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ANC, SACP and Cosatu leaders trash the strikers- time to break this capitalist alliance. The state tries to de-register WIVL

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Contact details:

International centre: fltinternational@ymail.com

South Africa: workersinternational@gmail.com

Zimbabwe: workersinternationaleague@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

This edition has been delayed by a few weeks due to reasons beyond our control. There are a number of issues that we promised to respond on in our last edition that time and space does not allow us to do. As soon as we have completed articles we will put them up on our website so that those with access to internet could begin to access them. So please keep a look out. The issues which we are working hard on are Syria, the bid for statehood by the Palestine Authority, the question of nationalization, a statement on Chile, responding to the Diagnostic report on South Africa prepared by Trevor Manuel. We are also awaiting a follow-up article on the caregivers struggle in the Eastern Cape. At the CCMA hearing of the caregivers the CCMA issued 2 different notices for the hearing. Now they want the caregivers, after waiting almost 2 years, to re-submit their cases individually.

We have hope that from our next issue, that isiXhosa translations will be making a come-back. Thus we hope within the 3 weeks that our next issue will be out.

Meanwhile we have received more correspondence, challenging our views on Greece, which we hope to respond to. We also have other letters and responses on our views on Pan Africanism that we have long neglected to answer. We hope to publish an article on Mayday and the working class in our next issue. We also hope to respond to the new military Commission that the state has set up to get the soldiers under control again. On the other hand there are more contributors to the paper which is a very good development.

We have received a letter from the **Electoral Commission threatening to take away our registration as a political party**. This is part of the greater need for imperialism and the capitalist class to close down the available democratic space that has been won over years of struggle. This is part of a general crackdown on the working class that is ever-developing. The ruling capitalist class is expecting an explosion in South Africa and are taking steps to neutralize any group that they perceive could become a possible threat in the near future.

Another left tendency, producers of Qina Msebenzi, also supported the fight of the backyard dwellers in Tafelsig against eviction by the state. Unfortunately a section of the dwellers who were living on the field made false affidavits to the effect that their leaders had allegedly collected money from them and had promised them plots. The Qina Msebenzi group made no effort to correct this even though they are working closely with the group that made the false statements. The main 'defence' of those resisting eviction was to say they were misled into occupying the field as they had allegedly paid money and were allegedly promised plots. The state then launched a witch-hunt against the leaders who put themselves at the head of a spontaneous action of the working class to occupy vacant land due to the failure of the 'housing list' and the state's failure to provide housing. Focus was taken away from political exposure of the state housing programme and directed to those who found themselves at the

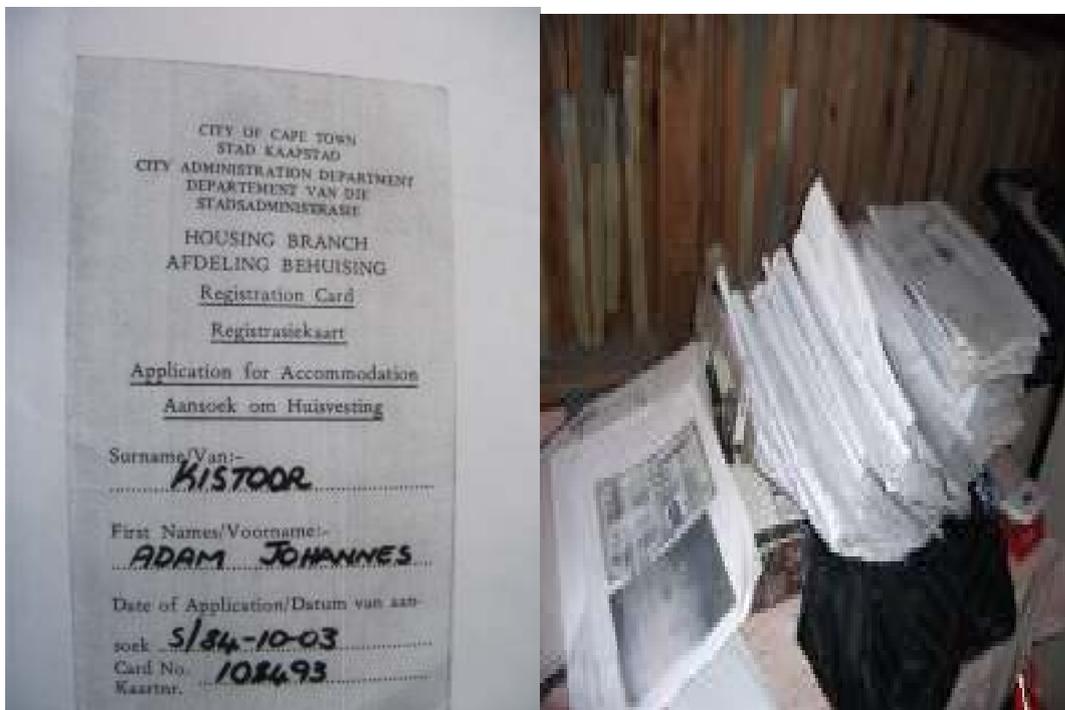


leadership of the movement. As a result when we presented proof that the leadership of the backyarders were innocent, we were hunted down by the police and had to make a statement on the matter.

In summary this is what we said: *The crime is that everywhere there are vacant spaces but the state does not build housing for the masses. The state has billions for building stadiums but not much when it comes to building houses for the working class. The leadership of the Mitchell's Plain backyarders did not promise plots to the people nor did they collect money from them. We heard that the police were shooting people in Tafelsig and we went there to support the people.*

The Qina Msebenzi people issued a call for people to open up their houses to the 21 families due to the pending eviction. When we exposed their role in the fight they called on us to open our homes to the 21 families. What the Qina Msebenzi is doing is shielding the state from the anger of the masses. It is the state's responsibility to provide housing for those that they attempt to evict- they should be resisted every step of the way- we should not make it easier for them to make one of their problems go away.

The working class should take note that in this fight, the Qina Msebenzi was not on the same side of the barricades as the masses. Watch out for these people- we need to learn the lesson, when the class struggle intensifies further, what role will they play? Already they claim that the uprising of the masses in Syria is an imperialist-inspired coup.



The capitalist courts refuse to see that thousands of homeless on the list- many have been waiting since well before 1994. Johannes Kistoor has been waiting since 1984



A WORKER'S VIEW OF THE SAMWU STRIKE- A BETRAYAL BY THE LEADERSHIP

Introduction: We Samwu workers started the strike wave last year, that continues this year where the grassroots are starting to break from the Alliance with the ANC/SACP. When the public sector workers were demanding 12%, Vavi and the rest of the Cosatu leadership came to the rescue of the government and big capital by declaring that 7.5% was good enough for the workers. But this year, they, the Cosatu leadership, stopped us as Samwu when we were on the brink of strike action before the 18th May elections. The ANC accused us Samwu workers for holding them hostage before the elections. They, the ANC leaders, promised to address our demands but after the elections, the Vice President Motlanthe, addressed Samwu members, brushing us aside and accusing us of sidestepping SALGA, the local government negotiations agency, which is controlled by the ANC. Motlanthe is also a member of the SACP- so the question is who is holding the workers to ransom? The ANC, SACP and Cosatu leaders! In short, the alliance keeps the workers at bay. This time, the leadership deliberately isolated the Samwu workers because they knew months ago that virtually every sector was in deadlock- the metal, chemical, paper, contract cleaning, mining, public sector. Yet the Cosatu leadership postponed the Central Committee which was due to take place before the 18th May elections. On Mayday the leaders turned the rallies into a platform for the ANC, instead of using Mayday for uniting the struggles and preparing for a general strike, after all, Mayday is international workers day.

The Strike: The pamphlet that the union issued was not properly structured: there was no information on how long the strike was going to last- there was no call for an indefinite strike; there was little motivation, no dates of actions, no programme. The leaflet called for the building of strike committees and uniting with communities, but there were no strike committees, no building of links with communities and other workers who were on strike. In fact during the strike the website of Samwu was not updated regularly, giving little information about the strike action. Other Samwu leaflets were issued where the leaders of the union claimed that inflation for workers was 8%- how can the leaders undermine the workers demand for 18%. [Even the capitalist National Agricultural Marketing Council, NAMC, recently admitted that inflation for workers was 11.7%]. We as workers are the most affected by electricity price increases which has gone up by 31 percent; fuel has gone up by more than 20% and food prices go up every week. It seems the leaders are preparing us for a settlement of 8% or less, far below what our demands are. Any concession below 18% will further impoverish the working class and would be a betrayal of our demands. The leadership is pre-empting our demands by sending signals to Salga that if they merely come up with any better offer, they as the leadership will call off the strike. Throughout the strike the leaders were begging Salga, through the media, to come to the table



with a revised offer. At the first march in Cape Town there was also 6 thousand workers, there were only a few posters of some of our demands. The leaders shouted slogans of 'Down with Salga'. The union leaders agreed with the local Salga leaders that we should march through the back streets of the city. The workers showed their protest against the leaders by marching 1 km into the city next to the castle, before turning back. At the civic centre the leaders of Cosatu addressed us, that if Samwu calls on Cosatu there will be solidarity strike action and said that all of Cosatu is fighting for a double digit increase.

On the second day of the strike, with the second march to hand over a memorandum to Salga, the workers forced a change of the route, and this time were shouting at the leadership. There was nothing the leaders could do but follow the strikers. The workers took over Darling and Adderley streets. Within seconds the police closed us down. The streets were aflame.

At the picket lines there was no direction, no placards, workers stood idle, waiting for the leadership to address them. During the strike action, the union leaders admitted they had no plan beyond the first 3 days. The leadership of Cosatu condemned the 'looting' by the strikers and the 'trashing' of Cape Town, 'we condemn this and you will not do this under the banner of Cosatu'. But who was looting the working class? Since 2008-9 over one million workers were dismissed in South Africa; the government spent over R100 bn on the World cup, most of which went to the capitalist monopolies like JP Morgan Chase and the Bank of New York that controls the construction industry. When there was a peaceful occupation of vacant land in Hangberg and Mitchell's Plain, the police and the state destroyed these; some workers and youth had their eyes shot out.

During the strike the City of Cape Town applied for an interdict against the Samwu strikers over alleged acts of violence and intimidation and to get the staff in essential services to return to work. The newspapers like the Argus deliberately exaggerated the actions of the workers in their reports to help the City obtain the interdict. The union did not react on the City's actions. Some workers were arrested and some were shot at during the strike. Also, during the strike, the contract cleaners who work for labour brokers, were also on strike and had organised a march. The leaders of Satawu chased us as Samwu workers away from their march- this actions from the Cosatu leaders divided us. The leaders of Samwu left the workers idle by saying that the strike is only for a few days- some workers were confused and returned to work. After one week of the strike, the employers did not move from their original offer. The strike in Cape Town made national headlines and put pressure on the government to come to the negotiating table. But the government did not move from their original offer. There was a report back meeting saying that the government did not move yet- there was silence from the floor. Suddenly, 10 days into the strike the leadership dropped the demand from 18% to 10%- this was announced through the media, not through general meetings of strikers. Workers were upset. Still the government stuck to 6%. Our sister union, Imatu, joined the strike later and organised a march. At first they said we could join them. While workers were



gathering, suddenly the leadership of Imatu said we cannot join them. Further, both leaderships of Imatu and Samwu separated us. The officials of Samwu chased us workers into the buses where they addressed us. In a few seconds we were surrounded by the police, who ordered us to leave within ten minutes. The officials tried to negotiate with the police. The officials instructed us to leave- there should not be unnecessary arrests- we should go to the depots where we will get feedback. After we had left we heard that the officials were arrested. There was no report back during the day. Over the weekend the NEC of Samwu had a special meeting and suspended the strike action.

During the strike there was no effort to organise the contract workers and casuals to unite in action. The strikers were weakened by the workers in Gauteng, who had problems with the leadership; most workers there did not come out on strike.

The Lessons:

The first lesson to draw is that the Cosatu leaders and the SACP is responsible for cracking down on Samwu strikers. If the Samwu workers achieved 18% it would have set a benchmark for the rest of the working class. It would have been a blow against Vavi and the rest of the Cosatu leaders who came to the rescue of the government and big capital by declaring that 7.5% was good enough for the workers. If the fight for 18% was raised for the whole working class, an 'Egyptian' uprising would have broken out here. The role of the SACP and the Cosatu leaders is to prevent at all costs that a workers revolution breaks out here. This is the real meaning of 'deepening the national democratic revolution' rather than fighting for workers power with working class methods. The 'national democratic revolution' is a Stalinist means to keep a tiny section of the black middle class as the managers for big capital, the real rulers of the country, the entire continent and the world.

Another lesson was that the strike was weakened by the members in Gauteng, the biggest region, who did not support the strike because they had problems with the leaders- they should have joined the strike and used the whole fight to change the leadership. When the government saw that workers were divided, they became more arrogant.

The living wage campaign was defeated from within by the Cosatu leaders as each sector was left to fight in their own corners. Most sectors were in deadlock yet the Cosatu leaders did not call a unified action, a general strike, as was the original aim of the living wage campaign. Now that workers have been exhausted by strikes in their known sectors, the Cosatu leaders want to call a symbolic 1 day strike over labour-broking on the 5th October. After this day the Cosatu leaders will sit down with the government to sell out the fight against labour broking by agreeing on new regulations, 'tightening' the regulations but in reality entrenching slave conditions.



What weapon do municipal workers have if we strike on our own? The Cosatu leaders deliberately kept the heavy industrial sectors separated from us, and us from them. It is understandable that many workers helped trashing the very Cities that have long been trashing workers. It was wrong to target informal traders, many of whom are immigrants, even though it was only the minority of strikers who were doing this. We cannot discount that there were provocateurs (sent by the very state and big capital) who were deliberately planted among us to instigate such attacks on the traders and lower middle class. Some workers fell into this trap. In future we must guard against such instigation. We must remain focused on big capital who are the real rulers of the country.

The actions of the leaders has the result of weakening and demoralising the Samwu members- there was little preparation, no plan of action beyond 3 days. The workers were left idle and isolated, which led to disillusionment. There were little updates on the website, no plans at the picket lines and marches, with few posters. The actions of the Samwu, Cosatu and SACP leaders betrayed the strike and then they blamed the workers. The strike action was directed against Salga, but this was only superficial because the strike was really against the ANC-SACP and Cosatu leaders who are in alliance with big capital. In fact Salga is an alliance of the ANC, DA and IFP, against the workers.

As long as workers are in alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP or have any alliance with big capital, our struggles will always be betrayed from within-this is the main lesson of the strike.

The Way Forward:

Contract workers that work across the country in the municipal and cleaning sectors must be made permanent immediately. In future, Samwu and Imatu workers should come out at the same time to make the strike action stronger. There is a need for mass strike mandating committees to counter the ease by which the leaders could water down and change the mandate of the workers. There should also be mass gatherings of strikers at the venues of the negotiations to pressurize the leaders and to assist in preventing them from backing down from workers demands. The negotiating team should be broader, with mass participation from the workers. We need to form a workers faction in Cosatu on the basis of the following:

- Break the alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP
- Kick out the leadership of Cosatu who are in alliance with big capital
- Replace the leaders with new independent worker militants
- Bring back the right of instant recall of all leaders, top to bottom
- Democratise the unions to break the Stalinist bureaucratic structure where a small clique can control everything
- Form an independent, vanguard workers party that fights for international socialism
- Call a workers summit to prepare the way for a general strike, centralizing all the demands of the working class, such as work for all, including all immigrant and casual workers



- Down with multi-year agreements- wages should rise as prices rise. Join Workers International Vanguard League (WIVL) to carry forward the fight for the programme of the Fourth International today.

Cosatu leaders trash the municipal workers, the contract cleaners and the rest of the working class

At the recent Cosatu CEC the leaders condemned workers who were 'trashing' the cities. The leaders have turned their back on the strikers. Who have been trashing the cities and the working class for hundreds of years? The capitalist class! Millions of workers live in squalor in squatter camps for many years while the capitalist class live in huge mansions. Every year the capitalist class takes hundreds of billions of Rands in profits offshore. These profits are made off the backs of permanently keeping the masses in squalor and starvation. Although there is enough material to solve the housing crisis overnight, the ANC-SACP government trashes the working class by refusing to build enough housing- they prefer to make the capitalists rich by guaranteeing them hundreds of billions of Rands in profit in food, housing, electricity, health, transport, etc. Of this institutionalized trashing of the working class the Cosatu leaders keep silent.

The Cosatu leaders also condemned strikers for damaging capitalist property during the metal and chemical strikes. Property, ie the riches of the capitalist class, gained by trashing workers, must be respected they said. The ANC government organised police escorts of petrol tankers that contributed to breaking the back of the chemical strike. In the end the chemical sector workers had to accept a measly 7%. The ANC government trashed the strikers but now the Cosatu leaders want workers to celebrate 100 years of the ANC! This is an insult to the working class.

Food prices go up every week, electricity increases by 25-31% every year, the petrol price has doubled but Cosatu leaders leave the Samwu strikers isolated when they demand 18%, leaves the contract cleaners isolated when they demand a double-digit increase. The same US and UK banks control the food, construction, mining, 'local' banks and really every sector of the economy, but the Cosatu leaders refused to call a general strike to unite the working class against the high cost of living imposed by these international banks. The Cosatu leaders leave the workers to fight on their own, sector by sector, thus dividing the resistance of the working class. Only in the metal and mining were workers strong enough to win temporary concessions. The public sector union leaders have betrayed their base by settling for 6.8%, without a fight. The Satawu and Imatu leaders chased Samwu strikers away from their marches- the bosses are full of praise for their sweetheart Cosatu and Imatu leaders.

We do not agree with those Samwu Gauteng workers who did not come out on strike because they had disagreements with the Cosatu leaders. This has further weakened the municipal strike. The contract cleaners are all working for labour brokers- there should have been a solidarity general strike in support of them and the municipal strikers. We need to deal politically with the Cosatu leaders who



betray the working class. The alliance of Cosatu with the ANC and SACP means that the Cosatu leaders are the chief shopstewards of the big bosses within the ranks of the workers movement. It is time to break this alliance that trashes the working class. Let us start mobilising to break this alliance with big capital and to kick out the current leaders who are in the pockets of the bosses. We need a revolutionary working class party that unites activists in the communities with those in the unions, that unites the employed and unemployed, that immediately strives to be part of an international fraction of the working class that fights to end the world capitalist system.

The bosses are preparing to continue with increasing prices even further and with a new round of mass retrenchments. The current Cosatu leaders have shown that they will act to block, weaken and divide workers resistance. These leaders must go. We need a workers summit that unites delegates from the employed and unemployed, irrespective if unionised or not, permanent or casual, local or immigrant, the worker and rank and file soldier, to prepare the way for a general strike in defence of workers demands to take real control of the commanding heights of the economy. Not merely a 1 day symbolic action on 5th October 2011 against labour brokers to strike a deal with big capital and the ANC to have casualization continue. Forward to the refounding of the Fourth International! Forward to Socialism!

29.8.2011. Workers International Vanguard League, 1st Floor, Community House, 41 Salt River rd, Salt River 7925. ph 021 4476777 ph 0822020617 email workersinternational@gmail.com website www.workersinternational.org.za

Open letter to the members of Samwu Gauteng

Workers International Vanguard League makes an urgent appeal to the members of Samwu Gauteng to stand together with your fellow workers in the rest of the country who are currently on strike. We are aware that you have a number of problems around the Pikitup strike, last year's strike and the changes in law which weaken the role of the union in appointments in the municipal sector, etc. The root of the problem is the alliance of Cosatu with the capitalist ANC and SACP.

What is at stake in the current strike?

Firstly, by not striking together with other workers around the country strengthens the resolve of the ANC-SACP-DA-IFP alliance (in Salga) to enforce a 6 % 'increase', which in the light of the huge increases in prices, is actually a wage cut. The demand for a 'double digit' increase comes from the rank and file worker, not the Cosatu leaders. Remember last year, the Cosatu leaders travelled around the country telling strikers in the public sector that 7.5% is good enough. This year, when the workers started rebelling against the 7.5% wage cuts and the multi-year agreements, the Cosatu leaders tried their best to isolate and divide workers by letting each sector go out on their own instead of uniting



them as one fist, as was the original aim of the Living Wage campaign in the 1980's.

Secondly, whatever level is achieved in the municipal sector will act as a benchmark for other workers who are fighting for better wages and conditions. To support the strike now means to support the entire working class in the fight against the capitalist system itself. During 2008 the capitalists made over R600 bn in profits and since then have made at least R500 bn in profits each year. This is the highest level ever in the history- more than even the bosses used to make in the days of apartheid. So by the Cosatu leaders saying that 7.5% is good enough for workers, they are directly protecting the most brutal exploitation by international capital, by Anglo American and other imperialist monopolies. We must expect the Cosatu leaders to do everything they can to weaken the strike but this does not mean we should sit on the sidelines and allow our fellow worker to be slaughtered by the bosses. The ANC-SACP-DA-IFP alliance (Salga) and the capitalist press (like Independent newspapers and Mail & Guardian) are on a campaign to not only discredit all strikers but to divide us from other sectors such as the students, unemployed and the lower middle class, all of whom are facing the same brutal conditions of this capitalist system of exploitation. We must expect the state and big capital to deliberately send provocateurs among us to do things which may discredit the entire strike movement. But in the class battle with the capitalist state, we cannot stand idly by while our fellow worker, who has been bold enough to force a strike action, stands isolated. We must expect the police to attack the strike as they have done in the other strikes, so we must prepare the question of self-defence of the strike. We call on you to take your place at the picket lines around the country as soon as possible.

Thirdly, currently the contract cleaning workers are on strike and need to be supported. It is a Cosatu decision to have united working class action against labour brokers. All the contract cleaning companies are labour brokers- but Cosatu leaders have abandoned them to fight on their own. We need to not only join hands with them but immediately start preparations for a general strike to abolish all labour brokers and casualization in general, to fight the electricity scam increases that only benefit Anglo American and other imperialists to the tune of R1 trillion (R1000 bn). We need to unite all sectors in struggle now.

The way forward

Besides closing ranks during the strike, we must realize that every gain we make now, the bosses will attempt to take away soon, through even higher prices, more mass retrenchments, more casualization, more privatization. We must realize that the current strike wave is more the start of a rebellion against the capitalist system than only an economic strike. Workers at the picket lines in the metal and chemical strikes have openly said that 'we need to change the government'. By this they do not mean now to support the reactionary DA, but to unite like the workers in Egypt and elsewhere. So how to do we unite the working



class against the cruel capitalist system? We need to form a faction in Cosatu with all our fellow workers on the basis of the following:

- Break the alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP- this means kicking out the current leadership of Cosatu who in alliance with big capital and to replace them with new independent worker militants
- Bring back the right of instant recall of any layer of leaders; no worker leader and official should earn more than the average wage of a skilled worker.
- Democratise the unions to break the Stalinist bureaucratic structure where a small clique can control everything
- Form an independent vanguard workers party that fights for International Socialism
- Call a workers summit to unite the workers, unionised and un-unionised, permanent and casual, local and immigrant, students, unemployed, grassroots community movements, workers organizations, the rank and file soldiers. We need to call for the preparation for a General strike with general strike committees in every workplace, farm, mine, factory and working class community
- Nationalise all the land; Expropriate the entire capitalist class and all imperialist assets, without compensation, placing the commanding heights of the economy under workers control.
- Share all the work among all who can work, without loss of pay
- Down with multiyear agreements- wages should rise as prices rise

Strengthen the municipal strike, unite with other sectors in struggle (like the contract cleaners, the casualized workers, the 1000 suspended soldiers, etc). Prepare the way towards the general strike.

Issued 16.8.2011

How the capitalist class is looting the masses

During 2008-9 over 1 million workers were dismissed in South Africa. During the same period the capitalists made profits of over R650 bn, the highest ever in the history of the country! This is only the recorded profits- the real figure is much higher. During this period of massive looting by the capitalist class, the Cosatu leaders gave themselves a 100% salary increase.

From 1995 to 2005 the average wage of workers fell by 23% thanks to the Gear policy of the government which forced workers wages downwards through the policy of inflation-targeting. The government reduced the tax on company profits from 48% (the apartheid-era level) to the 28% of today- thus on the backs causing starvation and mayhem among the working class, the bosses continued to plunder and loot the wealth created by workers. For such trashing of the lives of the working class, capitalist newspapers like the Mail & Guardian, awarded the then Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, with consecutive A ratings.



Such is the inequality in the income levels that 20 million people, 40% of the population have to survive from only 1% of the total income. At the same time the top 1% of earners take home 40% of the total income. This systematic violence against the masses, who are expected to die in silence and without complaint, goes unreported in the hysterical capitalist media. When the state spends over R100 bn on the world cup, most of which went to the capitalist monopolies like JP Morgan Chase and the bank of New York, that control the construction industry, with schools bulldozed and millions left without adequate shelter, the capitalist press expect the masses to accept this violence without question. When the masses out of desperation begin to occupy vacant land, the state shoots down the poor and breaks down the tiny shelters, stealing the little building material that workers have, the capitalist press supports such state violence. When youth and workers in Mitchell's Plain and Hangberg have their eyes shot out by the police when the state destroys the peaceful occupation of vacant land, the capitalist press is silent on such violence- it never happened- according to them or by implication this violence was justified- according to them the state has the absolute right to trash the working class because if the desperation for housing is not maintained, then housing prices will fall and so too will the level of looting by the banks in housing.

The editorial of the Cape Argus of Tuesday August 16th 2011, gives the game away- they declare their real allegiance- they claim- 18% is a 'reckless demand' and will 'reduce service delivery'. Their real concern is that if workers win their demand for 18% then the capitalist class will be forced to pay such increases in other sectors. If the level of desperation, of hunger drops, in general, the capitalist class will be forced to pay higher wages and by implication they will have a slight drop in profits. This is why the hysterical capitalist media will deliberately exaggerate strikers' actions, the state and capital will send provocateurs to infiltrate workers actions to try and discredit the strike movement. They will do their best to try and break the growing unity between the employed and unemployed worker, between the worker and the student, between the worker and the lower middle class.

Who is feeding the unemployed? The capitalists or the state? NO. Only the employed worker. It is in our interest to stand together, whether local or immigrant worker, permanent or casual or informal trader, we need to stand together to support the strike. Watch out for those who want to break our unity by instigating attacks on the informal traders or on fellow workers or the lower middle class.

In 2001 when the Rand massively devalued, all the large supermarkets raised their prices; when the Rand went back to its usual level, the food prices did not drop. On this looting and on the high food prices, the capitalist press are silent- they are complicit in the looting as even their own journalists are too scared to write against the Pick 'n pay's as such robbers are their major sponsors.



The state has embarked on a R1trillion (R1000 bn) electricity build programme, without even a plan for full housing. Further, the programme is doubling the electricity capacity within 15 years while industry, the major user, is in absolute decline. Coal and nuclear is the base of the expenses while there have been massive advancements in solar, hydro and wind technology. Not only is the electricity sector being prepared to become a permanent cash cow for the Anglo American and the US banks, but such major looting is being carried out on the backs of massively increased suffering of the working class. Cosatu has a resolution for a general strike against high prices but the leaders avoid unifying the working class like a thief avoids the scene of the crime. why must sectors be weakened by fighting on their own?

The municipal strike has exposed the loutish 'journalism' of the capitalist editors. There are some journalists who try to fight for the community view- but most times they are beaten down by the capitalist editors. Perhaps they would like to reveal their salary levels- then it would be more clear whose interests they are protecting.

90% of the youth do not have a future under capitalism. Such is the mayhem caused by the capitalist class and their cruel system of exploitation.

The ANC-SACP government has assisted the looting , plunder, trashing and mayhem by the capitalist class against the working class. Such is the inescapable conclusion from the current strikes.

The way forward

Besides closing ranks during the strike, we must realize that every gain we make now, the bosses will attempt to take away soon, through even higher prices, more mass retrenchments, more casualization, more privatization. We must realize that the current strike wave is more the start of a rebellion against the capitalist system than only an economic strike. Workers at the picket lines in the metal and chemical strikes have openly said that 'we need to change the government'. By this they do not mean now to support the reactionary DA, but to unite like the workers in Egypt and elsewhere. So how to do we unite the working class against the cruel capitalist system? We need to form a faction in Cosatu with all our fellow workers on the basis of the following:

Break the alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP- this means kicking out the current leadership of Cosatu who in alliance with big capital and to replace them with new independent worker militants

Bring back the right of instant recall of any layer of leaders; no worker leader and official should earn more than the average wage of a skilled worker.

Democratise the unions to break the Stalinist bureaucratic structure where a small clique can control everything

Form an independent vanguard workers party that fights for International Socialism



Call a workers summit to unite the workers, unionised and un-unionised, permanent and casual, local and immigrant, students, unemployed, grassroots community movements, workers organizations, the rank and file soldiers. We need to call for the preparation for a General strike with general strike committees in every workplace, farm, mine, factory and working class community Nationalise all the land; Expropriate the entire capitalist class and all imperialist assets, without compensation, placing the commanding heights of the economy under workers control.

Share all the work among all who can work, without loss of pay

Down with multiyear agreements- wages should rise as prices rise

Strengthen the municipal strike, unite with other sectors in struggle (like the contract cleaners, the casualized workers, the 1000 suspended soldiers, etc).

Prepare the way towards the general strike.

FIRST BIG PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKE IN BOTSWANA`S HISTORY- time for regime change

Introduction

For past 40 years or so capitalism and imperialism hailed Botswana's democracy as a bastion for Africa. What shows the real nature of this democracy is that it is a semi police-state, which ban trade unions, has a death penalty and has military bases for imperialist U.S.A that oversees the plunder of the diamond fields by Anglo American. With the help of South Africa's military it has put down an uprising in Lesotho and at the same time protecting the investment of the World Bank- the High dam project. In fact Botswana is an imperialist puppet regime, depending on the discovery and mining of diamonds and is controlled by Anglo American, the monopoly that controls De Beers. Their budget is in deficit and the World Bank has urged their government to slash its public sector workforce by a quarter- this is a disguised bailout of Anglo American.

The Strike

Across the world there is a wave of uprisings against the imperialist puppet regimes. In a country where the population is about 2 million, the Botswana Federation of the Public Sector Unions, made of five unions representing 90 percent of the workforce, decided to go on strike over wages. Under the new law that the government was forced to introduce only last year, a New Public Sector Act; this introduced a negotiation process and gave the unions the right to strike for the first time. The workers demanded a 16 percent wage increase and the government offered only 5 percent, arguing that there is no money due to the economic crisis. The workers rejected this. One worker said they could pump millions into the controversial Directorate for Intelligence and Security Services (DISS), which is only spying on people, but had nothing for their allowances. Workers complained: they have money to build expensive houses for ministers



and palaces for the former presidents, they bought a new airplane for the current president, which resulted in the government imposing Vat on us; the workers did not have any increment for 3 years, their real wages have effectively fallen; They are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet, in the face of escalating fuel and transport costs and spiralling food prices.

The strike which included health and education workers and teachers was solidly supported, with the most secondary schools across the country closed. During the strike the union umbrella body representing the workers had been holding round-table negotiations with the government, dropped their demand from 16percent to 12percent. Also the government took the union to court saying the public sector workers are violating an agreement to ensure that essential services did not suffer during the strike. The workers also streamed into a central open space in the Capital of Gaborone. In the hometown of president Ian Khama, the workers marched, singing with a confidence never seen before. Most government offices were closed; doctors, nurses and cleaners from clinics and hospitals joined the strike ranks with teachers and cooks from government schools. The government also said it would impose a no-work no-pay policy. It was harsh on the strikers; there was intimidation and threats by the state, detention of the trade unions leadership; the state imposed a total ban on the coverage of the workers side of the story by the state radio and television. Also they deployed soldiers and police to handle borders ,courts and state media buildings. They launched propaganda against the workers claiming that their demands were 'unreasonable' and 'unpatriotic'. During the strike the leadership of COSATU only gave a message of support instead of also organising the entire South Africa working class to support the public sector strike. On their own the strike did not directly impact on the profits of capital. Thus the union leaders in Botswana and of Cosatu protected the monopoly and dictatorship of Anglo American in Southern Africa. Many workers viewed the strike as a challenge to the more than 40 year rule of the Botswana Democratic Party; thousands assembled each day in the grounds of the Gaborone Secondary School shouting anti-government slogans. After weeks in the streets, the union suspended the strike, but some 90 000 workers were still on the picket lines on the following Monday morning ; How can we go back to work when some of our comrades that we started the strike with are now jobless,they asked. The union accept the government's derisory offer of 3 percent .This was lower than initial government offer of 5 percent.

The Lessons

The most important lessons to draw from the public sector strike is that the BOFEPUSU leadership were in the forefront of protecting monopoly capital. The working class needs to be made aware that any public sector strike on its own does not directly impact on the profits of capital; thus support from the entire industrial working class is decisive. After weeks in the street the union suspended the strike without taking steps a call for pressure from industrial working class, such as organising a general strike. The union leadership accepted the offer of 3



percent. The resultant agreement was still in line with the IMF and World Bank guidelines of keeping workers wages down within narrow band thus enabling massive profits to monopoly capital. Another lesson to draw is that the masses were influenced by the uprising in Egypt, indeed here in Botswana it is time for regime change. Another lesson is that the main capitalist 'opposition' political party wanted to use the workers to vote for them in the 2014 general elections. There is a fraction of the party in the Botswana unions.

The Way forward

There is a need to call a Workers Summit or a national congress of workers delegates, with delegates from every workplace, whether they are unionised or not, casual or permanent, Botswana or immigrant, with delegates from the unemployed and from the rank and file soldiers, to unite the workers, that kicks out the treacherous union leaders and begins to prepare the way for a general strike. All workers who were dismissed should be reinstated immediately. There should be no media restrictions on any strike or any action of the working class. In South Africa there should be a regional and a national workers summit of delegates of workers, unemployed and rank and file soldiers to organise a solidarity general strike in support of the demands of the working class in Botswana. There is a need to change the leadership; replace them with who have workers interests above that of big capital and their lackeys in the state, we need leadership who can stand by the principle of working class independence, thus breaking from the alliance with the ANC and SACP. There is a need for mass strike mandating committees to counter the ease by which leaders could water down and change the mandate of the strikers. Also in future there should be mass gatherings of strikers at the venues of the negotiations to pressurize their leaders and to assist in preventing them from backing from workers demands. The negotiating team should be broader, with the mass participation from workers. It's high time that workers that workers stand up to form a independent, internationalist working class party, otherwise each upsurge of the working class is going to be misdirected, leaving the capitalist system intact.

It is time for regime change in Botswana. Expel the US military bases!
Expropriate Anglo American, without compensation, under workers control.

Let us unite like the masses in Egypt, Greece, Chile, Spain and elsewhere.
Forward to an independent revolutionary working class party!

Join the WIVL to advance the fight for the implementation of the programme of the Fourth International for working class political power!

FORWARD TO SOCIALISM!



9th August 2011 Women's day in South Africa

When 20 000 women marched to Pretoria on 9th August 1956 to protest against pass laws for women, they were challenging the whole system of slave capitalism in South Africa. Today, the passes may have been abolished but the majority of women are still in chains of capitalist slavery.

Over the past 10 years life expectancy of the group classified by Statssa as African, has seen life expectancy decline from 50 years to 47 years. Life expectancy for African women is expected to further decline over the next 5 years. Life expectancy for those classified white was roughly constant at 71 years. The majority of the working class will not even live to a pensionable age, yet the ANC-SACP government wants to introduce a law that prevents workers from accessing their provident fund monies before the age of 60! This means that the capitalist banks will grab workers savings and hand over pennies to the few family members who may survive.

During 2008-9, over 1 million workers were retrenched. The top 10% of the country earn 90% of the income while the bottom 90% of the population has to survive on 10% of the income. Even further, the bottom 40% of the population, some 20 million people, have to survive on 1 % of the income while the top 1% earn 40% of the total income. In 2008-9, at the height of the capitalist recession, the capitalists received the highest profits ever in the history of the country, namely R670 bn. Every year since then the annual profits of the capitalists amount to more than R540 bn each year. These are just publicly declared profits- the real figure of the profits must be much higher. So it is not that the capitalists are suffering in the crisis in the same way as the working class- the capitalist crisis is one of profits falling from 4000% to 3990%, while for the worker it is a matter of life or death.

The Cosatu and SACP leaders cry crocodile tears at the high unemployment statistics – they are the best allies of big capital, allowing workers to be dismissed en masse without a fight, allowing the most brutal exploitation of workers while the capitalists make the highest profits ever.

But the 6th and 9th August are also infamous for the US imperialism nuclear bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Over 100 000 were killed in an instant. Many hundreds of thousands were maimed and many offspring still have deformities from their parents being irradiated. The US military used uranium bombs in Kosovo; they use them now in Libya. Yet the Cosatu and SACP leaders remain silent while on the 66th commemoration of the imperialist nuclear bombing of the masses in Japan, the US military is on joint exercises with the SA National Defence Force right here in South Africa. Anglo American and other monopolies controlled the wealth of South Africa before 1994 as indeed they do now. US imperialism does not trust the rank and file soldier in the SA army because they want to be unionised, they want to really defend the masses. The US military is not here for 'humanitarian' reasons, they are here to instil a



command that says the profits of the monopolies come first, even if you have to shoot down the masses of the whole population as they have done in Iraq, as they are doing in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in the DRC, in Malawi, as indeed the US military is doing in Libya. Imperialism knows that the revolt against their rule is spreading south across Africa and they need an army that is loyal to big capital as its last resort.

The monopoly capitalists are the ones who casualise mostly women, who pay the lowest wages to women, who parasite off the labour brokers who employ mostly women. In other words, the US military and their allies in the ANC, SACP and Cosatu leaders, are here to ensure that the slave conditions of women continue. The Cosatu-SACP leaders are already preparing to compromise the fight against labour brokers by agreeing to a law that 'limits' (in reality allows) them instead of abolishing them. Today the hundreds of thousands of contract cleaning workers are on strike, having been isolated and abandoned by the 'Living wage campaign' of Cosatu where all the main industrial sectors have already been on sector strikes in the weeks before. The living wage campaign was originally planned that all sectors strike together but now the SACP and Cosatu leaders deliberately divide and isolate the fights of workers, the better to protect big capital.

Across North Africa and the Middle East, in the streets of London, Spain and Greece, women are taking up their place at the barricades against the cruel capitalist system.

It is time to break with the ANC-SACP and for an independent revolutionary working class party to be formed as part of an international fraction to refound the Fourth International. Kick out the pro-capitalist leaders of Cosatu- open the road to the woman worker to enter the struggle! The fight for women's liberation forms part of every struggle against the capitalist system and can only be taken to completion if the working class takes power in its own hands with its own mass action methods, not through parliament. And even then the fight for worker power must be waged right into the imperialist centres, the very heartland of the monopoly capital that controls the daily lives of the masses in the colonies and semi-colonies.

9th August 2011

Protest against the US military in South Africa

Workers International Vanguard League calls for countrywide protests against the presence of the US military in South Africa. We condemn the SA government for inviting imperialist occupation troops for supposed 'humanitarian' exercises. We can see the result of imperialism's 'humanitarianism' (rather barbarism) in Libya where they are bombing civilians, bombing and maiming the very masses who are rising up against the hated Gaddafi regime.



In Botswana the US military have long had military bases that oversee the plunder of the diamond fields by Anglo American. The US military act to prop up their brutal puppet regime of Mutharika in Malawi, which shot and killed at least 19 unarmed protestors a few days ago- the US military props up the regime on behalf of tobacco monopoly, Phillip Morris International, which has turned Malawi into a single cash crop country.

This same military is still occupying Iraq, waging wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, has overseen the wars in the DRC for the plunder of the vast resources by US imperialism.

To the rank and file US soldier, who is being used as a pawn to fight the wars of plunder for imperialism: your enemy is at home!

At this very moment the regime of the Democrats and Republicans are stealing your pension, they are cutting your medical aid, they will force you to work longer before qualifying for pension; more and more workers are dying on the job; unemployment among the youth are at a world-wide high; interest rates are due to rise which will accelerate the eviction of many more thousands from their homes. There is enough food in the world to feed everyone several times over but everywhere there is starvation- this is the worldwide capitalist system of violence that the handful of the rich (1% of the US population) sacrifices your life for. Refuse the orders of the officers and go home to defeat and overthrow your own regime- this is best humanitarian aid you can render.

Judging from the 'humanitarian' aims of the thousand US military bases around the globe, the presence of the US military in South Africa has more to do with training a force to use live ammunition shoot down unarmed protestors to ensure the hegemony of US imperialism. The world-wide political revolts against the capitalist regimes, is what prompts the genocidal presence of the US military here- the Bank of New York and other imperialists are worried that the next uprising against their plunder is right here.

US imperialist troops out of South Africa, Out of Africa! Shut down all US military bases around the globe!

Protest: Wed 10 August 2011
Time: 12 noon to 14h00
venue: Cape Town International airport (where many of the US troops are stationed)

Venues: at all workplaces and in all working class communities we call for workers to take to the streets at lunch-time on Wed 10 August 2011.
Issued 7.8.2011



Statement on the struggle for houses in Tafelsig

10am this morning the committee of the Mitchell's Plain Backyarders and Residents Association have been picked up by the police for questioning. This follows on the order by the Cape Town High court on the 30th August 2011 to investigate their role in the occupation of vacant land in Tafelsig just before the 18th May municipal elections.

The members of the Committee picked up so far are: Charles Adams, Shaheed Keet, Susan Jansen, Mary Parker and Terence Hoskins. The police are reportedly hunting for Suleiman Stellenboom although he is not on the committee and he is only one of many activists who supported the homeless residents when they were defending themselves from the attacks by the state.

The state seem intent on framing the leadership of the Mitchell's Plain backyarders and community activists. it may be asked whether there is a link between the frame-up of the activists and the increasing links of the state with US Intelligence and repressive forces. World imperialism is concerned that 'Egyptian fever' is coming to South Africa and they are preparing to crackdown on any opposition to the state. The need to keep the masses in desperation for housing is directly linked to artificial attempts by the imperialist banks to increase profits out of housing prices that have no relation to real costs.

Here are some of the points which the state worked together with the so-called Human Rights lawyers to frame the activists:

- * The committee was blamed for supposedly allocating 'plot numbers' - thereby 'misleading' the homeless- A careful examination of the numbers issued by the committee shows that the numbers issued were not plot numbers but registration numbers with the backyarders association
- * it was alleged that the committee instigated the land occupation whereas there were a number of meetings some where up to 3000 people took responsibility for the occupation of land and just asked the committee to make technical preparations. The occupation was modelled on the occupation of land which has today become Freedom park- where the state has been forced to provide housing to people
- * When it was found that a TPA (Tafelsig People's Association) leader was collecting R10 from residents, the Mitchell's Plain Backyarders committee was approached by residents to act against her. Before she could be disciplined, she and her husband resigned from the committee of the TPA. The TPA is not related to nor part of the Mitchell's Plain Backyarders committee. Residents have made a case against the ex-TPA leader nevertheless.
- * the committee has thousands of forms which show that many have been on the waiting list since before 1994. In other words there is concrete proof which shows that the so-called housing list has failed. This is the issue which both the human right lawyer supposedly acting for the residents but in reality turning his back on



them, did not raise. This is the central issue which the courts covered up- this violence of homelessness in the land of plenty.

* The human right lawyer, even though appointed by the Mitchell's Plain backyarders committee, turned his back on the committee and sided with the state, assisting the state in their attempts to target the committee.

* the many people who were injured, including the youth who was just passing by and had his eye shot out, were all ignored by the state- the implication is that the state supports and justifies such violence against unarmed masses.

It is ironic that the current mayor, De Lille, was active in carrying building materials and food to those who occupied the land in what is today Freedom Park. Making an 'Animal Farm' turn, De Lille has now turned her back on the community and has joined the privileged 'pigs'.

for comment from the scene call Charles Adams ph 0746895980

On the occupation of vacant land in Tafelsig- who are the criminals?

Nathan Erasmus, Cape High court judge has given the order for the execution of any homeless person who dares occupy vacant land- this is what the ruling on 30 August 2011 really means. This shows the callousness of the capitalist courts as they protect the rampant profiteering of the banks over desperation in housing. His ruling reinforces the desperation for housing, exonerates the capitalist gangsters and takes a further step towards a police state.

Housing prices have been artificially inflated by over 212% since 2003, putting housing out of reach of the vast majority of the working class. The state, be it national, provincial or local has NO PLANS for housing for all. There are over 400 000 homeless and backyarders in the Western Cape. Indeed according to StatsSA the number of homeless is growing every year. Even an amateur researcher knows this. In other words the so-called housing lists are one big hoax. There are millions of people who will never ever, while there is capitalism, get a house. Among the thousands of people who occupied the vacant land in Tafelsig, huge numbers were on the housing 'list' for more than 15-20 years, some were on the list for longer than 30 years. Are these thousands 'opportunists' ? No, the masses are starting to come to the realization that they will never get housing. This is the root cause of the occupation of the land, not some 'opportunist' who wants to jump the queue. Jump the queue from number 4 393 297 to number 4 393 296? No, says our learned judge, you must wait, even if you die waiting- it is illegal to jump the sacred queue! Shoot them down, implies the judge, hunt down the 'ringleaders' says the judge, cover up the shooting out of eyes of passers-by, is what the judge sanctions. Maintain the violence of millions being homeless, is really the message of the 'sacred' courts.



Then the 'wise' judge comes up with another profound thought- the handful who are left on the fields in Swartklip and Kapteinsklip, must engage in 'meaningful' discussions with the City Council- the thousands who were bludgeoned off the land by the state are irrelevant- they do not exist- there is no problem- sweep it under the carpet, says the judge. The City wants to force the handful of people still on the vacant land, to go to the concentration camp called Blikkiesdorp. Now here is a 'temporary' camp where the structures do not even meet the standard for structures for livestock. Many have stayed there for 3 years and such is the slow pace of 'housing' provision that the City has started erecting more 'Blikkiesdorps' at the far reaches of the metropole- out of sight, out of mind- social engineering that would make the fascist Israelis and the old apartheid regime green with envy.

The absolute right of the capitalists to profiteer over the desperation of the working class is seen in many ways: The courts have no problem that the City spends over R300 million on downgrading the hospital bend- a project which now causes the home-bound rush-hour traffic to be slower by 20-40 minutes. These funds could have built thousands of homes. The state spent R4 billion on a new stadium, when all they could have done was apply 2 coats of paint to the Newlands stadium. Over R1 bn was spent on the Milnerton IRT, which is neither rapid, nor integrated, nor has the traffic flow been significantly eased. The City prefers that the MyCiti buses lie idle or ride empty, when they could have usefully been used to ease the school transport problem across the province, including Knysna, scene of a preventable accident where 14 youth died on an old bus with defective brakes. There are several houses in Langa (part of the bank-owned houses section of the Gateway scam), that have been vacant for years. The City has recently sold off 24 square km of vacant land in the Milnerton area, claiming they had no use of it- such is the cold calculated callousness of the City. There are many hotels that have been lying half-empty for years. There are many vacant buildings in the city centre that could easily have been upgraded to provide accommodation to the working class. The houses of the upper middle class, who became rich and who grow richer every day over the backs of the most brutal exploitation of the masses, are bigger than some schools in the working class areas. These mansions of the rich lie almost empty while alongside them, a few kilometres away the masses live in squalor and homelessness. The rich, the capitalists, these are the real criminals- their system is inherently criminal- These are the criminals that the High Court and Nathan Erasmus, defends.

Long after the few families on the vacant fields of Tafelsig are once again brutalized by the state, thrown out of sight, out of mind, the fields will remain vacant, for another few years. The capitalist courts cannot tolerate the desperation for housing to be eased by one iota, lest the profits of the banks start to fall from 4000% to 3999%.



The High Court ruling merely re-affirms that the working class will never achieve justice through the courts. Perhaps it is time for the masses to start walking 'like an Egyptian'.

2 sept 2011

Forward to Councils of workers, the militia and rank and file soldiers in Libya as the basis of a revolutionary workers government. Down with the TNC! Nato out!

The most urgent need in Libya today is for a centralised proletarian authority to be set up . This should take the form of councils of worker delegates and delegates from the revolutionary militia and from the rank and file soldiers, which forms the basis of a revolutionary workers government. The main basis of this revolutionary workers' government should be the expropriation of the local capitalist class and all imperialist assets, without compensation, placing the commanding heights of the Libyan economy under workers control.

At the moment, imperialism is working night and day to boost its counter-revolutionary agency, the TNC through support from the UN and AU, through political and 'humanitarian' Aid. Imperialism realizes the need for a centralized authority but the Libyan masses, due to their hatred for the centralized structure of the Gaddafi dictatorship, do not. The militias are atomised and not co-ordinated, which allows for the petty bourgeois and pro-capitalist elements within the militias to strengthen the links with the TNC. It is this pro-capitalist element in the TNC and in the militias that are responsible for carrying forward the racist attacks on African immigrants, consistent to what the Gaddafi regime used to do. A centralized proletarian authority will act to counter and neutralize the reactionary trends. A centralized proletarian authority will act to politically and militarily deal with the TNC.

If imperialism willed it, they could have destroyed the Gaddafi regime overnight. It has emerged that imperialism was responsible for the delay of the masses to make a final push to finish off his regime. Even the bourgeois agency, wikileaks , provides evidence of a very close relation between the Gaddafi regime and US imperialism. The closeness of imperialism with the Gaddafi regime is further confirmed by the appointment by the TNC of Albarrani Shkal, an ex general of the hated 32nd brigade of the Gaddafi army, as chief of security of Tripoli. Imperialism is preparing to re-establish a bourgeois apparatus, with a bourgeois army in Libya- this means the suppression of the revolutionary elements of the masses and within the militias.

Imperialism, through the TNC, want 'Arab' or AU forces to be their occupation force. The AU and 'Arab' regimes are all completely under the thumb of imperialism. These occupation troops will act against the masses, disarming them, perpetrating massacres on behalf of imperialism- this is the implication of them coming. These occupation troops from the AU and Qatar, etc will act to protect capitalist property. At the very moment, imperialism is trying to extend the



TNC to include a broad range of pro-capitalist forces to act against the masses. In opposition to these capitalist structures we need councils of workers (including immigrant workers who make up half the workforce), the revolutionary militia and rank and file soldiers.

Without consultation, the TNC has agreed to oil contracts with the ENI (Italian imperialism massacred half the population in the past); they have awarded contracts to the French imperialists, and via Qatar with US imperialism, the TNC is ready to have links with fascist Israel- the TNC is totally a pawn of imperialism, even worse than Gaddafi ever was. The TNC stands for even greater enslavement of the masses. The masses need to unite in their own structures, independent of and against the TNC. Forward to workers councils comprised of worker delegates, delegates from the revolutionary militia and from the rank and file soldiers- the basis of a revolutionary workers government. Down with the TNC! Nato out! Workers, paralyze the Nato war machine in Europe and the USA (and around the world). Forward to a international fraction of international trotskyists and revolutionary workers organizations to prepare the way to refound the Fourth International.

For workers and soldiers (and militia) councils in Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Ivory Coast, Palestine, Lebanon, against their own 'TNCs'. Prepare the way to take the fight against the world capitalist system and their regimes into the imperialist centres and indeed throughout the world. For the masses to live, capitalism-imperialism must die.

31.8.2011

Down with the TNC, agent of imperialist counterrevolution in Libya

Imperialism moving its counter-revolutionary agency, the TNC to Tripoli is part of their desperate attempt to strangle the revolutionary efforts of the masses to smash the Gaddafi regime from top to bottom. Already there is a split growing between the revolutionary masses and the TNC. Imperialism is desperate to gain and maintain control. This is why the TNC is at pains to stress that they are acting for 'peace and security'- what they really mean is to act against the revolutionary elements of the Libyan masses and revolutionary elements in the militias. Imperialism is acting to save the remnants of the Gaddafi regime to act with the TNC to strangle the revolution. This why the TNC is doing everything they can to prevent the masses getting hold of the heavy weaponry such as tanks, etc. The aim of imperialism is to set up a unified counter-revolutionary agency from fragments of the Gaddafi regime representing the local bourgeoisie but under the direct control of imperialism.

There are military measures such as US, British agents and Qatari mercenaries and others to try and gain military control over the revolutionary efforts of the masses in order to prevent the taking over of capitalist property and to prevent the masses from taking revolutionary justice against the capitalist elements that



imperialism needs to constitute the 'new' regime (really the same regime with a new face). This means that the TNC will do anything to neutralise the revolutionary vanguard of the masses. There are also other measures such as the UN's agreement for 'aid' to the Libyan government, which is really direct political support to the TNC against the Libyan masses. This means that the AU and South African regime's support for 'aid' to the Libyan government is support for the TNC to strangle the masses. This shows once again that the UN, the AU and the South African government are agents of imperialism. But the political support by these agencies is not about medicines or food- Libya is rich enough- the political support to build up the TNC will enable the TNC to, act against the revolutionary vanguard in Libya, even if they have to massacre them. This is the current moment in Libya and the dangers that present themselves before the masses.

We call for support for the Libyan masses against the TNC and the remnants of the Gaddafi regime. We call for the formation of workers and soldiers councils, including immigrant workers, based on expropriation of the Libyan capitalists and all imperialist assets, without compensation, placing these under workers control. We call for international solidarity brigades to support the fight of the Libyan masses against the TNC. We call for the paralyzing of the imperialist war machine. Arms for the Libyan masses! We call for the formation of workers and soldiers councils in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Yemen, Qatar, UAE, in Palestine from the river to the sea to begin preparations to act against their own TNC's, be they the Transitional regime in Tunisia, the military-civilian regime in Egypt, the murderous Assad regime, the fascist Netanyahu regime along with the regime of Fatah and Hamas, the butcher Bahraini regime, the murderous Saleh regime, etc.

In Israel the youth and workers in the tent camps that have sprung up all over, need to realize that the very imperialist banks that push up the price of housing, food and transport, are the same ones that gain from the genocidal destruction of the Palestinian masses. These are the same banks that benefit from the working class in the entire region being divided, so they can extract maximum profit from the oil exploitation. The fascist regime of Israel is based on the false 'ideology' of Zionism- it is a tool to hide the class divisions in Israeli society- the youth and workers on the one side and the Israeli bourgeoisie and imperialism on the other. The youth and workers should be on the side of the Palestinian masses against not only the Zionist regime but also against the Bantustan regimes of Hamas and Fatah- It is time to free the fighters from the prisons of Hamas, Fatah and the Zionists. To take your place side by side with the Palestinian masses -This is the choice you have to make to oppose your own 'TNC'.

This is the starting point- the growing rebellion in Europe, Japan and the USA is being shown the way by the working class and the masses in North Africa and the Middle East. Imperialism is already shooting down the masses in DRC, Malawi, Ivory Coast, etc while police state measures are being enforced in a



growing way throughout the world. Out of the programme for world socialist revolution, the ground is being laid for the refounding of the Fourth International- the revolutionary working class vanguard of the world needs to strike as one fist. Let us end this capitalist barbarism. Forward to Socialism!

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26.8.2011

Down with Gaddafi and his regime! Down with the TNC! Down with capitalist dictatorship!

When the Libyan masses destroyed the state structures in Benghazi in March this year, arming themselves, and beginning to spread the insurrection to Tripoli and other parts of the country, imperialism worked night and day to neutralize the uprising. As we have stated in our earlier statements, the sole reason for the creation of the TNC (Transitional National Council) was to destroy the revolution from within, to prevent it from being generalized to Egypt, Tunisia, France, Britain, Greece, China, India, USA, Malawi, DRC, South Africa, etc. The TNC provides a means for the ex-Gaddafi regime elements and US-imperialist-trained elements to wash their hands of the blood of the masses and to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the masses. One of the key elements of the TNC was to either neutralize the armed militias or tire them out or to send them poorly armed to the front lines to be slaughtered. Many of the revolutionary militia were killed or wounded in battle with the Gaddafi army. Several times the Nato forces even bombed the militias. Imperialism could have destroyed the Gaddafi regime at any time, but they did not. They delayed attacking Gaddafi for as long as possible. The whole process of 'training' the militia was to in reality bring them under the control of the TNC and thus of imperialism. The weakening of the militias reached a point where imperialism thought they were decisively under their control. The TNC then announced the formation of a new Libyan army. At the same time there was the growing impatience of the masses with the TNC- when was the final push going to be made on Gaddafi? If the TNC had delayed the offensive on Gaddafi much longer their true pro-imperialist colours would have been more clearly exposed for the masses to see. The TNC was coming under increasing threat of being overthrown by the masses. Imperialism would have lost their major foothold within the masses.

More than 60% of the masses in the USA opposed US military intervention in Libya. Why spend hundreds of millions of dollars on these wars in Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, when the state claimed not to have money for education and welfare benefits? US imperialism was worried that the mass workers uprising in Wisconsin a few months ago, could become generalised to the whole USA.

The assassination of General Younis, head of the TNC army opened the way for a US-imperialist trained head, Hiftar, to take his place. Within days the entire



TNC cabinet was changed. Imperialism now had absolute control of the TNC and was thus able to place itself at the head of the final assault against Gaddafi. Imperialism realized that their agent had to go as he had lost all credibility in the eyes of the masses. Imperialism needed a new mechanism to control the masses- the TNC. The aim of the masses is to get rid of the entire Gaddafi regime. The aim of imperialism is to get rid of Gaddafi and to reconstitute the Gaddafi regime, representatives of the Libyan bourgeois class, but without Gaddafi. This is why the TNC is at pains to call for the masses not to take justice into their own hands- they want to save the very bourgeois elements who they want to be part of the 'new' regime. The TNC and imperialism is very concerned over the control of the massive arms stockpile of the Gaddafi army. This is because as soon as they have shepherded Gaddafi out they want to disarm the militia and the masses. We say under no circumstances should the militias disarm- we call for the seizing of all the weaponry of the Gaddafi army for the general arming of the masses, for the final push to overthrow the entire Gaddafi regime. We salute the masses for already starting to take the arms from the arms stores. This shows that the independence of the militias have not been completely brought under the control of the TNC.

In Tunisia and Egypt the masses are not satisfied with the regimes. In Libya, with the TNC, imperialism hopes to establish a more stable regime that has whitewashed themselves by their association with the fight against Gaddafi. Imperialism hopes that the TNC and Nato will be welcomed as heroes on the streets of Tripoli. But we warn that the TNC and Nato are worse than Gaddafi. The TNC is comprised of elements of the Gaddafi regime- their hands are dripping with blood of the masses. Already the TNC have made deals with the ENI, who was party, in the colonial days, to wiping out half of the population of Libya. The TNC has already made deals with the French and other imperialists. The French imperialists have butchered millions of the Algerian masses. The TNC already recognizes Israel, the fascist regime that butchers Palestinians every day. The TNC and Nato are not the friends of the Libyan revolution- they are there to ensure that imperialism continues the plunder of Libyan oil. Imperialism has learnt from Iraq that they need to govern with the support of the local capitalist class- thus they need the elements of the Gaddafi regime to be part of the 'new' regime.

The masses need to organise independently of the TNC, arming themselves to destroy the entire Gaddafi regime and to do away with the TNC. For a workers government, made up of representatives of the armed masses in struggle, of the independently organised militias, of representatives from every workplace and every working class district, whether local or immigrant worker. Not a single member of the Gaddafi regime or ex-member of the Gaddafi regime can be part of a revolutionary provisional government. In this fight the TNC, the British, US, UK, the French and German imperialists are all prepared to act against the masses, with the imperialists readying themselves to send invasion troops, to supplement their military advisors and ground troops that are already there.



Should the TNC be allowed to establish themselves in Tripoli they will act against the armed masses and the militias- their partnership with Nato and other remnants of the Gaddafi regime will stand together against the vanguard fighters of the masses- so desperate is imperialism to prevent a takeover by the masses. The entire Gaddafi regime must be disarmed, from top to bottom. For proletarian tribunals against those who murdered the masses.

The call should be made to expropriate all the local capitalists and all imperialist assets, without compensation, placing these under workers control; cancel all contracts with imperialism made by the Gaddafi regime and by the TNC. The TNC and Nato are the new enslavers. The arming of the masses to defeat the Gaddafi regime and the TNC, both agents of plunder of Libya by imperialism. The role of Al Jazeera and the International Criminal Court are exposed as agents of imperialism- spreading their propaganda that Seif al Islam had been captured on Monday 22nd August 2011, when this was not true.

The South African government and the African Union cry crocodile tears while their brother leader is being deposed-perhaps they see their own reflections in the Libyan mirror- it is the African governments that opened the door for the imperialist invasion against the Libyan masses. The African Union is exposed as the direct agent of imperialism when the masses rise up against capitalist dictatorship. When capitalism is threatened by the revolutionary masses, the AU stands with imperialism.

The aim of the TNC and Nato is to prevent the spark from Benghazi and Misrata from spreading throughout the world, to Bahrain, to Saudi Arabia, to Yemen, to Egypt, to the very heart of fascist Israel, to the very heart of the imperialist centres, etc. What imperialism wants to kill off, is the very example that to resist the capitalist onslaught and to take the path to Socialism, the masses have to arm themselves and defeat their own regimes. For the working class and struggling masses in Europe, the USA and Japan to paralyze the imperialist war machine. Arms and international solidarity brigades to support the Libyan masses against their puppet regime and to expel all the Nato forces.

We need to draw the lessons that under the current period of capitalist barbarism, the masses will rise, often without a revolutionary party at its head and with the presence of many counter-revolutionary forces against them. Our first task as revolutionaries is to help develop a programme for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism on a world scale. Such programme, born in the heat of the fire, is essential for the development of a revolutionary International- the vanguard formation of the proletarian fighters of the world. Such is the path to refound the Fourth International.

Forward to Socialism!

23.8.2011 amended 24.8.2011



On looting by imperialist England

All we have to do is just take a closer look at the crown jewels- there is gold, diamonds and gemstones that have been looted from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Egypt, India etc. The entire gemstone collection from the Taj Mahal is in England- glass copies are left behind in the Taj Mahal. Every house of every duke and duchess and every capitalist is littered with stolen goods that have been looted from the colonies and semi-colonies.

It is necessary to comment on this as the bourgeois media is going on rather hysterically at so-called looting- as the capitalist bullies that they are- they are projecting attention away from their own looting and plunder of the world.

Every laptop, playstation and cellphone in the world has been made from metal that has been looted and plundered from the DRC where 6 million people have died at the hands of armed groups that are overseen by the imperialist militaries, including the US military- the partner in crime of the British regime.

The major looters are the US and UK banks who have looted the public coffers to be bailed out by workers pensions and savings.

How do we stop this looting? Now this is our question. We need to build a revolutionary working class party on an international scale- in short, refound the Fourth International.

Let us discuss the programme for such a party but in the meantime give support to the working class who are at the barricades all over the world, not least in the streets of London.

Meanwhile can someone please keep us all updated on the developments in England seeing that they have suspended the social networking links and started a crackdown on the workers. Sounds like the dying days of a desperate regime...
13.8.2011

On the uprising by the youth and the working class in England

The brutal murder of Mark Duggan by the police on the 4th August 2011 in Tottenham is what sparked an uprising of the unemployed and student youth across England. As the parasitic nature of the capitalist system has grown so has the size and brutality of the state repressive forces.

The massive cuts of 82 billion pounds launched by the Labour Party, and now continued by the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives, together with huge unemployment and falling real wages, are the objective factors that has led to this explosion by the youth. The working class has long been prepared to fight against the imperialist capitalist regime of Britain but the treacherous leaders within the workers movement have consistently kept the organised working class off the streets- they only occasionally organised 1 day marches for the masses to



blow off steam. In the deliberate disorganization of the resistance, the 'left', the SWP, the Militant, Workers Power, WRP, Socialist Fight, etc have played the major counter-revolutionary role. In fact they have done this over the years and this time round the imperialists thought they could once again depend on them. Indeed they will continue to play the most dangerous role in saving the system by acting to isolate and stifle the current uprising of the youth.

Who are the criminals?

The main criminals are the US and UK banks and indeed the entire capitalist class, who are making unheard of profits of countless billions of pounds. They are the ones who are condemning millions of workers to low wages, mass unemployment; they are the ones who increase their profits over the backs of students who now have to pay triple their fees. The capitalist class is responsible for raising housing costs to levels that have no relation to real costs; they are the ones who have raised fuel and food prices much higher than their real level; they are the ones who profit massively from the increasingly privatized health care system. The Labour Party, Lib Dems and Conservatives are the agents of these capitalist criminals who have been openly looting the public coffers and the working class for centuries.

The way forward

While organizing action committees in every area, uniting local and immigrant workers, the immediate question must be of self-defence against the police thugs. At the same time it is important to call for factory committees to be set up in the form of work-based action committees. While the youth is the spark of the uprising, it is the broader working class that has to be mobilised to take the fight further. The capitalists are the ones who are looting the masses- the way to resist should be to prepare for factory occupations as part of the preparation for a general strike. At the same time the workers and youth should march to the union offices to demand a general strike, not only against the cuts but for jobs for all. Workers should send delegations to their family members who are rank and file soldiers in the army and call on them to join in the defence of the masses. These are the first next steps in the fight ahead. 12.8.2011 WIVL

On gangsterism and drugs

I would like to inform you about what is going on in the townships like Mitchell's Plain. I still feel strong that we as working class people should do something about the increase in drug dealing and gangsterism in our areas, because our children are targeted by these filthy drug lords who sell these drugs to our children only to enrich themselves at the end of the day and it seems the police are not capable of stemming this disease because some of them are in the pockets of these drug dealers therefore they are never prosecuted.

There was incidents where the community held meetings with the police in areas like Beaconvalley, where the neighbourhood watch members pointed out to the police management that some of their members who are supposed to service the community in



Beaconvalley were actually standing and drinking beer by a braai at one of the drug merchant's houses and they were in full uniform and on duty, and they also informed them about police members who are getting money from these drug merchants, but police management want these community members to write statements and point out these individual corrupt policemen, surely they know that if these community members should do that, they will be in danger.

Comrades is there nothing that we can do about this evil, our children are becoming monsters because of these drugs that are being sold to them by these filthy greedy drug lords who are destroying their own people.

Editorial comment

Thank you for your letter. The point that you expose is the role of the police- they are not there to defend the masses but their role is to protect big capital and to control the working class; the police are there to ensure that the masses are destabilised and unable to resist against the capitalist system. This is at the heart of why drugs are so widespread in working class communities around the world- it is a deliberate policy of big capital, the big bosses who control all the factories, farms, banks, mines, large shops, etc, to make sure that the youth are drugged so that the working class is so destabilized, battling the problem of drugs that attention is taken away from the brutal system of exploitation. In the USA it was the deliberate policy of the FBI and CIA to spread drugs among the youth in black communities to break the back of the Black Panther movement.

The police know where all the druglords are. If they really wanted to they could have shut all of them down overnight. They do not do that because the big capitalists need to have the working class at war with itself- destabilised, so that we all forget who the real enemy is, the capitalist class. When a spontaneous movement was started a few years ago, called Pagad (People against gangsterism and drugs), the state cracked down hard on them, infiltrating them and framing the leaders, several of whom went to jail for a long time. In this crackdown the state was assisted by the FBI. Pagad made a number of errors, among them organizing on a religious basis instead of class, resorting to vigilantism instead of relying on mass mobilization of the working class. The druglords that operated then are still operating now, there are even more drug dens. In other words the crackdown by the state was to protect the spread of drugs. The drugs have moved from Mandrax, to Tik to heroin and others. This spread is not a South African phenomenon but is happening around the world. In Iran there are millions of the youth who are drug addicts. In other words, the spread of drugs is aided by the state as a means to maintain the rule of big capital. It follows that the solution to the drugs and gangsterism question can only be definitively won through a fight to end the capitalist state and to install a workers state.

This does not mean that should just fold arms and wait until the day of Socialism, no, on the contrary it is important to raise the issue in all workers organisations for the working class to take it up. Firstly it is clear that the working class cannot depend on the police. What is needed is the setting up of street, block and area committees, based on delegates from workers, youth, unemployed, and rank and file soldiers, to defend the masses from the druglords and the gangsters. The fight of the masses against drugs and gangsterism should be united with the fight against the big-time gangsters, the capitalist class, that is, the demands must be taken into the fight for a workers summit that prepares the way for a general strike.



Join WIVL to fight for the implementation of the programme of the Fourth International today. Forward to the refounding of the Fourth International; forward to Socialism.



Palestinians still live in concentration camps today

Bits and Bites

- We remember the Sabra and Shatilla massacres and the complicity of imperialism in the mass slaughter of Palestinians. The UN insisted that Palestinians disarm, offering safe passage out of Lebanon, opening the doors for the brutal massacring of the masses. Today the same butcher UN recognizes the puppet TNC as the 'rulers' of Libya. Can Palestine become free through this UN?
- Comrades why do our unions that used to be so militant in the late eighties and nineties agree to everything the capitalists give them now, e.g. take our union X, a public sector affiliate of Cosatu, they don't even get mandated by their rank and file members to accept the lousy bread crumbs offered as an increase by our capitalists bosses, but they just agree with everything our employer instructs them to do like well behaved slaves.
- Tutu calls for a once-off tax of the super rich to save the monopolies from a revolution- as always he is an avid protector of imperialism- The arrogant white middle class are refusing even this token measure- he talks of the role of the US student against the Vietnam war, we think about the Vietnamese worker and peasant who stood up to defeat the mightiest war machine ever...We also think of the US worker and youth who threatened to revolt against the entire capitalist apparatus, who were diverted into a flower-power movement by the 'left' leaders.
- The Democratic Alliance (DA) has just come up with a policy to build toilets in backyards. First they had a policy of building open toilets in the veld, now they build toilets in backyards. They even want to build another Blikkiesdorp in Mitchell's Plain When will they start building enough houses for the masses? The banks are very happy with their non-delivery- they can continue to profiteer from the continued desperation in housing. The ANC will no doubt be inspired by this 'brilliant' policy of the DA. Both are agents of the banks.



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Where to contact us:

1st Floor, Community House, 41 Salt River rd, Salt River, 7925

Cape Town, South Africa

Ph 021 4476777 Ph: 0822020617, fax 0865486048

Email: workersinternational@gmail.com website: www.workersinternational.org.za