the biggest refugee group in the world. The ANC government denies that the killing of 34 miners on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012 was a massacre. A workers tribunal which includes representatives of the victims should pronounce on all the above. We criticise them all.

In a sense some of the views of the Radio 786 and that of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies are similar: the one supports a Muslim Palestine, while the other supports a Jewish Israel. They both imply that those of other religious beliefs are somehow less important. They are both wrong as they promote a permanent division of the masses in the Middle East.



First the pro-Zionist Board of deputies attacks community radio stations; then they forced the Labia cinema into self-censorship (the cinema was due to screen 'Road to Apartheid'- a watered-down version of what Palestinians face every day at the hands of the Zionist regime; the pro-Zionist Board was offered a platform after the 1st screening to give their views- they declined the offer and the Labia management capitulated to their pressure and cancelled the screenings); radio 786 offered the pro-Zionist Board the opportunity to give their views in a panel discussion (we think the radio station was being too generous to these fascistic types)- they declined the offer. Thus the real aim of the Jewish Board of Deputies is not the defending of the memory of the Holocaust, but the suppression of any criticism of Zionism. Even though we clearly disagree with radio 786 on the format of their programme, we defend their right to discuss any topic and yes, even if it attempts to look critically at the Holocaust. The SA Jewish Board of Deputies is attempting to close down the limited free space there is of freedom of speech that has been won through many years of struggle where much blood of the masses has been spilt. While Radio 786 should be roundly criticised for not delineating itself from Dr Zakie's views and for not hosting a broader panel which could have challenged his erroneous views, in this attack by the Zionists to limit the democratic gains of the masses, we are with Radio 786 against the SA Jewish Board of Deputies. Apologise to the SA Jewish Board of Deputies? How can one apologise to an entity allied to imperialism, the same imperialism that is responsible for ongoing Holocausts? No. Apologise to the masses? yes. Then let us be consistent: the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the Zionist Federation should apologise for their denial of the rights of the Palestinians; the US embassy should apologise for their lies about Saddam's alleged stockpile of weapons of mass destruction; the Economist, the SA govt and others should apologise for their views of denial of the ongoing capitalist massacres.

Ever wonder why the SA Jewish Board of Deputies has never asked the US govt to apologise for refusing to give refuge to the impoverished Jews who were fleeing the Nazi terror? Does it not have something to do with the annual \$2bn grant from the US state to Israel for it to act as the imperialist policeman against the masses in the Middle East? Is this alliance of Zionism with imperialism not the real reason for the creation of the state of Israel (the creation of a dumping ground for impoverished Jews immediately after the war, together with the need to keep the Middle East masses in permanent subjugation).

Let us put it in perspective: 60 million people were killed in world war 2 (of which 6 million Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis); the capitalist monopolies made fortunes over the what was essentially a fight for a re-division of the world among them. Thyssen Krupp and other giant corporations, that funded the slaughter of millions of Jews and many others, today fund the Israeli state in their long term plan of exterminating Palestinians. Several of the US corporations that opposed giving sanctuary to impoverished Jews who were fleeing Nazi persecution, today support the Zionist state's attacks on Palestinians. Many of the capitalist companies that made their fortunes during the world wars and subsequent wars, are supporting proxy forces in the DRC where in recent years more than 6 million people were killed, all for the sake of plunder of the minerals. Recently groups of African immigrants were expelled en masse from Israel.

The pro-Zionist Board is silent on these atrocities- in fact they support them. These same Zionists want to roll back one of the few gains on free speech here. We should not let them.

Any serious struggle to sustain the memory of the Holocaust should involve a struggle against the root cause of the Holocaust and the ongoing holocausts, namely the capitalist system. This is the very opposite of what the elitist SA Jewish Board of Deputies is advocating. In fact the very people who should go on trial should be the imperialists who funded the Nazis, and who have been funding



the ongoing massacres. The ones who should be put on trial should include arms and agencies of imperialism such as the SA Jewish Board of Deputies that deny the 5 million Palestinian refugees their right to go home (give them a few shekels and let them rot in the camps where they are, is the implied message of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies). This pro-Zionist Board supports the very capitalist system that is responsible for ongoing Holocausts.

The truth is concrete: when farm workers ask for a R150 a day, when workers ask for a banning of Labour brokers, when workers ask for scrapping e-tolling, for lowering of food prices and lowering of electricity prices, when workers ask for their schools not to be closed, on which side is the SA Jewish Board of Deputies? Not that of the workers.

Jewish, Christian and Muslim masses unite against the Zionist regime! For a United Workers' Socialist Palestine as part of a federation of Socialist states in the Middle East based on grassroots workers' committees!

23.12.2012



Palestinian fighters protecting a synagogue in the 1975 Lebanon war



## **Defend the FLTI**

On Wed 3rd Oct 2012 , the Argentinian state launched an attack on the members and leaders of the Democracia Obrera. Computers, cell phones and documents of the organization were confiscated. Among those attacked by the state include Paula Medrano (daughter of the disappeared) and Viviana Noguerol.

As Workers International Vanguard Party, we condemn this attack on the Democracia Obrera- it is an attack not only by the capitalist state of Argentina but also of imperialism. The attack shows that the repressive apparatus of the state that existed during the time of the military dictatorship, is still very much alive. During the dictatorship in Argentina, more than 30 000 activists and working class fighters were killed by the state, referred to as 'the disappeared' because US imperialism, which backed the dictatorship, ensured that many of the bodies were buried in mass graves and many were just never found.

In these days of deepening crisis of world capitalism, when their rule is coming under increasing threat, here we have the capitalist state and imperialism, wanting to revert to the old methods of the dictatorship.

Although we have our differences with the Democracia Obrera and the FLTI, they are still an organization which is part of the fight against the capitalist system. They must be defended against the gangster attacks of the capitalist state.

We call on the broader working class movement to rally to the defence of the Democracia Obrera.

Down with state attacks on workers organizations!

Forward to working class internationalism!

hands off Democracia Obrera and other organizations of the working class!

Down with the imperialism puppet regime of Fernandes-Kirchner! 7 Oct 2012

## **We call for solidarity with Johannes Wiener and the RCIT against the attack by the Austrian state:**

Workers International Vanguard Party stands in solidarity with Johannes Wiener and the RCIT against the attack by the Austrian state. Johannes and the RCIT are implacable fighters for the rights of Palestinians and oppose the fascistic tactics of the Israeli state. This attack by the Austrian state is an attack on the international workers movement as indeed it is an attack on the international Palestinian solidarity movement.

Yesterday young 17 year old Mohammed As Salayma was shot dead by Israeli soldiers in occupied Hebron. His only crime was being deaf from birth and going out to buy a cake for his birthday. Are Johannes and the RCIT right about their criticisms of Israel? Most certainly yes. Why has the Austrian state not acted against the Israeli Ambassador? Yet they accuse Johannes of 'sedition'.

The only conclusion to be drawn from this trumped-up charge against Johannes, is that the Austrian state is itself wanting to introduce a period of fascism in Austria.

This attempt to crush the workers movement in Austria will not succeed. The world workers movement rose against Hitler and Mussolini; there will be the same response and more from the workers of the world.

Hands off Johannes Wiener! Hands Off the RCIT! Hands off the workers movement!

Please keep us informed of developments so we can help to organise national and international protest, listing the names of the officials who want to bring fascism back to Austria!

Long live the Palestinian masses! Forward to a Socialist Palestine from the river to the sea, as part of a federation of Socialist workers states in the Middle East! 13 Dec 2012 WIVP



# Free Dr Cyril Karabus!

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The mass media has long portrayed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) regime as being progressive and open-minded. The arrest of Dr Cyril Karabus shows the true brutality of this regime:

Here is a country which hosts 2 US Patriot battalions and a French military contingent at the Al Dhafra military base. The US regime uses this base for flights over Syria, giving tactical advice to the hated Assad regime of the movements of the masses against it. Military co-operation with US imperialism started at least as far back as 1994. By 2001 the UAE regime was found to be allowing funding to Al Qaeda. This shows once again that Al Qaeda is a subcontracted agency of US imperialism, to be called into action from time to time to justify US imperialist intervention around the globe.

In 2011 the UAE regime sent its militarised police into Bahrain to help suppress the masses who were/are fighting for a democratic regime and an end to the autocracy. How many innocent Bahrainis have been killed through this invasion?

UAE ports do a thriving trade with Israeli companies, through, among others, the Israeli ZIm shipping company. Thus this regime helps keep the brutal Israeli regime's wheels turning. (This is despite a law banning direct trade with Israel- apparently indirect trade is kosher).

There are at least 64 political prisoners being held in the jails of the UAE regime.

The killing of the 8 year old girl, Wadeema Saud, by her father last year, points to a much wider issue that has been swept under the carpet by the mass media, namely, the widespread barbaric killing of the girl child. How else does one explain the fact that there are 203 males for every 100 females in the UAE? (Economist, Pocket World in figures, 2011).

Yet, the UAE regime wants us all to believe that they are really concerned about the life of young Sarah Adel, a cancer patient who died while being treated by Dr Karabus! If they were really so concerned, why did they not summons the Doctor immediately after the child's death? Why have the medical records disappeared? Who knows what their motive is, but concern for the child is definitely not one of them.

Free Dr Karabus!

Free the political prisoners in the jails of the UAE!

Expel the US and French military bases from the UAE and the region!

Withdraw the UAE police from Bahrain!

Down with the autocracy! For a Constituent Assembly in the UAE irrespective of immigration status!

For a federation of Socialist Workers states in the Middle East, based on directly elected workers' councils!



## ***Internationale***

**Words by Eugene Pottier (Paris 1871) Music by Pierre Degeyter (1888)**

**Arise ye workers from your slumbers  
Arise ye prisoners of want  
For reason in revolt now thunders  
And at last ends the age of cant.  
Away with all your superstitions  
Servile masses arise, arise  
We'll change henceforth the old tradition  
And spurn the dust to win the prize.**

**So comrades, come rally  
And the last fight let us face  
The Internationale unites the human race.  
So comrades, come rally  
And the last fight let us face  
The Internationale unites the human race.**

**No more deluded by reaction  
On tyrants only we'll make war  
The soldiers too will take strike action  
They'll break ranks and fight no more  
And if those cannibals keep trying  
To sacrifice us to their pride  
They soon shall hear the bullets flying  
We'll shoot the generals on our own side.**

**No saviour from on high delivers  
No faith have we in prince or peer  
Our own right hand the chains must shiver  
Chains of hatred, greed and fear  
E'er the thieves will out with their booty  
And give to all a happier lot.  
Each at the forge must do their duty  
And we'll strike while the iron is hot.**

The Internationale was written to celebrate the Paris Commune of March-May 1871: the first time workers took state power into their own hands. Representatives were mandated on policy questions by their electors, they were recallable at any time and were paid wages that reflected those of their constituents. The distinction between legislative and executive arms of government was abolished.



# ***The Spark***

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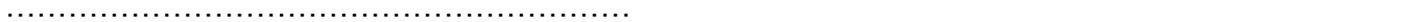
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