

# Africa Workers Organizer

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***Tear down the Rafah border, down  
with all the walls and checkpoints !***



**Workers, peasants of the Popular committees against the wall, 5 years' protest**

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## Editorial

### **Cosatu leaders and the SACP betray the General strike against the electricity price increases**

There have been several resolutions within Cosatu for mass resistance to the huge electricity price increases; the latest was a CEC resolution in May that there should be mobilisation for a general strike; Cosatu leaders keep quiet about the planned meeting at Nedlac for the 14<sup>th</sup> June; it is already August and the increases have come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, having a devastating effect on the working class, the lower middle class and some sections of the small capitalists; yet no plans are in place or any mobilisation started for a general strike; we can only conclude that the Cosatu leaders and the SACP have sold out on this struggle and have struck a deal with imperialism for their trillion Rand plunder of the working class to go ahead. The Cosatu leaders are in effect calling for social 'peace' while imperialism continues their attacks. We call for workers to mobilise for the immediate removal of this traitorous leadership. Down with the millionaire trade union leaders! We call for workers to march and occupy the Cosatu offices, demanding that a general strike against the imperialist onslaught be called. We call for workers' crisis committees to be set up in every workplace, every mine, every farm, every factory, every working class area, to fight against the electricity price increases and the other attacks by imperialism; what we need is an emergency workers summit uniting delegates from every workplace, irrespective of union, or whether unionised or un-unionised, including delegates from the unemployed and rank and file soldiers, to plan and direct a general strike.

Around the globe, the trade union leaders have made pacts with imperialism for them to continue to plunder the working class, with increased rate of exploitation, with increased unemployment, with increased hunger and suffering; but around the globe the working class has not sat with folded arms in the face of this united onslaught by imperialism and their own worker leaders; in Bolivia the industrial workers are demanding that workers break from supporting the regime of Morales; in Argentina in some areas workers have resorted to street fights against the police; in Brasil there is a renewed wave of strikes (breaking of the 'social peace' deal that the union leaders had with imperialism); in Kyrgyzstan the working class overthrew the US puppet Bakiev and burned parliament to the ground; in Thailand workers occupied the centre of the capital for several weeks; there have been 8 general strikes in Greece this year despite the leaders of the workers, including the stalinist party KKE, continuing to defend the imperialist government; of course there have been the heroic strikes of the transport and municipal workers which shattered the plans of the SACP and Cosatu leaders for 'social peace'; the SACP and Cosatu leaders have done and are doing their best to avert any general strike against the ANC government (any general strike would be a strike against the SACP as their leaders are the key component of the ANC cabinet).

With the above in mind, the working class would do well to draw the lesson that despite the huge public sector strike pending, despite what they say, the Cosatu leaders would not call out the industrial workers in solidarity strikes; the Cosatu leaders are doing their best to lower the demands of the workers to avert a strike; they have already reduced workers demands to 8,6% (very low indeed); they are preparing the psychology of the workers to accept an increase of 7% or less. As the Cosatu leaders did in the municipal strike and last year's clothing workers strikes, if the workers press ahead with strike action, they will only organise for 1-3 days, or a short period, and then hope the workers get tired; they will call stayaways so that workers do not occupy the workplaces, thus opening workers up to demoralisation by

being isolated and alone; the stayaways will enable the union leaders to manipulate mandates in the absence of mass meetings of delegates to control the strike; further stayaways will be used to prevent workers from taking over their workplaces and really posing the question as to who does the work and who are the parasites (the capitalists). A public sector strike, in the absence of support by the broader working class, will be greatly weakened.

Forward to a general strike against the electricity increases!  
Forward to a general strike in support of the public sector workers!  
Forward to mass regional and national strike committees that control the strikes, every step of the way!  
Down with the treacherous Cosatu leaders!  
Forward to an emergency workers summit!

3.8.2010

## **Pedro Condori released**

Mineworker leader in Peru was released on 4 July 2010, albeit with conditions; it was so obvious that the charges of being linked to the killing of a police captain were false that the judge had to come up with something to justify his restrictions; Cde was told that there were still allegations of 'public disorder' so the court had to place some restrictions on his release- these are more to harass him in his mobilising of the working class, than anything else.

We salute all the workers who mobilised internationally for his release, including the rank and file municipal workers and other workers, students and unemployed in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

## **The next Gaza convoy- a Trojan horse**

The next Viva Palestina convoy to Gaza has been brought forward from September to the first week of August; the question is, what are the real aims of the convoy, that on the face of it appears as being to carry 'aid' to Gaza? we say that it is the opposite of what the public claims are. The 'convoy' aims to prop up the legitimacy of the antiworker Egyptian regime, to prop up imperialism and to demobilise the world proletariat by misleading us all into believing that the Gaza siege has been broken; further, it turns the masses eyes away from the necessity of confronting imperialism, the ones who are behind the 62+ year siege against the Palestinians, through working class methods such as general strikes, etc.

Every tablet or bag of flour is handed over either under the control of the Egyptian regime or of the fascist Israeli regime; in other words world imperialism still controls the fate of the Palestinians; in the last Galloway convoy it travelled under the direct support of the regional governor of Egypt in Sinai, who even offered to cover some (or all) of the convoy costs.

What has forced the partial relaxation of the siege of Gaza has been protests and actions of millions of workers around the globe, not least in the imperialist centres; what is significant was the 1-2 week blockade of Israeli goods by scandinavian transport workers; what is significant is the mass revolt in Turkey against the complicity of their regime in the massacre of 9 Turkish activists (When the Israeli troops boarded the Mavi Marmara they knew the cabin number and names of all the

people on board; information they could only have received from the Turkish government); further the 8 general strikes in Greece, the revolt and burning of parliament in Kyrgyzstan are all factors which point to a turning point in working class resistance to the current imperialist onslaught. Imperialism has tried everything to divert the attention of the proletariat away from its own power in forcing a partial opening of the siege against Gaza; one after another, many imperialist agents have suddenly realised that the siege of Gaza is 'not sustainable'; even the UN organs make strong noises against the siege. The complicity of the Egyptian regime as one of the main pillars of imperialism in maintaining the siege against the Palestinians, is now even more stark; workers revolt against the Egyptian regime is on the rise; imperialism cannot afford another Kyrgyzstan- the whole Middle East could go up in flames. Under these conditions comes the Galloway convoy, a veritable Trojan horse, giving legitimacy and saving the face of the Egyptian regime, and at the very time that imperialism is launching major attacks on the British working class, the actions of the working class is reduced to acts of charity, rather than a general strike against the UK imperialist regime. Thus by lulling the world working class into passivist actions, the Galloway convoy is really about sustaining the imperialist siege against the Palestinians.

Charity from Turkey is covering the face of their bloody regime that drowns everyday the Kurds in a river of blood, that has for years strangled the resistance of the masses in northern Iraq in the fight against the occupation by US imperialism. The discovery of huge Lithium deposits in Afghanistan shows why the German and US-UK imperialism dispute so fiercely for control of the region; what is needed is world mass working class mobilization for the defeat of imperialism in Afghanistan, not a charity collection that keeps the working class off the streets. In this light the decision by the ITUC to elect a member of the Histadrut onto their executive, and to oppose any working class action to break the siege against the Palestinians, can only be seen as criminal and showing that the leadership of the ITUC are lackeys of world imperialism.

The 48th Antiwar assembly in Japan is considering a proposal from the FLTI to send workers brigades to Egypt, to side by side with the working class in Egypt, to tear down the Rafah border and to unite with our Palestinian brothers and sisters. In the imperialist centres we need to mobilise for an international general strike against fascist Israel; the world working class needs to unite in action to defeat imperialism, to defeat the Zionist forces; open the way for the walls and checkpoints that keep Palestinians in concentration camps, to be destroyed; open the way for the immediate unconditional return of all Palestinian refugees, open the way for the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners. In South Africa, the Palestine Freedom of Movement Campaign has been formed with these central demands in mind. It is in crucial battles such as these that we say that we need to set up an organizing committee for the refounding of the Fourth International.

3 Aug 2010



Throughout this paper we show pictures of the Palestinian masses ongoing resistance to the concentration camps set up by imperialism

## Once more on imperialism's attempts to launch fascist attacks on the working class

Imperialism has tried virtually all their tricks to instigate the working class to attack our black brothers and sisters from the rest of Africa: they have deliberately run a rumour campaign in the mainstream capitalist press of 'xenophobic' violence after the world cup; anonymous leaflets appeared instigating attacks; lumpen elements were hired to attack Somalis (some of them admitted to being paid to launch attacks); the police sat with folded arms, in many cases, while small groups of lumpen elements attacked our black brothers and sisters; the state banned marches by the working class against the lumpen elements, in some areas such as Du Noon.

The imperialists are still trying to instigate worker on worker attacks, but they have failed in their attempts to sweep up the same level of fear and intimidation among the masses, as they did in 2008, **Why?** The main reason is that the working class has largely drawn the lesson from 2008; in several areas where WIVL issued our leaflets against the imperialist attacks, we discovered that the majority of workers were saying: 'This is not right', 'Why must we attack them?', 'They helped us in our liberation struggle'. The concern among some workers was that the capitalists use cheap 'illegal' labour to make profits: 'the bosses hire them for less money'. When we dialogued with workers that made such comments that we need to fight for equal wages and conditions and that the unions should organise all workers, whether 'legal' or 'illegal', whether casual or permanent, the response from workers was a resounding 'yes!'. In some areas workers took up the campaign to organise joint self-defence committees with immigrant workers and stopped the lumpen in their tracks.

Other factors included the capitalist world cup media campaign that 'we need to welcome the world'; even the arch nationalists of the ANC and SACP, who daily humiliate our brothers and sisters at the Home Affairs and Immigration offices and private immigration prisons (such as Lindela), were forced to say 'support Ghana' and 'support the teams from Africa'.

There is no need for complacency; it is still necessary to build and strengthen joint self defence committees in all working class communities to decisively root out any further attempted attacks on our brothers and sisters; but the real aim of imperialism was to divide the working class so that they could continue their attacks on the working class as a whole; thus the best way forward is to take up anew the campaign to fight high food prices, to fight the electricity increases, to support the public sector workers struggle; what is needed is a workers summit uniting delegates from local and immigrant workers, from employed and unemployed, with workers delegates from all workplaces, including rank and file soldiers, to prepare for a general strike against the imperialist onslaught; we need to invite delegates from workers and rank and file soldiers from Madagascar and from the entire South African region (and why not from Ghana and the rest of Africa too?).

4.8.2010



## **Call for internationalist brigades to go to Egypt to mobilise to tear down the 'Berlin wall' starting at Rafah**

The Workers International Vanguard League met on 8.6.2010 with various activists from KTC, Antiwar Coalition, Newfields Village Anti-Eviction, as well as a number of individual pro-Palestine activists. The YCL also supported the meeting (although absent) raising that Western Sahara should be included in the actions; they in principle supported the notion of international brigades to Egypt.

The meeting resolved to intensify the campaign to break the blockade of Gaza and to break down all the 'Berlin walls' faced by Palestinians every day (the wall in and around the West Bank, the hundreds of checkpoints, the borders around 'Israel') and to strengthen the campaign for the unconditional return of all Palestinian refugees. This is especially important as 6 of the hostages taken by fascist Israel remain missing, feared dead (possibly being dumped into the open sea) or being subjected to torture. Further, since the massacre on the high seas another 4 Palestinians have been murdered by the fascist Israelis.

The first step was to take the lead in calling for and organising international brigades to go to Egypt to mobilise for the mass tearing down of the Rafah border. The Egyptian regime has been forced to open up the Rafah border indefinitely but still refuses to allow any building materials through; thus the multitude of bombed out buildings (basically all of Gaza) is left as a daily threat of toppling and killing the children, aged and infirm- such is the barbarism of the alliance of the regimes of Israel and Egypt at the behest of their master, US imperialism. This slight opening of the Rafah border could be ended at a moment's notice by imperialism. [the idea was also raised of organising an alternative world cup in Gaza as part of breaking the blockade].

It was noted that the SA government was hypocritical as they temporarily recalled their ambassador to Israel, while at the same time still allowing coal, diamonds, aircraft and helicopter parts and propellants (chemicals used in missiles) to go to Israel. The SA government was in thus the lackey of US imperialism.

Further steps:

1. To lobby intensively with mineworkers (diamond and coal), commercial workers (Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite, Checkers, Spar, Woolworths), docks and transport workers, and municipal workers to put into action their bold statements for workers to take action to refuse to handle any goods to or from Israel; co-ordinators were elected for these sectors.
2. We would issue educational leaflets to explain to the broader working class the real role fascist Israel plays and why we need to support the Palestinian cause
3. We would support protests of other pro-Palestinian groups with our own slogans;
4. We would support the poor people's world cup at Avondale ( and would welcome teams names such as the various Palestinian towns as well as team names such as Western Sahara, Rwanda, DRC, Sudan, Ogoni- as a means of highlighting the struggles the masses face against imperialism); we will be making Palestinian flags for this alternative world cup;
5. our next meeting is on the wed 16th June 17h00 at Community House, to which we invite all progressive media as well as workers organizations and activists, with the youth to watch a screening of "Offside" a movie about Palestinian youth trying to

organise a soccer match but obstructed by checkpoints and the Israeli fascists; the way forward on the campaign will be discussed after the movie.

6. we support the initiative by the Ogoni Solidarity Forum for protest on 26-28 June outside the Cape Town International Convention centre when the CEO's of the world's imperialist companies, Shell, JP Morgan, the real masters behind the genocide of the Palestinians and the plunder of the Ogonis, as well as the exploitation of billions of humanity, will gather.

7. We will continue to call for an international general strike against fascist Israel.

## **On the call for international worker brigades to go to Egypt to mobilise for the tearing down of the Palestinian 'Berlin wall', starting at Rafah**

Across the USA, the UK, and Europe, there is unprecedented hatred for the giant banks, the handful of imperialist parasites, who are launching an ongoing attack on the world proletariat. The bailing out of the banks from public funds leads directly to the widescale attack on workers wages and conditions. It is the working class that is forced to pay, with terrible hardships, to boost capitalist profits.

But the working class is starting to resist; the isolated resistance of the working class is spreading from Greece to Kyrgyzstan, to Rumania, throughout Europe, to China, to Thailand, to Madagascar, to Zimbabwe, to South Africa, to Egypt, to Bolivia, to Brazil, into Mexico and into the heart of the USA. World capitalist stability is breaking and the imperialists do not have a way out of their crisis.

Imperialism is trying to prevent that Kyrgyzstan, where the masses toppled their traditional leadership and burnt the government buildings to the ground, becomes generalised.

Since the 1930's imperialism has been trying to break the will of the Palestinian masses; they failed; recently through the 4 year blockade of Gaza, through Operation Cast Lead in 2008-9 they tried again, and again they failed; each time the response of the working class in the region as well as in the imperialist centres become stronger. The Swedish and Norwegian dockworkers decision to come out on a limited strike of blocking all Israeli goods for 1-2 week period (after the attacks of 31<sup>st</sup> May by the Israeli fascist troops on the pacifist Gaza Aid convoy) also shows that the working class are far to the left of the union bureaucracy. It shows a further break in the capitalist stability.

The complicity of the Turkish regime (by handing over to the Israeli fascists, the names of all passengers and their exact cabin locations on the Mavi Marmara) in murdering 19 unarmed activists (9 of them Turks), could have (and can still) lead to the Turkish masses overthrowing their regime, one of the mainstays of US imperialism in the region. The masses overthrowing the brutal Turkish regime will reverberate in the entire region, not least in Eastern Europe, Germany and Iraq; it will be a great impulse for the masses to overthrow all the Arab lackey regimes; As was the case in Operation Cast Lead, the complicity of the Egyptian regime as well as the imperialist European Union in maintaining the siege of Gaza, stands exposed; It is the threat of revolution on a broad scale that has caused imperialism to scramble to hide their role as well as that of the working class; thus they have temporarily opened the Rafah border between Gaza and Egypt but crucially, concrete and other essential goods are still being blocked by the Egyptian regime, on the instruction of their

imperialist masters; thus the arch Zionist supporters such as Hilary Clinton suddenly talk of the blockade of Gaza is 'not sustainable', attempting to hide that US imperialism is the main force that sustains the ongoing genocide of the Palestinians, on the one hand, and on the other that it was the uprising and revolt of millions of the working class in Turkey and around the world, even in the imperialist centres, that forced a partial opening of the siege on Gaza, forcing imperialism to temporarily retreat. Such is the fear by imperialism that they would lose control of the region, that another 'Kyrgyzstan' would explode in the region, that they instructed their lackeys, the Turkish, South African and Spanish regimes to temporarily withdraw their ambassadors from Israel. The Turkish regime had to even postpone their regular joint military exercises with Israel in an attempt to show that they were now suddenly 'anti-Israeli' and to cover their bloody role in the murder of the unarmed volunteers on the Gaza Aid convoy. This Turkish regime, butcher of the Kurdish masses and slaughterer of the Iraqi resistance, is being portrayed by the capitalist media as the 'friend' of the Palestinians, whereas it is the main military support of US imperialism in the region, second only to fascist Israel.

Imperialism even sent their chief lackey in the region, the head of the Arab League to 'sympathise' with the Palestinians in Gaza- the first visit in the 4 years of siege. US imperialism instructed its lackey in Egypt, Mubarak, to partially open the Rafah border- this was preferable to having him toppled by the masses. All the Arab regimes in the Middle East sustain Israel; they contain the anger of the masses and submit them to the feet of imperialism.

To those who claim that Israel is 'imperialist' we say, they ignore the fact that 33% of its exports are sustained by the diamond trade of Anglo American (JP Morgan Chase); they ignore that Israel has received over USD 300 billion in Aid from imperialism since inception (some even put it as high as USD 3 trillion); they ignore that Israel has had USD 42 Billion in loans written off while billions around the globe are forced to cut wages and benefits and die of hunger; they forget that Israel was formed in 1948 out of a pact between world imperialism and Stalinism, as its fascist jackboot against the revolutionary masses in the region. Imperialism used the UN to create this permanent division of the working class in the region as a means of control, hiding the role of fascist policeman for imperialism. To those who ask the UN to control the Rafah border, is like asking those who are behind the genocide and siege of the Palestinians to safeguard their rights (it is like asking the wolf to tend your sheep to safeguard them from predators).

In 1989 the masses tore down the Berlin wall that was set up by the same pact between imperialism and stalinism after the second world imperialist war, as a means to divide the German working class and contain any threat of workers revolution.

The time has come to tear down the Palestinian 'Berlin wall', the borders around Gaza, the hundreds of checkpoints in the West Bank, the wall in and around the West Bank, the very borders of fascist Israel, opening the way for the millions of Palestinian refugees living in concentration camps in the region, to return home. While the masses prepare our offensive, imperialism prepares its counter-offensive, attempting to wipe out from memory any gain of the Kyrgyzstan revolt; they attempt to crush the revolutionary masses through a counter-revolution under the guise of inter-ethnic clashes. Imperialism is hard at work to try and reverse the gains of the mass resistance to the siege of the Palestinians; the question of the sending of international worker brigades to Egypt to start tearing down the 'Berlin wall', commencing at Rafah, is an immediate task for the world proletariat. We call for the world proletariat to rally to this call. We call especially to the working class, especially in the imperialist centres in Europe and in the USA to mobilise against your own

regimes, who are the main sustainers of the siege of the Palestinian people; let us not forget the lessons of the Paris Commune where different sections of imperialism united against the first proletarian Commune; a free Palestine can take no other form and can only be sustained through workers revolution in the imperialist centres; the smashing of fascist Israel must mean the overthrowal of its roots, world imperialism.

[Even on a bourgeois basis, there is no border between Turkey and Syria, so why should there be any border between Egypt and Gaza?] The unity of the Egyptian and Palestinian masses will be a shining beacon for the working class across the region to unite in this task of tearing down the Palestinian 'Berlin wall'. Our call goes hand in hand with the call from the FLTI for an organizing committee for the refounding of the Fourth International.

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Reprinted from [PULSE](#) magazine:

***In Captivity: A Letter from Abdallah Abu Rahma***



Abdallah Abu Rahmah during a demonstration in Bil'in. Picture credit: Oren Ziv/ActiveStills From the [Popular Struggle Coordination Committee](#) website:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has been two months now since I was handcuffed, blindfolded and taken from my home. Today news has reached Ofer Military Prison that the apartheid wall on Bil'in's land will finally be moved and construction has begun on the new route. This will return half of the land that was stolen from our village. For those of us in Ofer, imprisoned for our protest against the wall, this victory makes the suffering of being here easier to bear. After actively resisting the theft of our land by the Israeli apartheid wall and settlements every week for five years now, we long to be standing along side our brothers and sisters to mark this victory and the fifth anniversary of our struggle.

Ofer is an Israeli military base inside the occupied territories that serves as a prison and military court. The prison is a collection of tents enclosed by razor wire and an electrical fence, each unit containing four tents, 22 prisoners per tent. Now, in winter, wind and rain comes in through cracks in the tent and we don't have sufficient blankets, clothes, and other basic necessities.

Food is a critical issue here in Ofer, there's not enough. We survive by buying ingredients from the prison canteen that we prepare in our tent. We have one small hot plate, and this is also our only source of warmth. Those whose families can put money in an account for us to buy food, do so, but many cannot afford to. The positive aspect to this is that I have learned how to cook! Tonight I made falafel and sweets to celebrate the news about our victory. I cannot wait to get home and cook for my wife and children!

I was arrested in my slippers, and to this day my family has been unable to get permission to supply me with a pair of shoes. I was finally given my watch after

repeated requests. For me this is an essential way to keep oriented; it was unbearable not being able to see the rate at which time passes. Receiving it, I felt so overjoyed, like a child getting his first watch. I can barely imagine what it will be like to have a pair of proper shoes again.

Because of our imprisonment, the military considers our families to be a security threat. It is very hard for our wives, children and extended family to visit. My friend Adeeb Abu Rahmah , also a political prisoner from Bil'in, cannot receive visits from his wife and one of his daughters. Even his mother, a woman in her eighties who is currently in bad health, is considered a security threat! He is afraid that he will not see her before she dies.

I am a teacher and before my arrest I taught at a private school in Birzeit and also owned a chicken farm. My family had to sell the farm at a loss after I was arrested. I don't know if I will have my position at the school when I am released. Adeeb 's family of nine is left without their sole provider, as are many other families. Not being able to care for our loved ones who need us is the hardest part of being here.

It is the support that I receive from my family and friends that helps me go on. I am grateful to the Palestinian leaders who have contacted my family, the diplomats from the European Union and to the Israeli activists who have expressed their support by attending my hearings. The relationship we have built together with the activists has gone beyond the definition of colleague or friend, we are brothers and sisters in this struggle. You are an unrelenting source of inspiration and solidarity. You have stood with us during demonstrations and court hearings, and during our happiest and most painful occasions. Being in prison has shown me how many true friends I have, I am so grateful to all of you.

From the confines of my imprisonment it becomes so clear that our struggle is far bigger than justice for only Bil'in or even Palestine. We are engaged in an international fight against oppression. I know this to be true when I remember all of you from around the world who have joined the movement to stop the wall and settlements. Ordinary people enraged by the occupation have made our struggle their own, and joined us in solidarity. We will surely join together to struggle for justice in other places when Palestine is finally free.

Missing the five-year anniversary of our struggle in Bil'in will be like missing the birthday of one of my children. Lately I think a lot about my friend Bassem whose life was taken during a nonviolent demonstration last year and how much I miss him. Despite the pain of this loss, and the yearning I feel to be with my family and friends at home, I think that if this is the price we must pay for our freedom, then it is worth it, and we would be willing to pay much more.

Yours,  
Abdallah Abu Rahmah  
From the Ofer Military Detention Camp

## **Appeal from Popular committee against the wall, on 17 year old Ahmad Burnat**

Dear supporter,

At 1:30 in the morning on July 19th armed Israeli soldiers drove into our village, Bil'in, under the cover of the pitch black night, and raided the house of my friend and well known activist Wajeeh Burnat, who was featured in the documentary Bil'in Habibti. This time, the raid was conducted to take Ahmad, his 17 year-old son. It is not often that we ask for such help, but we turn to you today asking for a donation, large or small, to help in securing his release.

A picture of Ahmad Burnat from the movie Interrupted Streams

Last Sunday, a military judge ruled Ahmad could be released, but only on the condition that a sum of 10,000 NIS (2,600 USD) be deposited as bail.

Ahmad's family has lost most of its land to the construction of the Wall, and have paid dearly for their role in the struggle – Ahmad's eldest brother, Rani, is paralyzed from the neck down after being shot in the neck by a sniper during a demonstration in the year 2000. Following the injury, Israel also revoked Ahmad's father's work permit. Another of Ahmad's brothers, Ibrahim Burnat, was also arrested six months ago and has been in jail since.

Ahmad's family cannot afford the money to pay Ahmad's bail. Unless we are able to raise that sum, he will remain languishing at the Ofer Military Prison for the duration of his trial, which could last one year.

Raids such as the one Ahmad was arrested in are not exceptional in Bil'in, or in any of the other villages in which grassroots protest against the occupation takes place on a regular basis. In Bil'in alone, ninety people have been arrested in connection to demonstrations in the village.

The West Bank village of Bil'in, among numerous other villages, has been targeted by Israeli authorities for their commitment to grassroots organizing. Hundreds more have been arrested in the past two years in Ni'ilin, Nabi Saleh, Budrus, Jayyous, alMa'asara and the other villages who take part in the popular struggle against the occupation.

Every such arrest is a threat to our ability to sustain this new vital wave of grassroots resistance. Lawyers fees, bails and prisoner support are an obstacle that we will be able to overcome, but to do so, we need your support today more than we have ever needed it before.

Please make a donation and encourage the work being done in these villages. Your contributions can help us stand up for a true justice in Palestine.

Website to make immediate contributions <http://www.popularstruggle.org/>

In solidarity,

Popular Struggle Co-ordination Committee

This message was sent to workersinternational@gmail.com by Popular Struggle Coordination Committee

Popular Struggle Coordination Committee | Amarat alRamouni | Ramallah | Occupied Territories

## **Imperialism is deliberately instigating attacks against black workers and petty traders from the rest of Africa**

A few days ago rumours started appearing in the capitalist press ('independent newspapers', ETV and SABC) about supposed threats of 'xenophobic' violence after the world cup. This is part of the psychological preparation of the masses for attacks on our black brothers and sisters, launched by thugs, who are directly and indirectly on the payroll of imperialism. This trend is similar to what happened in 2008 when the capitalist media initiated a frenzy of attacks, playing on the desperation of the unemployed and the nationalist chauvinism promoted by the ANC, on black African foreign workers and traders, mainly Zimbabweans. At the time there was a near revolutionary situation in Zimbabwe with even the generals fleeing to South Africa, claiming that the majority of the rank and file in the army were against Mugabe; imperialism knew that if the masses overthrew Mugabe in a revolution, they would lose not only their key agent in Zimbabwe (ie Mugabe) but the revolutionary uprising could spill over to South Africa and even go throughout the region. It is an old device of imperialism to put worker against worker when faced with the prospect of a revolutionary challenge. Thus the South African worker was swept up against the Zimbabwean and Somalian worker. In 2008 the 'independent newspapers' publicized on their front pages, pictures of burning Zimbabweans while the police looked on, laughing and doing nothing. This demonstrated to the lumpen elements that they could attack their fellow African brother and sister and the state would do nothing. Everything was done to destabilise the workers in the region. Most of the thugs who murdered our brothers and sisters in 2008 are still on the street; this shows the complicity of the state and the ANC-SACP government in the plans of imperialism.

### **So why does imperialism now instigate the attacks on our black brothers and sisters?**

The development of capitalism on a world scale means that more and more, commodities are the product of international exploitation of the working class; thus, for example, cellphones brings together the labour of workers in the DRC, the US, Europe, China and Japan. Capitalist production every day destroys national divisions and unites workers on a global scale; giant corporations and banks organise production on an international scale, reducing workers from different countries to wage slaves for small groups of competing imperialists. In Southern Africa, for example, the working class of the respective countries are all mostly under the control of the Wall street banks (and to a lesser extent UK, French, German and Japanese banks and monopolies); the development of capitalism in South Africa involved many years of labour of slaves from Malaysia and Indonesia, Chinese workers, workers from Mozambique, Swaziland, Malawi, Botswana, especially on the mines; but the mine bosses, always wary of the danger of a united working class resistance, have always deliberately promoted tribal and ethnic divisions and have deliberately instigated fights between different nationalities, in order to perpetuate capitalist control; now that over 2 million Zimbabweans are in South Africa and since 1994 there has been greater numbers of workers coming into South Africa from the rest of Africa, imperialism is greatly concerned about the growing unity of the working class and the growing class consciousness; the attacks on our black brothers and sisters are being instigated by imperialism as an attempt to nullify the growing threat of revolution, which all the more likely seems set to break out in the whole of Southern Africa; the attacks aim to divert the working class from fighting the real enemy (the capitalist-imperialist class) and to exhaust the working class by having to constantly fight off bands of thugs.

The world cup was a deliberate distraction from the hardships and massive attacks currently being waged against the working class; they have calculated that the masses would not be distracted for long and would soon turn to focus on the attacks; one of the major attacks on the working class and the lower middle class and even the smaller capitalists is the massive electricity price increases; Cosatu leaders have deliberately delayed the general strike against the electricity price increase as a service to their imperialist masters, knowing full well that there is unprecedented anger against the increases; on the ground the masses have on a large scale seen through the Zuma 'Polokwane' regime- imperialism knows there is a crisis of credibility for them and that there is no political force that can restrain the working class as all their agents are discredited; the Cosatu leaders deliberately delay even the symbolic call of a one day general strike as imperialism knows that any spark anywhere in the world will spur on a resistance anywhere in the globe (imperialism is drawing the lesson from the 7 general strikes in Greece this year and is doing everything possible to neutralise resistance even before it starts) ; thus all the forces, the imperialists and their lackeys in the workers movement work together against the masses; now as in 2008 we can expect the state repressive forces to work with the fascist gangs against the working class. The mouthpiece of imperialism, the capitalist newspapers and mass media play their role in instigating worker against worker violence. Some of the middle Anc leaders would no doubt act to put imperialism's plans into practice as they have done in 2008 by organizing and instigating the lumpen proletariat to act against fellow workers.

### **Dividing the working class is part of the international strategy of imperialism**

In Rwanda in 1994 under the guise of Hutu-Tutsi violence and 1 million people killed, US imperialism was making a grab for power while the French and Belgians were pushed out; thousands of machetes were imported from US sweatshops in China to be used in the killing frenzy. US imperialism used Rwanda as a springboard to launch its attacks in the Eastern DRC to seize control of the cassiterite reserves (more than 70% of world reserves are in the region; this mineral is used for cellphones, laptops and playstations); US military commanders were spotted on the ground during the wars in the Eastern DRC; Rwanda exports more minerals than is mined there confirming that it is a conduit for plundered minerals from the Eastern DRC; Jonathan Oppenheimer (son of Anglo American's Nicky Oppenheimer) is director of Umicore, which is listed as smuggling cassiterite on the world market. When the masses rose up in Kirgystan on 7 April this year, overthrowing the US puppet, Bakiev, and burning the parliament building to the ground, a leadership vacuum has allowed another US puppet, Rosa Utambayeva, to seize control of an interim government; but this 'new government' does not have support of the masses; what did imperialism do? They instigated a supposed 'ethnic fight between the Kirgiz and Usbeks; but it was really a move to smash and destabilize the workers who were still opposed to the regime; once hundreds of thousands were displaced and destabilized, the regime suddenly held 'referendum' which allegedly showed support for it;

Even here in South Africa, when the 1985 rebellion was in full swing the Anglo American and other imperialists instigated clashes between 'zulus' and 'xhosas' but this was really instigating fascist groups of the inkatha against the masses, hoping to smash the revolution completely; after more than 30 000 people were killed and a lull started in the masses, imperialism moved to stabilise the situation through the 1994 elections (and the interim government before then).

### **The way forward**

What we need are joint self defence committees of workers from African immigrants and local workers to act against the lumpen provocateurs, and the state repressive forces who are directly and indirectly on the payroll of imperialism; but further than

this, the best defence is to organise a real, indefinite general strike against the electricity increases and other attacks by imperialism; we need an emergency workers summit, with delegates from every workplace and from the unemployed and from immigrant workers, with delegates from the rank and file soldiers, to meet to prepare the way to combat the attacks by imperialism; we need to call to such a workers summit delegates from the workers movement in Zimbabwe as well as from Madagascar, and indeed from every country in the region; unions must open their doors to all workers whether casual or permanent, whether 'legals' or 'illegal'; equal pay for equal work, across the region, equal conditions for all workers across the region; expropriate the imperialist-capitalist class, without compensation, and place the means of production under workers control.

We cannot depend on the Cosatu leaders who are in alliance with the capitalist ANC and SACP; they will at every step try to sabotage the revolutionary action of the masses. The cowardly ANC and SACP shrinks from fighting off the imperialist gangsters who are responsible for turning Africa into their private slave camp; while imperialism is in crisis, there are less and less crumbs from their masters' table for the aspirant black capitalists (amabhulu omnyama), so the cowardly ANC turns on our black brothers and sisters from the rest of Africa, doing their masters' bidding, for a few pieces of silver. Where the masses are organising against the thugs, such as in Du Noon, the imperialist protect the thugs by banning marches of the working class. Where the thugs attack small traders, the police encourage them to abandon their wares and do nothing while the thugs help themselves to the goods. We cannot depend on the state to defend the working class; this is why joint workers selfdefence committees are necessary to act against the fascist thugs. Further, is it really a coincidence that Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite, Spar and Woolworths (a big section of the food gangsters) are major sponsors of 'independent' newspapers, one of the main instigators of imperialist propaganda fuelling the fascist attacks?

Let us not allow imperialism to put worker against worker, let us not allow fascist provocateurs to instigate attacks against the working class; workers of the world unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains; we have a world to win. We call for an organizing committee to be set up to work for the refounding of the Fourth International!

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# **Ama impiyali aphembelela ngabom uhlaselo lwabasebenzi abamnyama nosomashishini abancinci abavela kwiAfrika iphela**

Kwintsuku ezimbalwa ezidlulileyo amarhe aqele ukuvela kumaphepha-ndaba onxowankulu 'amaphepha-ndaba azimeleyo', ETV nakuSABC malunga nogrogriso olucingelwayo 'loloyiko olungenasizathu sivakalayo sokudibana nabantu basemzini' 'xenophobic' emva kwe kwemidlalo yendebe yehlabathi. Le yinxalenye yokulungisa ingqondo zesininzi zihlasele abantakwethu abamnyama nodade bethu, olwenziwa zizigebenga eziseluhlwini lwabahlawulwa ngokuthe ngqo nangokungathanga ngqo ngama impiyali. Eli nyathelo liyafana nento eyenzekayo ngo 2008 xa amaphepha-ndaba onxowankulu aqalisa ngokuvuselela uhlaselo lobundlobongela, edlala ngokuphelelwa lithemba ngabangaphangeliyo yaye nokuzingca kobuhlanga okugqithisileyo bobuzwe obabuphembelelwa yiANC, kubasebenzi bangaphandle abamnyama nabangosomashishini abangamaAfrika, ingakumbi abemi baseZimbabwe. Ngelo xesha kwakusondela imeko ye revolution eZimbabwe kunye kwaneenjengele zomkhosi zasabela eMzantsi Afrika, zibanga ukuba isininzi samajoni odidi oluphantsi sichasene noMugabe; ama impiyali azile ukuba ukuba abantu bambhukuqile uMugabe nge revolution, azakuphulukana hayi kuphela ne agent yabo eyintloko eZimbabwe (ukuthi uMugabe) kodwa uphakamo lwe revolution lunganwenwela eMzantsi Afrika yaye lingade liye kummandla wonke. Liqhinga elidala lama impiyali lokubeka umsebenzi ngokuchaseneyo nomsebenzi xa ejongene nomceli mngeni onga ungangowe revolution. Ngolo hlobo umsebenzi woMzantsi Afrika wathabatheka ngokuchaseneyo nabasebenzi baseZimbabwe nabaseSomali. Ngo 2008 'amaphepha ndaba azimeleyo' apapasha eluntwini kumaphepha awo asekuqaleni, imifanekiso yabemi baseZimbabwe abatshayo ekubeni amapolisa ebukele, ehleka yaye engenzinto. Oku kubonise ulutsha olungasebenziyo ukuba lunganako ukuhlasele abantakwabo nodade babo abangamaAfrika yaye urhulumente akazukwenza nto.

Yonke into yenziwa ukuphazamisa abasebenzi kulo mmandla. Uninzi lwezizigebenga ezabulala abantakwethu nodade bethu ngo 2008 zisanyuka zisihla ezitalatweni; le nto ibonisa inxaxheba karhulumente norhulumente weANC-SACP kwizicwangciso zama impiyali.

## **Ngoko ke kutheni ngoku ama impiyali ephembelela uhlaselo kubantakwethu nodade bethu abamnyama?**

Ukukhula kobungxowankulu kwihlabathi kuthetha ukuthi isininzi ngakumbi sezinto ezithengiswayo zisuka ekuxhatshazweni kwabasebenzi behlabathi; ngolo hlobo, umzekelo, i-cellphones zihlanganisa kunye umsebenzi wabasebenzi e-DRC, eMelika, eYurophu, eChina naseJapan. Imveliso yobungxowankulu mihla yonke itshabalalisa ukwahlukahlukana ngokobuhlanga yaye imanya abasebenzi kwisigaba sehlabathi; inkampani ezinkulakazi nemizi egcina imali ilungiselela imveliso ngokwesigaba sehlabathi, zinciphisela abasebenzi kumazwe ohlukeneyo kwimivuzo yobukhoboka isenzela amaqela ambalwa ama impiyali akhuphisanayo. Kumazantsi eAfrika, umzekelo, abasebenzi abakulamazwe bonke uninzi baphantsi kolawulo lwemizi egcina imali yaseWall street (yaye ngokungaphantsi kwimizi egcina imali yase Ngilani, eFrance, eJamani neyaseJapan nakoodla bodwa); ukukhula kobungxowankulu eMzantsi Afrika kuquka iminyaka emininzi yomsebenzi wamakhoboka avela eMalaysia naseIndonesia, kubasebenzi baseChina, abasebenzi abavela eMozambique, eSwaziland, eMalawi, eBotswana, ingakumbi emigodini; kodwa abaqashi basemigodini, bebesoloko bexhalabile yingozi yenkcaso

yabasebenzi abamanyeneyo, bebesoloko mihla le ngabom bephembelela iyantlukwano ngokobuzwe nobuhlanga yaye ngabom baphembelela imilo phakathi kwentlanga ezimbini, ukwenzela ukugcina ulawulo lobungxowankulu; njengoko izigidi ezingaphezulu esibinini zabemi baseZimbabwe beseMzantsi Afrika yaye sukela ngo 1994 kubekho inani elikhulukazi labasebenzi abangena eMzantsi Afrika abavela kwiAfrika ngokubanzi, ama impiyali axhalabila kakhulu malunga nolumanyano lukhulayo lwabasebenzi nolwazi olukhulayo lokuqonda umgangatho; uhlaselo kubantakwethu abamnyama nodade bethu luphembelelwa ngama impiyali ngelinge lokuphelisa ingozi ekhulayo ye revolution, leyo ibonakala ngamandla izimisele ukudubula kwiAfrika yonke eseMazantsi; uhlaselo lujolise ekuphambukiseni abasebenzi ekulweni elona tshaba (ongxowankulu-ama impiyali) yaye nokudinisa abasebenzi ngokuzakusoloko besilwa amaqela ezigebeza.

Indebe yehlabathi ibesisibhidekisi sangabom enkxwalekeni nakuhlaselo olummandla olwenziwa ngoku ngokuchasene nabasebenzi; baye babala ukuba abasebenzi abazukubhidekiswa ithuba eli de yaye kungekudala bazakujika baqwalasele kolu hlaselo;

Elinye elikhulu loluhlaselo kubasebenzi nakwabasezantsi bomgangatho ophakathi yaye kwa nakongxowankulu abancinane yingxikela yokunyuka kwamaxabiso ombane; inkokheli zikaCOSATU ziye zalulibazisa ngabom uqhankqalazo lukawonke wonke oluchasene nexabiso lombane elinyukileyo ngokukhonza oo master babo ama impiyali, besazi kakuhle mhlophe ukuba kukho umsindo ongenakufaniswa nanto ochasene nolunyuso; ezantsi isininzi ngokubanzi sinyamezele sonela kumbuso kaZuma wase'Polokwana'- ama impiyali ayazi kukho ingxaki yokungathembakali kuwo nokuba akukho qela lezopolitiko linokunqanda abasebenzi njengokuba zonke ii agent zawo zithandabuzwa; iinkokheli zikaCOSATU zilibazise ngabom kwa ikhwelo elingumqondiso losuku olunye loqhankqalazo lukawonke wonke njengokuba ama impiyali esazi ukuba nayiphina intlantsi naphina ehlabathi iyakukhuthaza inkcaso naphina ehlabathini (ama impiyali ethathe isifundo kumaqhankqalazo asixhenxe kawonke wonke aseGreece kulo nyaka yaye enza ngazonke indlela ukuphelisa inkcaso kwa phambi kokuba iqale); ngalo ndlela onke amaqela, ama impiyali novuma zonke babo abakwi mpembelelo zabasebenzi basebenza kunye ngokuchaseneyo nesininzi sabantu; ngoku njengaku 2008 singalindela amaziko ocinzelelo karhulumente asebenze nemiguvela yohlaselo olungenalusini (fascist) ngokuchasene nabasebenzi. Umlomo wama impiyali, amaphepha- ndaba ongxowankulu nesininzi sezosasazo badlala eyabo indima ekuphembeleni ubugebenga kumsebenzi ngokuchane nomnye umsebenzi. Ezinye zenkokheli eziphakathi zeANC ngokungathandabuzekiyo zingancedisa ukubeka izicwangciso zama impiyali kwintshukumo njengokuba zazenzile ngo 2008 ngokulungiselela yaye ziphembelele abasebenzi abangodunkanka bathathe intshukumo ngokuchaseneyo nabantakwabo.

### **Ukwahlulahlula abasebenzi yinxalenye yamaqhinga ehlabathi ama impiyali.**

E-Riwanda ngo 1994 phantsi kwembonakalo ngathi bubugebengu bama Hutu-Tutsi yaye isigidi sabantu sabulawa, ama impiyali aseMelika ayesenza uxhakamfulo lolawulo ekubeni awaseFrance nawaseBelgium ayetyhalelwa ngaphandle; amawakawaka e machetes zangeniswa elizweni zivela kwivenkilezombilo zaseMelika eChina zisetyenziswe kubulalokazi. Ama impiyali aseMelika asebenzisa iRiwanda njengeplanga lokutsiba ukwenza uhlaselo lwawo kwiDRC eseMpuma ukuthatha ulawulo lwezimbiwa ze cassiterite (ngaphezu kunamashumi asixhenxe epesenti 70% zezimbiwa zehlabathi zikulommandla; esisimbiwa sisetyenziswa kwi cellphones, laptops nakwi playstations); iinkumanda zomkhosi waseMelika zibonwe zihamba emhlabeni ngexesha leemfazwe kwiMpuma yeDRC; iRiwanda ikhupha

elizweni izimbiwa ezingaphaya kunezo zembiwe phaya okuqinisekisa ukuba ingumjelo wezimbiwa eziphangwayo kwiMpuma yeDRC; uJonathan Oppenheimer (unyana ka Anglo American's Nicky Oppenheimer) ngumongameli kaUmicore, leyo iseluhlwini lwabangenisa ngokungekho mthethweni icassiterite kwindawo zoshishino zehlabathi.

Xa inyambalala yayiphakama eKirgystan ngomhla 7 April kulo nyaka, yabhukuqa unodoli weMelika, uBakiev, yaye yatshisa sangqungqa isakhiwo sepalamente, ukuswela inkokheli kuvulele omnye unodoli weMelika, uRosa Utambayeva, athabathe ulawulo lorhulumente wethutyana; kodwa lo 'rhulumente mtsha' akanankxaso eluntwini; yintoni ama impiyali ayenzileyo? Aphembelele ingcinga 'yomlo wobuhlanga phakathi kweKirgiz neUsbeks; kodwa ngenene yayilinyathelo lokutshabalalisa nokubhidekisa abasebenzi abo bebesachasene nombuso; xa amakhulu amawaka athi saa yaye ebhidekisiwe, umbuso ngesaquphe wabamba 'ireferendum ' leyo ngokutshiwo yabonisa inkxaso yayo;

Kwa lapha eMzantsi Afrika, xa uvukelo luka 1985 lwaluqhuba ngamandla uAnglo American namanye ama impiyali aphembelela ungquzulwano phakathi kwa'mazulu' nama'xhosa' kodwa oku ngenene kwakuphembela amaqela ahlasele ngokungenalusini (fascist group) inkatha ngokuchaseneyo nabantu, enethemba lokutshabalalisa i-revolution ngokupheleleyo; emva kwangaphezu kwamashumi amathathu amawaka 30 000 babantu ababulawayo inzolo yaqala ebantwini, ama impiyali angena uzokuzinzisa le meko ngolonyulo luka 1994 (nangorhulumente wethutyana phambi kwalo).

### **Indlela ebheka phambili**

Into esiyifunayo ziikomiti ezidibeneyo zokuzikhusela zabasebenzi abavela kubangeneleli (immigrants) beAfrika nabasebenzi balapha balwe ngokuchaseneyo nemiduka exhokoxayo, kunye namaqela ohlaselo ngokungenalusini karhulumente lawo ngokuthe gqo nabucala aseluhlwini lwabahlawulwa ngama impiyali; kodwa ngaphezu koku, okona kuzikhusela kuphambili kukulungiselela elokwenene, nolungenasiphelo uqhankqalazo lukawonkewonke oluchasene namaxabiso anyukileyo ombane nolunye uhlaselo lwama impiyali; sifuna umhlangano wabasebenzi kaxakeka, ubenabathunywa abavela kwindawo zonke zokusebenza yaye nabavela kwabangaphangeliyo kunye nakubasebenzi abangabangeneleli, nabathunywa abasuka kumajoni odidi oluphantsi, bahlangane kulungiselelwe indlela yokulwa uhlaselo lwama impiyali; kufuneka sibeth' ikhwelo kuleyo ntlangano yabasebenzi yabathunywa abasuka kwimpembelelo yabasebenzi eZimbabwe kananjalo abaseMadagascar, yaye ngenene abasuka kwilizwe ngalinye kummandla; iimanyano zabasebenzi mazivule amasango azo kubasebenzi bonke nokuba ngabangxungxayo okanye abasebenza isigxina, nokuba 'basemthethweni' okanye 'abakho semthethweni'; umvuzo olinganayo ngomsebenzi olinganayo, kummandla jikelele, iimeko ezilinganayo kubasebenzi bonke kummandla jikelele; hlutha ama impiyali-ongxowankulu, ngaphandle kwentlawulo, yaye ubeke izinto zokusebenza phantsi kolawulo lwabasebenzi.

Asinakuxhomekeka kwinkokheli zikaCOSATU ezo zikumfelandawonye nongxowankulu abayiANC kunye neSACP; bazakuthi kulo naliphina inyathelo bazame ukulonakalisa ngabom umlo wotshaba (sabotage) intshukumo ze revolution zesininzi. I-ANC neSACP ezingamagwala ziyoyika ukulwa izihange ezingama impiyali ezingunobangela wokujika iAfrika ibe yinkampu yawo yamakhoboka yabucala; ekubeni ama impiyali esezingxakini, kukho ingququ ezincipha ngokuncipha etafileni ka master wabo abamnyama abasalangazelela ukuba

ngoongxowankulu (amabhulu amnyama), ngoko ke i-ANC eligwala ijikele kubantakwethu nodade bethu abamnyama abasuka kwiAfrika iphela, isenza umyalelo ka master wabo, bafumane amaqhekeza ammbalwa esilivere. Apho abasebenzi bazilungiselelayo (organising) ngokuchaseneyo nezizikrelemnqa, njengaseDu Noon, ama impiyali akhusela izikrelemnqa ngokuvala umlomo iimatshi zabasebenzi. Apho izikrelemnqa zihlasela osomashishini amancinci, amapolisa ayazikhuthaza bashiye impahla zabo yaye engenzi nto ekubeni izikrelemnqa zizinceda empahleni.

Asinakuthembela kurhulumente akhusele abasebenzi; ngunobangela weekomiti ezidibeneyo zokuzikhusela ziyimfuneko zithathe intshukumo ngokuchasene nezikrelemnqa ezihlasela ngokungenalusini. Ngaphezu koko, ingaba ngenene kukudibana (coincidence) ukuba uPick 'n Pay, uShoprite, uSpar noWoolworths (icandelo elikhulu lezihange zokutya) bangabameli (sponsors) abakhulu bamaphepha-ndaba 'azimeleyo', omnye umphemebeleli oyintloko osasazela ama impiyali aphebelele uhlaselo ngabangenalusini?

Masingavumeli ama impiyali abeke umsebenzi ngokuchaseneyo nomnye umsebenzi, masingavumeli abaxhokonxi ababulala ngokungenalusini baphebelele uhlaselo ngokuchaseneyo nabasebenzi; basebenzi behlabathi manyanani, akhonto mele siphulukane nayo ngaphandle kwamatyathanga ethu; sinehlabathi emasiliphumelele. Sibeth' ikhwelo lokumilisela ikomiti yolungiselelo isebenzele ukwakhiwa kwakhona kweFourth International!

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## **Super-exploitation- feel it, it is here! We expose how imperialism are the main beneficiaries of the 2010 Fifa World cup.**

The capitalist media have run a 6 year campaign, sweeping up the middle class and the working class with it about the supposed benefits of the Fifa 2010 soccer world cup in South Africa. The efforts the imperialists have put into promoting the world cup is much like they do when they sweep up the nationalist sentiments in a population to support fascism. Cosatu leaders served on the cup organizing committee, providing the perfect cover for the imperialists to plunder the country in broad daylight. Despite many thousands of workers putting themselves into debt to buy tickets (partly as a result of the support by the Cosatu leaders of the cup), the capitalists still could not fill the stadiums. The SACP and their fraction in the leadership of Cosatu were pushing for 'labour peace' during the world cup but they were defeated by the workers on strike in the municipal and dock and rail sectors. The SACP leaders were not completely defeated; these leaders still managed to postpone/call off the general strike action against the electricity hikes (the massive attack on the working class of a 34% increase in tariff has come into effect on 1 July despite a scheduled meeting of the capitalists, government and worker leaders on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 to 'negotiate' over it).

The first point that we can learn from the world cup is that in general, if the capitalist wants to sell something, they will paint it in rosy colours, exaggerating its qualities,

until they have your money in hand; afterwards, when negative sentiment arises, the capitalists will even make money out of this. Thus the national soccer team was painted in advance as potential 'world beaters'; some soccer players were even compared to Einstein. The very capitalists who could not be bothered how workers get home from work and that millions of workers spend hours getting to and from work on a public transport system that woefully inadequate, suddenly became the 'champions' of public transport, creating a special transport system (with the help of their lackeys, the SA government) of buses every 5 minutes and trains running up to 2am in the mornings, so that the capitalists could efficiently rake in the billions of profits from the cup. The national flag was promoted as a symbol of 'unity of the nation'. We will show here that the national flag really represents capitalist imperialist interests and that there is a fundamental divide in society between the working class, the majority, and the handful of capitalists.

### **Counting the costs**

A conservative estimate of the costs is about R100 billion. We arrive at this estimate through the following: The Gautrain project is now estimated to cost **R35 Billion** (after having started as a R5 billion project). The 5 new stadiums cost about R3 billion each, a total of **R15Bn**. The 5 refurbished stadiums together cost a further **R5 bn**. The national and provincial road budget was R17bn in 2004-5; if we estimate that a 'real' increase would have doubled it over the period to 2010 this brings us to R34 bn for 2009-2010; but the actual budget was R49 bn, a R15 bn extra for the last year; a conservative estimate on road and transport for this past 6 year period, due to the 'world cup' is thus a further **R20 bn**. The upgrading of the airports cost a further **R6bn**. A further **R15bn** must be added if we consider the building of a new terminal at OR Tambo airport and the new airport in Durban. If we add the cost of the new hotels and flats, many of which are still vacant, that were built under the guise of the influx of 'tourists' in 2010, as well as the mostly empty 'rapid' transport bus network, the construction of 'fan parks', the upgrading of several training facilities for the teams (largely unused), the upgrading of medical facilities close to stadiums (such as the R50 million medical unit built at Somerset hospital), the new buses for each of the 32 teams, we can see that the overall cost is pushed up well over R100 bn.

The Athlone stadium was upgraded at a cost of R400 million and used only once, for one day, during the world cup.

While most of the public hospitals have run out of essential medication for TB, heart illness, diabetes, etc, the new 2010 medical units for the soccer millionaires, lie largely unused and full stocked. It takes months to get an appointment for an operation but all operations set for the days of world cup matches, were postponed at facilities deemed by the Fifa gangsters to be made exclusively available for the soccer prima donas.

Millions of bafana bafana T-shirts, vuvuzelas and SA flags, made in the US imperialist slave camps in China, were sold to the masses at 10 times the real price. Not only did the masses sacrifice to pay for the high cost of the tickets but once inside the stadiums and fan parks, they were forced to pay 3 times the cost of the usual high price for food.

Considering the real cost of a housing unit ( and not the over-inflated prices) of R40 000, it would have been possible to build an extra 2.5 million housing units; thus it would have been possible to have wiped out the problem of homelessness within 6 years; it was a conscious choice to keep the masses in a state of desperation and homelessness to maintain a climate in which speculatively high prices can be charged for housing and which the banks are the main beneficiaries (through their

control of land, the construction companies and through the high rate of interest they charge on loans). The major shareholders of all banks locally are the handful of parasites who control the imperialist banks, mainly in Wall street, London, Paris and Berlin. This points to who the major beneficiaries were of the 2010 world cup.

The figures above exclude the over R20 bn that Fifa gains from their sponsors, the over R2 bn from the ticket sales, hospitality and licencing rights and the billions that are raked in by the parasitic betting syndicates. It also excludes billions on extra expenses on extending the police force as well as the greater militarization of the repressive apparatus, spent under the guise of the world cup but in reality preparing an iron fist to smash the growing working class discontent.

### **Imperialism was the biggest winner of the world cup**

Long before the final whistle is blown, the real winners of the world cup, the imperialists, are laughing all the way to the bank. While soon, some 'soccer genius' will hold up high a piece of gold and be made to think that they are the champions of the world, the imperialists will be patting themselves on the back for another plunder, well executed, and will be planning for their next venture (the Olympics?).

The imperialist construction companies (Murray & Roberts, WBHO, Grinaker-LTA, Group Five, BAM-Netherlands based, Bouygues- French based) were the main instruments for taking billions in profits from the working class. We examine only one but the underlying principle is the same for them all.

The main culprit among the gangsters was Murray & Roberts (which the Workers World News of ILRIG mistakenly calls 'South African'). The main shareholders of Murray & Roberts are the wall street banks such as JP Morgan Chase, State street, SSB, etc. Even Liberty Life, which is itself imperialist controlled, is also a shareholder of Murray & Roberts. Murray & Roberts had a big share of the contracts for building stadiums, the Gautrain and other capitalist infrastructure. In 2008, Murray & Roberts has contracts of R30 bn and boasted an order book of R100bn. The publicly declared profits of Murray & Roberts for 2009 was over R2 bn (the real profits are much more; eg the fact that the Gautrain increased from R5 bn to R35 bn shows that there was massive profiteering by the capitalists). Using 2007 as a base line, the increase in dividends paid out by them increased by 69% and 88% for 2008 and 2009 respectively, and this in the period of so-called world recession. Thus even on the public level the order of the profits from one of the imperialist construction companies was billions (not millions as ILRIG understates). Meanwhile, just in the past year, over a million jobs were lost and there has been a huge nett job loss over the past 6 years. Even the capitalist ANC government admitted that many of these job losses were not even justified by capitalist standards; the 'champions of the working class' the Cosatu leaders merely shed crocodile tears while refusing to organise a united resistance against the capitalist onslaught.

The imperialists are already making propaganda about so-called xenophobic attacks after the world cup; what they are really signalling is that they know that they have only diverted the attention of the masses for a short while from their sufferings and that the masses will soon take the path of mass resistance, as shown in Greece and Kyrgyzstan; the imperialists are preparing fascist gangs to divide the working class and whipping up nationalist sentiment against our fellow black slaves from the rest of Africa, as the imperialists had instigated in 2008 when the Zimbabwean masses were on the point of a revolutionary overthrow of imperialist lackey Mugabe.

The major beneficiaries of the 2010 world cup are the imperialist banks. The ANC-SACP-Cosatu leadership, by their role in promoting the world cup, are nothing but

the lackeys and agents of imperialism. The working class needs to break with the bourgeoisie; this means breaking with the alliance with the pro-imperialist ANC and SACP and the building of a revolutionary working class party as part of a revolutionary International; for us this is the refounding of the Fourth International.

Super-exploitation- feel it, it is here!

Revolution- feel it, it is coming!

1.7.2010

## **A worker's reflections on Mayday 2010 Cape Town**

### Introduction

Today with millions being forced to work longer and harder for less pay, the economic crisis, massive retrenchments, salaries cuts and freeze of wages, it is relevant to take a look at the history of this tradition of workers across the world and its lessons for 2010.

### History

It was born out of the struggle for an 8-hour day, more than a century ago. Its an important date on the calendar for hundreds of millions of workers across the world. It is commemorated or marked by mass mobilizations of trade unions, mass workers parties and other organizations. The struggle by workers for a reduction of the working day started since the start of the capitalist system itself. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the industrial revolution was beginning in Western Europe and the United States as a mark of the development of modern capitalism; the hours of work that were common per work day was 12, 14 or even 16 hours a day ad work was under harsh conditions and very low wages.

Karl Marx and Frederich Engels were the first to give a scientific explanation of the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class through the relations of production created under the capitalist system, explaining that capitalism (then and now) treats workers labour power as a commodity. From the capitalist viewpoint they want to raise the productivity of labour of each worker to make them work as much as possible and as cheaply as possible; Marx also explains that the increase in extraction of profits from the worker's labour is achieved by extending the working day as far as possible. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, that the bosses were able to force such long working days on workers was helped by the flood of impoverished and ruined peasants from the countryside to the cities, looking for work.

The first task for the working class struggle was for the reduction of the working day. In 1886 the working class of the US rose up for a 40 hour week; some were killed by the state for their actions but the uprising sparked a resistance that has continued up until today; through continuous battles, workers conquered even a 35 hour week.

### The Present

Here in South Africa (Cape Town) the trade union federation Cosatu organised an event with the alliance, that is, the ANC/SACP, at the Good Hope Centre starting at 9h00. The time itself put workers off because it was too early as most public transport does not operate on a public holiday. Along the main road towards the venue you could see some workers or officials standing at tables; the clothing union organized a

fund walk to the venue. At the tables one could not even see a commemoration of the day itself. At the venue the workers stood around or sat, disillusioned and not knowing what was going on, even some of the doors were still closed; there were no directions to workers where they should go. In fact there was no pamphlet or newspaper in sight of the alliance. The leaders have killed the political significance of the day by organizing this as a fun party and by promoting proudly South African nationalism. They make workers lose sight of the gains workers have fought for internationally and locally through the years of mayday. Was it not for the march to the venue, there would have been very few workers at the venue; there would have been hardly any workers, only officials and the alliance partners.

### Our position

We sold some of our newspapers and distributed over a thousand of our leaflets on Eskom (where we expose the role of the Cosatu leaders in betraying the struggle against the electricity price increases). Due to the pressure of the workers the bureaucrats of Cosatu were not hostile to us. A union activist came to us with only R2 and asked which booklet we recommend, we said the supplement on Bolivia and she bought it immediately. A worker said that we are the only ones who are consistently raising the fight against imperialism; a municipal worker was asking us why there was so few workers; we pointed out their own strike where the government had threatened to dismiss the workers. No one prevented any worker from coming; the question is why should workers come to a joint rally with the same government that had threatened to dismiss workers en masse. What we pointed out struck home with the worker like a revelation and he started reading the leaflet with greater interest.

As we were leaving the rally, along the way we met another worker, sitting in his car, he said he was disgusted at the rally; he would rather listen to the radio news which was summarizing the activities of the Mayday rallies around the country. The whole event or rally was a party. They killed the political significance of the workers gains achieved so far; on the other hand, our (WIVL) leaflet made an impact among the workers. This was really the perfect opportunity to mobilize the working class to fight against the high electricity increase and against the high food, transport, housing and other prices. The Cosatu leaders vaguely talk about a general strike after the world cup; this is in contrast with the supposed theme of the day: "*Deepen working class power to advance the struggle for decent work- ban labour brokers.*" This theme creates the illusion that the working class is in power. If the working class was in power, surely workers would have put a stop to the million workers dismissed last year; surely workers would not have allowed the capitalists to make such obscene profits while most of the working class starves. As long as the handful of capitalists control the mines, the farms, the banks, the factories, the land, how can we say that the working class is in power? The SACP are the ones who create the illusion of working class power within a capitalist state, in order to cover their own co-option into the capitalist state and their role in maintaining the dominance by capitalism-imperialism. The central point is that the alliance with the SACP and the ANC is the chief obstacle to workers achieving their demands.

### The way forward

We are witnessing, across the world, that the working class resistance against the old capitalist order, that is, the resistance against the plundering by imperialism, in Greece, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Madagascar, Kyrgyzstan, is on the increase. In South Africa there are many clashes with the state over lack of adequate housing and 'service' delivery. The recent municipal strike shows that if the workers want to achieve even the most minimum democratic demands, they can only depend on

working class action or power. The essence of the alliance with the ANC and SACP is in reality to tie the working class to pro-imperialist leaders. The only way the working class can achieve power is to break with the bourgeoisie, ie breaking with the ANC and SACP, forming a working class party as part of a revolutionary International, which is born through fighting for leadership of working class struggles, every day.

Workers of the world unite; we have nothing to lose but our chains and a world to win!

## **TODYA MARARA HERE?**

Shinga Mushandi Shinga! Qina Msebenzi Qina! Pasi nehusveta simba! Pasi nembavha! Pasi nechibharo!

Nhasi hatibvi pano kana tisina kupiwa twedu. Nguva yareba pasina chimuko. Kambani yationesa chitsvuku, mhuri dzedu hadzisisina rugaro rwakanaka, sezvo tisisagone kubhadhara mitero yedzimba. Vana zvikoro havachaendi. Takadzingwa mabasa nguva yareba asi nanhasi kambanhi iri kungotsikatsika kutibhadhara mari dzedu. Nhasi uno vari pabasa vayakati ndivo vainokwanisa kubhara vave nemwedzi yawandisa vachishandira mahara. Ichi ndicho chinonzi chibharo chiripachena. Nyika yedu yavanemakore makumi matatu tichizvitonga zvakare chibharo chakapera karekare asi nhasi uno tichinevanhu vakaita saana Toendepi vachirikuita zvaitwa munguva yaSmith. Hutsinye hwakadai taiti hwakaenda naSmith. Takati kambani zvayainge yavaneweropa redu zvimwe zvaitipa pundutso kumararamiro edu, asi nhasi ndezvipi, topondwa neweropa. Toendepi anehutsinye husatihwamboekwa pasi rino. Anoti tinorarama sei, kana idzo mhuka dzisingarimi dzinotodawo masango ekutsvaga pekufura kana kuvhima. Todya marara here isu takarima. Mapensioners, vakarega mabasa pachavo, vakafa, maretrenchees tose hapana ati apiwa mari negoronyera, gororo Toendepi. Pasi naToendepi! Nhasi uno vari pabasa ava kuvaita zvakaitwa madziteteguru edu nevapambepfumi, vasvetasimba, kuvashandisa pasina muhoro. Isu takadzingwa mabasa avakutidzinga tisina kana chatinacho, zvisinei nemakore atakashanda. Zvino mushandi aramba zvemadhisinyongoro. Nhasi hapadyiwi rinopisa, imari yedu, basa redu kana hupenyu hwaToendepi. Inyaya yedumbu, haina nhaurirano, inogadziriswa chete nesadza. Anoda kutipedza takasvinura sematamba, manje Toendepi wairasa, wakanyangira yaona chawakadya chamuka. Ngozi yerombe igandanzara. Kana pasina mari dzedu tinogovana mutumbi waToendepi. Misodzi yedu ichava ropa rake. Nyaya yatagarira haidi vematare, inyaya iri pachena yakazviruramira. Asingazivi kuti mushandi anoda muhoro wake ndiyani. Chii chatinonoudzwa nevamatatare chitsva, kuti pedzera nguva chete. Vashandi ngatingwarirei simbi inorohwa ichapisa, chinono chinengwe bere rakadya richifamba. Tikaita zvokutamba tichawana yangove midhuri chete pano. Kana tikati ngachitsve.... chavachimurenga Kuiti zvfambe totosunga moyo negavi kutinganga. Shinga mushandi shinga! Qina msebenzi qina! Ahoy macomrades!

## **On the state's plan to draft the youth into the army**

The capitalist gangsters of Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase are busy subjecting the working class in Greece and across Europe to hunger and starvation by implementing austerity measures. The working class are already faced with starvation and unemployment while their governments bailed out the imperialist banks by printing paper money without any relation to existing production; now those countries themselves are bankrupt because they owe money to the same imperialist banks they bailed out. Workers in Greece should refuse to pay this odious debt and if they shut down the factories, workers must occupy them and place them under workers control, we call for workers self defense committees and workers militias to defend themselves against the imperialist onslaught. We salute the heroism of the working class in Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Madagascar and everywhere in the world where the working class have stood against the fascistic police and took the battle onto the streets to show their anger and are fighting for their demands. The working class in Kyrgyzstan had gone a mile further by occupying the parliament and burning down the government house.

The imperialist banks are centralizing their attack through the governments, against the working class in Europe and now they are preparing a further, vicious onslaught on to the working class in the colonies and semi colonies. The imperialists had learned a lesson in Madagascar in that even though the masses were burning the government building in Kyrgyzstan, the soldiers were kept in their barracks because they feared that the soldiers will stand on the side of the workers (as they did in Madagascar). Similarly, in Greece, the army has been kept in their barracks. In the semi-colonies like South Africa, the imperialists, through the ANC-SACP government, are preparing a vicious attack on the masses to avoid a 'Greece' or 'Kyrgyzstan', by preparing a professional wing of the most vicious fascist band in the army which is going to be trained to attack their own class brothers and sisters. This is done in the name of job creation for the unemployed youth. The agents of imperialism, the renegades of Trotskyism, through the social movements[WSF] and Stalinists of the SACP have failed to corrupt and pacify the youth in South Africa.

When the Minister of defense gave her speech in parliament announcing government's intentions to absorb the youth in to the army, she said: "*Any television footage of service delivery protest will show that at the fore front of this, in great majority are our youth .with excessive anger and misdirected energy and frustration etched on their faces . We as a country can ill afford this*". She said, that is, what she really meant to say, imperialism can ill afford revolutionary young people coming out to make democratic demands which can cause another revolutionary June 16; they are aware of the revolutionary potential of the youth so they want to corrupt the youth and overwhelm the progressive forces already within the ranks of the soldiers, by outnumbering them with some fascist elements. This initiative by government is not new; when Mugabe's government was faced with a potential revolution, a fascist paramilitary band was formed from the ranks of the unemployed youth and functions to instill fear among the working class who were pushing for revolutionary measures. Mugabe, the agent of British and American imperialism, through this fascist band, killed and tortured many of the working class in Zimbabwe in the name of patriotism; in the DRC similar fascist bands were created by French and American imperialists to torture the Congolese working class so that their revolutionary aspirations would not be realized. The Khomeini regime in Iran also created a paramilitary band of over 300 000 to terrorize and suppress the working class.

The South African government, the agents of British and American imperialism, after failing to further pacify the youth through the YCL, Cosas, Sasco & ANCYL, have

now realized that a potential workers' revolution led by the militant youth of this country, fueled by the spirit of the workers and youth of 1976, is imminent and now they need to take pre-emptive measures such as to select from among them the ruthless types, to indoctrinate them to hate their own class and use them to attack all working class activists and use them as a counter-revolutionary force against the working class. The world cup will come and go but the needs of young people remains unresolved; after the world cup the South African government will be forced to attack the working class by imposing onto them austerity measures to pay for the debt created by building unwanted stadiums (big capital was bailed out twice: government loaned from the imperialists for the world cup and now has to repay the loans and the huge interest bill) ; in the near future the paramilitary bands would be used to smash any uprising against the government.

The Minister unashamedly reminds us of how much imperialism and their agents within the ANC hate unionization of the soldiers; they proposed to parliament for unions to be replaced by a counter-revolutionary service commission (a toothless structure similar to the tactics of the old National Party regime) that will serve the interest of the imperialist bourgeoisies. The class antagonisms of capitalist society are reflected in the structure of the army; the handful of generals and officer caste have privileges, high salaries and mirror the capitalist class- they have allegiance first and foremost to the imperialists- they do not hesitate to sacrifice the rank in file soldier in battles and wars of plunder, or in the final analysis, in the case of a workers uprising, to drown it in blood; the rank and file soldiers on the other hand, mirror the working class, having poor conditions and low pay- they are the ones who put their bodies on the line while the generals live in comfort and issue orders from their ivory towers. The rank and file soldier is generally drawn from the working class and has more in common with his/her class brothers and sisters. There is of course a middle layer in the army, which mirrors the middle class, torn between the antagonistic interests of the capitalist and working class. The rank and file soldier has common interest with the working class as shown in the 1871 Paris Commune and lately in the workers and soldiers committees in Madagascar (where the workers and peasants, supported by the rank and file soldiers, overthrew US imperialist puppet, Ravalomanana). Unions for the rank and file soldiers are a very important step forward to defend their interest against that of the capitalist-imperialist class but should not be seen as a replacement for the need for rank and file soldiers to send delegates to structures of the working class in struggle, such as community meetings, strike committees, workers' summits etc. Ultimately, the interests of the rank and file soldiers are the same as the proletariat as a whole, and cannot be met within the bounds of capitalism and it is in their interest to unite with and support the rest of the working class in struggle.

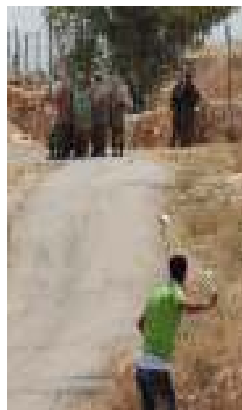
Such is the antagonism between the generals and the rank and file soldiers that there are some military bases where no general dare set foot. [This is the reason why soldiers are being sent to the borders; imperialism wants to break up the unity of the soldiers]. The state is doing their best to break the unity and militancy of the rank and file soldiers; their strategy of huge increases in wages is a measure to co-opt them and to break their unions. It is in this context that the drafting of unemployed youth into the army, must be seen; it is a measure to smash and neutralize the progressive forces within the army. This process will take some time; however the state has calculated that if a mass workers uprising were to occur now, they would not be able to depend on the army to smash the revolution; on the contrary, the great likelihood is that the soldiers will side with the working class. Imperialism has calculated that they need an immediate, reserve, counter-revolutionary force; thus they have rushed through the creation of a militarized police. This was smuggled though under the pretext of preparation for the world cup; its existence is being prolonged under the

cover of so-called 'xenophobic' attacks. The leadership of Cosatu offered little resistance to this new force, abandoning it as a sectoral issue in the arms of the police and soldier unions.

To the revolutionary rank and file soldiers we say: unite with the new recruits and let them join the unions. We salute the talks among soldier unions to unite but we want to warn against Stalinist elements within the unions which may want to destroy the union from within or reduce the role of the union to a depoliticized shell separate from working class struggles.

The government failed to implement HR 2010 and now they want to implement HR 2020 which is a scam to dilute the progressive forces within the SANDF that were trained to fight the unjust, anti-working class system; now they want to recruit ruthless young people who would be trained to kill their own class. We denounce the government intentions to recruit young people to train them to be paramilitary fascist bandits who would be used to smash the working class protest against government; the state makes delusional claims of creating jobs for young people and of affording them chance to acquire skills. Not every young person who will be part of this program would be admitted as soldiers because the real aim is to create a fascist band within the soldiers. Imperialism is known to create fascist band and unleash fascism when it is faced with a potential revolution; this is not new, it has happened in Bolivia during 2003-2005 and Kyrgyzstan in 2010.

Having said this nevertheless we agree with Lenin when he wrote '*The bourgeoisie makes it its business to promote trusts, drive women and children into the factories, subject them to corruption and suffering, condemns them to extreme poverty. we do not support such development we fight it*'. That is, we condemn the exploitation by the capitalists. In the view that imperialism is armed against the working class and constantly attacking them Lenin went further to say '*with the necessary changes that argument that is applicable also to the past militarization is applicable also to the present militarization of the population. Today the imperialist bourgeoisie militarizes the youth as well as the adults: ... our attitude should be all the best! full speed ahead for the fast we move, the nearer shall we be to the armed uprising against capitalism*'. We encourage young working class youth to enroll themselves in the program to learn skills, to learn how to use guns and arm the entire working class to advance the attack on capitalism; our slogan is forward to the arming of the proletariat and disarm the bourgeoisie for an '*oppressed class which does not strive to learn to use arms, to acquire arms, only deserve to be treated like slaves*.' Lenin [the military programme of the proletarian revolution]. The central point is, side by side with this, is that the youth must study Marxism, must study past revolutions; for without such class consciousness, the youth could fall prey to the imperialist parasites.



## Zulu) i-Internationale

n'zigqila zezwe lonke  
Vukan'ejokwen'lobugqili  
Sizokwakh'umhlaba kabusha  
Siqed'indlala nobumpofu.

lamasik'okusibopha  
Asilwise yonk'incindezelo  
Manj'umhlab'unesakhiw'esisha  
Asisodwa Kulomkhankaso

Maqaban'wozan'sihlanganeni  
Sibhekene nempi yamanqamu  
I-Internationale  
Ibumb'uluntu lonke

## The Internationale

### Words -Eugene Pottier (Paris 1871) Music -Pierre Degeyter (1888)

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

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

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

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

## **Drawing the lessons of the Samwu strike – a fighting plan to win 20.4.2010 (important lessons for the public sector workers and the rest of the working class)**

The first lesson to be drawn is that both the ANC and SACP are responsible for cracking down on the Samwu strikers. The Minister of local government (Co-operative governance) , Sicelo Shiceka, is a leader of the SACP. Secondly, the SACP has remained quiet throughout the first 7 days of the strike (the youth wing issued a belated statement on the 7th day of the strike, hardly what we may call a vanguard role). Why is the silence significant? From the beginning the government (let's face it, Salga has no real independent existence from the government), called the strike illegal and threatened over national television, to dismiss any worker who went on strike. The government tried to interdict the strike but even this failed. Now the government tries to intimidate strikers by threatening that they must pay for so-called damages of the strike (R6.4 million). These anti-worker attacks by the SACP and ANC on the municipal strikers, are of the type last seen in the dying days of the apartheid regime.

In another strike (on the railways), SACP leader Lucky Montana told workers over public television, without even a hearing, that they were dismissed. Later he was made to eat his words when workers forced him to retract the apartheid-style dismissals and they embarked on a face-saving exercise by firing the regional Manager.

What is at the heart of the alliance of the SACP and the ANC against the workers? It is the stalinist notion of a 2-stage revolution, namely that for the so-called national democratic revolution, that the leadership of the struggle for bourgeois democratic demands are placed in the hands of the middle class and the capitalist class, in this case, the multiclass ANC. Trotsky and Lenin, in defining the permanent revolution, described how, in the colonial world, in the period of imperialist decay (the world world being divided up among the monopolies) the struggle for the basic democratic demands can only be achieved by the working class taking power. Lenin went so far as to say (State & Revolution) that upon attaining a democratic republic, the middle class and the capitalist class lose all their revolutionism. The anti-worker actions of the ANC and SACP in their attempts to crush the strike, prove Lenin correct.

Blade Nzimande got his R1 million BMW within days; JP Morgan Chase, the Bank of New York, the Wall Street gangsters, all got their billions from the 2010 stadiums and infrastructure within months; JP Morgan Chase is actually in charge of loans for Eskom and is daily plundering the working class.

On the other hand, the municipal strikers are waiting 7 years for their backpay; millions of the working class have waited many years for housing and adequate services. Millions will always be unemployed and without adequate housing. The people of Mafikeng are still waiting for their 2 schools (demolished to make way for the Mbombela stadium).

In other words, imperialism is making super-profits at the expense of the working class, and the main agent of ensuring these profits, are the SACP and ANC. Workers need to ask themselves, if the government cannot even meet a simple demand like 7 years of backpay (which must have been budgeted for), what purpose does the alliance with the ANC and SACP serve? It cannot even meet a single democratic demand! The government has for years been taking loans from the IMF and conditions of the IMF are budget cuts. So here we see directly, the government

refuses to pay the municipal workers their due, but makes sure that the first expense is the massive interest payments to imperialism. Imperialism is the real leader of the ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance, that is clear!

The strike of the municipal workers is thus not against Salga (this is only the superficial form), but against imperialism and their structural adjustment programme applied by the SACP and ANC in government.

But the SACP plays a more sinister role than the ANC, from within Cosatu, and in this case, also from within Samwu. High food, transport and electricity prices are artificially high, but the SACP 'vanguard' in Cosatu sit on their fingers. After the massive electricity increase, the World bank orders that 20% of Eskom workers be fired and Numsa leaders are only upset that they were not consulted (no plan to fight the retrenchments). But the Samwu leaders have made a critical error by applying the stalinist policy of a stayaway after day 3 of the strike. This shows the massive influence of the SACP within the union. The stayaway policy is a recipe for defeat:

1. Firstly, workers are atomised and isolated and there is no mechanism for the mass of strikers to control the direction of the strike;
2. it opens workers to victimization as they are now isolated individuals, instead of a united mass;
3. a stayaway deliberately demobilises the strikers instead of posing a united workers stance against the bosses.
4. a stayaway opens the door for scab labour to be used by the bosses;
5. a strike is a contest for power and the bosses, if faced by the united mass of workers at every depot and municipal workplace, would be confronted by working class power; on the other hand, with a stayaway, the absence of the workers gives strength to the bosses; the bosses have huge reserves, they can wait it out. A stayaway (a self-imposed lockout), a pacifist tactic, always tips the balance of forces in the bosses favour;
6. the united working class, occupying the workplace, immediately poses the question as to who the real boss is, the worker or the capitalist (and their local managers, the SACP and ANC). Taken to its end, a general strike, with workers occupying the workplace (as opposed to a general stayaway), immediately places on the agenda the formation of strike committees at every workplace and indeed self-defence committees to defend against the red ants and other fascist tools of the state. If all sectors came out in general strike, in support of the municipal workers, as they should (just give 7 days notice), the formation of factory committees and self-defence committees at every workplace, is immediately placed on the agenda. The next step would be to set up councils of delegates from all workplaces, from communities (1 per 100 workers or unemployed), and from the soldiers. This bourgeois system, with the rule of the gangsters of Wall street, is immediately placed under challenge by the united working class.

The stayaway is a stalinist extension of the 2 stage theory as it takes power out of the hands of the working class, and places it in the hands of the middle class and capitalist class. The stayaway gives gaps to the state to crack down on individual workers and activists. Let us draw the lesson of Greece, when on the 11th March, during the biggest action of the masses in the recent history of their country, the Greek Communist party, supported by the fake left, called a stayaway and the 70 000 who came from different parts of Greece to Athens, were in isolated groups and were openly attacked and teargassed by the state as well being attacked by fascist gangs. The Greek Communist party refused to topple the government which was implementing massive wage cuts and attacks on the masses. The very government, who allowed JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs to take over the income from the docks

and all export and imports of the country (the income went straight to Wall street and not even to the government, and this at massive interest rates)- the very ones who allowed the imperialists to bankrupt Greece, were protected by the stayaway and the general policy of the Greek Communist party. Soon after, such was the confidence of the imperialists in the stalinists to control the masses, they implemented further cuts in benefits and wages over the Greek masses.

We need to draw the lesson of the Chinese workers at Linzhou and Tonghua, who occupied their workplace, and forced the Chinese government to reverse the planned privatization of the metal plant and reversal of the dismissal of 20 000 of the 25 000 workers.

It may be that the Samwu worker leaders (or at least part of them) have not been conscious of the implications of the policy of the 'stayaway', so we propose this fighting action plan to win the strike.

At its recent Congress, Samwu adopted a resolution for calling a conference to 'conscientize' workers. Here, in the strike, are the best conditions for an open conference. Here are proposed steps to immediately advance and strengthen the strike:

1. First call mass general meetings of strikers in every town and city, in order to regroup and plan the next steps such as setting up strike committees (based on the right of instant recall of any leader, national or local) and self-defence committees (on the same recall principle), for every depot or municipal workplace;
2. Occupy strategic depots and municipal workplaces and then extend the occupation to all municipal workplaces;
3. call mass meetings in every working class area and set up strike support committees, led by municipal workers.;
4. call meetings with all other unions(allocate this task to the strike committees), including soldiers unions, to give concrete support by giving 7 day notice of solidarity strikes, after a process of mass workplace meetings and election of strike/factory committees (which task should include self-defence committees, especially due to the harsh attacks by the red ants);
5. the election of local councils of delegates of employed, unemployed and soldiers to co-ordinate the solidarity strike action; the immediate calling of a national workers summit of delegates from all workplaces (unionised and non-unionised), from working class communities, including delegates from the unemployed and from soldiers, to plan a general strike, not only in support of the municipal strike, but against the entire imperialist structural adjustment programmes/plans. in every community, care should be taken to include delegates from immigrant workers so their demands are also raised at the workers summit; demands such as full backpay for municipal workers, equal pay for equal work (including immigrant workers), limiting salaries of managers and ministers to that of an average skilled worker, right of instant recall of all government representatives, sharing all wor among all who can work, increase wages when prices increase, expropriate all imperialist assets (including all commercial farms and the banks), without compensation to the capitalists, and placing them under workers control, invite delegates from Zimbabwe and Madagascar workers and rank and file soldiers to the summit, and indeed worker and rank and file soldiers delegates from all of Southern Africa.

Call general meetings, set up mass strike committees, occupy, resist, all united under one slogan: **BREAK WITH THE BOURGEOISIE! BREAK WITH THE PACIFISM OF THE SACP AND ANC!**

Long live the fighting spirit of the woking class of Kyrgyzstan! Forward to Working class power!