



The Spark

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Spain-the mineworkers show the way

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Spanish miners fire rockets at police

Contact details:

South Africa: workersinternational@gmail.com

Website: www.workersinternational.org.za

Postal address: 1st Floor, Community House, 41 Salt River rd, Salt River, Cape Town, 7925,
South Africa. ph [27] 822020617 ph 021 4476777 fax 0865486048



Editorial

On the international front there are a number of key developments: The Syrian masses are currently engaged in a decisive battle for the commercial centre, Aleppo, which would set the platform for not only the battle for Damascus but also the overthrow of the Assad regime. At the same time the dangers of imperialism working night and day to destroy the revolution from within, as they did in Libya, is a real threat. The Spanish mineworkers are engaged in a historic fight which draws in not only the entire working class and lower middle class, but has the potential to take the baton from where the Greek workers have suffered a temporary setback, to the entire Europe. In Egypt the Muslim Brotherhood faces increasing exposure as day by day they show in practice that they are tied hand and foot to the coat tails of US imperialism and the military junta. 2 Israeli ex-soldiers have set themselves alight and have died, showing a deep crack within the Zionist apparatus. We examine briefly some of the implications.

Imperialism has increased their levels of crackdown on the masses of the world but we see the working class raising its head to resist. Last year marked a domination of the middle class of the uprisings but there has been a shift, as the struggles have worn on, to the working class increasingly putting its stamp on events. This is symbolised by the rise of the Spanish mineworkers occupying the mines while last year the indignados through their occupation of the town squares, were dominated by the lower middle class. Under these conditions the capitalists depend on their agents within the workers movement, through various means to curtail and sabotage the actions of the masses- this is because the slightest spark from the organised industrial workers, could spark a widespread revolt that would open up yet another capitalist regime to the threat of being overthrown by the masses. Capitalism is fighting for its very life- from this perspective, they may offer some temporary concessions to tie up the organised working class so that the capitalists may win space for another period of domination. In the USA, Canada, France, the working class has forced a slowing of the cutbacks, the full effect of which have been largely postponed but which the capitalist class will have to come back at some stage to implement. Imperialism is trying to put out fires around the globe so that they can concentrate on the places where their direct control is immediately threatened.

The betrayal of the public sector and municipal workers by their union leaderships

At the time of going to print we received news that the public sector union leaders have accepted a 7% increase. Recently the municipal unions accepted a staggered 6.5% and 0.5% increase. The state was determined to massively cut wages, yet they were forced to come up to 7% (which is still below workers inflation rate). This is a small concession that the capitalist class is making in order to keep the organised working class off the streets. They fear a revolt like the late 1980s against the system. Thus once again the working class who are daily on the march in service delivery protests (really the beginnings of political challenge to the capitalist system), have been cut off from the organised working



class. The lessons of Syria show that the Communist party and the trade union leadership will tie the organised worker to the state up to the point where widespread massacres are taking place. We see here, in the wage settlements, the trade union leadership working together with the state and the capitalist class against the working class.

Food prices continue to rise; petrol, electricity and basic prices continue to increase, yet the leadership of the trade unions are unmoved- they will say the 7% is a victory. What is required is not just a change of leadership of the trade unions and cutting of the alliance with the SACP and ANC, but the development of a revolutionary working class party that is part of a revolutionary International. This means breaking from the Freedom Charter which poses that ~~the~~ people shall govern. The capitalists are part of ~~the~~ people. The past 18 years of ANC shows us the real meaning of this, namely that the same state that used to persecute the working class is still intact- what has changed is the group of managers. Anglo American and other imperialist monopolies still control the wealth. We still live in the dictatorship of the imperialist capitalist class; only a few loan billionaires have been given a stake in the running of the management operations, to keep the masses in chains. Over R1000 bn is taken by big capital out of South Africa every year (the figure is much higher if we consider the Southern Africa subregion where Anglo American is the chief plunderer). Yet in Southern Africa, there is widespread hunger, unemployment and starvation. Such is the situation that the AU, headed by Dlamini Zuma, will defend and maintain. By the negative example of the middle class acting as managers for imperialism, it is once again confirmed that the working class needs to take power, through its own methods, establishing the dictatorship of the working class, in order to abolish poverty, hunger and exploitation. The leadership by the middle class is incapable of fighting for the most basic of democratic demands such as nationalization of the land, housing for all, jobs for all, etc.

There can be no Socialism in South Africa without the working class taking power in the entire subregion, and even this has to be linked to the working class taking power in the imperialist centres- such is the integration of the world economy today. What is needed are revolutionary working class parties across Southern Africa as part of a world wide re-establishment of a revolutionary International, which for us is the refounded Fourth International.

We put a challenge to the activists and communist fighters in the region: the imperialists are centralised and organised; the trade union bureaucracy and the stalinists are organised and work as a centralised unit together with the capitalist class; why are we divided? Let us get together, develop a common programme, uniting the demands of the masses together with a transitional system of demands. This should serve as a basis for the revolutionary working class parties that are so desperately needed. At the same time, we put a challenge to all who claim to be genuinely fighting for Socialism on a world scale to come together based on a common programme for world Socialism and ultimately Communism.



Syria- while the masses move to finish off Assad, imperialism moves to strangle the revolution from within, to re-establish the Assad regime without Assad

The imperialist press wants to present the bombing of 18th July of the inner military command of Assad, where 3 of his most trusted henchmen were killed, as the turning point in the fight against the Syrian regime. The events on the ground show otherwise:

The truth of the massacres by the Assad regime in the rural areas, have, for months, been slowly carried into the cities. The connection between the rural areas and the industrial centres existed due to the process of industrialization of the country and the decline of the rural areas (impoverished peasants were forced to leave the countryside to seek work in the cities);

The recent attacks by the Assad regime on the Palestinian refugee camps and the subsequent attacks on the funerals of those killed, helped push many more of the Palestinians into active opposition to the regime;

A section of the officer caste has been imprisoned under suspicion of collaborating with the forces oppositional to the regime. This shows that the state repressive apparatus has split, opening up the possibility of the masses achieving a successful overthrow of the regime;

Although the Assad army numbers 300 000, most of it has been confined to base as the regime fears that sending them into fight against the insurgency, may lead to much of the rank and file soldiers deserting to the other side; over several months, there has been a process of desertion of soldiers to the masses despite brutal measures by the state (on the advice of his imperialist masters) to try and stop it (through summary executions of deserters and their families, etc);

As the regime began to crumble, the trader class (the bazari) has started to change sides from Assad to the insurgency;

Despite the efforts of imperialism to fan the flames of sectarian conflict (as they did in Iraq), putting Alawite against Sunni and vice versa, they have not succeeded;

The masses are self-arming, from the arms depots of the Assad regime . in other words many of the conditions for an armed insurrection are developing;

As imperialism did in Libya, when they realized that they could not defeat the masses and their current puppet had failed in his task of crushing the masses



absolutely, imperialism is preparing to dump Assad (he is now too discredited in the eyes of the masses); thus imperialism, just like in Libya, is getting large numbers of the old Assad regime to defect so that they can play a counter-revolutionary role from within the masses. The arming of the Free Syrian Army which is headed by ex-Assad generals (and thus completely under the thumb of imperialism), with pea-shooters from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, has failed to establish the Free Syrian Army as a leading force of the Syrian revolution against Assad. In fact the handful of arms from Qatar and Saudi Arabia was always meant as a public relations exercise, never as a real means to arm the masses. In fact the flow of arms from them was only a trickle because imperialism wanted Assad to put down the uprising. The UN Observer mission was also designed to give Assad time to crush the masses.

There are reports of a number of independent grassroots militias although it seems some of them are aligned to the Free Syrian Army.

Imperialism had to rapidly build the profile of the Free Syrian Army, as if it is the leading force among the masses against the Assad regime. Thus it is likely that they orchestrated that the Free Syrian Army carry out the bombing of the inner circle of Assad, when the inner circle was already crumbling and on the point of defeat by the masses. Imperialism cannot allow an armed revolt of the masses to overthrow any of its regimes, especially in the Middle East, as the masses in the region are likely to follow suit.

Already there are reports that the Free Syrian Army leaders are preparing to secure the neighbourhoods of the upper middle class, the Syrian bourgeois class, of the banks and the oil installations, to prevent the masses from taking them over. Just as the TNC military wing did in Libya, it is likely that the Free Syrian Army leaders would, even now, give away positions of independent militias to the Assad regime; the Free Syrian Army will limit, as much as possible any flow of arms to the masses, they would engage in tactics such as revenge killings in workers neighbourhoods in order to terrorise the masses from becoming self-armed. While fighting the Assad regime, the masses need to be mindful of the active enemy within that is collaborating with imperialism, to change the manager but keep the capitalist system intact.

The way forward

The key to the battle for Aleppo, the industrial and commercial centre of Syria, it is important for the arming of the masses in independent militias that are not under the control of the Free Syrian Army. Every factory and workplace should set up workers committees and as part of it workers militias; it is necessary for co-ordinating councils of delegates from the workers committees and militias; Every factory, oil installation and bank should be seized, placed under workers control in order to facilitate the fight for the final defeat of the entire Assad regime. Delegates should be sent to the army barracks across the country to persuade the rank and file soldiers to come over to the side of the revolution;



from among the soldiers who are defecting, a few should be asked to delay their coming for a short period, to gather intelligence and to sow distrust in the Assad generals; the soldiers who come, should try to empty the stores of the heavy weaponry required by the masses.

From the delegates of the grassroots workers committees, there should be set up a provisional revolutionary govt independent of the SNC, Free Syrian Army and any remnant of the Assad regime, subject to instant recall and based on the seizing of the commanding heights of the economy, without compensation, under workers control.

There should be set up a network of activists who agree to the above programme- this could serve as the nucleus of a revolutionary working class party, that also has as its programme the spreading of the Socialist revolution to the entire region and indeed the world. Forward to a Socialist Federation of workers states in the Middle East.

We should expect the Zionist regime, the Arab League, the Muslim Brotherhood, world imperialism, the Iranian regime, all to work together against the Syrian masses. But we should remember the world proletariat is on the side of the Syrian masses, against the Assad regime and the other puppets of imperialism, the SNC and the Free Syrian Army.

1.8.2012
WIVP



Palestinian youth protesting against the PA collaboration with zionism



Spain- the mineworkers lead the fight against capitalist attacks; what are our tasks?

The coal miners from Asturias, Leon and other regions are leading the resistance against the attacks by capitalism-imperialism in Spain. These attacks are part of the world-wide onslaught by the handful of monopoly capitalists on the masses. From Spain to China to the USA, there are huge numbers of vacant buildings, built by the giant banks- they cannot get buyers for their speculatively over-priced dwellings. This is just part of the huge debt of the capitalist banks which they want to force onto the backs of the working class. The Spanish govt wants to cut 2/3 of its subsidy to the coal mines so that workers money can be diverted to bail out the banks. The Spanish miners, who to date, have been occupying the coal mines for over 50 days now, have led the resistance, making their own weapons from the explosives from the mines, setting up barricades and launching a mass march into the industrial centres, in a bid to mobilise the entire masses behind them. On the 18th July 2012 there was a 1-day national strike called by the UGT and CCOO (the main trade union federations). 8 million came out on strike in over 80 cities, with 800 000 taking to the streets of Madrid alone. Demonstrations spilled over into the next days. The question is now about how the struggle can be taken forward.

What are our tasks?

The central obstacle to resisting the ~~a~~usterity measures is the opportunist and cowardly leadership within the workers movement. Clearly the working class is prepared to fight, but the workers leadership, corrupted by years of privileges from the tables from their capitalist masters, are unwilling to lead a decisive fight against the attacks. We need to draw the lessons from Greece to arm ourselves on developing a programme for the unfolding struggle in Spain.

The lessons from Greece

In Greece, the trade union leaders called more than 17 national one-day strikes, hoping that workers would get tired and eventually give up the fight. Strikes were of the form of stayaways from work and not occupation. When workers repeatedly surrounded parliament, the Communist Party and some of the trade union leaders prevented workers from storming it and occupying it; at times demonstrations were called the day before parliament passed further ~~a~~usterity attacks, so that workers anger did not directly clash with the parliamentary representatives; the United Secretariat of the Fourth International (Usec) and Euro-communists politically supported a bourgeois ~~w~~orkers party Syriza, as if it could solve workers problems within the capitalist framework; when the working class started, in their millions to support Syriza as a means to stop the ~~a~~usterity programme, the Communist Party and left groups like Antarsya and EEK (Worker Revolutionary Party) deliberately split the vote thereby denying the working class an opportunity to catapult Syriza into first place which would have deepened the



revolutionary crisis in Greece- to explain: Syriza stood on a platform to nationalise the banks, halt all payments to the imperialist banks (although they were for postponing the debt payments, not scrapping them), closing of Nato bases, democratizing of all state institutions. Thus on paper, Syriza had an anti-austerity platform. The tasks of revolutionaries were to help, through a critical vote for Syriza (not political support for its programme), for its total and complete exposure in the eyes of the masses. We called for the raising of a revolutionary programme (expropriation of all banks and industry, without compensation, placing these under workers control, etc), saying that Syriza is not prepared to fight for it, the workers do not yet believe us, so we will stand together with them to help Syriza become the govt. Even the task of nationalising the banks would have been something that Syriza would have begun to move away from, but the masses would have been on the march, in the streets, putting pressure on them to carry out their word. The result would have been the explosion and splitting into pieces of Syriza, not only that, but the exposure of parliamentarism and along with it, the direct proof to the masses that they need to set up their own organs of power to disperse parliament once and for all. If Syriza had begun to take steps to nationalise the banks and if there was any threat of tossing it out of the EU, the workers could have appealed to the French and German workers to come to their aid, to oppose their own regimes, themselves responsible for the capitalist attacks on the working class there. (in fact even in the case of workers overthrowing a Syriza govt and taking power themselves, an appeal to the rest of the working class in Europe would also have a similar result). The prospect of an all-Europe uprising, a revolutionary general strike, leading to the overthrow of capitalist EU and the creation of a Socialist, workers controlled Europe, was on the agenda. As it is, after many months of 1-day strikes, and now a defeat at the elections, there has been temporary demobilization and demoralisation of the masses, while Syriza can still play the role of opposition to the anti-austerity measures, maintaining some form of credibility. The new ND govt in Greece is now rapidly proceeding with wholesale privatization without so much as a mass protest outside parliament. The betrayal of the working class in Greece can be laid at the doors of the opportunist leadership of the left. Of course, empty vessels like the FLTI, had no position on the elections, no programme to march with the masses to expose Syriza, only to stand of the roof tops shouting that the workers had to form soviets and take power.

A draft programme for Spain

The first point is to recognize the opportunist nature of the leadership of the Spanish working class movement, not only of the leadership of the CGT and CCOO but also of the mineworkers unions. Why does the mineworkers union leaders limit their demands to implement the goal plan (agreed to last year) which is nothing but a more gradual way of implementing the same attacks on miners?

Second, the same trend among the worker leaders of calling one-day stayaways is also present. Further, the strikes are not occupations but only stayaways- so



they protect the bosses from workers posing the question of who the real owners are.

Third, the central demand of the mineworkers should be to extend the occupation to nationalising the mines, without compensation to any capitalists, under workers control. This also means seizing the books and taking control of all accounts. This leads to the call for all industries that are related to the mines also being nationalised without compensation, placing them under workers control. The call for nationalisation must go hand in hand for a mineworkers inspection of the books of all the banks that claim to be in debt and in need of bailout. This is part of the struggle for the expropriation of the banks, without compensation to the capitalists and for these to be centralised and brought under workers control. At the same time, the demand must be raised of a sliding scale of wages- wages should rise as prices rise- workers cannot be held responsible for any bankruptcy of any capitalist. Further the demand has to be raised of a sliding scale of hours- namely that hours of work must be reduced in line with the number of unemployed, whether local or immigrant, without reduction in wages.

The call for nationalization under workers control is not something that will fall from the sky, it has to be fought for and defended. The workers committees should be extended include all temporary and non-unionised workers. The current workers militias should be extended across all mines and related industries as part of the workers committees, and from here throughout all sectors of the economy and working class neighbourhoods. We should realize that the ~~indignados~~ are dominated by the middle class and thus was unable to lead and go beyond occupation of the squares. The middle class domination of the ~~indignados~~ was also the reason why they were so anti-party and limited.

Nationalisation of the mines under workers control, and expropriation of the banks will lead to the need for the books of the French, UK, German and US banks to be opened and inspected by worker-controlled committees. Thus the struggle to expropriate the Spanish banks leads to the unification of struggles in all the imperialist centres. Currently the Spanish banks and companies like Repsol parasite on workers in South America. The fight to expropriate the Spanish banks leads directly to a call for their expropriation, without compensation, under workers control in South America and other semi-colonies where they operate.

The occupation of the mines leads also directly to the question of who controls the food and thus the land. Thus there directly rises the question of the nationalising of all the land, expropriation without compensation of the commercial farms under workers control and support to the small peasantry through cheap finance and implements.

Further, there has to be raised the question of the right to self-determination of the Basque and Catalan masses. But the central oppressive regime which acts



for the banks that also plunder these regions as well, is the same class enemy which oppresses and exploits the rest of the Spanish masses. Thus under the slogan of the right to self-determination of nations, all the masses in Spain should unite against our common enemy, the Spanish regime.

On the important question of the army: already in some demonstrations some of the riot police took off their helmets and stood with the demonstrators. This shows that there must be deep divisions within the army, which the regime deliberately keeps off the streets. Workers should send delegates to all the army barracks, calling on the rank and file soldiers to elect delegates and to join the workers councils and the workers militias that should be spread throughout Spain.

The reformists are centralised and organised, the imperialists are centralised and organised. Workers have different levels of class consciousness. We need a brain that unites the working class fighters against the opportunists within the movement and against the capitalist class and its parties. We need a party, in Spain and internationally.

Once again, the Usec is calling for support for a bourgeois ~~left~~, the IU, wanting to turn the fight into elections; the Committee for a Workers International, CWI calls for 48 hour strikes, which will just tire out workers and protect big capital; the empty vessels of the FLTI offer no programme for the working class- they cover the domination of the ~~indignados~~ by the middle class, they call for all the ministers to leave, but offer no way to proceed from the current conditions to the creation of dual power by the working class.

The setting up of a revolutionary International will take place based on a struggle against the reformist, centrist, stalinist middle class tendencies within the working class movement.

This is the path to workers power in Spain, dispersing parliament, overthrowing the monarchy and the capitalist regime. This is inextricably linked to the struggle for a United, Socialist, worker-controlled Europe- an important part of the struggle for world Socialism.

27.7.2012 amended 1.8.2012
WIVP



Support the public sector and municipal workers in their struggle for a living wage- Forward to a solidarity general strike

The ANC-SACP govt with the active support of the DA is trying to impose a 6.5% wage cut on public sector and municipal workers. Inside the workers movement, the union leaders are helping the state by rapidly lowering workers demands to 7.9% (public sector) and 11.5% (municipal sector). Why are the union leaders in such an indecent haste to settle the wage disputes? It is because the capitalist class fear that any mass strike could spark an Egyptian type uprising, this is why the union leaders help the imperialists, the big capitalists, Anglo American and others, to keep control of the masses. We remember 2 years ago how Vavi and co flew around the country convincing workers to accept the peanuts from the state. Yet when Anglo American takes R600bn every year out of the country through fraud (transfer pricing- exporting goods at declared value far below what their real value is), the Cosatu, ANC and SACP do nothing. Here is the money for not only workers increases but for creating decent jobs for all, including the millions of unemployed youth. Here are the funds for proper service delivery to all. Besides these billions, Anglo American and other capitalists take out over R600 bn in profits every year. The ANC-SACP regime has lowered company taxes from 48% in the apartheid days to 28% today. The state wants to give R3 trillion to Anglo American and others for the fake infrastructure programme but they do not even have a plan for decent housing for all, nor even for jobs for all. The main obstacle to a real fight against the continued capitalist slavery, is the current leadership within the workers movement.

The ANC-SACP-DA wants to take our pension money

Now the Cosatu leaders and their alliance partners in the SACP and ANC, want to tell workers that there is no money! Already, the state has taken billions from the pension funds of the public sector workers to pay for the scam e-tolling. Now the ANC-SACP (with the full support of the DA) want to take our provident fund monies. By the 1st March 2014, any worker who loses his/her job will not be allowed to take their provident fund monies. You will have to wait for retirement age. Thus workers monies will stay with the banks and private companies who will use it. Workers will starve and die without this money but the state does not care. Workers cannot even commit suicide for their families to access these funds as workers will lose the employer contribution in such cases. Most workers die before the age of 50 so the state seizing your provident fund monies will only benefit the banks. The banks are all controlled by imperialist companies such as JP Morgan Chase, the main shareholder of Anglo American.

Forward to a solidarity general strike- resist the betrayal by the union leaders

Food, transport, rent, school fees, medical expenses, clothing, goes up all the time but wages are falling (what we could buy with a R10 last year, today we need a R12 or more). The public sector and municipal workers are vulnerable, as a strike by them does not directly affect capitalist production. This is why need to start preparation NOW for a solidarity general strike in support of their demands. If the state succeeds in lowering the wages then all sectors will face the same attacks by the capitalists. Let us unite all workers in general strike committees, permanent or casual, local or immigrant, unionised or un-unionised. Let us prepare the way for a workers summit with delegates from the employed and unemployed and rank and file soldiers, to open the way for an indefinite general strike for a decent wage and work for all, for adequate service delivery for all. Only the organised working class can stop the capitalist theft, can really expropriate Anglo American and other monopolies, without compensation, placing them under workers control. Share the work among all who can work, without loss of pay. Away with multi-year agreements. Away with labour brokers and casualization. Fill all vacant posts with permanent workers. Equal pay for equal work! Hands off our pension funds! Forward to workers power! Break the alliance with the capitalist ANC-SACP! We need a revolutionary workers party, independent of the state and capital. **Forward to Socialism! Workers International Vanguard Party 18.7.2012 ph 0822020617**



Mandela day – another view

It's almost 18th July and once again the capitalist press go into Mandela-hysteria once again- ~~let's~~ all sing praises to Madiba they shout from the rooftops. Let us examine the real contribution of the man:

In June 1956 (one year after the adoption of the Freedom Charter), Mandela, in the newspaper, **The Liberator**, gave the following interpretation about the so-called nationalization clause of the Freedom Charter: all the monopolies shall be broken up to create a new non-European bourgeois class

In other words, the aim of nationalization was not to benefit the entire masses but only a tiny section of new black capitalists. Not surprising therefore, in the political negotiations, Mandela led the way to ensure that private property is entrenched (see clause 25 of the Constitution), namely that the riches gained through plunder and robbery by the monopolies like Anglo American cannot be touched (if expropriation is to take place it must be at over-inflated market values and only on property seized after 19 June 1913 by which time the bulk of the land was already in monopoly hands). It is true that the people are sharing because the capitalists are part of the people. It is just that according to Madiba, the ANC and Anglo American, the capitalists get the biggest share while the working class and fellow poor get next to nothing.

Further, while the monopoly capitalists have given Mandela a few crumbs and blankets to hand out, every year they carry out of the country over R1000bn in profits and in plain theft (every year up to 20% of GDP, about R600bn of the R3 trillion GDP, is taken out by Anglo American and other monopolies through transfer pricing- the deliberate under-invoicing of the value of goods exported). The hundreds of billions of apartheid debt that was built up by the previous regime, which was used to suppress the masses, the ANC and Mandela have been paying off. The Mandela presidency started the process of lowering the tax rate for capitalists from 48% to 28%, directly shifting the burden of public funds onto the impoverished masses. The ongoing plunder of the wealth being overseen by the ANC, and entrenched by Madiba, has led to the drastic shortening of the lifespan of the masses. Most workers will never reach retirement age. Millions of youth will never get work; millions of workers remain homeless or stuck in ghettos, millions still receive slave wages. While President, Mandela came to the Cosatu Congress to insult the workers- accept GEAR (the IMF structural adjustment programme) or the ANC will abandon Cosatu. How many millions are suffering today because of the pro-capitalist agenda of Mandela and the ANC? This is the legacy of Madiba.

How ironic that Mandela and others were caught while on the Rivonia farm which was owned by Zionist Goldreich. Goldreich was a proud member of the Palmach, a fascist armed force of Zionism that led the slaughter of countless thousands of Palestinians in 1948 and subsequently. Israel was rewarded for its close links with Mandela through an accord signed in 1995, during the Mandela presidency,



that agreed to expanded trade and cultural links, including a massive amount of arms that the ANC regime would send to Israel. It was the CIA, with its close links to the Palmach that assisted the apartheid regime to capture Mandela and others.

Mandela cannot even be called an Uncle Tom; this would be too generous- Uncle Tom never claimed to be a liberator.

Most of the diamonds from South Africa are still sent by Anglo American to Israel to be cut and polished. Coal from Anglo American mines are still that which keeps the Israel power stations operating. South African-based imperialist companies, hiding behind the Madiba democratic face, continue and expand the plunder of large tracts of Africa. Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, the DRC are direct hostages of Anglo American. SA troops, being paid by the ANC regime, R50 000 per month, guard Anglo American operations in the DRC while millions are killed around them.

Such is the real significance of Mandela day. The Cosatu leaders threaten violence against anyone who dares to criticize it. They are fond of invoking the collective. Yes, that is true, the betrayals by Mandela must be shouldered by the collective leadership of the ANC, SACP and Cosatu. Cosatu needs to break from the treacherous alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP. We need a revolutionary working class party that is independent of big capital and the capitalist state. It must be internationalist, to face imperialism that controls not only South Africa but Southern Africa and indeed the entire Africa.

16.7.2012 Workers International Vanguard Party ph 0822020617
workersinternational@gmail.com website www.workersinternational.org.za, 1st floor,
Community House, 41 Salt River rd Salt River 7925 ph 0214476777



Spanish mineworkers march through the cities



Rammulutsi Rehata MMoho Crisis Committee statement on Mandela day 2012

The exposure of open toilets in Viljoenskroon, despite the promises of the ANC govt to build enclosures more than a year ago, shows us the true meaning of Mandela day 2012. Mandela has 5 mansions, lives among the rich, while the masses do not even have enclosed toilets. To the ANC and Mandela, we are only good enough to be given blankets and empty promises, while the rich are carrying off the wealth of the country every day, living in luxury.

The ANC has signed away the wealth of the country to the capitalists; indeed they are a capitalist govt- such a disgrace of open toilets would never happen in Sandton. We thought this was our govt but now we realize that this is the govt of the rich, of the capitalists.

Yes, we realize that we will only get our basic needs when the mines, farms and banks are nationalized. But we now we understand that the ANC govt will never nationalize, we as the working class have to do it ourselves.

While the ANC leaders pay themselves millions and billions, they want to force low wages and labour broking and youth slavery onto the working class. This we can never allow. We call on the entire working class to stand shoulder to shoulder with us to fight this cruel capitalist system. We need Socialism and this we will only achieve through our own struggles against the ANC govt- this is what Mandela Day 2012 means to us.

17.7.2012



Unenclosed toilets in Rammulutsi



Two Israeli military veterans burn themselves to death

On the 14th July 2012 58 year old Israeli military veteran Moshe Silwan set himself on fire, protesting against the high cost of living and high housing prices. He died a few days later. Within days another military veteran, Akiva Mafaq, also set himself alight. He also died. Moshe Silwan, in a suicide letter that was mass distributed, said that he was homeless and ~~to~~ blame the state of Israel. The 14th July marked the first anniversary of the occupation of the centre of cities in Israel, mostly by youth, of hundreds of thousands. This was an extension of the protests in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Spain, Greece, into the bastion of imperialist reaction in the Middle East.

Just imagine, being fed lies for decades, believing the Zionist credo that all Israelis are equal, that the greatest danger to them were the ~~terrorist~~ Palestinians because they dared to fight against the Israeli state. How many Palestinians were brutalised, some killed, all in the name of ~~all~~ Israelis are equal. And now? The very military veterans who had to carry out the most brutal attacks on Palestinians over decades, some who perished thinking they were fighting for a noble cause, are dumped by the same Israeli state they were defending, homeless, unable to pay their medical bills, unable to afford the food. At the same time the children of the Israeli elite were cushioned from being sent to the ~~front lines~~. The kibbutzim, long artificially kept going by state subsidies, have mostly collapsed. Israel has a huge foreign debt, 44% of GDP; the same imperialist banks that are fleecing the working class in Egypt, in Syria, in Greece, in Spain, are also fleecing the masses in Israel. The top 20% of Israeli society own more than 60% of the wealth. The Israeli state officials now openly admit that it is capitalist. The privileges of many decades have been undercut by the crisis of world capitalism, exposing the true position of the Jewish worker in Israel as being exploited by the Zionist elite, the local capitalist class which is totally dependent on world imperialism. A section of the Israeli masses realize that the Zionist state is their enemy. This marks a historic crack in the Zionist state machinery.

The Israeli regime and imperialism are desperate to blur the class lines by actively promoting a clash with Iran on artificial grounds. It is highly likely that the Israeli state was behind the bombing of Israeli tourists in Bulgaria, so desperate they are to maintain the siege-mentality among Israelis. [The alleged bomber apparently spoke with a Russian accent . many Israelis are from Russia].

The way forward

A crack in the repressive apparatus of the capitalist state is one of pre-conditions for a successful Socialist revolution. The first step is to recognize is that the Jewish worker in Israel is part of the world working class, tied to the fate of the



Palestinian worker and poor peasant, tied to the US worker that is rising up against the 1%, tied to the Spanish mineworkers who are leading the fight against the Spanish capitalist regime, tied to the Egyptian worker rising against the US-backed military junta, tied to the Lebanese worker repressed by its regime, tied to the Syrian worker who is fighting the Assad regime, tied to the South African worker exploited on the diamond and coal mines of Anglo American, tied to the Congolese worker killed by US imperialism for the raw materials for electronic products, tied to the Chinese worker fighting against the Stalinist regime that is the subcontractor for US imperialism, etc.

There are sufficient resources and land for the return of all Palestinian refugees as well as all who are in Israel. What is necessary is the expropriation of the Zionist elite, the capitalist class. It is necessary to nationalise the land, expropriate the banks and the construction industry, without compensation to the capitalist class, placing it under workers control, be it Palestinian, Jewish or immigrant worker. It is necessary to recognize that Israel has been constructed, by force, on part of the land of historic Palestine. The time has come to tear down the walls and checkpoints in and around the West Bank and Gaza. The time has come for the Jewish worker to march shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian worker and poor peasant against the Zionist regime. The time has come to stop the expulsion of African and other immigrants. It is necessary to end the occupation of the Golan heights.

You will find that there are opportunists within the Jewish and Palestinian masses, who, because of the crumbs they receive from imperialism, will do everything to divert the masses from uniting in mass action against the Zionist state. The Palestinian Authority is a subcontractor for the Zionist elite and imperialism. Israel was created as an artificial state to divide the working class in the Middle East, so that imperialism could plunder the region from the 1940s up to now. Thus a fight against the Zionist state means that you will have to face up to and oppose world imperialism.

What is needed is a brain to unite the Jewish and Palestinian working class in the fight against the Zionist state- this means the formation of a working class party that is part of a revolutionary International, for us this is the refounded Fourth International. The fight against the Zionist state is inextricably linked to the fight against all the imperialist puppet regimes in the region, uniting the working class in the region against all the regimes and establishing a Federation of Socialist states of the Middle East. But this is also inextricably linked to the fight to overthrow the world capitalist system, not least in the imperialist centres, eg USA.

For a revolutionary workers government based on workers councils uniting Jewish, Palestinian and immigrant workers, including all the Palestinians from the diaspora and the refugee camps. Representatives of the poor peasantry should also form their own councils and be part of the workers government. WIVP
1.8.2012



Brief comments on the congress on the 13th Congress of the SACP

These are not Communists; they have comfortable positions in the state apparatus and are not leading not any of the working class mass struggles. In fact the SACP moves to the right, while the world working class moves to the left. They have no real plans to nationalise Sasol under workers control, it's only rhetoric. The NDR (National Democratic Revolution) is a Stalinist notion of a two stage revolution- that is that the leadership of the struggle for bourgeois democratic demands (such as nationalising the land) are placed in the hands of middle class, in this case, the multi-class ANC. We see now only few black middle class get rich. After 1994, we can more clearly see that once in government the black middle class has lost its revolutionism. They have even entrenched the group areas and levels of poverty are deeper while the capitalists, the imperialists make the highest profits ever. The basic democratic demands can only be achieved by the working class taking power.

The SACP argues for a developmental state but what we see is a state that is an organ of oppression of the working class by the capitalist class. In the capitalist state, the capitalist class controls the means of production. Now the SACP want introduce a 3rd stage, after Mangaung (a second phase of the transition to democracy). The SACP is not a vanguard party for the working class, it is in alliance with the capitalist ANC, where black middle class fight one another for crumbs of their capitalist masters. By its next Congress the SACP will introduce a 4th stage of the transition to democracy, etc etc).

We live in a capitalist state that is dominated by the imperialism, we the working class needs to struggle take power into our own hands; we will not take a single step forward without this. The fate of the working class in SA is interconnected with the fate of working class regionally and internationally. The workers must break decisively from the capitalist SACP/ANC. We need to establish working class parties as part of a revolutionary International.

**FORWARD TO REFOUND THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
FORWARD SOCIALISM**

July 2012



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.

