



The Spark



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The working class in Greece opens up the prospect of workers taking power

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US war veterans march in Chicago before throwing their medals away

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Editorial

Welcome to this historic first edition of ***The Spark*** which is a continuation from the old *Africa Workers Organizer* and *Workers International News*. It marks the decision of the last Congress of the Workers International Vanguard League 6-8 April 2012 to break from the FLTI (International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction) and to transform ourselves into the **Workers International Vanguard Party (WIVP)**.

It is our hope to bring out this publication more than once a month and we call on the working class and allies to help build this paper, to contribute through articles and letters, criticism and advice, through setting up reading circles, through setting up structures of the WIVP, to help take the revolutionary spark not only across the region, but across the world.

The current revolutionary period

After decades of decline and continuing attacks on the world working class by the world capitalist system, the mass resistance has broken out into a generalised, objective revolutionary situation- every capitalist regime on the planet is faced with the prospect of a revolutionary overthrow by the masses. For many decades, imperialism-capitalism has not faced such a generalised challenge. On the 20th May 2012, 50 war veterans marched in Chicago, throwing away their medals in protest against the ongoing war in Afghanistan and rejecting the war in Iraq. This shows that the very base that US imperialism used to depend on to brutalize and dominate the masses of the world, is shattering. In the heart of all the imperialist home territories, the masses are rising up against the capitalist state. Imperialism is in crisis and is unable to continue as before- they are constrained by the threat of their own working class. It is this new factor which assists the development of revolution in the colonies and semi-colonies around the world.

The old apparatuses, within the workers' movement and current regimes, which imperialism used to depend on to maintain their brutal exploitation and suppression of the masses in the world, have been massively exposed. The revolutionary uprisings in Chile, Bolivia, USA, Greece, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Spain, Nigeria, etc, are all part of the same process of the working class breaking from the reactionary leaderships. It is from the revolutionary working class that a new leadership is emerging and will emerge. A revolutionary period sharpens and clarifies underlying political differences where an incorrect policy can mean the difference between life and death for the masses.

It is in Greece that we see a historic opportunity for the working class to seize power which could change the face of the current world working class struggle (see our article on Greece).

It is over the Libyan and Syrian revolutions that we have parted ways with the FLTI- they have not passed the acid test of the still-ongoing revolutionary uprisings there. While we are still finalizing the wording of the split document, we present a summary of the main reasons why we have parted ways with the FLTI.

Summary of main differences with the FLTI

The central difference revolves around the initial stages of the TNC (Transitional National Council) in Libya. To us the TNC was an artificial entity set up by imperialism



with the main purpose of sabotaging the revolt of the masses from within, that is, to prevent an armed smashing of the Gaddafi regime. If the armed uprising of the masses destroyed the Gaddafi regime, this would set a precedent for Egypt, Syria and even for the masses in the imperialist centres. We argued that the TNC had no support among the masses, a political and military campaign against it was a pre-condition for the victory of the masses over the Gaddafi regime. While the masses were fighting against the Gaddafi regime, they had to fight on a second front to further isolate and disperse the TNC.

The centre of the FLTI argued that the fight against the TNC had to be postponed until after Gaddafi was defeated. The masses could not fight on 2 fronts because then, objectively, they and the WIVL would be fighting on the side of Gaddafi. The TNC was a Popular Front while Gaddafi represented fascism; they were not the same, thus first Gaddafi had to be defeated and then afterwards the masses should deal with the TNC. The TNC was, to the FLTI, like the Kerensky regime in Russia 1917, when the masses were faced with the general Kornilov, whose aim was to overthrow the interim government and crush the masses. Then the Bolsheviks formed a united front with the Socialist Revolutionaries and the Mensheviks to militarily defeat the Kornilov counter-revolution and then afterwards overthrew the Kerensky regime.

How did events turn out?

Firstly, the TNC was not set up by the masses but was set up by imperialism. Imperialism had to use various devices like massive funding and massive international support and a huge aerial bombardment to boost the prestige and standing of the TNC in the eyes of the Libyan masses.

Secondly the TNC set up the 'Free Libyan Army', under the command of ex-Gaddafi generals, whose aim was to gain control of the weapons that the masses had and to bring them under the centralised control of the TNC and thus of imperialism. This attempt at setting up a specialised armed force, as opposed to an armed mass, was also a means to disarm the Libyan masses. The TNC did succeed to a great extent to disarm the masses because all the heavy weaponry, tanks and fighter jets that were brought over to the masses by the defecting soldiers, were removed from the fighting by the very TNC. The TNC sent the militias with few arms into battle against the Gaddafi forces. When the independent militias seized 30 tanks from the Gaddafi forces, surrounded Brega and were preparing to defeat the regime forces there, the Nato forces just bombed the tanks, with the militia inside. There were several such deliberate 'errors' by imperialism who bombed the militias from time to time when they were advancing. Only when the independent militias rebelled and killed the head of the TNC armed forces, General Younis, because they realized that he was collaborating with the Gaddafi forces, did they begin to advance decisively on Tripoli. Imperialism had to rapidly change the faces of most of the TNC in order for it to maintain some form of credibility in the eyes of the masses.

What advice did the centre of the FLTI have for the Libyan masses about the TNC that was shooting the revolution in the back? Leave them alone, let's concentrate on the military fight against the Gaddafi forces, we can deal with them later, said the FLTI centre. This pacifist policy of the FLTI centre towards the TNC amounted to a military bloc with it and thus with imperialism, against the masses.

Thirdly, what is worse is that the pacifist policy of the FLTI centre towards Libya, is again being applied in Syria. The FLTI centre claims that the SNC (Syria National Council)



have run away to Qatar. Up to now, they have yet to express a policy on the Free Syria Army which is headed by an ex-general of the Assad regime. The Free Syria Army is under the control of the SNC and thus of imperialism. The creation of a specialised 'liberation' army in Syria is a mechanism of imperialism to keep the arms that the defecting soldiers bring under their control and in effect disarming the masses. The weight of the Free Syria army is much greater in Syria than was the Free Libya Army in Libya. In Syria there are much fewer independent militias. Up to now, with the help of the Kofi Annan plan, world imperialism, the Arab League, the centre of the FLTI, the role of the Free Syria Army to exercise control over arms that find their way to the masses, is unchallenged. The FLTI centre does not see the SNC as an active entity set up by imperialism to destroy the revolution from within. The FLTI centre sees the SNC as a passive force that will come in at the end if the masses defeat the Assad regime. The Free Syria Army is one of the most important factors that prevents the mass arming of the working class. Yet the FLTI centre is silent on this. Fight Assad, we will deal with the SNC later is what is the real policy of the FLTI centre on Syria. The same fatal policy as in Libya, and once again in a military bloc with imperialism against the revolutionary masses.

What is the theoretical basis of the pro-imperialist policy of the FLTI centre, is what we are studying.

The FLTI centre persists with the slogan of 'workers and popular' committees and 'workers and popular' militias, under all and every circumstances. They insist on putting an equal sign between the revolutionary working class and the revolutionary middle class who join the struggle against the capitalist regime. The middle class joins, largely for self-preservation from being pauperized, that is, for different reasons than the working class. The middle class that join the revolution may be against the regime but that does not make them anti-capitalist.

We long argued for the analysis of the different trends within the independent militias and for strengthening the revolutionary proletarian trend against the reactionary middle class trend. The FLTI refused to develop any such policy.

Imperialism set up and supported the February 17th youth movement in Libya, they set up the April 6th youth movement in Egypt- in fact they set up a network of youth organizations, based on the middle class (lawyers, engineers, university students etc). These youth movements were used by imperialism to build a base for the military regime that took over after the fall of Mubarak, that build the base of the TNC in Libya and who must have had influence within the independent militia, campaigning for support for the TNC. That the militias were not completely independent of the TNC is reflected in the fact that they took orders from General Younis, for several months.

The origin and implications of the FLTI centre's equating of the workers and the revolutionary middle class, its relation to the Stalinist 'democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry and the Moreno 'workers and popular government' slogan, is what we are currently studying.

Short comment on the elections in France

The election of social democrat Hollande in France shows that the crisis for French imperialism is deepening. The Socialist Party and the Left Front (comprising of a breakaway from the New Anti-Capitalist party and the Communist Party) could only gain



support by posing as radical left. As the election campaign went on, the Socialist party began to move to the right, going back on many of its initial radical poses. In the end , the Lutte Ouvriere, the New Anti-Capitalist party and the Left Front all called for an 'anti-Sarkozy' vote, in other words a vote for the Socialist party in the second round of the presidential elections.

The capitulation of most of the left to French imperialism is shown by the trip to Libya of a team from the Socialist Party, *before the elections*, to re-assure the TNC (the imperialist-backed Transitional National Council) that French imperialism would continue to support them and of course to safeguard the interests of French monopoly capital in Libya.

By removing Sarkozy before a second term (unprecedented in modern times) shows that the masses are ready to fight not only Sarkozy but any regime that would dare continue the austerity attacks on the working class. The pressure on the Socialist party is immense.

What is needed in France is a bold transitional programme and a party willing to continue the heroic French working class tradition of fighting to the end. Long live the Socialist revolution in France!

The ongoing post office strike

We salute the heroic strikers at the post office whose demands are for equal pay and conditions for equal work, an end to labour broking and casualization. The leadership of the CWU, Communications Workers Union has been very quiet in their national mobilization in defence of the workers in their sector; so too has the Cosatu and SACP leaders been quiet while they are busily working hard to strengthen the union leadership that will once again vote for maintaining the alliance with the ANC-SACP government. Casualization and slavery at the post office is what the really mean when they show their 'commitment' to 'decent work'. This is the real meaning of the 'Polokwane' resolutions, namely to give another 5 years to big capital, like Anglo American, to plunder the masses, while the black elite gets a few crumbs from the master's table.

The strike at the post office shows why the current leadership of Cosatu has to go and why it is long overdue to break this alliance with this capitalist ANC-SACP government. Workers need their own party to rally to the clarion call of the masses in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Greece, Chile, to rise up against the capitalist system.

On the Glossary of terms

There has long been a demand from our readers for a Glossary which explains the terms we use. This is in preparation and we undertake to produce it as part of the next edition.

Message of solidarity to the Easter Congress of the WIVL

Happy Easter holidays to you all comrades who manage to attend this year's WIVL congress.

We wish you all the best and a successful congress with goal achieved as well Unity so to re-found the Fourth International.

On behalf of WIL, (**Workers International League-Zimbabwe**)
comrade Ju.



International Political Perspectives.

Capitalism has outlived itself and has become a brake on historical progress (Trotsky). The bourgeoisie internationally are no longer able to rule in the old way, while the working class is still incapable of seizing power. However the balance of forces are moving in favour of the working class movement. The ruling classes internationally are on the defensive and bourgeois ideologists are talking of a third system of social relations that is neither capitalist nor socialist. The proletariat, convinced by the objective conditions of existence, are demanding fundamental change in the economic and social relations, but has yet to be convinced that these changes can only come about through fundamental political change i.e.: the political rule of the bourgeoisie through the bourgeois state must be terminated and that the only path to Socialism is through establishing a working class dictatorship, ie a dictatorship of the majority against the handful of capitalists, the 0.01%.

The democratic Bourgeois State has been unmasked as nothing but the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, and an instrument of control over the broad proletarian mass. Its task serves the protection and maintenance of the capitalist social relations. The crisis of capitalism in 2007-2008 which threatened the financial edifice of the system exposed the class nature of the so-called "Democratic State." To save the system from collapsing, particularly in the imperialist centres, the capitalist states rescued the banks and financial institutions from collapse, while at the same time paying little attention to the plight of millions of workers and lower middle classes, who were thrown into the streets as a consequence of this crisis.

While the working masses were left homeless, the bourgeoisie and the ruling classes, with the help of the state, were re-organizing their affairs in order to maintain their privileges and profits. Millions of workers are finding it impossible to put food on the table or shelter over their heads. Hundreds of so-called "shelters" for the impoverished and destitute are sprouting up everywhere. In America the slogan "*Bail out Wall Street, what about the Main Street?*" was reverberating throughout the country. The significance of this slogan -that the American State served only one class which is the Capitalist class and not society as a whole as it likes to portray itself, is glaringly evident.

Class consciousness is beginning to take shape. The irreconcilability of class interests exposed through retrenchments, cuts in wages, cuts in social services, house evictions, small business foreclosures, teacher retrenchments – and the list goes on- is facilitating this process of building consciousness. As yet the irreconcilability of class interests and class antagonism has not sufficiently deep roots in the psyche of the mass, because if it did, the end of capitalists social relations would become an easy task to accomplish. Nevertheless class consciousness and the budding consciousness of class irreconcilability particularly in the USA, has profound implications for the world proletarian movement.

The successful general strike in Oakland against the social cuts imposed by the Republican administration, which shut down banks and businesses, demonstrates the rising antagonism against the bourgeois state. This is particularly significant in the context of American laws which forbids such strikes. This was apparently the first general strike after the 1946-1947 strikes in America. What has to be ascertained is the level of support this strike had among the working class in other states, and its impact on



the consciousness of the broader proletarian mass. The significance of this lies in the breakdown of control by the ruling classes, and the loss of fear of bourgeois law. Politically the psychological chains, which shackled the working class for 65 years have been broken. Class independence and proletarian class interest is taking root.

The above lines were written before the May 1st general strike called by the organizations making up the Occupy Wall Street, where more than 30 000 of the exploited masses marched in New York alone and thousands demonstrated across the USA. On the surface the numbers may seem small, but the significance lies not in the numbers, but in the dramatic change in the political psychology of the mass movement which is irrevocably moving towards the demand for fundamental change in the social relations. The eradication of poverty and inequality does not and cannot come about through greater investments by the capitalist class. The proponents of this want us to believe that investments create jobs and jobs alleviate poverty and inequality; deliberately ignoring that the capitalist invests only if they can make profits, and profits come through exploitation which is the expropriation of surplus value, and hence perpetuates inequality. Only with the destruction of this relation of exploiter and exploited (ie capitalist-worker) can inequality be eradicated.

The wealth of the 1% did not fall from heaven but is the blood and sweat of the exploited mass. The American worker must take the next step in planning the removal of this exploitative relationship and this can only be achieved through where the political superstructure embodied in the state is thoroughly and completely overthrown, ie institutions like the army, police force and prison system) which sustains it.

Social ownership of the means of production is the only 'salvation' from the barbarous trajectory of capitalist relations.

American imperialism as a powerful anti-revolutionary force globally is in decline. To a degree a section of the American proletariat was an ally of American capital up to 2007. Hence the war in Afghanistan and Iraq and the slaughter of thousands of American soldiers and the hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqi's and Afghans was tolerated without any serious backlash by the American working class. This situation has changed radically since 2007. The American working class has become aware that the wars of occupation were not to promote democracy, nor to protect the American homeland and its people; but were prosecuted in the interest of the 1% which owned more than 40% of the accumulated wealth of America.

The withdrawal of American troops from Iraq and Afghanistan signifies defeat of American imperialism, not only by the Iraqi's and the Afghan's but also by the refusal of the American proletariat to be the sacrificial lamb on the altar of imperialist profits and control. The American working class is no longer willing to be the counter-revolutionary force against the world proletarian movement which is beginning to struggle for emancipation from the capitalist yoke. What is needed is to turn the healthy disgust of the US working class for the capitalists, as expressed in the Occupy Wall Street movement, into independent political organization against the US state machinery, perhaps through an Occupy White House movement, hand in hand with the establishment of a revolutionary working class party that is part of a revolutionary international.



If our analysis is correct, then major opportunities for successful revolutionary movements to emerge and succeed all over the world are possible. But imperialism/capitalism, cognisant of this fact, has other agencies in its armoury to protect itself and maintain its class rule.

In the last five years, forces in the service of imperialism/capitalism have not only been immensely successful in directing the revolutionary energies of the working class into reformism, but they have used the bureaucratic trade union leadership to deliberately sap the energy of the working class by engaging in futile one day strikes as we have seen in **Greece**. The objective is to tire the working class psychologically, economically and politically. The leadership hoped that the non-achievement of even the most achievable demand, such as no cuts in pensions, would lead to despair and ultimately apathy. The failure of counter-revolution and the tenacity of the working class in continuing to struggle, despite the misleadership, indicate a relentless determination by the working class and the loosening of control of the trade union bureaucracy.

The latest election results in Greece despite the gargantuan effort by imperialism through the bourgeois conservative New Democracy party and the counter revolutionary reformist Pasok party to frighten the mass with a doomsday scenario if they do not support them in the election, signifies a major shift in the political consciousness of the Greek proletarian mass. No longer can they be duped in believing that Capitalism is the only system which works and which is here to stay.

No longer are they afraid of the future because at present the situation is so grievously critical that physical existence has become not only a challenge but impossible under bourgeois rule. They are demanding a new system. What has to be forcefully brought to their attention is that only the social ownership of the means of production, ie the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy under the control of the working class, can the social economic crisis be resolved. But this requires a change in the political superstructure i.e.; it requires the political liquidation of the bourgeois class, of private property relations. In short, power must be taken by the proletariat organized into soviets (councils of workers delegates) to fulfil the programme of social ownership of the means of production. A fully worked out programme to reorganize society to meet the needs of the working class and fellow poor must become the primary task of the leadership of the working class party.

The **Greek** working class can be absolutely sure that the entire European working class without exception and conditions will support their acceptance of this task. Boldness and speed must be the order of the day. The tide of history is on our side in fact the tide of revolution is on the side of the entire world Proletariat, including, crucially, the working class in all imperialist centres.

The **Spanish** revolution is now on the horizon. The masses are restive in **Russia**. Revolutionary strategy and tactics and revolutionary leadership and assistance from all the revolutionary forces who are genuinely for a revolutionary working class International, which for us would be the refounded 4th international, becomes paramount. Reaction is on the defensive. Counter revolution will try to regroup. The revolutionary forces must unite and mobilize the restless and angry courageous mass towards the path of revolution, i.e.; the liquidation of the Capitalist system and the Capitalist imperialist bourgeoisie. This can only pass through a working class dictatorship, a



dictatorship of the majority over the 0.01%, the handful of capitalists and their allies, who will fight tooth and nail to preserve the current capitalist barbarism.

Similarly the heroic struggles of the mass in **Syria** under the most adverse conditions, without revolutionary leadership, without arms, and the brutal massacre of innocents by the Assad regime further illustrates, the deep-rooted change in the psychology of the mass. No longer are they prepared to live in the old way. Here we have the 'Communist' parties dividing the masses and tying the working class to the imperialist puppet Assad regime. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) plays a counter-revolutionary role by supporting the Assad regime. On the other hand several of the world's left, like the United Secretariat of the Fourth International and the FLTI, claim to be supporting the Syrian masses but capitulate to imperialism through a pacifist approach to the Free Syrian army, the main agency within the revolutionary masses that keeps the masses disarmed because it is headed by an ex-Assad general and thus by imperialism. The Free Syrian army centralizes the arms that the defecting soldiers bring with them, and keeps them under the command of a general that is tied hand and foot to the plans of imperialism. The Free Syrian army and the SNC (Syria National Council) are deliberate creations of imperialism to prevent the arming of the masses and to prepare the destruction of the revolution *from within*. Imperialism is fighting for its life and thus cannot allow an armed uprising of the masses to topple any capitalist regime as the consequences in the region and internationally would set a precedent for a world-wide conflagration, an explosion that would shatter the world capitalist system. Like in the US, the base of the reactionary Israeli regime is cracking- last year hundreds of thousands of youth filled the centres of the squares in Tel Aviv and other smaller cities and towns, demanding cheaper housing. There is a steady group of youth who are becoming resisters, refusing to serve in the army. One of the Israeli army radio stations likened the attacks on African Jews by the ultra rightwing Zionists, to the pogroms in Europe before the 2nd world war. This is evidence of a growing crack in the base of the reactionary Zionist regime. The Israeli regime supports the attacks on the African migrants- clearly they are not the fascist type that the regime requires to continue to brutalise the Palestinian masses. The FLTI and others ignore the Jewish worker in 'Israel' as if any revolution can succeed without a policy to break the rank and file of the army away from supporting the regime. The Muslim Brotherhood like the Hamas, Hezbollah and others help contain the masses from joining the world wide rise against the capitalist regimes. Despite all the obstacles, the Palestinian masses have not been defeated; the masses in Bahrain and Yemen are still resisting. All the brutal regimes of various forms in the Middle East are under threat from the masses.

The mass uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa have nothing to do with an 'Arab Spring', but reflect the myth of a post-World war 2 boom. It was a period when the masses within the imperialist centres were bought off at the expense of greater exploitation and suppression of the masses in Asia, Africa and central and South America. Military coups and military dictatorships abounded, even as imperialism was forced to concede nominal political independence. Then the strong world-wide Stalinist apparatus played a crucial role in disarming the working class in the imperialist centres and tying the masses to bourgeois nationalist movements that suppressed independent working class organization and diverted the working class from seizing power through promoting a period of capitalism under the leadership of the indigenous middle class, a stage that could not supposedly be skipped. Thus in Africa, the Stalinists peddled African Socialism, in the Middle East, they peddled Arab socialism. But the masses have made their experience of these imperialist puppets who have been maintaining a brutal



rate of exploitation that world capitalism depended upon for its existence. Even in the period after the fall of the Berlin wall, the masses in Africa continue to suffer the most brutal brunt of inter-imperialist rivalry to plunder the continent- the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 the wars in the DRC resulting in the death of millions of the masses and the subsequent control by US imperialism of the region, are evidence of this. The crisis of 2007 up to now, with an even greater rate of exploitation being forced onto the masses by the imperialist puppet regimes, has been the last straw. In Libya independent militias developed before imperialism could set up a Free Libya army, and this was decisive in the first period to defeat Gaddafi's forces but which has yet to deal with the Gaddafi regime (many elements of the old regime are now in the TNC which is actively trying to disarm the masses). In other places such as Ivory Coast, imperialism launched a pre-emptive military invasion to kick out one puppet and to install a new one in order to win time for a further period of exploitation. In Mali and Guinea Bissau, imperialism has launched military coups to pre-empt a mass uprising that would have seen the masses topple the regime through mass action methods. In these regions the workers' movement was relatively weak and imperialism was forced to resort to these desperate measures to maintain control. In other areas such as Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Angola, Mozambique, imperialism depends on the trade union leadership and the remnants of the Stalinist parties as well as social imperialist left parties such as the ISO, International Socialist Organization, to divert the masses into economic fights rather than a fight for power, or into bourgeois elections. But unlike the previous decades, there has been a much greater proletarianization of the Africa masses and the corresponding decline of the weight of the peasantry. The masses have also been through an extended period of the farce of limited 'democracy', exposure not only of the true class collaborationist nature of the national liberation movements, but also of the Stalinist parties.

In South and Central America, after decades of imperialist-backed military dictatorships which were supported by the 'Communist' parties, there was a growth of a nominally 'Trotskyist' left. As the military dictatorships were overthrown there followed a period of unstable bourgeois democratic regimes. For the past decade there has been a period of popular fronts, capitalist regimes held in place not only by the Communist parties but also by the nominal 'Trotskyist' left. The rest of the 'Trotskyist' left ascribe to either guerrilla-ism or capitulate to the Moreno conception of revolution, such as the FLTI, namely to fight for 'workers and popular' governments, where they express another variant of the Stalinist democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry, namely giving the middle class and working class equal standing within the revolutionary workers movement, robbing it of its proletarian essence. Where workers have smashed the dictatorships through revolution, workers control was strangled through Communist party, as in Cuba. In 2001, Castro flew to Argentina to call on the masses not to take power, saying that there was no need for more Cuba's in South America. Despite all these reformist and counter-revolutionary leaderships, the masses have still been rising against the regimes such as in Bolivia and Chile. In Chile, for several months there has been a pre-revolutionary situation which was sparked by mass youth unemployment and the privatization of education. In the rest of South and Central America the class struggle has been sharpening.

In China, there have been 160 000 strikes last year alone. The Chinese Communist Party is the subcontractor for US and Japanese imperialism, delivering the working class to exploitation in the sweat shops of the multinationals. In the entire region the increase in exploitation is bringing the class struggle to boiling point. A huge section of the world's

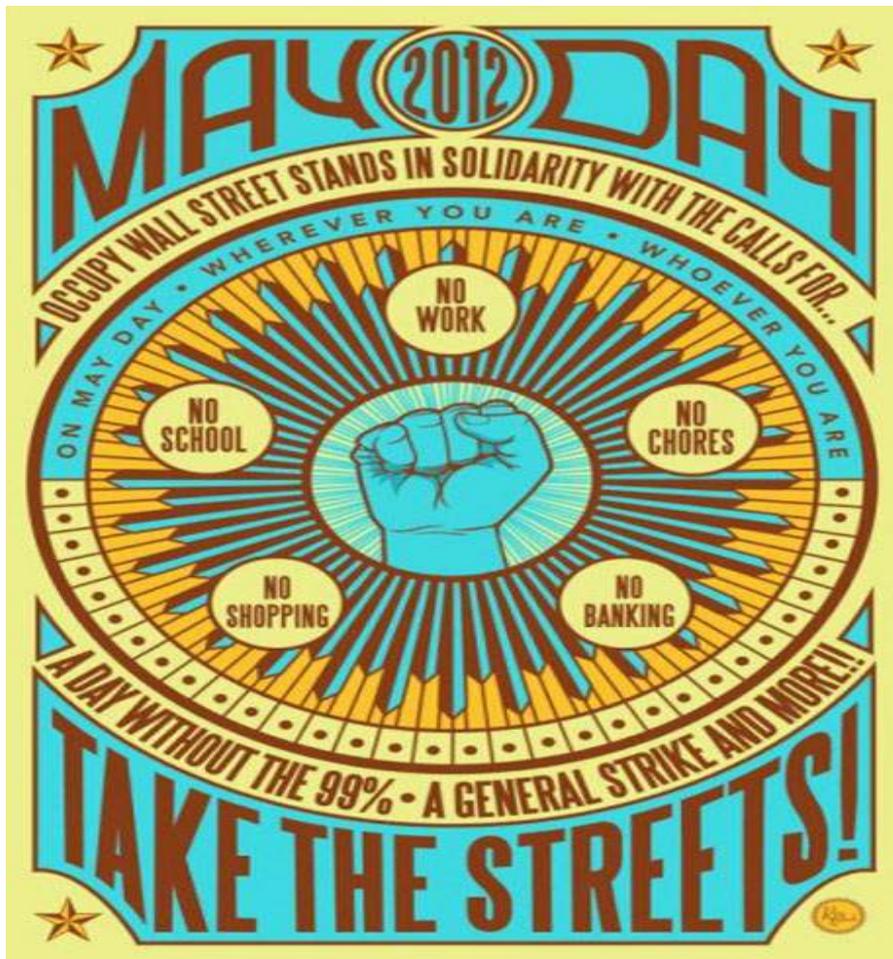


'left' raise China as an 'imperialist' power- thereby wittingly – unwittingly promoting the imperialist myth of a growing Chinese competitor, putting the US worker against the Chinese worker and diverting attention from the real enemy, US and world imperialism and its puppets such as the Chinese maoist regimes.

There are massive revolutionary opportunities in this period. What is required is bold leadership and the development of a revolutionary programme to found a revolutionary International, with sections, revolutionary working class parties, in every corner of the globe, which for us means to refound the Fourth International, to advance the fight for the working class to seize political power, for the world Socialist revolution. Join with **WIVP** in advancing this historic task. Workers of the world unite- we have nothing to lose but our chains!

27.5.2012

Workers International Vanguard Party



Occupy Wall Street movement's call for a General Strike on Mayday 2012



Preparations for a General strike against any government of austerity in Greece

The situation in Greece is critical. On the 6th May 2012 the Greek masses voted (more than 65% of the votes cast) against any government of austerity. The parties that have been leading the attack against the masses on behalf of imperialism, namely the ND and Pasok, do not have enough votes between them to form a government. The revolutionary crisis in Greece has deepened and could spark a Europe-wide uprising of the masses, on a greater scale than in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt.

The Syriza leadership (a coalition of Euro-Communists, Greens and 'Trotskyists', which achieved the second highest votes) is trying to escape the prominent position that they have found themselves in, thus they may seek to compromise the demand of the masses for a end to and a reversal of the austerity programme, which expresses itself in their (the masses') demand for an anti-austerity government. We feel the immediate call should go out to prepare for a general strike if any government of austerity is formed. We call on the EEK, the Antarsya to make such a call for preparations for a General strike against any government that does not abolish and reverse the austerity programme, with the setting up of councils of workers delegates , incorporating the strike committees of the workers currently on strike.

We call on the EEK and Antarsya to call for an anti-austerity government of worker parties, meaning the government of the Syriza, KKE and Dimar, as a means to exhaust the electoral illusions. Even in this case the call should be for workers councils to be formed. The working class revolutionary organizations, from the outside, should offer to defend the government of workers parties from fascist and imperialist attacks. This means in either case that the formation of workers councils must be made and which has to go hand in hand with the formation of a workers militia- imperialism will not just roll over and hand over power to the working class. We call for those who claim to speak on behalf of the world proletariat (the League for the Fifth International, the COFI, International Committee of the Fourth International, the United Secretariat of the Fourth International, International Marxist Tendency, the International Socialist Organization, the FLTI, the WFTU, the ICFTU, etc) to take the lead to call for revolutionary organizations of the proletariat to gather in Greece to declare support and practical steps to assist the masses in the fight for workers power. The local trade unions such as the ADEEDY and PAME should be called upon to support the workers struggle against the Greek regime, be it to support the fight against any austerity regime or for the workers to set up their own power- this must mean a fight to remove the treacherous leaders to place the unions at the disposal of the workers fight for power.

We should also recognize that the Greek regime is not only bourgeois but also imperialist and the inextricable link between the Greek bourgeoisie and the rest of imperialism places the task of the workers taking power against the Greek bourgeoisie as central for any-anti-austerity measures.

We from the Workers International Vanguard Party are in total solidarity with all revolutionary forces that are genuinely striving to intervene in the revolutionary crisis in Greece, to lead the masses to seize power in this imperialist heartland.



We want to assure you that the election results are merely a barometer of their rejection of the capitalist onslaught against them and of their illusions of the current electoralist, reformist parties. All indications are that the masses are with the programme of the Fourth International. In fact the world masses are with the masses in Greece. Never before, in recent history have the masses held a threat against the imperialist robbers across the world, in all their home bases.

What the moment needs is an adjusted transitional programme of demands and boldness and courage.

We are with you. The time to raise the banner of the Fourth International is now. The period of electoralism has ended. Each party that has claimed hundreds of thousands of votes, pretending that they stand for the rejection of the austerity programme, will be unmasked with the call for a workers government against the austerity. This can have no other meaning than the masses forming workers councils and establishing through this the only possible form of workers government against austerity, one that breaks with the Greek bourgeoisie and imperialism in general, in other words, that is if the electoral parties are not prepared to form the government against austerity, then the masses will do it, through workers councils and the preparation of this through a revolutionary general strike. At the centre of this programme must be the nationalization of the banks without compensation and under workers control, the immediate workers control of all foreign trade, the ending of the agreements with the Troika; the reversal of the austerity programme, the cancellation of the debt to big capital and imperialism, the nationalization of the land, etc and all these steps will lead to the seizing of control of all large scale industry, including the commercial farms, by the workers; immediate steps for the assistance of the small farmer, etc. There should be a call for the termination of claim of the Greek regime over any disputed island or territory- for the right of self-determination together with the call on the working class on these islands and disputed territories to support the Greek masses in the fight against the imperialist Greek regime.

But at the same time it would be dangerous to assume that the imperialists will remain pacifist; steps need to be taken for the setting up of armed self-defence under the control of the workers councils for a workers government against austerity. This also means that appeals must be made to win over the rank and file of the armed forces.

Central to the programme must be for the workers across Europe to remove their own austerity regimes. The Greek revolution could provide a beacon for the masses across Europe to remove their own regimes through revolutionary mass action. This is the path to a United Socialist Soviet states of Europe. An integral part of the programme must be support of the masses in Syria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Bahrain, Yemen, historic Palestine, etc to establish their own power. Cut the lifeline to the murderous Syrian regime. For international worker brigades to support the Syrian masses against the Assad regime. Arms for the Syrian masses. Let the fight for workers power in Greece open the path to workers power in Syria and elsewhere.

What we are seeing is not a separate 'Arab Spring' and mass revolt in Europe against austerity- it is part of the same world-wide process of working class revolution against world capitalism imperialism.



The above programme should form the basis of the programme of a revolutionary working class party in Greece as indeed of a revolutionary International that such a party must be part of.

Long Live the refounding of the Fourth International
Forward to Socialism!

We are ready to give every possible support to assist the successful conclusion of the current crisis, in favour of the working class.

14.5.2012 **Workers International Vanguard Party**



The Greek workers are not defeated

Iminyaka elikhulu yeANC yokuzama ukuba ngobaasboy bama impiriyali (yaye ngenene ishumi elinesibhozo le minyaka yokuba ngabo) [Impendulo kwi 'ANC- a century of movement' ka Pallo Jordan, 23 Dec 2011]

Isiqendu sesibini

Ngonyaka ka 1948 urhulumente weNational Party wangena elulawulweni. Ngo 1950 zonke intshukumo zobu'Komanisi' zavalwa umlomo, ukuquka naziphina iincwadi zika Lenin noTrotsky. Ukhumbule ukuba iCPSA yayinobundlobongela obuchasene nabalandeli bakaTrotsky, uvalo milomo lalungajoliswanga kuphela kwi CPSA, kodwa kwanjalo kubalandeli bakaTrotsky. Ama impiriyali kunye norhulumente babo abavuma konke eMzantsi Afrika bebebazi ubungozi obubangwa zintshukumo ezizimeleyo zobukomanisi. UNozakuzaku waseFrance walumkisa uHitler ukuba ozakuphumelela imfazwe yiFourth International kuphela. Ngenene ongxowankulu abakhulu bebeyazi ingozi yabasebenzi abazimeleyo, ingakumbi xa ama impiriyali ayesilwa odwa kwimfazwe yehlabathi



ngendawo ezintsha zokurhweba, ukuthi kuzakubakho ingozi yotshintsho olululo ulufana nolwaseRussia ngo October ka 1917 xa abasebenzi bathabatha ulawulo kodwa kwesisithuba ingozi yayingabasebenzi abazakuthatha ulawulo eFrance, eBrithane Germany, okanye kwanase Melika okanye kwanase Soviet Union kwakhona ngokuchasene nabalawuli (bureaucracy) baka Stalin, okanye nakwesiphi isathanga okanye ilizwe ehlabathini.

Naku okwathethwa ngu Edward Roux ngesisigaba sexesha: *'Ukususela emfazweni amakomanisi afumana amakhonkco obuqabane kunye nemibutho enjenge African National Congress kunye nee Congress zase India. Le mibutho zange ibe yeyamakomanisi ngokupheleleyo, kodwa yabanokungena kuzozonke imbono zokulwa nakwintshukumo ezingqalileyo ezo zithe zakha CP'. I-CPSA/SACP ngokwenza zaseka iCongress of Democrats, COD, (for 'white liberals') kunye ne Coloured People's Congress. Nangona I-CP ingazange isebenze esidlangalaleni, babesebenza ngee Congress nange COD, bedlala indima ephambili yokwamkela (adoption) iFreedom Charter ka 1955.*

I-Freedom Charter yayinga cacanga ngabom kodwa yayibhalwe ngendlela apha esekhondweni lwezimvo zika Stalin ukuthi kuqala kuzakubakho utshintsho olululo 'Iwentando yesininzi' ('democratic' revolution) oluzakukhokelwa yi ANC, lulandelwe kumhla ongaxelwanga kwingomso lutshintsho lwe Socialism. Into yokuba 'isigaba' sokuqala sesobungxowankulu hayi esobu Soshali, ingqinisiswa ngu Mandela, uSlovo yaye kutshanje nguCronin kunye naye SACP Conference ka 2009:

Kwinqaku, elinesihloko 'In our :Lifetime' elikhutshwe kwi *Liberation* in June 1956, uNelson Mandela wenza lentetho ilandelayo malunga ne Freedom Charter:

'Ekubeni iCharter imemezela utshintsho lolawulo lwentando yesininzi oluneziphumo ezininzi, ayisilulo kwaphela uyilo lorhulumente wenkqubo yobuSoshali, kodwa yinkqubo yokumanya imigangatho eyahlukahlukeneyo namaqela phakathi kwabantu phantsi kwesiseko solawulo lwentando yesininzi. Phantsi kweSocialism abasebenzi babambe ulawulo lukarhulumente. Bona namahlwempu bangabanini bezinto zokuvelisa, umhlaba, imizi-mveliso nezixhobo zokusila. Yonke imveliso yeyokusetyenziswa yaye hayi inzuzo. ICharter ayicingi elotshintsho lwezoqoqosho nelezopolitiko lunzulu. Ubhengezo lwayo "Abantu bayakulawula!" lucinga utshintshelo lolawulo hayi nakomnye umgangatho wokuhlala kodwa kubantu bonke belizwe ingaba ngabasebenzi, amahlwempu, amadoda asisigxina okanye ongxowankulu.

Yinyani into yokuba ekufuneni ukuba imizi egcina imali, imigodi yegolide nomhlaba ukuba ubephantsi kolawulo lwesizwe iCharter yenza inzame zokubulala amashishini nemigodi yoodla-bodwa nakumashishini amafama abefudula ephanga ilizwe inkulungwane yeminyaka yaye egweba abantu balo ebukhobokeni. Kodwa elo nyathelo liyafuneka ngokupheleleyo yaye liyafuneka ngoba ukuphumeza iCharter akunakucingelwa, okuyinyani akunakwenzeka, ngaphandle kokuba yaye de abadla bodwa kuqala boyisiwe yaye ubutyebi belizwe bunikezelwe ebantwini. Ukwahlulwa nokulawulwa ngokwentando yesininzi kwabadla bodwa kuyakuvula amadlelo amatsha



kukhule ngempumelelo ongxowankulu abangengobaseEurope. Okokuqala kwimbali yelizwe ongxowankulu abangengobaseEurope bazakuba nethuba lokuba ngabanini egameni labo nelungelo amatye okusila nemizi-mveliso, yaye ukurhweba noshishino labucala lizakunyuka yaye luphumelele ngokungazange kubonwe ngaphambili. Ukutshabalalisa abadla bodwa kuthetha ukupheliswa kokuxhatshazwa kwesininzi samasebe abantu abaninzi zizigwili zemigodi nazizityebi zemihlaba yaye kuzakubakho ukukhula jikelele kumgangatho wokuphila kwabantu. Kungokuba kanye iCharter inika amathuba amakhulukazi kwimpembelelo yonke elwa ubukhoboka ngokwemeko ephathekayo kumaqela nemigangatho yonke yilo nto itsala inkxaso ebanzi.'

Ngamanye amagama, kuMandela, iFreedom Charter ayikho malunga nokwakha iSocialism, kodwa imalunga nokwakha ongxowankulu abamnyama. Ngamanye amagama, iFreedom Charter, imalunga nokwakha iqelana lengcungcu **ezifunxa igazi** kwintsokolo yabasebenzi, yaye asikokuhlalisana ngobudlelwa kwemigangatho eyahlukeneyo (**sybiotic**), njengokuba uPallo Jordan esitsho. ['sybiotic', kungathetha ukuthi abasebenzi kwakunye nongxowankulu bangaxhamla- oku kukuphikisana njengokuba ubungxowankulu buxhomekeke ekuxhatshazweni kwabasebenzi] Isazi ngokupheleleyo ukuba iFreedom Charter yeyongxowankulu, iSACP yaphakamisa iANC ikhokele umzabalazo.

Njengokuba uphakamo lemizabalazo eyayichasene nobukolonali yayigqibe iAfrika iphela, iANC, PAC namanye amaqela azibandakanya kwimizabalazo yobugerila, kodwa ngo 1965 lemizabalazo yatshatyalaliswa. Kwiminyaka engamashumi amabini elandelayo iANC ngenyani yathi shwaka kwaphela eMzantsi Afrika, into engqinwa nangu Pallo Jordan.

U-Pallo Jordan ungqina kwanento yokuba iANC yamkela 'ulawulo lwabamhlophe' iminyaka engamashumi amabini njengombutho 'othembekileyo' osisongezo esiphikisayo epalamente. Ngamanye amagama, nangona ingcinezelo yesininzi ngongxowankulu ibikuzwelonke, iANC ibihleli izimisele kwindlela ebheka epalamente, ngamanye amagama babonisile ukuba ezona njongo zabo zokwenyani kukuba ngabaphathi bokulawula isininzi sabantu ngepalamente yongxowankulu. Ngamanye amagama iANC zange ibenenjongo zotshintsho olululo lolawulo lobungxowankulu (Revolutionary overthrow of capitalism). Ukuthi, ezona njongo zokwenyani zenkqubo yokusebenza zeANC yayikukugcina inkqubo yemivuzo yobukhoboka, ukugcina 'kwalenkqubo' amashumi amawaka afa esilwa yona – leminyaka ilishumi elinesibhozo idlulileyo iqinisekisa oku.





Rammulutsi Rehata MMoho Crisis Committee statement

A few months ago the masses in Rammulutsi were at the forefront of exposing the hypocrisy of the ANC government who was criticizing the capitalist DA about building open toilets, when in Viljoenskroon, the ANC was doing the same thing. After the exposure the ANC quickly built up enclosures to cover their backsides. But the fact remains, these toilets do not even work. They have unhealthy asbestos enclosures and the doors do not even close properly. This shows what the government thinks of the people.

On the 17th September 2010 the Free State Premier, Ace Magashule, promised the masses in Rammulutsi that there would be re-development starting within 3 weeks and that by the end of 2010 that people would be in their houses. People of the area were promised jobs. The masses are still waiting. Many stay in informal settlements and in backyards under very difficult conditions. Only a few houses were built and many of these are being put up for sale. These houses do not have electricity. How can the unemployed, pensioners and low paid workers afford this?

Now the government wants to re-register people- now they are telling people to wait for 2014, others are being told to wait for 2015. Some are being denied access to the application forms. How long must we wait while the capitalists profit today and everyday- the government sees to that.

We as the Rammulutsi Crisis Committee are going to march to the council offices on the 31st May 2012. We demand that the Premier be present to receive our demands and to answer our questions. We demand an end to the threats of violence by the ANC against community activists.

No more lies!

Nationalize the mines and the banks- houses for all!

Away with the demarcation process- this is just for self-interest of the middle class (amabhulu omnyama)- disband the provinces- jobs for all!

Contact Brameg Sekete Rammulutsi Crisis Committee ph 0710248768 for further details.





What is behind the setting up of the Military Ombuds office?

The ANC-SACP government is adamant that the military unions must be disbanded. Why?

In every capitalist country, the army is the last point of resort of the capitalist class to keep the working class in check. In SA, like any other capitalist country, the wealth is under the control of the capitalist class. The main capitalists in SA are Anglo American, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Liberty, Rembrandt, of which Anglo American is the dominant player and indeed the US bank, JP Morgan Chase is the most important element thereof. The SA government is thus the local manager for imperialist capitalist control in the country. It is their role to ensure that ultimately the army is there to protect JP Morgan Chase and other monopoly capitalists from a mass uprising. Imperialism does not tolerate even the slightest challenge to it because that would mean that when the generals gave the order for the soldiers to shoot on the masses, the soldiers would hesitate, may even refuse to carry out such orders. Such a rift in the army would be fatal to the systematic violence that is inherent to capitalist domination, namely that the masses must at all times be disarmed while a specialist armed force keeps them in enforced slavery for the capitalists.

So why did the capitalist Constitution allow military unions in the first place?

It is because of the revolutionary period of the masses from 1985 – 1994. It was a trade off the imperialists-capitalists made in order for them to remain in control. In a sense the right of soldiers to be unionised was forced onto the state by the working class, it was not something that the ANC-SACP government granted out of the goodness of their hearts. The right of soldiers to be unionised comes from the fight of the masses that the army should not act for any repressive regime and should be transformed fundamentally from that of the old regime.

The current world period is of capitalist instability. In all countries of the planet, the masses are threatening their capitalist regimes. The masses are rising not only in North Africa and the Middle East but all over- we only have to look at Chile, France, Greece, Bolivia, Spain, etc, even in the imperialist heartland of the USA. The capitalists, ever since April 1994, have been working night and day to undermine the few gains that the working class made up to then. One of these gains is the right of soldiers to be unionised. Recently, because of the greater world capitalist instability, the state has accelerated its attempts to smash the military unions and to rapidly (virtually overnight) they have set up a militarised section of the police. Imperialism is worried that an uprising of the masses may happen here sooner than later and they need to have absolute control over the armed forces. If the working class rises to take real control over Anglo American assets, the capitalists need an army that will defend it absolutely, that will shoot down workers without blinking an eye.

This is why the office of the military Ombud has been set up, to create a channel for soldiers grievances to be addressed *individually* so that the state can proceed to disband the unions.

The Ombuds office is anti-soldier, anti-worker



Firstly, an ex-general is the one who is heading this office, which in itself shows that it will be tied hand and foot to the military top command. This is further supported by the terms of reference which states that he may '*refuse to investigate if it undermines the channel of command.*'

Through the Ombuds office, the state wants to ban all collective processes of soldiers. For example, the Ombud will also replace the Military Bargaining Council where soldier unions could negotiate and challenge any unfairness over promotions, could negotiate for wage increases and working conditions.

The Ombuds office provides a cover for the state to weed out the more progressive soldiers, those who are more outspoken and willing to challenge unfairness. Soldiers can only lodge grievances as individuals to the Ombud. Thus soldiers can and will be victimized as they will have no forum to share their grievances with one another. No matter that has gone public will be investigated by the Ombud. Thus a veil of secrecy will be drawn over grievances. The soldier will be completely at the mercy of the army top command.

Further any matter that goes to a military judge cannot be dealt with by the Ombud. Thus, for more serious allegations by the top command, the soldier will have no protection at all.

To add insult to injury, the Ombuds office is headed by Lt Gen Matanzima, who was acting chief of the SANDF at the time that the 1000 protesting soldiers were brutalised and suspended. These soldiers are still on special leave despite a court order to reinstate them. These soldiers have not received the same occasional increments of 1% and 2% , nor the bonus allowances of R750 and R1500 in the intervening period.

Further, the Defence Review process is being co-headed by Roelf Meyer, an ex-Minister of Defence from the days of apartheid.

Already the state is accelerating the campaign to frustrate the military unions by pressurizing soldiers to resign from the unions, denying access of the unions to members, by sidelining union members from planning meetings and by excluding them from in-house and external training courses.

Away with the Military Service Commission, the Ombud and the current Defence Review process!

Only the military veterans of the ex-liberation armies, the current defence force unions (SANDU and SASFU), rank and file delegates from the soldiers, delegates from the rank and file from the trade unions and grassroots community organizations should have a say over how a transformed army should look like. The working class should have the right to bear arms against any oppressive regime (something similar is even enshrined in the US bill of rights).

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The wages of care givers and health workers in the Eastern Cape has been taken by the state to give to Anglo American and other monopoly capitalists in the R3 trillion infrastructure scam.

Six thousand caregivers in the Eastern Cape were informed that they will again not be paid at the end of May 2012. This is the second month without payment due to supposed lack of funds. The Eastern Cape government has said it will ask national government for extra money as they have 'run out of funds'.

Without the caregivers and health workers who are in clinics and hospitals around the province, who work as HIV counsellors and home-based carers, in the main centres and in the rural areas, the entire health care system would collapse, yet the state has said they have run out of funds to pay the R1500 per month 'stipend' for this essential service to the community. **How did this happen** and what does it mean for the National Health Insurance (NHI) that the ANC, SACP and Cosatu leaders hold up as a great benefit to the working class? Nehawu leaders are actively campaigning for the NHI.

Every budget since 1994 has fundamentally continued the trend of the old regime, namely that state expenses support the capitalist system and thus the continued exploitation of the masses by big capital. As the crisis of world capitalism has deepened, the state has adjusted its plans to bail out the capitalists and to take more and more from the masses. Across the world, capitalist regimes have been cutting down on public health expenditure. South Africa is no exception.

One of the ways of collapsing the public health is by not filling all the vacant posts. Thus by the end of the financial year, when there is unexpended funds (money left over), it is deducted from the next budget. In this way, there are more funds to divert towards the big capitalists through fake infrastructure projects and through cuts in taxes for the bosses. The old regime charged the bosses a tax of 48% but now they only charge the capitalists 28% tax on their profits. Thus the burden of public expenses such as health, is shifted more onto the backs of the working class.

When the need arose to service communities, the state now employs casualised workers, such as the care-givers, through special funding. But the funding for the permanent posts was there, but it has been deliberately cut. So now the Eastern Cape can parade the false argument that they have no funds. Where has the money gone to that is supposed to be for the wages of the caregivers? It has gone to the fake infrastructure projects, the building of ten more coal and nuclear power stations while industry has collapsed and less electricity is being used. The health workers' wages have gone to Anglo American, the JP Morgan Chase bank- their profits are more important than the wages of the caregivers, says the



government. Let the health care collapse, says the regime, as long as their real bosses, Anglo American, get their money.

If the government cannot even reinstate all the necessary permanent posts in the health sector, this means that the planned NHI will be based on a collapse of the public health sector. This means that workers will have to suffer an extra 10% tax to fund being able to go to private clinics and hospitals. Even in the private sector, many health workers and nurses work for labour brokers or as contract staff. So the extra money for the NHI will not go to workers but to the capitalists who control the private health sector, namely the banks, the same JP Morgan Chase that controls Anglo American, will benefit. When workers health insurance runs out, workers will be evicted from the private clinics (maybe even after 1 day or less)- this is the system that the Cosatu, SACP and ANC leaders are promoting. In the USA, millions are excluded from the health insurance, yet the ANC government and our leaders want to force this same system down workers throats.

Further proof that the NHI will be based on boosting the private sector is that hundreds of caregivers have been for 1-2 year training, yet they cannot get work in the public clinics and hospitals. With this training, a few have managed to get work in private clinics and hospitals. Most of those who have been trained have returned to being casual caregivers.

- Immediate payment of all outstanding wages to the caregivers and health workers!
- Immediate permanent employment of all caregivers and other casualised health sector workers! [irrespective of having received 'training' or not, most have years of service which is really on-the-job training]. Equal pay for equal work.
- Nationalise the mines, banks and all private health sector capitalist companies, without compensation, **under workers control!** Not 25%, nor 50%, but **100%**!
- All health sector workers and caregivers, unite with the rest of the working class for Free, quality health care for all, **under workers control!** Away with the capitalist NHI!

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On the military coups in Mali and Guinea-Bissau

Over the past few days there has been a military coup in Mali (22nd March) and now in Guinea-Bissau (in the second week of April). To understand why imperialism has launched these military coups against the masses, we have to look at the broader context:

The 2007-8 crisis has opened up a period where every capitalist regime is under threat. The capitalist relations in Africa has been based on super-exploitation before this period. Since 2008 there has been even greater plunder of the African masses by imperialism. It is this that is the objective basis for revolution in the region. In addition, the masses have examples of the overthrow of imperialist dictators in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt. With all the problems facing the masses in these countries to take their revolution to completion, the masses in the rest of Africa are reaching the point of complete loss of faith in the current regimes. In Mali and Guinea-Bissau, there are no strong trade union bureaucracies that can betray the masses from within. Both in Mali and Guinea-Bissau, elections for president was looming. Imperialism is pre-empting the revolutionary action of the masses against discredited puppet regimes, by themselves removing them, hoping to nip the revolution in the bud. Imperialism is desperate to halt the world movement of the masses onto the path of revolution. This international consideration is why imperialism launches pre-emptive coups in Mali and Guinea-Bissau.

This is why imperialism has not insisted that the existing puppets be returned to their posts as President. It is part of imperialism's plan to themselves remove discredited puppets before the masses do so.

The way forward

We call for the disbanding of the armies in Mali and Guinea-Bissau, for the rank and file soldiers to join a people's militia that is centred on the factories, mines and farms. This arming of the masses is necessary for the successful combat of the imperialist coup leaders and capitalist regimes. All imperialist assets should be seized, without compensation and placed under workers control. Imperialism is funding both 'sides' (north and south) in Mali to divide the masses in order to divert the masses from defeating the entire capitalist regime. For international worker brigades to support the masses to defeat the imperialist coup leaders and the capitalist regime. For the formation of nuclei of a revolutionary working class parties in Mali and Guinea-Bissau. [a full programme of democratic and transitional demands should be developed for Mali and Guinea-Bissau.]

To the working class in France and the USA in particular, we call for you to rise against your own regimes- your enemy is at home. Our dreams don't fit your ballot boxes. Out, all the French and US military bases from Africa. Blockade the imperialist war machinery; for workers control over the war industries and confiscation of all military profits. For general strike committees to be set up. For mass protests outside the French and US parliaments condemning the imperialist backed coups. For revolutionary working class parties in the USA and France, co-ordinating with the revolutionary workers in Mali and Guinea-Bissau, firstly, and with the vanguard of world proletariat, to strive to refound the Fourth International.

Down with the coups! Forward to revolutionary working class parties to be formed!
Forward to working class power! Workers International Vanguard Party 18.4.2012



On the Alliance- a Cosatu worker's view

Labour Brokers

The ANC-SACP government has clearly come out against the working class by endorsing labour brokers, a modern form of slavery. The Labour Brokers have been created by imperialism to increase their profits and to divide the working class. More than 2 million workers have been retrenched since 1994 and today more than 2 million of the few who jobs, live as semi-slaves at the mercy of the modern slave traders that are labour brokers. Millions are unemployed and millions of the youth face the prospect of never getting work.

The Broad-based Black empowerment Act

This is really to get more crumbs for the black elite from the tables of the capitalist masters- this is the reason for the Broad –based black empowerment Act.

The workers have shares in Impala, Vodacom, Sasol, but are still retrenched and are paid low wages. Is this empowerment? Cosatu and SACP have investment companies- The leaders have a share in the exploitation of workers. The real executive of the capitalists is the leadership of the ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance.

On the massive infrastructure programme

To get the money for the massive infrastructure programme, the government turns to the IMF and international capital. These all come with conditions. Any little independence that there is, has now been sacrificed. To repay the loans will put a massive burden on the working class. Look at the example of the Greek working class where the working class has bailed out the banks. This has led to massive retrenchments, cuts in social spending, cuts in wages, food prices go up all the time. What is the essence of this capitalist infrastructure plan- the working class is held hostage by imperialism. In fact this plan is a cash cow for the imperialist banks such as JP Morgan Chase, the bank that controls Anglo American. The lives of the working class will further degenerate and so will the generations to come.

The way forward

We need to break from the alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP. We need a revolutionary working class party that fights for the programme of the Fourth International for the working class to take power through its own mass action methods.

Join the Workers International Vanguard Party to make this a reality.

Forward to Socialism!



The ANC-SACP govt violently broke up the peaceful march of soldiers



Letter of exposure on Kofi Annan and other matters

Sir

I am a 73 year old man. I really would like some CLARITY on some issues that I read about. I am not impressed with 'Al Jazeera's' version of Syria. I have serious misgivings especially since Qatar, Saudi Arabia and others are doing the bidding of the imperialist West.

I have heard about the Syria opposition from others- they are not genuine- they seem to be expats like those in Libya, etc. Maybe you could really publish some details- Kofi Annan is on the Board of Morgan Chase- Tony Blair is also a head of their bank- so what is their role?

Many months ago the presenter on the local Muslim radio station raised the question of whether the Zionists and US were behind the 'unrest' in the Middle east- wanting to get rid of the present leaders and replace them with those more amenable to their interests? What do you say about that?

I am no longer excited about events in the Middle East. Look at Egypt- the more things change the more they remain the same- Omar Suleiman, Muslim Brotherhood- the Salafis- Then you see David Cameron- Hilary Clinton and others all going there- one would have expected people there to have severed links with them. The Rafah border, etc are still very much intact. What has happened to people like Hossam Hamalawi? People were so excited, so hopeful that important changes would take place etc. Locally you would only hear news about the role of the media and the increasing role played by LIBERALS (across the colour line).

Apologies for the scrawl. Regards. Thanking you.

PS: There was a caller on radio (SAfm) open line who said some Al Jazeera journalist here resigned over the Syrian issue. What do you say about that!

G



Arms for the Syrian masses under their direct control not that of the SNC & 'Free Syria Army'



Editorial comment: (On Syria, Al Jazeera, Libya, Kofi Annan, the World working class spring)

Sir

We, like you, are aware of the pro-imperialist bias of Al Jazeera; their take on events exposes who their real masters are; the responses and interventions of the regimes such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia and others also shows that their true master is imperialism. Al Jazeera is more dangerous as it poses as being 'independent' whereas it is really the voice of imperialism from within. Imperialism cannot allow the masses to gain power through their own mass actions anywhere on the planet. This is especially the case now because the working class has started to rise up against all the capitalist regimes across the planet, even in the imperialist centres such as the USA where even the soldiers are joining the marches against their own regime. This is why, from different angles their agencies, Al Jazeera and the regional puppet regimes provide a cover for Assad to continue slaughtering the Syrian masses. Puppet regimes like that in Russia and China are fronting for imperialism by militarily supporting the Assad regime. This would be the prime reason why the working class must wake up to the fact, that the leadership which they have followed without question, over the last several decades, have not made them aware of the need to forge links with their class brothers and sisters, first in the region and also internationally. Al Jazeera and others talk about an Arab Spring to deliberately isolate the struggles in places such as Greece, from the struggles in Syria.

We agree with you wholeheartedly about the Syria National Council; they are a deliberate imperialist creation, just like in Libya, to sabotage the revolution from within. Their role is not passive, or merely being an 'exile group', no, they are there to keep the masses disarmed and to assist imperialism, should the masses still, despite the odds, kick out the old regime, they would want to usurp it from within, to keep a capitalist regime but with a new face; in other words to present a new form of rule by imperialism through them. But before such developments, the SNC is actively disarming the masses through the creation of the Free Syria Army, in the same way that the TNC created the Free Libya Army in Libya- their aim is to keep the heavy weapons from the masses and to create a specialist army that will 'fight' for the masses, on their behalf- in this way, being headed by ex-generals of the old regime, imperialism is directly sabotaging the masses struggle from within. The Syrian revolution has struggled to advance precisely because of the existence of the Free Syrian army which has prevented up to now, the development of widespread armed workers militias. [The few weapons being taken from the Assad regime are still under the control of the ex-generals of Assad, and thus imperialism has an internal stranglehold on the masses.]. If the so-called Communist parties in Syria (and there are 2 of these) had been doing their work, the present slaughter could have been countered by regional working class mobilization. Imagine the workers of North Africa and the whole Middle east being called to arms to defeat the hated Syrian regime. But up to now, these fake Communist Parties actually support the Assad regime and their political and trade union international (the WFTU, based in Greece) also support



them against the Syrian masses. They are key to dividing the Syrian masses, up to now.

As for the imperialist agents Kofi Annan and Tony Blair, they are able to succeed only because the imperialist supporting regimes have in 99% of cases, corrupted worker leaders (both political and trade union). Your brilliant exposure that they both are on the board of JP Morgan, shows that they are representatives of big capital and indeed specifically agents of US imperialism. The Annan 'plan', covers the real support of imperialism for the slaughter of the Syrian masses, by posing as a plan for peace, a plan for defence of the masses. The truth is that 300 unarmed observers are not capable of being in all places at all times. In fact their presence allows the slaughter of the masses to go head- the masses of the world are politically disarmed from acting against their own regimes because there is a supposed 'peace' plan in place. Even if the observers were armed, the nett effect would be the same- any armed imperialist force will act to prevent the masses from seizing control through revolutionary action. The JP Morgan Chase was involved in directly organizing the military coup in Chile in 1973. The actions of their representatives in Syria, Blair and Annan, are fundamentally the same- to help maintain an exploitative, capitalist regime, albeit from a different angle.

The zionists constitute the chief agency of US imperialism's control over the people and natural resources of the Middle East. It follows from this that the Zionist regime is directly and indirectly supporting the current regimes in the Middle East, despite the rhetoric from the Arab capitalist rulers to the contrary. The 'anti-zionist' rhetoric of the Arab capitalist rulers is for the benefit of the masses in their own countries, to hide the real relation of things, namely they are all lackeys of imperialism against the masses.

For the moment, imperialism has managed to impose new puppets but in all cases the masses have not just accepted them- they are continuing to resist. The fundamental point is that these 'new' faces of the old regimes can offer nothing new, no new benefits for the working class, they offer only more suppression and exploitation. The important part of the equation is that the resistance against capitalism is spreading into the imperialist centres. 30 000 workers and supporters of the Occupy Wall street movement were marching in New York alone on May Day, calling for a general strike (even though in the heart of this imperialist beast it is illegal to make such a call). This imperialist crisis is giving birth to working class revolts all over the planet; which for us means the international Working Class Spring beckons. Despite the efforts of the liberal press to hide and confuse this process, this is one factor that seeps through every corner- it exists and the continued resistance of the working class shows they are making their experience with the 'new' imposters, they are seeing through those 'left' parties, despite temporary delays. In these conditions a real revolutionary International can and will be built, we are confident about it.



We salute your questioning mind. To us you are 73 years young. We trust that we have answered you satisfactorily.

PS: If possible, you and your friends could study our website regularly. We strive to keep it updated so that people such as yourself could be updated. As always your comments and thoughts are most welcome.

PPS: even in Al Jazeera, there are some journalists who in some way must be contesting the imperialist version of events- like any capitalist institutions, those who really are in control would force their opposition out rather than surrender to have a true exposure of events. We heard that the official reason for Al Jazeera parted ways with the journalist was because he was HIV+- this is an outrage but to the heads of Al Jazeera, any excuse was to be used to ensure uniformity of their pro-imperialist agenda. This is why we need to build a workers press. We thank you for your contribution to this development- long may you continue to do so.



Municipal workers and mine workers (at Implats) are beginning to resist the alliance of the ANC-SACP-Anglo American



Palestinian youth challenge zionist soldier



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. They established in the Commune a form of government more democratic than ever seen before. 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 Commune was a working body, not a talk shop. The distinction between legislative and executive arms of government was abolished. Marx's *Civil War in France* is a superb account of the history and significance of the Commune. The Commune was drowned in blood by the conservative French government in Versailles, cheered on by the ruling classes of the world.



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