



The Spark



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Stop all imperialist interventions in Syria; Down with the entire Assad regime

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so easy, but the 'left' just cannot seem to get it.....

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Stop all imperialist interventions in Syria; down with the entire regime of Assad; forward to workers power

Introduction

Imperialism claims they are acting to stop the use of nerve gas in Syria and that they somehow care for the plight of masses in Syria. We will expose this as a lie. On the other hand some activists are making the mistake of supporting Assad. We will show this to be a serious error that plays into the hands of the imperialists and that ends up opposing the very Syrian masses who stand against capitalist dictatorship. ***So what is imperialism up to?*** The biggest problem for imperialism is that in Syria there are hundreds, if not thousands, of grassroots committees with associated independent militias, that are not under the control of the FSA, the Al Nusra, nor of the Assad regime. In fact these militias have openly accused the UN observers of assisting the Assad regime. This grassroots movement has made such gains in a recent period that the Assad regime may fall. This means that the new regime may not be under the control of imperialism nor any of its puppets in the regime. This is why imperialism wants to invade Syria, not to remove Assad (they already said repeatedly that this is not their aim); not to bomb the chemical weapons (the gases may spread over a wide area so this is not an option); not to prevent Assad from using chemical weapons (how will sending a few bombs into Syria stop Assad from using chemical weapons again?).

The real aim of imperialism is to attack and weaken, if not destroy the independent militias so that either Assad stays in power or a new counter-revolutionary agency, the SMC, gains control over the masses. In fact, against the independent organization of the Syrian masses stand the Assad regime, Al Nusra, the FSA(Free Syrian Army) leaders, the SMC(Syrian Military Council), the SNC(Syrian National Council), the SOC (Syrian Opposition Coalition), the Saudis, Qatar, Hezbollah, the Iranian Quds militias, the Russian and Chinese subcontractors, the Zionist regime and imperialism.

Who is Jabhat Nusra and what is their role in the Syrian revolution?

The capitalist media try to portray al Nusra as the face of the Syrian resistance. This is a deliberate distortion. The grassroots councils and their militias have nothing to do with al Nusra and its atrocities, in fact the Syrian revolutionary masses denounce al Nusra and everything associated with it.

Jabhat Nusra claims to be an affiliate of the Al Qaeda of Iraq. Their stated aim is to restore the Islamic Caliphate; in other words they claim to want to impose Islamic law. US imperialism spent at least \$3 trillion dollars in the Iraq invasion and now control it absolutely. At the start of the Iraq invasion in 2003, there was no mention of any presence of Al Qaeda in Iraq, so how does it come about that suddenly a branch of it exists in Iraq and why are they suddenly appearing on the side of the masses that oppose Assad?

In Iraq imperialism has created divisions among the masses on sectarian grounds. Families have inter-married irrespective of sectarian group. Imperialism has deliberately exaggerated the divisions by fanning fights between Sunni, Shia and Kurd. All evidence points to deliberate bombing of Sunni religious targets and blaming it on Shia and vice versa.



This ongoing artificial construct of Sunni-Shia divide and killings, are a means of terrorising the masses, dividing them and diverting them from fighting and overthrowing the puppet regime that is tied to US imperialism.

Thus the entry of Jabhat Nusra into Syria is not to overthrow the capitalist regime structure but to divert and divide the Syrian masses along sectarian grounds. Already there are reports of al Nusra diverting fighters to clash with Kurds in the North rather than combat the Assad regime; they have also been launching fights against other opposition militias; they also see the enemy as Alawis, an artificial category that the bourgeois media promote, as if this is the major factor in the Syrian revolution.

The entry of al Nusra has had the effect of dividing the working class in Syria as the masses have no wish to be associated with this group. *'Rather the butcher Assad than Al Qaeda'* is what comes up in the workers' minds. The rather graphic videos of al Nusra eating a Syrian soldiers heart and other similar instances, is deliberate propaganda by imperialism to tarnish the fighters who are against Assad and who have no link with al Nusra. That the workers in the cities are divided in whether to support Assad or the resistance against his regime, is partly due to the role of the imperialist agency al Nusra.

While arms is coming from imperialist puppets such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar for the opposition militias, in drips and drabs, al Nusra seems to have much greater access to funding and arms. This is deliberate as imperialism wishes to boost their agencies to divert and destroy the Syrian revolution from within.

Besides dividing the masses in Syria, the effect of al Nusra is to divide not only the international working class but also the lower middle class, turning them away from supporting the revolution there. A significant portion of the left claim that imperialism is behind the revolt against the Assad regime and claim that Assad is 'anti-imperialist' [This myth, we will expose again later in this article].

There are reports that al Nusra gets arms and funds from Saudi Arabia. If this is true then it means that they are indirectly armed and funded by US imperialism. If al Nusra gets their funds from Iraq then this also points to US imperialism being their ultimate funder and supplier.

Whereas in Iraq, the aim of imperialism supporting al Qaeda or other sectarian groups is to prevent an uprising against their puppet regime that they have now in place, in Syria the role of Al Nusra is to sabotage the revolution from within to prevent a total overthrow of the Assad regime by revolutionary methods. If the revolution in Syria is to have any success then the industrial workers in the major urban centres have to be united and mobilised against the Assad regime, something the al Nusra is working against by branding all Alawis and those who oppose an Islamic state, as enemies. If the masses do manage to overthrow the Assad regime, the role of al Nusra would be to divide and terrorise the masses into fighting among each other while a capitalist regime is imposed.

Al Qaeda is an imperialist creation, being used by imperialism to discredit their opponents. In Syria, the role of al Nusra is to turn the international masses against support of the revolution- their activity is designed to make the Assad regime look good. Thus while the Assad regime kills off generations of the masses who are revolting against his brutal regime, the eyes of the international masses are being deliberately turned away. The net effect is to help imperialism maintain control of their domination of the masses of the world.



Assad is the preferred head of the Syrian regime for imperialism

In recent months the CIA has begun to argue that US imperialism should begin to openly recognise Assad as being the best guarantor of American interests due to the 'threat of Al Qaeda'. Thus, the success of the US-backed al Qaeda in dividing the Syrian masses has been recognised by imperialism itself. Imperialism has learnt from Libya and Egypt that if their puppet is removed and replaced by another puppet under mass pressure, the resistance against its regime intensifies and capitalist stability is under constant threat.

In Libya there is currently no central government that is operational; there are independent militias that are not under the control of the imperialist puppet regime; these independent militias are strongly anti-imperialist- as shown by their actions against the US embassy in Benghazi.

Thus imperialism has decided to intensify efforts to curb a replacement of their current puppets. Imperialism has decided to increasingly go over to methods of using the military to bomb the masses and use nerve gas against us rather than surrender their current puppets. This is the desperation of the capitalists-imperialists to maintain their control.

There is other evidence of the trust that imperialism has in Assad to control the masses:

- In 1991 when imperialism fought against Saddam Hussein, Syrian troops fought side by side with US soldiers;
- The report on Torture shows that the CIA used Syria as a favourite destination to host its torture rendition prisons [in other words, the CIA kidnapped suspects and took them to prisons in Syria to be tortured]
- Mahel Arar, a Canadian citizen, was kidnapped by the CIA in New York and flown to Syria to be tortured. Such was the trust of US imperialism in the regime of Bashar al Assad.
- Syria does not have sufficient oil refining capacity so it has to import its fuel. Shell and Total have been supplying the Assad regime for diesel for its military and jet fuel for its plane even throughout the past 2 ½ years of the uprising against it;
- Almost a year after the uprising began against Assad, an agreement was reached for gas to be supplied to Europe- the pipeline would stretch from Iran, through Iraq and Syria and under the Mediterranean sea. Thus European and US imperialism and the regimes in Syria, Iraq and Iran were party to this deal. This shows their real co-operation behind the rhetoric of supposed 'opposition'.
- An ex-Mossad chief reported in the capitalist journal, *Foreign Affairs*, that Israel would prefer Assad than any unknown factor as they had had 40 years of peace with his regime.
- Months after the uprising started against Assad, British imperialism sent chemical weapon components to the Assad regime.
- When officers from Assad regime defected, especially in the beginning, they were kept in a camp in Turkey under heavy guard- thus their expertise of use of heavy weaponry and warfare was deliberately kept away from the masses.

So if imperialism has so much faith in Assad, why are they threatening to bomb Syria?

On the 9th August the Institute for the Study of War, an imperialist think tank, reported that the Assad regime was so weakened that its assault to retake Qusayr has left the capital vulnerable to the opposition forces. The militias were advancing into Damascus from the north east and had taken part of the city and were pressing forward. They also reported that fighting had already spread into Lebanon and Jordan. Also significant munitions of the Assad regime had been captured which meant that for the first time the opposition militias had the capability to destroy a column of tanks and they had even seized missile systems. Thus there was a significant threat of the real overthrow of the Assad regime.



It is quite possible that Assad was so desperate to hold onto power that he used nerve gas on the 21st August to halt his regime from being toppled. The bourgeois media focused on Qusayr to project that Assad was now gaining the upper hand whereas in reality his ability to fight on multiple fronts was severely limited. In fact, imperialism was already preparing for when his army collapses into a loose group of militias. This is why imperialism was building up the opposition Supreme Military Council, SMC, in order to have a repressive apparatus that could step into the vacuum and maintain control for imperialism [more on this later].

The core of the draft resolution on bombing Syria that is before the US Senate, focuses on protecting *'the national security interests of the United States'* and *'efforts to isolate extremist and terrorist groups in Syria to prevent their influence on the future transitional and permanent Syrian governments'*. They also focus on *'the provision of all forms of assistance to the Syrian Supreme Military Council and other Syrian entities opposed to the government of Bashar al-Assad that have been properly vetted and share common values and interests with the United States'*. **In other words, the threatened bombing campaign has nothing to do with defence of the Syrian masses but ensuring that, should Assad fall, the capitalist regime is not overthrown and that whoever takes over, will maintain a capitalist state that is loyal and under the thumb to imperialism as much as the current Assad regime is. That is, Assad, as he is discredited, is replaced by another capitalist agent who is not yet as discredited and who can control the masses on behalf of imperialism. The threatened bombing campaign is to prevent the revolution from succeeding in Syria.** We oppose all imperialist interventions and we certainly oppose their planned bombing campaign.

If imperialism were so concerned about Assad having 'weapons of mass destruction' why did they not act in 2003 when their Congress passed the so-called ***'Syria and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act'*** which found *'that Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction threatens the security of the Middle East and the national security interests of the United States'?* Why were the CIA still kidnapping suspects and taking them to be tortured in Syria despite knowing this? Why, when Kerry visited Syria in 2009, did he declare that Assad was his 'dear friend' and promoted closer links with this 'enemy' of the USA? In 2009 when they visited him why did the US military express support for Assad's handling of the Lebanese elections, even though they knew he had 'weapons of mass destruction'?

Assad has reportedly used chemical weapons on the opposition in February-March this year; why was this not regarded as a 'red line'?

The truth is that Assad has the full support of imperialism. They are playing both sides; just in case he is overthrown, they are preparing to save his regime even if his head has to be sacrificed in the process. ***This is why imperialism is preparing to attack Syria; it is to crush and strangle the revolution, not to support it.*** Imperialism knows that if the masses overthrow Assad's regime through mass action methods, all the puppet regimes in the region including Israel are under threat.

The Free Syrian Army leaders/Syrian Supreme Military Council (SMC)- the enemy within

Just as when Gaddafi used his army to suppress the masses, his army split, so too when Assad started using his army to crackdown on the masses after February 2011, sections of the army split. The masses began to set up self-defence committees and co-ordination committees of local delegates of workers and lower middle class. Where militias were set up, leaders were chosen by election, based on proving themselves in battle and being subject to instant recall. In other words the basis of soviets or pre-soviet/workers' councils/organs of grassroots self-rule were developing.

Imperialism had learnt from Libya and tried to pre-empt independent militias from developing; thus in Nov 2011 they set up the Free Syrian Army, made up of elements that had a leadership of officers who had come from the Assad



regime's top ranks. This set the tone for the development of militias separate from the masses- in other words, keeping the masses disarmed and promoting that a specialist army had to do the fighting. In reality imperialism was preparing a reserve force that could act as a capitalist state in case the Assad regime collapsed.

Many independent militias developed, often calling themselves FSA even though they were not affiliated with them. [much like the mushrooming of grassroots structures in SA in the late 1980's that claimed allegiance to the UDF even though they never formally joined]. However the promised military support from imperialist puppets took a long time coming, and when it did, it was a trickle of pea shooters, and then only to selected elements.

The Saudi and Qatari suppliers (backed by US imperialism) deliberately supported religious militias whereas the base of the militias promoted a more secular approach; the Saudi and Qatari backers tried to impose their own leaders for the militias but they met with resistance from the rank and file. In some cases, militias rejected the imposed leader from the Saudis as they feared these would be CIA controlled. Even though the Saudi and Qatari backers were directed by US imperialism, they tried to divide the militias by each setting up their own command structures. This was to weaken the militias and their co-ordination- they succeeded for many months in this. It was only in Dec 2012 that a single command structure was set up, the Supreme Military Command Council, SMC. Even so imperialism could only set this up based on it agreeing to promote a secular united Syria and combining elected military leaders with appointed political leaders. The SMC comprises several of the militia leaders- this is an attempt by imperialism to co-opt them on their political programme. The independent militias have long resisted and rejected the older SNC (Syrian National Council) due to its being outside the country and clearly a creation of imperialism. Whether imperialism has now managed to co-opt a decisive number of the militia leaders remains to be seen- this is contested terrain.

The head of the SMC is General Idriss who defected from the Assad regime in June 2012. He came with knowledge of funding links with Qatar and the Saudis- in other words, such links with imperialism was gained while in service for Assad himself. Al Nusra also has a representative along with other defectors from the officer corp of Assad- in other words, Assad regime and capitalists make up the command structure of the SMC.

The SMC is based on 3 principles:

- To unite the forces to prevent anarchy (ie to prevent a revolution where the masses seize and control the wealth)
- To side-line external elements and reduce their influence (to reduce the impact of the socialist forces who have sent volunteers to help fight against Assad)
- To prevent extremist elements from taking over the centres of power in the country (to ensure that no representative occupies office that threatens the current exploitative relations in Syria, ie they aim to keep the regime of Assad even if it is without Assad).

Thus the SMC and pro-capitalist elements set up by imperialism will be supported by an invasion of imperialism in the case the masses reach the point of taking power. ***In other words, the aim of the threat of imperialist invasion is to save the Assad regime from revolution.*** If the masses succeed in overthrowing Assad, imperialism will bomb as much of the heavy weaponry to weaken the masses and increase the likelihood of their own puppets regaining control.

This is why even Hezbollah and the Russian leaders say that they may support an invasion under certain conditions, ie that the Assad regime stays in place. They are on the same side as imperialism in a cynical game to extinguish the flame of revolution that is currently sweeping the world.



The role of the masses in the imperialist centres

The marching of the Iraqi war veterans throwing away their medals, the Manning and Snowden exposures show that the military of US imperialism is split. The selection of people for the intelligence apparatus of US imperialism shows us that both Manning and Snowden started off as very conservative but their life experience has made them revolt. If this is happening to the conservative elements in the US military, what about the more conscious soldier? The revolt of the masses in the imperialist centres is what is restraining imperialism- in other words, the very threat of revolution breaking out in the imperialist centres is what makes them hesitate. The worker in the imperialist centre has awoken- **'can't fix Detroit but wants to fix Syria?'** reflects the class hatred of the masses for the 1%, the imperialists. This was why imperialism was limited to a bombing campaign in Libya- the US masses would not have tolerated another invasion in their name. This has changed the world balance of forces in the struggle for Socialism.

This is also why imperialism has drafted in the Russian and Chinese regimes as subcontractors to help smash the Syrian regime. It is also why the Hezbollah and Iranian fighters have been drafted in as cheap guns for hire in the service of imperialism, to help smash the revolution as they know that their puppet regime status and crumbs they receive from imperialism would be under threat if a revolution succeeds in Syria.

The role of Stalinism and much of the world's left

We have written extensively on how the world's 'left' have actively supported the Assad regime. The 2 Syrian Communist Parties are part of the ruling council of Assad. The Assad regime has been given political support by the Stalinist World Federation of Trade Unions even though they know that Assad hosted CIA prisons. This shows the real relation of Stalinism and the middle class left to imperialism- in times of revolution, they will support the capitalist regimes and isolate and strangle the revolutionaries. This is why a new revolutionary international is needed.

The way forward

The Syrian revolution is very important as it shows the stage of barbarism and desperation of imperialism. They are fighting for their lives. In their desperation imperialism is prepared to use the army on the masses, they are prepared to use nerve gas and chemical weapons and they are prepared to use the BRICS regimes as surrogates and fronts to do their dirty work to directly put down revolution and to prop up capitalist dictators. Imperialist puppet regimes will be drafted in, in military campaigns to suppress the masses across their own borders.

We support the Syrian revolutionary masses; we support the grassroots co-ordinating committees and their militias- they should break from the FSA leaders/SMC/al Nusra

For a revolutionary working class party in Syria, the region and internationally based on the working class taking power and setting up a workers' govt based on direct election by grassroots committees subject to instant recall and without privileges; based on the expropriation of all capitalist and imperialist assets, without compensation to the capitalists and placed under workers control. For new working class parties in the imperialist centres. Solidarity with the revolutionary Syrian masses.

No to the imperialist invasion and all their interventions! Forward to workers power! For a federation of socialist soviet workers states of the Middle East on the path to a union of soviet socialist states of the Middle East.

Workers International Vanguard Party workersinternational@gmail.com 9.9.2013



Our concerns raised to the Wasp Executive

24.8.2013

Dear Comrades of the Interim Executive of the WASP

Re: **Concerns over platform and Programme of Action**

When the pending formation of the WASP was announced we had great hopes that at last here was an opportunity for the left to unite in a combat organization against the capitalist class. The formation of a revolutionary party in SA and Southern Africa is long overdue. But now we are not so sure that the leadership of Wasp is committed to this.

The capitalist class, spearheaded by Anglo American is launching a political attack on the working class, starting with the Amplats workers. 6900 Amplats workers will be retrenched by **1st September**, yet the Wasp sets a day of 'action' almost a month and a half later for the **12th October, on a Saturday**. It raises a question over the motive of this day of 'action'- is it really to combat the attacks of the capitalist class or to just go through the motions because the real focus of WASP is not the class struggle but getting someone elected into the bourgeois parliament?

Without a real programme of combat against the capitalist class, the Wasp structures turn whatever mineworkers committees remain, into election campaign structures. Which is worse? Amcu turns the workers committees into union structures; the Wasp leaders turn them into election committees- the effect is the same- neutralising a combat organization that united the working class irrespective of union or political affiliation. If the capitalists succeed in retrenching the Amplats workers, they will cut through the rest of the mineworkers like a knife, unleashing a wave of retrenchments that will go beyond into other sectors. In fact, the wave of dismissals has already cut down thousands of militant farm workers. Its purpose is one, to behead the current revolt against the capitalist class. **What do we do in response?** We have already sent a letter where we outline an urgent programme of action. Every day is important. What has been done to discuss and act on such a programme?

Meeting with the EFF

Malema's Economic Freedom Fighters is a capitalist organization. What is the DSM/Wasp Secretariat doing, having meetings with them?

The model that the EFF proposes for SA is that of Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan where unions and workers organizations were smashed to promote capitalist development. (Clause 21 of the EFF Manifesto) The EFF proposes the 'right of all people to trade and manufacture', in other words, they propose the right of capitalists to exist. (Clause 31).

The EFF proposes that land be nationalised in the same way as the mineral rights have been transferred to the state. (Clause 39) In the mining sector, the fact that the state owns the mineral rights has not stopped for one moment the super-exploitation of the mineworkers nor of the communities around them. It has only led to more crumbs for black capitalists while profiteering has exceeded levels of the days of apartheid.

Clause 49 of the EFF Manifesto supports industrial and manufacturing 'entrepreneurs', ie capitalists.

Clause 124 deals with the relations with the army and the police. To Malema and his ilk, the police are not our enemies, only yesterday the very police gunned down the mineworkers- were the police not acting in the interest of the 'white monopoly capital' that Malema claims to oppose? Every day, in the service delivery protests, the police crack down and shoot us, are they not the enemy?

In short, under the guise of Socialist rhetoric, the EFF is but a poor imitation of the ANC, an organization that the Wasp and working class forces should have nothing to do with.

Once again, it seems that for the WASP Secretariat, gaining electoral support takes precedence over revolutionary principles.

On the splits in Cosatu



Who wants to split Cosatu or turn it into a passive lapdog? Imperialism. Why do they want to neuter Cosatu? Because they know that most Cosatu members reject the ANC. A Cosatu that breaks with the ANC will change the balance of forces in the country even further. The Cosatu leaders have suppressed their own report that shows 60% of shopstewards want Cosatu to break from the ANC. But they cannot suppress the reality as was expressed by the NUM rank and file who broke from their leaders last year in one of the biggest mineworkers strikes that Africa has ever seen. Why should we not call for Cosatu to remain united and for workers to overthrow their leaders and break with the ANC; it seems that the Wasp leaders are hoping that Cosatu splits and that it will link up with the 'left' leaning wing. A break up of Cosatu will set back the struggle of the working class as the capitalist class will accelerate their attacks on the masses. They want worker to fight worker to divert us from the fight against the capitalist class. If Cosatu splits, the rump of the ANC we see as joining up with the DA, something they are already doing in practice.

Instead of defending the gains of the working class, we see the Wasp leaders as looking for opportunities to make election gains.

Electoral Approach

To our surprise the draft presented to the launching meeting of the Wasp is still very much an electoral approach, 'kick out the fatcats' implies that if Zuma and co are kicked out and if DSM reps are installed in this bourgeois parliament then we will have the basis for Socialism- this is not true. Any revolutionary participation in parliament should be to expose it and build up forces outside of it and against it. The demand for 'massive investment in housing, electricity, water, sanitation, roads, public transport and social services' is exactly what the ANC govt is doing, but they are doing it to enrich the capitalist class. In fact the ANC is implementing the IMF plan. This demand of the Wasp does not even call for housing for all, nor distinguish itself from the ANC and IMF plan.

Thus we see that all the inputs from workers, communities and workers' organizations from the floor at the launching meeting, for a fighting organization that mobilises for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalist relations and for workers demands, has been ignored by the Wasp Secretariat.

We call for:

- An immediate programme of action to support the mineworkers and other communities in struggle- for broad-based workers committees
- No links with the capitalist EFF
- Defend Cosatu from the imperialist attacks to weaken and divide it- we call for support for a special Congress of Cosatu for it to break with the ANC and to replace all their pro-capitalist leaders; we support a workers summit to unite all the masses around a programme of struggle for working class power.
- Expose parliament, don't glorify it;
- Linking up with working class forces in the region to support their struggles as a step towards a Southern African working class party as part of our path to setting up a revolutionary International.



a gift from imperialist agent Assad to the masses



WIVP input to the Wasp Interim Executive

This was our urgent appeal to the Wasp executive about the crisis looming over mining retrenchments:

21.8.2013

Dear Comrades of the Wasp Interim Executive

Re: meeting scheduled for 25th Aug, our input

We thank you for the invitation to this meeting, which we accept. We will support whatever takes the class struggle forward towards the attainment of Socialism. What few resources we have, we will make available. We submit a number of comments/proposals for circulation and consideration:

- 1. Marikana commemoration:** We denounce the role of AMCU in destroying the essence of the day . namely that the state massacred mineworkers on the instruction of the Lonmin bosses. The Amcu leaders not only used funding from Lonmin for the commemoration but also gave the platform to their CEO. Indeed Amcu has become the new 'NUM'.
- 2. Lonmin:** We should condemn the plans by Solidarity and NUM to strike at Lonmin; up to and after the Marikana massacre these 2 unions did not stand by the striking workers for their demands. A call should be made on the Solidarity and NUM members to think about this, namely that their leaders are more interested in subs than in fighting for workers' rights. Our proposal here is that all the union should be rejected and the setting up of independent workers committees, irrespective of union affiliation, should once again be taken up;
- 3. Amplats:** based on the Lonmin and Marikana experience as well as the role that unions played in the strike wave last year, we propose that the call be raised again for the establishment/re-establishment of mineworker committees centred on the fight against retrenchment, the fight against unemployment and for decent housing for all; we propose that the slogan be raised up: if you cannot afford us then let us take over the mines- in this way we will create jobs for 40 000 more workers; you Anglo American have been stealing trillions over the years (more than 70-80% of the mines do not even pay tax) ; we demand workers control over production. Thus this is our immediate proposed programme of action (it cannot wait for Sunday as the retrenchments of the 6900 is set for 1st Sept and every day is crucial; if the bosses succeed at Amplats, all other mines will follow suit- this is a political attack on the entire working class):
 - **send delegates to all mines and mineworker communities to set up committees:** they should send delegates to a central meeting which would centralise the demands and get a full picture on what the situation is on the ground;
 - **There should be immediate mobilization for a strike across all the mines in all sectors**
 - **We should put demands to the AMCU, NUM, Solidarity, Numsa, leaders to call a strike- this is to expose them as lackeys of the bosses;**
 - **We should extend the campaign to unite the 'service delivery protests', such as for decent housing for all; to fight against high prices; calling for wages to rise when prices rise and for all work to be shared among all who can work;**
 - **There should be international mobilisation among mineworkers and the rest of the working class; we should stand with the Chilean mineworkers (a court there recently found that the mine deaths were not anybody's fault)**



- We note that the state has plans to deploy the army on the mines- we can see the result of the deployment of the army against the masses in Egypt- we need to draw the lesson- US imperialism controls Egypt as they control the commanding heights in SA.
- We should draw the lesson from Marikana and workers committees should set up self defence committees.

4. Service delivery protests: we should evaluate these- they have been intensifying over the past 13 years. But all that happens is that the masses burn tyres, block some roads and then all goes on as 'normal'- it is not affecting the capitalist class. This struggle has been limited- how does Wasp turn these fights into political ones? So far, just before the election a fw houses are built, then once the election is over, it is back to 'normal'.

5. Umbrella or centralised party? The Wasp structure should be centralised not loose- otherwise we run the risk of being just a left UDF. There needs to be a centralised programme that we all agree to and a centralised structure that leads the combat on it. We urgently need a regular political newspaper to help the scaffolding of the building of the party. We need a process where the debate can unfold and involve all the constituents and prepare the way for the launch congress in December.

All to Ramses Square

Noting that the military regime has hundreds of protestors trapped in a mosque in Ramses Square Cairo, we raise the call for tens of thousands to unite and go there to assist those trapped inside to leave. With nightfall approaching, the military regime is planning another massacre. All those in separate demonstrations in Cairo, should form a united front and head to the square. Take your cellphone cameras and if possible torches and lights.

But beyond this, appeals to should go out to the rank and file soldiers to join the protestors. It is important to start to lay the ground work, setting up united front committees of delegates from factories and residential areas of the masses, irrespective of religious or political affiliation. This is to begin to prepare the way for a general strike to bring down the military regime and to set up working class power. It is only a workers government that can guarantee full democratic rights by seizing the wealth of the commanding heights and placing these under workers' control. Those who call for new elections or a Constituent Assembly should realize that the only power that can guarantee this is the working class in power- in other words, the military regime has to be overthrown first.

We salute those who have come out in protest around the world against US imperialism and its massacres in Egypt.

The military regime is starting by arresting the steel worker representatives and the Muslim Brotherhood, but in the end all those who oppose the military regime will be targeted. Are we to allow the Mubarak regime to return? No.

All to Ramses Square; form strike committees; prepare for a general strike; down with the military regime; forward to a workers' government. 17.8.2013. WIVP



Egypt: Prepare the way for a general strike to bring down the military regime

On the 14th Aug 2013 the US-backed Egyptian military violently broke up the 2 main camps of protestors of the Muslim Brotherhood and the anti-coup Alliance in the al Nahda and Raba'a districts in Cairo. Hundreds of protestors (some say as many as 2200, if not more) were shot dead by live ammunition from the guns of the military and the police. Some of the protestors were burnt alive in the tents they had set up and had camped in for the past month since Morsi had been arrested.

Why did imperialism feel it was necessary to break up the protests?

As long as the protests against the military regime and the interim government were continuing, there was a threat not only to the regime but to the puppet regimes in the whole region; in other words, the domination by imperialism of the whole region was threatened. Given that once again the masses in Tunisia, Libya, Palestine, Bahrain, Greece, Syria are all on the march and the regimes there are by no means stable, imperialism had to act to decisively put out the flame that could spark a revolution against its control of the region and beyond. Even Saudi Arabia, which has 12 million Egyptian migrants working there, was under threat. The masses in Israel are also increasingly realizing that their biggest enemy is the Zionist regime. Already there had been tent cities of the youth demanding proper and cheaper housing, inspired by the Tahrir square uprisings, so imperialism wanted to snuff out any sustained resistance against its rule that could serve as a spark for further revolt- in many countries around the globe the masses are seeking a way out of the misery of the capitalist attacks on their lives- every capitalist regime is under threat- all of these factors led to imperialism deciding to drown the anti-military protests in blood.

Why do we say that US imperialism is behind the massacres?

Every imperialist power, from Germany, UK, France, Japan to the USA have faced revolts of varying degrees from the masses on home soil- thus we can say that they all supported the massacres in Egypt by the military regime. But it is US imperialism that has directed the massacres of 14th August:

- Throughout the period of 3 decades of Mubarak's rule, US imperialism gave the Egyptian military over \$60bn in aid
- The bulldozers, tanks, armoured vehicles, rifles, machine guns and bullets used in the crackdown all came from the USA;
- Every year 500 officers of the Egyptian army graduate from US military schools;
- The current head of the navy and the main coup leader, Al Sisi, both recently graduated from Pennsylvania military academies;
- During the time of Morsi the US continued direct military aid to the Egyptian military
- The pre-emptive coup by the military on the 3rd July, could not have been carried out if it was not directly supported by US imperialism;
- Even after the massacres of the 14th August, US imperialism is continuing to send direct military aid of \$1.6bn to the Egyptian military. [The cancellation of the 'joint military exercise' with the US army, is to cover that the crackdown of the 14th August was a joint military exercise as US imperialism has at least 600 troops and advisors permanently stationed in Cairo]
- In fact the crackdown can be seen as one of the operations of Africom, the US military command structure that oversees its actions in Africa



- The massacres by the Egyptian military up to the 14th August and in the days ahead, is a continuation of US imperialist policy in Africa, as witnessed by the masses in the DRC who for many years have suffered at the hands of militias and armies that are directed by US military advisors on the ground and funding by US imperialist state and companies.

The way forward-immediate preparation for a General Strike

The convening of any Constituent Assembly without restrictions and any step towards direct control by the masses over their lives and the wealth they produce, is only possible if the military regime is overthrown. Already the military has appointed 25 'new' governors, of whom 19 are ex-generals from the Mubarak era and 2 are ex-judges, also from the time of Mubarak.

We call for the setting up of joint strike committees based in every workplace and in every residential area of the masses- these committees should be directly elected in general meetings and have delegates irrespective of religious belief, whether employed or unemployed, whether local or immigrant. Farmworkers from the commercial farms should also set up their committees as well as the poor peasants should also have their own committees that link up with the rest of the grassroots committees. They should also actively organise rank and file soldiers to send delegates to these committees. It is these grassroots committees that should form the basis of a new workers' government. These grassroots committees should mobilise for a general strike to bring down the military regime and its interim government. The Tamarod grassroots committees should break from the central leadership who support the military regime. We condemn the 'Revolutionary Socialists' whose call not to defend the protests of the Muslim Brotherhood, actually aided the military regime in its massacres up to the 14th August. Defence of the protests does not mean we support the Muslim Brotherhood's political aims, merely that we defend them from attacks of the military regime, the real power in Egypt today.

We condemn any attacks on the mosques and churches- these play into the hands of imperialism to divert the masses from the fight against the military regime. In fact, looking at the current situation in Iraq, imperialism is likely to be actively hiring their thugs and mercenaries to launch attacks on mosques and churches to create a 'fact' out of nothing- the masses should be on the lookout for this and take the necessary preventative measures such as joint protection of such places.

- Release all the prisoners of the military including the steel worker representatives
- Those who have committed crimes against the masses should face a workers' tribunal
- For the unrestricted right to gather and protest- for the immediate lifting of the state of emergency
- Expel all US troops and military advisors from Egypt
- Tear down the Rafah border with Gaza
- Stop the gas exports to Israel;
- Close the US and Israeli embassies
- For the expropriation without compensation of all capitalists and generals who benefitted from the rule of Mubarak and Morsi, for these assets to be placed under workers' control
- For world wide protests at US and Egyptian embassies against the massacres and the coup govt
- For the masses in the USA to launch sustained political protests at the White House and other political institutions- unless the political arm of the 1% is defeated, your/our exploitation by the 1% will continue
- Prepare the way to a revolutionary general strike to bring down with the military regime and its interim government



- Forward to a workers' government
- For mass protests in North Africa, Middle East against all the US puppet regimes and other capitalist regimes- spread the revolt into Europe, from Brazil and Chile to the whole of the Americas, from Bahrain and China to the whole of Asia.
- For the formation of a new revolutionary working class party in Egypt, the USA, and internationally.

We condemn the ANC govt for conducting joint military exercises with the US military, which is even against its own Mangaung resolutions against Africom actions in Africa.

15th Aug 2013 **Workers International Vanguard Party** email workersinternational@gmail.com website www.workesinternational.org.za ph or sms [27]822020617 address: 1stFloor, Community House, 41 Salt River rd, Salt River, 7925 South Africa



The masses in Egypt stood unarmed against the Egyptian military

School closures- the struggle continues

The ANC and DA governments have closed thousands of schools since 1994. Last year the DA govt tried to close 27 schools in the Western Cape. The community resistance led to this being reduced to 17 and then even this was set aside by the High court. The driving force behind the resistance were the parents and the activists of the Concerned Education Forum. Two judges ruled for the schools to remain open while one, Lee Bozalek, a liberal, ruled that only one remain open and 16 be closed. Most of the schools to be closed are primary schools and are in working class and rural areas. This is a serious and deliberate attack where unemployment is rife and cost of living is the highest and transport expensive. The DA, gaining courage from the support of Bozalek, has now appealed the ruling and is set to fight further to have the schools closed.



The DA feels confident to appeal the ruling because they sense from the national and international situation that the imperialists are accelerating their attacks- none of the resistance has permanently stopped the attacks by the capitalists. The world capitalist economy is stagnating and in decline- this is what drives the state to close public schools, so that the capitalists can open up private –for-profit schools. At the same time the government is spending millions of Rands on upgrading a handful of middle class schools. Education is damaged by overcrowding in the working class schools. Students need personal attention- this is impossible in classes of 40+. School governing bodies have been created to be part of the system, to make parents take responsibility for the attacks by the state. Thus while the state cuts back on what should be free education, the school governing bodies lead the attack on parents over school fees.

The ANC government has promoted the privatization of schooling through closures and through the investment of public sector worker pension fund money, through the PIC [Public Investment Corporation] in private schools. Recently the PIC, which also has teachers' pension money, invested R388 million in private school corporation Curro, which is also listed on the stock exchange, the JSE. Curro is also a partnership with BEE company Thembeka Capital and well as Paladin Capital. Paladin is linked to Capitec bank as well as US corporations which include Paladin Energy which also has Lt General Ken Minihan on its Board- he was an ex-head of the US National Security Agency that has overseen spying on the telephone calls of the masses around the world. Curro made a profit of R14 million at the end of 2012 and intends to make an annual profit of R450 million by the year 2020. Thus international big capital hides behind 'broad based black economic empowerment' to deliberately collapse public schooling and create a new cash cow for profiteering, the private schools.

The ANC government plans to close a further 1300 schools this year. Big capital is their real alliance partner.

The way Forward

The fight for free education is not separate from the struggle to overthrow the capitalist system. All public schools are under attack. We should set up again the Parent-student-teacher organizations with the parents taking the lead. We need free, quality, liberatory education up to the highest level. We need more public schools, more teachers. All schools should be upgraded with facilities like libraries to help promote a culture of reading and study. There should be a public bus service that takes students to and from school. There should be more teachers per student, less students per class, so that there is greater personal attention. We should discard the term 'learner' as it is a capitalist description- it reduces the role of the pupil to one that passively accepts and does not challenge the system. A better term is 'student'- this means that the pupil is at school to study, which implies a critical look at every aspect and even the system itself.

We encourage the formation of Marxist study circles at schools- we are quite prepared to assist with the establishment and running of these. **Forward to Socialism!** **10.9.2013**



The butcher Assad is also bombing schools



Marikana day commemorations 16 Aug 2013

We support the call for a moment of silence at 4pm (Central Africa time) today in remembrance of the 34 mineworkers massacred by the government at Marikana. Let us all take to the streets with our placards. We note that, now the ANC govt has tasted blood, it is no different from the DA and other capitalist parties. In fact, the recent joint military exercises between SANDF and the US military under the wing of Africom, ie the very imperialists who were behind the massacres in Egypt by the military, shows that these massacres are set to continue. We reject the so-called 'mining peace accord'- this accord, which allows the military and police to be deployed on the mines in defence of Anglo American, has nothing to do with peace, but is a declaration of war on the mineworkers, mineworker communities and the masses in general. We will also be pledging our solidarity with the masses in Egypt.

Workers International Vanguard Party

Here is a proposal for what should happen on the 16th Aug 2013:

- * there should be marches of mineworker communities to all the mines, raising the demand of decent housing for all, jobs for all at a living wage, expropriation of all the mines, without compensation, to be placed under workers control; in as many other areas as possible, marches to municipal or other parliamentary offices to demand ...decent houses for all, the sharing of all existing accomodation such as hotels and empty buildings, the houses of the rich, with the homeless masses;
- * we remember on this day, the ANC government planned and executed mineworkers, on the instruction by Anglo American;
- * the Cosatu leaders deliberately isolated the mineworkers through rumours that they were being led by thugs;
- * Amcu, riding on the wave of workers revolt, assisted to neutralise the political revolt against the system, by helping to turn it into an economic fight only;
- * the workers, employed and unemployed, united into their own committees, irrespective of union or political affiliation- this was a revolt against the system- such is the spirit which should be carried forward to all struggles now

we reject any commemoration by Cosatu leaders or ANC govt- indeed, this day does not belong to unions. The ANC govt is preparing a 'not guilty' verdict against the killers- the police, their commanders like Phiyega and Mthethwa, Zuma, the bosses of Lonmin, the bosses of Anglo American. This is why they want to shift the venue of the hearings to Pretoria, away from Rustenburg.

Justice for the Marikana mineworkers will only come through a total overthrow of the capitalist system. We need, worker and unemployed, irrespective of country of origin, to unite against the government and the capitalist-imperialist rulers.

Uniting the struggles of the unemployed (service delivery) with the employed- this is what we should place on the order of the day 10.8.2013



Stand up against imperialism and for the Syrian masses too



Defend Cosatu from the political attack by imperialism

We call on all members of Cosatu, who are within travelling distance, to go to the Head office on the morning of **Wed 14th Aug 2013** to defend the unity of the federation. Imperialism is behind the moves to break Cosatu.

The world context

The world working class is on the move; every capitalist regime on the planet is under threat of being overthrown. The imperialist banks and monopolies are fighting for their lives. The world economy is not growing and the only way that the capitalists can continue to increase their profits is by taking back more from the gains of the working class. The attacks on the working class are being met with greater and greater resistance. One of the tools of the imperialists to maintain control and divert the masses from the path of revolution, is to divide the working class and broader masses. This division of the masses we can see in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Mali, DRC, etc.

Why imperialism wants to split Cosatu

Across the entire Southern Africa, the masses are restless: the biggest affiliate of the NUNW (National Union of Namibian Workers) have politically broken with Swapo and many issues remain unresolved from last year's teachers strike; the Zimbabwean masses are unhappy with both Zanu-PF and the MDCs; the masses in Swaziland and Lesotho are long suffering under dictatorships and revolts are regularly breaking out; the hunger revolts in Mozambique are threatening once again; the masses in Madagascar are still challenging the attempts of both French and US imperialism at control; Kenya, Botswana, Angola, Malawi, the DRC, CAR all have unstable regimes. Any renewed uprising in South Africa threatens to spread into the region. Besides, in this world of global communication, any revolt on any part of the planet can inspire the masses anywhere.

In many places in South Africa, service delivery protests are exploding; in every mine the trade union bureaucracy is facing such huge threat that they have been forced to put forward much higher than usual wage demands. The mineworkers' revolt of last year remains very much unresolved. Although the farm worker leaders have been victimised on a large scale, the oncoming grape season raises the prospect of another revolt.

Besides this, the drive for profits forces the bosses to go on a greater offensive against the masses: the capitalists need to lower the wages of workers; they need to grab more of workers' pensions; they need to make it easier to dismiss workers- in other words, the capitalists need the NDP (National Development Plan) to be implemented. **On every major attack against the working class- the NDP, the youth wage slavery, the fraud over the municipal wage curves, labour brokers, the ANC and DA leaders are in agreement.**

From **1985 to 1993**, even though the capitalists always tried to weaken Cosatu and the broader working class movement, they were happy that the alliance with the ANC meant that the masses would not place workers power on the agenda but supported a capitalist negotiated settlement that placed the ANC govt as the new managers on behalf of imperialism. From **1994 to 16th Aug 2012**, in return for a few economic gains, the alliance, of Cosatu with the ANC, chained workers to accept capitalist rule. The mineworkers' revolt was led by Cosatu workers who were breaking from the ANC. Alliance with the ANC had become centralised begging and centralised starvation. The suppressed report of the Foundation for Public Dialogue (how ironic) revealed that more than 60% of Cosatu shopstewards favours breaking the alliance with the ANC. This means that much more of the rank and file of Cosatu, possibly more than 80%, want to break with the ANC. **The most highly**



organised and militant working class formation in SA, breaking from the ANC and moving in a class independent direction, is what imperialism is worried about, as it places their continued rule under imminent threat. This is why imperialism now wants to shatter Cosatu into pieces, with the feeble excuse of Vavi's fallen spear.

The way forward- our proposal for a Special Congress of Cosatu

The central demand should be for preparation for a special Congress to review the alliance and to decide on a fighting platform to unite the entire labour movement for the coming decisive battles with the capitalist-imperialist class.

If the Cosatu leaders were standing for working class interests,

- Why did they not take Baleni of NUM to task for urging the police to shoot unarmed striking mineworkers?
- Why was the Popcru leadership never taken to task for never condemning the massacre by the police at Marikana?
- Why was the CCEPPWAWU leadership not taken to task for not spearheading the struggle for the reduction of the price of petrol (and thus of food and transport) when they know that Sasol produces 40% of the fuel in the country at less than \$20 per barrel?
- Why was the ANC not taken to task for electing a capitalist to Vice President, Ramaphosa, the same one who was complicit in the Marikana massacre?
- Why was President Zuma not taken to task for breaking the Mangaung resolution which opposed Africom- he spearheaded a joint SANDF-US military exercise of Africom in the Eastern Cape
- Why was Anglo American never challenged over their theft of trillions of dollars of wealth they stole from SA and the broader African continent over the past 40 years and more? Here is the basis for wiping out poverty in SA and the rest of Africa, overnight.
- Why has there never been any mass mobilization of Cosatu members in defence of the 1000 soldiers who were dismissed in 2009, merely for exercising their right to protest while off duty?

The path to maintain the unity of Cosatu must therefore also mean that the entire leadership is replaced with those who are prepared to struggle for working class power through mass action means as the immediate strategic task. Forward to grassroots discussion forums of employed and unemployed; break the alliance with the ANC; for a workers summit to plan a broad programme of action; Forward to a new revolutionary, working class party- nationally, regionally and internationally. Forward to Socialism!

Defend Cosatu; Forward to a Special Congress; Forward to Working class power





Down with the SCAF (Supreme Council of the Armed Forces); Down with the interim government

We condemn the attacks by the military, launched by General Sisi and the SCAF on the protests in Nasr City, Alexandria and elsewhere, using live ammunition to shoot down unarmed protestors on Friday 26th July 2013. We also condemn the central leadership of the Tamarod and other pro-capitalist groups that have supported the call of the generals to launch attacks on 'terrorism'. More than 120 have been killed. We repeat our call for the rank and file Tamarod groups to break from the central leadership.

Much less of the masses attended the rallies called by the generals than in the period from 30 June to 3 July. Many who went to the rallies indicated that they were going to oppose the rule of Morsi and not to support the crackdown called for by the generals. There were even the beginnings of groups starting to protest using the slogan: No Morsi, No Sisi, ie against the military rule as well. There were also thousands of protestors calling for an end to the military rule and for the reinstatement of Morsi. Thus the generals did not get the overwhelming 'mandate' they were hoping for, to clear the streets of any opposition to them. It showed that the rule by the military is not as strong as the mass media and imperialism would like to claim.

The military regime is a puppet of US imperialism

After the massacres of 27th July 2013 it is more clear to the masses that the military is not a 'mediator' between groups but is the one that is the real power in Egypt. The attacks in Nasr City were directly launched by the military against the protestors. This was not to separate 'different groups'.

Further, the charge by the military that the Muslim Brotherhood was involved in organizing prison breaks in the lead up to the deposing of Mubarak, shows that the Generals are the direct agents of the feloul (the remnants of the Mubarak regime) and US imperialism. These were Mubarak's prisons, which means that Morsi is being charged with crimes against the Mubarak regime. Well, in that case all the masses should be put on trial as the millions took to the streets and ousted Mubarak. This shows that the military represents counter-revolution, trying to roll back the gains made by the Egyptian masses. By concocting allegations against Hamas, US imperialism wanted to divide the Egyptian masses from the Palestinians.

In Mali last year, a military coup was organised to pre-empt the masses taking power. This was supported by an invasion by French imperialism that has suppressed the masses. Now that the masses have been neutralised, a sham election is being held to create the semblance of capitalist stability that imperialism needs to continue to exercise control.

No invasion by US troops into Egypt is possible as the masses are fiercely anti-imperialist and the masses in the USA would not allow this. So imperialism has to depend directly on the Egyptian military to maintain control on its behalf. There are over 12 million Egyptian workers in Saudi Arabia and this is why the Saudi regime were quick to offer billions of dollars to the military regime to prop it up. US imperialism, which controls the region, wants to maintain absolute control in Egypt as they know that if the masses take control there, the rule of capitalism imperialism in the region is under direct threat. Tahrir square and the Egyptian revolution has inspired masses around the world, so all of imperialism is concerned to have the revolution crushed.



The way forward

We call for the setting up of a United Front of all forces against the military regime. The call should be for an end to the military regime and the interim government that was appointed by it.

We call for grassroots committees to be expanded to be based on delegates of workers, unemployed and rank and file soldiers. It is these committees that should set up a workers government.

For those who call for a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly or a Constituent Assembly, the question remains: Who will convene it? The military? As long as the military regime is intact any assembly will be a sham, limited by the dictates of imperialism and the generals. Thus the first task is for the military regime to be overthrown.

- For freedom of association
- For the unrestricted right to protest
- Free the prisoners of the military
- For the expropriation of all imperialist and capitalist assets, without compensation, placing these under workers control-this is the path to bread, work and an end to high prices
- For those involved in crimes against the masses to face a worker's tribunal

We call for international protest actions against the massacres by the Egyptian military which have been directed by US and world imperialism. 27.7.2013



Masses on the march in Tunisia and Syria against their puppet regimes



Assad uses napalm and phosphorous bombs too but the 'left' and imperialism are too busy standing against the masses



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 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.



Imperialist agent Assad uses cluster bombs on civilians too



The Spark

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