



# Africa Workers Organizer

No 10 March-May 2011

**Imperialism is preparing to partition Libya or to organise a counter-revolutionary coalition government against the masses**

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**Yemeni masses unite to take down their regime even without teeth in their gums**

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## **Imperialism is preparing to partition Libya or to organise a counter-revolutionary coalition government against the masses**

The EU has set up offices in Benghazi; the UK, France, Gabon and Qatar all have given recognition to the NTC ( National Transitional Council, otherwise known as the TNC), the self-appointed regime in the East of Libya. The NTC is packed with US imperialist agents. The NTC is regularly hosted by the US imperialist regime.

Imperialism is desperate to stop the wave of uprisings against their puppet regimes, which succeeded in unseating Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and Mubarak and has threatened the regimes of Yemen, UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Syria, Ivory Coast, Uganda, and now threatens to unseat the Botswana puppet regime. The continuous revolt in Bolivia, China, in Greece and now Spain shows that the crisis is deepening. The workers revolt in Wisconsin is a harbinger of further struggles of the working class in the USA. The huge demonstrations in London recently against the cuts in conditions that have been won over many years, shows the working class in all imperialist centres are restive. The mass strikes in France last year show that the working class is prepared to fight against the onslaught by monopoly capitalism. There has not been such generalised hatred around the world for the banks and capitalism imperialism for many years.

In Bolivia, France, USA, Greece, UK, South Africa, and many other countries, the trade union leaders play the major role in holding the working class back from overthrowing their capitalist regimes. In this counter-revolutionary role, the 'left' in the world is playing a major role in isolating the struggles in the semi-colonies from those in the imperialist centres. The difference between Libya on the one hand and Egypt and Tunisia on the other, is that the masses smashed the state apparatus in the East of Libya and were poised, arms in hand, to overthrow the Gaddafi regime. Imperialism propped up the Gaddafi regime by sending mercenaries from Niger and Chad to help him against the masses. At all costs imperialism cannot allow armed masses to overthrow any of their puppet regimes as the same method would be followed around the globe and even in the imperialist centres. Thus imperialism has also infiltrated and hijacked the revolutionary movement in Libya, effectively taking control of the NTC. The posture of imperialism, through their bombing campaign is for them to be seen as the 'defenders' of the masses- the aim is to contain the revolution and root out the idea that the masses can take their destiny in their own hands. The NTC has not yet established complete control over the masses in the east- its control is contested by sections of the militias and the masses in general.

Imperialism has long wanted to impose in Libya a regime that is absolutely compliant with its dictates. The armed uprising in Libya, with its weaknesses and mistakes, have presented imperialism with an opportunity to crush the insurrection and at the same time, to attempt to impose a more compliant regime.

One path that imperialism appears to be favouring is that of partitioning Libya, weakening and dividing the revolutionary masses, establishing its absolute control over the masses- with the Gaddafi regime suppressing the masses in the west and the TNC suppressing the masses in the east, and of course seizing most of the oil resources for itself.



The Roman emperors used to support the weaker Germanic tribes against the stronger ones, with the aim of weakening them both, making it easier for the Romans to impose their regime when the time came. In Libya, the Nato forces weaken Gaddafi's forces, while from time to time bombing the 'rebel' forces as well. The aim of imperialism is to exhaust the revolutionary masses, creating the conditions for the killing off of the vanguard, be they in the east or the west of Libya. At the outset Nato destroyed both the military facilities of Gaddafi and in Benghazi. The TNC send the armed militias into battle without co-ordination and without the support of experienced soldiers or without the weaponry that they have at their disposal (tanks etc). When the armed forces in Benghazi wanted to send warplanes against Gaddafi, Nato forced them back to base.

Depending on the balance of forces, imperialism may impose a partition of Libya, similar to what was achieved by joint agreement between Stalinism and world imperialism when Vietnam, Yemen, Korea and Germany were partitioned. These partitions were to divide the working class, erecting artificial barriers between them and with apparently different leaderships in charge of suppressing each group- making worker fight worker thereby ensuring that the world capitalist system was not challenged. On the other hand, if imperialism can achieve a sufficiently compliant regime in the west of Libya, if they manage to smash and disarm the entire working class, they may opt for a coalition government of the Gaddafi regime and the NTC- which would in effect be the reunification of the Gaddafi regime without Gaddafi. Either option is dependent on the extent to which the Libyan masses can be defeated by imperialism, the TNC and the Gaddafi regime.

#### **On the role of the revolutionary youth**

The revolutionary youth can act as a catalyst to the uprisings but need the decisive action of the working class to take the struggle for workers power up to the end. But even then, the expropriation of the imperialist assets in Libya and placing them under workers control, must be extended to the working class taking power in the imperialist centres, in order for a workers government in Libya, for example, to have any durability.

#### **Libya and the lessons of the Paris Commune**

We make the comparison with the Paris Commune because the workers seized Paris without a working class party leading it. In the uprising in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere, similarly there is no working class party leading them. So it becomes important to draw the lessons from the Paris Commune to increase the chances of the current struggles leading to the working class taking and maintaining power.

After the Paris Commune Karl Marx felt it necessary to make one correction to the Communist Manifesto. He stated that the most important lesson was that workers could not just lay hold of the old capitalist state structures and use them for their own purposes, but that it was necessary to smash the old capitalist state apparatus completely and for the working class to set up their own organs of self-rule. The masses in Benghazi smashed the Libyan state apparatus, but hesitated before attempting to generalise this to the whole of Libya. This hesitation gave the counter-revolutionary forces of imperialism time to regroup and allowed a bourgeois regime to be regenerated, namely the NTC in the East, while the Gaddafi regime in the west was propped up by imperialism.



It is the armed smashing of the state apparatus that imperialism is working night and day to roll back and to bury all traces of. This is why all imperialist forces, despite their mortal differences between one another, worked together to launch the bombing of Libya (the so-called no-fly zone).

Trotsky, in his *Lessons of the Paris Commune of 1871*, confirms the following: *'The Central Committee of the National Guard is in effect a council of deputies of the armed masses and the petty bourgeoisie'*. In other words the central committee of armed delegates of workers and the lower middle class of the National Guard were soviet-type structures.

Further, this is what Trotsky says about the National Guard: *'it reflects not only the strong sides but also the weak sides of the masses, and it reflects at first the weak sides still more than it does the strong, it manifests the spirit of indecision, of waiting, the tendency to be inactive after the first successes.'*

Is this not exactly what happened in Libya, after the masses conquered Benghazi and smashed the state apparatus, did not hesitation and indecision set in?

This is what Marx said about the petty bourgeoisie: *'the intermediary classes are intrinsically conservative, reactionary in outlook, trying to roll back the wheel of history, they are or become 'revolutionary' only face to face with their impending transfer into the ranks of the proletariat'*.

Trotsky recognized that 'passivity and indecision' would arise from the petty bourgeois prejudices of the National Guard. That is why he said: *'The Central Committee of the National Guard needs to be led.'* In other words, the soviets need to be led; similarly the militias in Libya need to be led. He advised against playing at elections of structures. Electibility can help to divide the army along class lines but, *'the methods of shapeless democracy (simple electibility) must be supplemented and to a certain extent replaced by measures of selection from above.'* What is needed is to purge the National Guard of the counter-revolutionary command, to liberate the militia from commanders devoted to the bourgeoisie. In other words, what is necessary is to purge the militias of any commander still loyal to the Libyan capitalists and the old regime. It is necessary to set up a central committee of armed workers and militia delegates based on breaking with the bourgeoisie and thus with imperialism (and thus counterposing itself to the NTC). This is no easy question and is not a simple task of electibility. Trotsky explained: *'The revolution must create an organ composed of experienced reliable organizers, in which one can have absolute confidence, give it full powers to choose, designate and educate the command. If particularism and democratic autonomism are extremely dangerous to the proletarian revolution in general, they are ten times more dangerous to the army.'*

Why is it that the Bolsheviks imposed commissars and workers control committees over those officers and ex-Tsarist officers who came over to the side of the revolution? It was to impose proletarian control. Without the steps towards proletarian scaffolding of the militias and the scaffolding of the proletarian party, they are nothing but popular committees (having very brave members but bravery is not sufficient), dominated by the petty bourgeois, which could lead to the separation of the militias from the masses (developing as a guerrilla outside of the masses, with no policy of uniting the immigrant workers and local workers as the base of the revolution, and rather acting as a special



band of armed men, fighting on behalf of the masses). This leads to the resurrection of the Ghaddafi regime without Ghaddafi.

There is no evidence that the militia is even fighting for the expropriation of imperialism. The National Guard in the Paris Commune did not even take over the banks, despite their democratism. Why should it be different now when the militia are fighting the regime in Libya? What this means is that the programme of expropriation of the local capitalists and imperialism needs to be brought consciously not only into the militias but also into the entire working class in Libya, whether local or immigrant. Arm the immigrant worker to fight side by side with the militia against the NTC and against the Gaddafi regime. We call for armed international workers brigades (in the first place from all the neighbouring countries) to reinforce the Libyan masses against the imperialist puppet regimes of the TNC and Gaddafi and imperialism; let us unite the working class against all the capitalist regimes in the region, not least against the capitalist regimes in the imperialist centres. The time has come to build revolutionary working class parties, based on the programme for the seizure of power by the working class, based on the expropriation of all imperialist assets, without compensation, under workers control, across the region and in the imperialist centres. Let us start to organise cells, starting with work inside the militias, that unite the working class fighters against our common enemy. Let us build the scaffolding of the new working class party from the barricades in Libya and across the region, across the world, such is the path to refound the Fourth International. Out the Nato and allied troops and mercenaries from the region. Let the flame of resistance from Misrata spread throughout the world. This is the path to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intifada.



**Greek workers confront the police on Mayday 2011**



## Overview of the May 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 municipal elections

Despite their apparent differences the question is why did the ANC and DA treat the 2011 municipal elections as if it was a national election? Both parties poured millions of Rands into the election. Why? They did this because of great climate of resistance that is sweeping the world, currently centred on North Africa and the Middle East. This was part of the varied attempts by imperialism to prevent an 'Egyptian'-type uprising in South Africa. Both ANC and DA were working together on behalf of monopoly capital, against the masses, helping to create illusions that the needs of the masses can be met through elections.

In 2000 and 2006 the voter turnout was 48% but now in 2011 it was 58% of those who registered to vote. This still does not mean that there is a greater tendency of the masses to vote as only 13.7 million of 23.7 million registered voters, turned up to cast their ballots. A further 7 million (as a minimum) did not even bother to register. Thus at least 17 million of the adult population rejected the elections while 13.7 voted. This means less than 10% of adults support the DA while only 28% support the ANC. Those who rejected the elections make up 55% of adults (18 and over).

Just 2 years ago, there was a 77% turnout of those who are registered to vote in a national and provincial election. Thus, despite the huge efforts of the DA and ANC, the numbers who turned up to vote, fell from 17,6 million (2009) to 13.7 million (2011) within 2 years, a drop of 4 million. The huge number of strikes over the past year shows that the working class is not apathetic- the workers are prepared to struggle.

### **The treacherous role of the Cosatu and SACP leaders**

Seventeen years since the claimed start of democracy in South Africa has not brought an end to separate group areas, high unemployment, low wages, mass homelessness, starvation and death from preventable diseases. At the same time, in practice the ANC has become the champion of the big capitalists, ensuring that they make such huge profits that they only dreamt of in the days of apartheid (slave capitalism).

Yet, instead of leading the fight against the capitalist system, the Cosatu and SACP leaders say that workers should vote for the ANC for their needs to be met. Cosatu even put up worker leader for mayor in Cape Town- so desperate were the Cosatu leaders to maintain the stranglehold of the ANC over the masses. This shows that the Cosatu and SACP leaders are the biggest saviours of the monopolies; they are traitors to the working class cause. This policy of the SACP and the Cosatu leaders is the same as other Stalinists and reformists around the world. It is likely that for the 2014 national election that Cosatu will again put forward leaders from their ranks to help big capital contain the anger of the masses.

Not only do these leaders keep workers off the streets but they keep workers away when sections of the working class break out in struggle. The struggle of the Mercedes Benz workers in 1990, the VWSA workers in 2000, the public sector workers in 2010, are but a few examples thereof. Instead of launching a unified fight against labour brokers, for housing for all, against high prices, each group of workers are left to fight the capitalists on their own.

### **The way forward**



It is necessary to establish a revolutionary working class party to unite the vanguard fighters who are up to now, fighting the capitalist system in isolated pockets, on their own. It is necessary to centralize the experience gained in fighting the system, not only nationally but internationally. The enemy we fight is organized on an international level, with the support of the state, the universities and most crucially, with the support of the leadership within the worker's movement.

A central task is to combat the current treacherous leaders of the workers' movement who are the agents of the capitalists within our ranks. It is necessary to develop a programme of struggle that unites the working class in struggle for their democratic aspirations while demonstrating in practice that the attainment of these can only be carried out by the working class taking power- in other words the programme should not only contain democratic demands but have transitional demands that lead the masses to one conclusion- in order to advance in any meaningful way, the working class needs to take power through revolutionary means- that parliament is but a chatterhouse which hides the real dictatorship, the brutal and inhuman dictatorship of the rich, of the capitalist class.

Another important area is to expose the role of the social movements who play on the legitimate sentiment of the masses who reject the capitalist parties. The capitalist parties play a most vile and violent role to suppress the masses, so the hatred of the masses for these parties is understandable. But what groups like the SMI (and the World Social Forum) does, is disarm the masses- they say we should reject all parties- while the enemy we fight against is armed to the teeth, has billions and trillions of resources at their disposal, have Nato, the UN security council, armies of millions, hundreds of think tanks- they say it is enough for the masses to be loosely organised and have structures at local level that refuse to unite with the Cosatu members in the fight against the leadership. While the Cosatu leaders reject working with the social movements, the leaders of the social movements refuse to work with Cosatu and thus while they appear to be having different positions- the result is the same- that the working class is divided in the fight against the capitalist class and its state.

As the capitalist crisis deepens, more workers will be retrenched, food, oil and electricity prices will continue to rise, too few houses will be built ( the building of RDP hokkies over the past 17 years in itself leads to a greater drive for more and more working class families to occupy vacant land). The working class is already resisting more and more ( as seen by the huge number of community protests and recently by the mass occupations of vacant land in Tafelsig). An 'Egypt' is waiting to explode. Under such conditions, as shown by the past elections, the DA and ANC will work together against the masses. This reinforces the need for the worker activists to work together, in other words there is an urgent need to build a revolutionary working class party. This is the challenge we put to the workers and activists to work together with the WIVL in making this a reality. This how the Fourth International will be refounded. As Trotsky once said, the party can wait for the masses, but the masses cannot wait for the party. Let us draw the lessons of the weakness of the struggles in North Africa and the Middle East, namely the absence of revolutionary working class parties and on the other hand, the presence of counter-revolutionary parties, that hinder and limit the fight of the masses.

Never before, in recent history, has there been such generalised hatred by the masses against the banks and the capitalist class. World capitalism is on the back foot; they work night and day to neutralize and destroy the growing world Socialist revolution.



In Ivory Coast, when one imperialist puppet, Gbagbo, proved incapable of controlling the masses and was switching allegiance from the French to German imperialism, the UN backed an invasion of French troops to install Ouattara, a new puppet. When the masses, arms in hand were about to overthrow imperialist puppet Gaddafi, imperialism not only infiltrated and took over leadership of the resistance but launched an armed assault to cripple the masses, to prevent them from taking power. In Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, the masses have waged heroic battles, saying that they will take down the imperialist dictatorships, even without teeth in their gums, imperialism launches wave after wave of mowing down the masses with live ammunition. Despite all the obstacles, the heroic masses have not been stopped but go on with their resistance. The demonstrations in Wisconsin, Bolivia, Spain and elsewhere shows that the resistance is growing on a world scale. In Botswana 80 000 public sector workers went on strike for more than a month in this colony of US imperialism (which even has US military bases). In Zimbabwe the masses continue to break from both the Zanu-PF and MDC. US imperialism is so jittery that even the reformist ISoZ leaders Gwisai and others, were arrested on treason charges for just watching a video on Egypt.

The path to the refounding of the Fourth International (the world party of Socialist revolution) is by developing a programme for this period while joining the masses at the barricades.

## Appendix

### **We expose the myth of the 'growth' of the DA**

The capitalist media (Mail & Guardian, the 'independent' newspapers, etc) have worked very hard to build up an image of the Democratic Alliance (DA) as a 'real' alternative to the ANC. They want to reap dragons where they have sown fleas. An analysis of the election results show that the **DA is in decline** and they had to engage in stunts of lies, racism and boundary shifting, just as desperately as the ANC in order to sustain their base.

Compared to the 2009 general election, in the Western Cape, the ANC lost about 88 000 votes but the DA lost 110 000 in the 2011 election.

In 2000 the DA gained 20% of the national vote; by 2006 the DA had declined to 16%, having suffered a split that resulted in the creation of the ID (Independent Democrats). The ID gained 2% of the votes in the 2006 national election. In the 2011 municipal election, after the ID had merged with the DA, the new DA gained only 22% of the vote - in other words all they had done was go back to the level of the year 2000. But if we consider that for the 2000 and 2006 elections the turnout was 48% of those who registered, while in 2011 the turnout was 58%, and the higher turnout was more due to the DA base turning out in higher numbers, and even then the DA could only gain 22% of the numbers who voted, it shows that the DA is in decline. This is especially so as the voters most likely to stay away would have been from the ANC base.

The DA ran a racist campaign, claiming that the ANC was going to dismiss the 'coloured' and 'indian' worker and then putting out a slogan (we deliver for all), implying that the DA would 'take care of the coloured worker' as their racist forerunners claimed to do over the many decades before. Thus the DA was appealing to the slave mentality that the capitalist system had long inculcated among many 'coloured' workers. It was this act of



desperation by the DA that was unmasked by their brutality in shooting down pregnant women, youth and children when hundreds of desperate families occupied vacant land on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in Tafelsig Mitchell's Plain, a few days before the elections. The acts of state violence were shown on all media and made an impression on the working class as a whole, throughout the country. In Khayelitsha, Cape Town, many workers sympathised with the masses in Mitchell's Plain, not forgetting that the rise of virtually every 'African' location in Cape Town and in many places across the country, was gained only through such struggles against the state. In Cape Town's 'African' townships some voting stations only had 5 votes for the DA, some had up to the 30's and one had up to 185. All in all, the most oppressed sections of the working class rightly rejected the DA.

In the city of Cape Town the DA gained 54% in the 2000 election; this fell dramatically to 42% in the 2006 election where the ID gained 11% of the vote. In 2011 the DA won only 61% of the vote having merged with the ID. If the DA had gone back to 2000 levels of support (54%) and together with the ID votes (11%) they should have gained at least 65%, but they only gained 61%. This shows that both from the DA and ID base did not support the DA in the 2011 election. Even further, there was a greater stayaway from the ANC support base which should have pushed up the DA support even more- as it is, the DA could only maintain votes through lies of 'delivering for all' and other manoeuvres.

The policy of the DA is to keep the masses homeless (as their first priority is profits for the banks and other big capitalists) thus the growth of the DA in the working class has already reached its absolute limit. If the DA reaches out to the black middle class in any great way, it will come into conflict with its own white middle class base- threatening to provoke another split. Its decline will continue.



**The masses in Tafelsig battle the hated police in the struggle for decent housing**



## **Capitalism is the cause of the housing crisis**

Contrary to what is popularly stated, housing departments of all capitalist governments are not about building houses for all that need them, but these departments build as little as possible to maintain the high level of desperation for housing. In other words, the housing department is about building too few houses rather than ensure that everyone has housing. Why?

There are only a few giant companies (monopolies) that control the wealth of the world. There are 5 giant companies that control most of the wealth in South Africa (They are Anglo America, Old Mutual, Liberty, Rembrandt, Sanlam). All of these monopolies are controlled by international banks such as the Bank of New York, JP Morgan Chase, Hsbc, Deutsche, etc. For example, the Bank of New York controls much of the gold mines in SA; JP Morgan Chase controls Anglo American and has a decisive say over the SA Reserve bank (as they are one of the main shareholders). All the 'local' banks such as FNB, Nedbank, Standard, Absa, Capitec, are all controlled by international banks.

For the past 110 years the world economy has been in decline. While here and there, there are new industries, overall the majority of the billions on the planet are living in worse conditions than ever before. Millions are living in a state of war, while imperialism (the giant monopolies and banks) goes on a plundering spree around the globe. The recent crises where capitalist profits are falling, have become deeper and more extensive- 1997, 2003 and now 2008-2011 (and still continuing).

One of the artificial ways for the banks to increase their profits amid a stagnation of the growth of productive industry, is by massively increasing house prices. From about 2003 house prices were raised dramatically. Overnight, houses that cost R40 000 (already inflated) suddenly shot up to R400 000 and more. Such a massive increase in price could only have been achieved with the capitalist state, the banks and construction companies working together to sustain and increase the desperation for housing, ie by building less and less housing, or building at such a slow pace that housing desperation would increase all the time.

### **The international impact of the housing crisis**

The US worker was told that overnight, their houses were worth 10 times more in value. Workers took out extra mortgages (loans) on their houses. The banks granted thousands of loans to workers even though they knew they would struggle to repay the terms. Thousands struggled to repay the loans- many lost their houses and were evicted by the banks.

In Spain, like in many countries around the globe, house prices massively increased. The youth could not find jobs; many could not even move out of their parents homes. Many of their parents also became unemployed. Frustration built up to such an extent that on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011 thousands of youth went to the centre of Madrid and many other cities in Spain- they started tent cities in the centre of these cities, demanding the nationalization of the banks- demanding everything back that the banks stole from them. These youth are still camping out in the centres of the cities- they have been inspired by the uprisings in north Africa and the Middle east.



Tragically, the leaderships of the trade unions and the left have not mobilised the rest of the working class to come out in support- in fact they have played the most treacherous role to leave the struggle of the youth isolated- they hope that the youth will become tired and the protests will end.

### **South Africa- the battle for housing- the case of New Horizons and Kapteinsklip**

In 1996 the backlog in housing units was at least 2 million. Since then 4.4 million brick structures were built. Many of these structures are 40 square metres or less- too small for even a 3 person family. Just on this level the state has not addressed the problem of overcrowding, but just done the bare minimum. Not only that but most of the new structures were built in existing racial group areas, reinforcing 'apartheid' divisions, not breaking them down.

The number of shacks in backyards have grown to 648 000, an increase of 245 000 since 1996. The number of shacks in squatter camps have grown by 147 000 to 1.2 million. The housing backlog by 2009 was at least 2.4 million. This means, that despite all the hype of the millions of 'houses' built since 1996, all the state has done, is not even keep pace with population growth. Under current conditions, the problem of desperation for housing will always be there- there are at least 10 million who do not have houses and this number will increase every year. **Who benefits?**

Over a period of 5 years the state spent over R100bn on the world cup- this would have been enough to wipe out the housing backlog overnight. The state is spending over R1 trillion (R1000 bn) on an electrification programme where they have no plan to meet housing needs. Further, in conditions where there is an absolute decline in industry – the biggest users of electricity by far- the massive expenses only benefit the international banks which control the big construction and engineering companies. Only 10% of this electricity scam could have solved the housing question overnight.

The state knows they have no plans to build houses for all, yet they set up 'anti-land invasion' units- fascistic bands backed by the police and army, to demolish shacks built on open spaces that the state knows will never be used. The backyarders are always harassed by the city councils for supposedly not meeting council regulations. The city council raises valuation of property to the massively over-inflated levels that supports the banks profiteering from the homelessness of the masses. All these measures show how the state is really the executive arm not just of the local but of the international banks. The same violence of the banks against the Spanish masses, is the same, in essence, of the violence against the masses in South Africa and around the globe. **To solve the housing question in South Africa, we need to fight the local- and international banks; we need to overthrow the world capitalist system.**

Like in many parts of the country, when hundreds of backyarders and homeless masses occupy vacant land in New Horizons and Kapteinsklip in Mitchell's Plain on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011, the full might of the state was unleashed against unarmed workers, pensioners, pregnant women, youth and children. Like the masses in Hangberg, Makhaza and many other places, the masses were crushed by the state for their 'illegal' actions. In other words the law is there to ensure that the masses are forever cooped up like chickens in hokkies, that the profits of the international banks comes first second and third and the needs of the masses are trampled on every day. But like the masses in North Africa, in the Middle east, in Boswana, in Uganda, in Spain, in Bolivia, the masses are learning to unite and fight for their demands- we refuse to die in silence.



In South Africa, like in Spain, the trade union bureaucracy and the 'left' play a crucial counter-revolutionary role, by keeping the organised industrial working class off the streets, by not supporting the struggles of the masses for housing, against high food prices and for work for all. The past year of strikes shows that the working class is prepared to fight the system but the biggest obstacle in the way of the masses fighting for their demands, are the leaders in the working class movement, that tie the masses to the ANC and SACP, and thus to the tails of the international banks. We cannot take a step forward in the struggle unless the masses break from these treacherous Cosatu and SACP leaders.

The time has come to build a network of fighters around the country and internationally, that means to build a revolutionary working class party that is independent of the bosses and the state, nationally and internationally. The fight for housing is not separate from the fight for work for all, for free adequate health care, for free liberatory education up to the highest level.

The achievement of the most basic democratic demands in the semi-colonies like South Africa, can only be achieved with the working class taking power, expropriating the capitalists and imperialists, without compensation, placing these commanding heights under workers control. Let a Tunis, Tahrir square, Misrata, a Madrid, a New Horizons, be taken to every corner of the planet.



**Unarmed workers and youth in Swartklip, Mitchell's Plain form a human chain to attempt to protect their dwellings being attacked by the hated police 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011**



## Letter from a youth in KwazuluNatal on June 16<sup>th</sup>

### Young people and poverty

We are young people heavily affected by poverty because we do not have faith, no passion and we easily give up.

We dream but never achieve our goal because we sleep on our dreams. What is the use of being talented and gifted if we do not know where to use them?

Why do we have to be born and brought up in poverty and still die in poverty?

We are, us girls, beautiful but use our beauty on the wrong side. Sex is finishing us and our dreams and we have unplanned babies. Drugs kill us, our future. We even forget where we come from and where we are going because we cannot see the future.

What about those who died for us on June 16<sup>th</sup>? The people who shed their blood for us to be free, different and have a better life? What do they say when they see the world becoming worse and having more **struggles**.

We as young people, we want to be different and having full strength, not to forget when we succeed in life, we want to make those who died for us proud. So do you?

Silindile Nkululeko

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### Editorial comment:

Capitalism is based on the waste of human potential. The only thing that matters to the capitalist is how much profit they make. The capitalists own the factories, the mines, the banks, the farms; they make sure that there is a working class, that is, that the vast majority have nothing but their labour power to sell- forever being slaves of the bosses. Despite this or that modern gadget being developed, capitalism has stagnated for the past 100 years. Thus each time the level of desperation among the masses in the world grows side by side with the most abundant riches. The means exist to meet all the basic human needs but these are in the hands of a few, the capitalists.

Capitalism needs there to be a vast pool of unemployed so that the competition for jobs can drive down wages and push up profits; capitalism needs to pay low wages to maintain the high level of desperation so that each week workers will be forced to return to slavery in the factory. Freedom of choice is a myth- it is choice under capitalism to die of hunger or live under starvation- really it is no choice at all. The only talent that is promoted is that which leads to more profits for the capitalists.

Conditions in Africa and other semi-colonies are worse because the big capitalists from the US or Europe or Japan regard us as producers of raw materials. Thus they do not need skilled labour in large numbers. Thus the education system mirrors the need of the capitalist- obstacles are placed in the way of the youth to keep the majority down while



only a few pass through the gates of tertiary study. Liberation through education under capitalism is a deliberate lie cultivated by the system so that they blame the individual when they drop out.

It is true that under capitalism the youth have no future. But the youth in France, Britain, China, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Spain, Botswana and elsewhere are starting to rise up against the system. This spontaneous uprising is world wide and imperialism is trying to co-opt the youth to contain the revolt. What is sorely needed is for the youth to join with the workers to form a network of fighters, single-mindedly uniting to fight the system, drawing the lessons of past battles, defeats and victories, in other words, what is needed is the formation of revolutionary working class parties united in a single international, fighting at the barricades, giving leadership, drawing the lessons of setbacks and taking up the fight again.

The youth are the spark of the coming world revolution against the world system of capitalism. The future of the youth is there to be conquered. Forward to the refounding of the Fourth International, carrying forward the rich history of Lenin, Engels, Marx, Trotsky and many others. We have nothing to lose but our chains.

***On the killing of Andries Tatane 13.4.2011- the police are defending the monopolies and the capitalist system***

Free State is home to some of the richest gold mines in the world, controlled by Anglo American. The Thabo Mofutsanyane district, where Ficksburg is, is home to the Sterkfontein dam, the 3rd largest in South Africa; across the border is the Lesotho Highlands project funded by the imperialist IMF. There is no shortage of water in the region but while according to the 2007 census, only 63% of the local population in the Setsoto district have piped water, and much of this is either broken or blocked; at least 66% of the population do not have flush toilets. The abundance of water is not used for the working class but for cherry and asparagus farming for the US controlled Woolworths and other capitalist retailers; water is directed past the working class to the mines to ensure the 24 hours per day, 7 days a week exploitation of the working class by Anglo American. More than 31% of the population lives in shacks alongside the most abundant riches.

The SACP, ANC, DA, Cosatu leaders are all united in calling for the ICD to investigate the brutal murder of Andries Tatane, whose only crime was to shield a pensioner and who participated in the fight against the brutal capitalist inequality in the Free State. The real role of the police is to sustain this capitalist inequality and protect big capital. This is the real reason why Andries Tatane was beaten up and shot down. That such killings, such as the murder of Petros Msiza, Samwu shopsteward, by the police, is on the increase, is directly linked to the use of live ammunition to shoot down protestors in Bahrain, Yemen, and is the reason for the imperialist invasion of Libya. Imperialism is losing its control and has decided to go over to increasing fascist methods.

We call for a Special Congress of Cosatu to discuss all the attacks on the working class and to prepare the way for a general strike, in the whole Southern African region against



the brutal attack by imperialism on the working class, whether they be in Swaziland, SA, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, DRC, Ivory Coast, Libya, UK, USA, etc.

Expropriate all imperialist assets , without compensation, place them under workers control! The time has come for factory committees and workers self-defence committees to be set up. Workers of the world unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains!

### ***Mandela and the zionist connection Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 10:38pm***

On October 28, 1948, Palmach troops committed another massacre in the village of Dawaymah, described by Pappé as more brutal than the massacre in Deir Yassin. In just a few hours, all houses were blown up and 455 people were executed, including 170 women and children. The remaining 6,000 inhabitants—who included 4,000 refugees expelled earlier that year from other villages—were forcibly expelled. According to Israeli archives, “The Jewish troops who took part in the massacre also reported horrific scenes: babies whose skulls were cracked open, women raped or burned alive in houses, and men stabbed to death.” Arthur Goldreich who owned the Rivonia farm where Mandela was captured by the apartheid regime in 1962, was part of the very Palmach that was responsible for many of the brutal massacres of Palestinians. Was he the connection who betrayed Mandela and others, with the help of the CIA? Today the capitalist press lauds Goldreich as an anti-apartheid hero (he recently died at age 82 having lived in Israel from 1963 to today). Does this connection between the ANC and Zionism explain why the ANC government is only willing to take symbolic action against Israel despite the ongoing massacres? Is there a journalist out there bold enough to raise these questions and really interrogate them?

The myth of the Mandela 'saving' SA has been actively promoted by the capitalist press. The real picture is that he saved the imperialists from a workers revolution.



**The flames of resistance still burn at Tafelsig**



***On the coverup on the causes of death of 2 babies at a clinic in Manenberg***

Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 9:01pm

"Vaccination is a medical procedure which carries a risk of injury or death. As a parent, it is your responsibility to become educated about the benefits and risks of vaccines in order to make the most informed, responsible vaccination decisions." this is what the National Vaccine Information Center in the USA says about vaccines. The Western Cape government and the City should not cover up its liability in forcing uninformed vaccination on parents- this is in response to the statement by the city and the provincial government that they were not to blame for the death of 2 babies in Manenberg.

The only ones who benefit from the forced uninformed mass vaccination are the pharmaceutical companies- these capitalists are the real bosses of the local, provincial and national government. This should be an opportunity to open the debate on the content of vaccines such as mercury; the fact that vaccines can produce an allergic reaction causing death.

We reject with contempt that the babies died of 'natural causes'. Workers from the communities and nationally should take control of a full transparent investigation into the deaths and a thorough investigation into deaths from vaccination, compiling a data base and forcing the development of informed decisions by the masses and the development of safe health care. We should demand the nationalization of the pharmaceutical industry and for it to be placed under workers control. In fact the health sector internationally should be not for profit and should be placed under workers control.

We call for mass protests against the the city and other levels of government for their siding with the international drug cartels.

WIVL 2.June 2011

***Fire and the city- this city does not work for you- the case of Mr and Mrs Amon***

Sunday, May 29, 2011 at 10:50pm

No sooner has the dust settled on the local government elections than we see the true callousness of the City of Cape Town. On Monday 23 May 2011 the council home of 2 pensioners in Parkwood had an electrical fault, resulting in a fire. This one bed-roomed flat built in the time the liberal predecessor of the DA ruled Cape Town in the days of apartheid, has only one exit, the front door. The house is situated at 52A Blackbird Str. Mr Stanley Amon, a wheelchair bound pensioner, aged 59, was trapped inside. His wife, 64 year old Mrs Ann Dorothy Amon just about managed to escape. After a few minutes neighbours broke through the flames, rescuing the badly burnt Mr Amon, who is currently still in intensive care in Tygerberg hospital. Mrs Amon went to the city council electricity department and social welfare department and was sent from pillar to post. Only today (Friday 27th May) did the council electrician come out and fix the electrical wiring. The entire inside of the flat is blackened and damaged making it impossible for Mrs Amon to return to her flat. The family is appealing for a second hand double bed,



blankets, curtaining, utensils, food and whatever other basic necessities can be spared. for further details please call Eleanor Hoedemaker ph 0747247373 Clearly, this City does not work for the poor and elderly. The hallmark of culture is how we take care of the aged. This City shows great signs of great dearth of civilization. The era of barbarism has truly arrived

***We expose how the DA manipulated ward boundaries along apartheid grounds to win ward 99 in Mitchell's Plain***

Monday, June 6, 2011 at 4:16pm

In 2006 the ANC won ward 99 in Mitchell's Plain gaining 2716 votes while the DA received just 1095 and ID received 1295. Before the 2011 municipal elections the DA controlled city redrew the municipal boundaries of ward 99. They threw out voting station 97141855 Monwabisi Park (where the ANC gained 1857 votes in 2011 compared to the DA's 24) to ward 98 (in Khayelitsha). They included the Oval North voting station (97091398) where in 2011 the ANC received 178 votes but the DA received 1194; Oval north was in ward 79 but is now in ward 99; they also included the Farm voting station (97091680) where in 2011 the ANC received 151 while the DA received 1023. The Farm station was in ward 76 in 2006 but was shifted to ward 99 for this election.

Thus the ANC votes were reduced by 1800 while the DA's votes were artificially raised by about 1800.

If the same boundaries had been used as 2006, the ANC would have won ward 99 in the 2011 election. The 2011 results show however that the DA won this ward, receiving 5954 votes against the 2911 votes of the ANC.

The DA manipulated the numbers of various ward. For example, in 2006 ward 83 in Mitchell's Plain had 27853 registered voters but in 2011 only had 15466, showing that the DA had spread their support base around to weaken the chances of their opposition winning wards. In 2006 ward 99 had 12 967 registered voters but this shot up to 17 613 in 2011, an increase of about 4600. The DA's votes in ward 99 mysteriously rose by about 3500 in 2011 as compared to 2006. Thus not only are ward boundaries being manipulated but names from one ward appears to be shifted to another to suit the needs of the DA.

The DA is continuing the old apartheid practices that the NP and PFP used to engage in, in order to remain in control.

This is yet more proof that the DA is racist and their policies are based on lies. The DA does not serve everyone, only the self-interest of the white upper class and the monopoly capitalists. That the ANC has raised no objections to the DA manipulations of the boundaries points to them also having engaged in similar practices elsewhere.



## What happened to Vuyisile Mekeni?

There was a man at Mpeta Mzantsi location in the district of Nqamakwe; his name was Vuyisile Mekeni; at that time he had a wife and children. So the story was related to me that in 1963 that man, Vuyisile was a member of the ANC and he fought and said Mayibuye i-Africa so the Boere came at Nqamakwe then they put Vuyisile in a jail called Pollsmoor in Cape Town. The mistake was Vuyisile was sick with stomach ache then the man who was in charge in those days, I don't know who, but he ruled that they must give him a train ticket and send him back home. So in Fort Beaufort he died; then the man who took Vuyisile back home told the man in charge about this mistake; he ruled that he should be buried in Fort Beaufort so that the family would not know where he is buried; so my pain is his son and wife wanted to know where his father is buried; but the God took these two, the son and the wife. My second pain is that the first daughter of Mr Vuyisile Mekeni is sick and walks with a stick and the last pain is, not a blue cent has been given to the family and this works on me; even the graves of these two people are not kept in a manner for a man who lost his life fighting for South Africa.

Related by Sindiswa James

### **Editorial Comment:**

Many of those who killed the brave fighters against the system, are still working for the state; many of them did not even apply for amnesty- many work as hired mercenaries in Iraq, working for the US imperialists, they are hired guns to help kill off the resistance to the brutal invasion. Now the UAE (the Emirates) want to hire these same mercenaries from South Africa and from Columbia. This shows that when the fighters were being killed by the 'apartheid' state here, the killers were on the payroll of US imperialism and others.

The black middle class that is the ANC today has shown that it is incapable of meeting the most basic democratic demands, such as removing the hired killers of imperialism from the state and acting against them when they kill other fighters around the globe; the ANC government is incapable taking care of the millions of families violated by the slave capitalist ('apartheid') regime.

Full compensation to all the families who are victims of the old regime; remove the killers from the state- put them on trial in front of a workers tribunal; act against the thousands of mercenaries and soldiers who fight in the hired armies of imperialism- be they in Iraq, UAE or Israel.

This why workers need to unite as a class, against the capitalists and their system. Forward to a revolutionary working class party as part of the refounding of the Fourth International. Forward to workers justice; forward to working class power, forward to Socialism.



### ***World Economic Forum 4-6 may 2011 Cape Town- plunder and murder incorporated***

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 11:17pm

The South Africa government hosts a group of gangsters going under the name of World Economic Forum- Africa (4-6 May 2011) in Cape Town- the theme is Africa's leadership role to guard against the newly emerging global and regional risks ( or how to prevent an Egypt all over Africa, or to put it plainly, how to prevent the masses revolting against the latest plunder and barbarism by imperialism. The attendance reads like a real modern crime novel. They include; walmart- how to create a non-union environment in Africa; TEPCO- how to build nuclear power stations in earthquake- prone zones; Goldman Sachs- how to steal all the income from a country; Deutsche bank, Monsanto, Du pont- how to speculate on high prices irrespective of starving the millions; Blackstone- how they butchered Iraqis and got away with it; Lockheed Martin and Thyssen Krupp- how to create a war out of nothing; discussing alternative models to democracy- in other words- how to bring back dictatorships; the Bahrain Economic Development Board will advise on how to shoot protestors with live ammunition to create an investor-friendly environment (which includes an invasion from Saudi troops and having more US military bases set up on local ground). the wholesale privatization of Africa's water, energy and transport in on the agenda. all the oil and gas companies that have installations in Libya, also happen to be present- a coincidence- of course!!!

Will Cosatu be protesting now that they are putting up a mayoral candidate in the name of the WEF organisers? Lastly , present will be Anglo American and JP Morgan Chase- lecturing us on how to control a country and make everyone else believe that the governing party really does.....

### **Overcrowded schools in the Western Cape**

There are over 40 students in a classroom, the maximum number of children should be 35. We found that there are 49 to 53 children in a classroom

#### **School fees**

School managers (principals) and teachers keeps demanding school fees from parents, we found that many of the parents are unemployed and some receive a social grant and that is their only income and have to feed their children with that little that they get, don't even talk about shelter and all those other needs that humans needs to have every day . They keep behind school progress reports degrading children in class by asking, not even asking but forcing children to get the parents to pay the fees. Teachers should communicate with parents and not the children. That is one of the reasons why our level of school drop outs is so high

#### **Maintenance on flats in Hanover Park**

People had complains about the city of Cape Town and the way they doing the maintenance in and around the flats. As we understand is over the years people have made their own renovations in these flats, people have spent money on their rented flats over the years some people have made their space comfortable and liveable. The



city came into people's homes and destroyed what they have built over the years since they have moved into those rented spaces. They came and took out expensive tiles, new baths and other material and the tenants asked them to not remove their belongings but they said that they must renovate according to what the council plan is. Do we really live in a democracy or is it just a myth? Don't we have a choice? Yes, people do have the right to refuse.

### **Public hospitals**

We had complaints about the way people are being treated and the services the government delivers at Mitchell's plain day hospital.

Patients are sitting for hours before getting help and that nurses don't have a respectable way to talk to people, some people don't even get help. The hospital is filthy as the toilets are always out of order, there are stools on the toilet pots and so on. We cannot understand why the politicians claim that Cape Town and the Western Cape are the 'best run'. It means the working class in all the provinces are suffering terribly while the bosses make hundreds of billions of Rands. Every year over R200bn in profits is taken out of the country by the international banks.

It is time for us all to unite as the masses in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Spain are doing. Schools are there to produce cheap labour for the bosses and to break our spirit so the capitalist can have their dream of huge profits while the workers suffer in silence. The public hospitals are collapsed to force people to go to private clinics, which most of us cannot afford- the bosses want to make money out our sickness. The state is there to terrorise the masses so that we live in constant fear. It's time for all workers to unite against this cruel system of the bosses.



Workers of Tafelsig (Swartklip and Kapteinsklip) stand united against attempts to evict them



***Towards a book review of SURVIVING IN THE APARTHEID PRISON- (by Sedick Isaacs)***

Monday, May 9, 2011 at 4:19pm

Sedick Isaacs writes a refreshing account of the life of political prisoners on Robben Island in the 1960's and 1970's. His is a testimony of the human courage to overcome obstacles in order to survive. he exposes the brutality of a system that denied health care to sick prisoners (who had to first prove that they were sick - such as drinking castor oil or receiving a blow from a pick-axe handle without attempting to dodge it- before getting a concoction of chemicals); some died, some were executed for crimes against the state.

Mandela was relatively privileged, not having to do hard labour in the stone quarry- he had to do light 'suitable'work in the lime quarry while the majority of hundreds suffered with work in the stone quarry, with frequent threats of solitary confinement. Isaacs himself suffered more than a year in solitary confinement and was one of the few prisoners that had his sentence extended beyond the original term to 13 years. We hear of the courageous Sambotla who went out of his way to welcome Isaacs and other new prisoners, to help them acclimatise to the harsh conditions. all this while he was awaiting execution.

We hear that most of the prisoners on the island, by far, were from the PAC, not the ANC. The nickname that the warders used to describe political prisoners was 'Poqo', a term associated with the PAC. Naivety and carelessness was a feature of how some of the liberation fighters were caught- they were up against world capitalism and imperialism, not only the NP regime- many did not fully appreciate that then and even now.

Having a shred of newspaper would bring the harshest punishment on the island, solitary confinement and a beating. Isaacs was flogged to the point of serious injury for attempting to escape (he tried 5 times). Several in the leadership tried to build unity against the system, across party lines. through courageous persistence they managed to conduct literacy classes (they eradicated illiteracy within 3 years on the island); school and university learning as well as political education. They organised sports, soccer clubs, chess, ludo, all as part of their resistance to being broken; they shared a comradeship that supported one another when the point of 'cracking' was reached.

The dehumanised white worker, played the role of bastion of brutality but a crack developed in their ranks, consciously brought about, in part by the work of the prisoners themselves. But the winning over of the white worker to the side of the broader working class remained marginal to the tactics of the PAC and ANC, then and now. Political education was more an induction into nationalist liberation politics and were not fundamental critiques of the capitalist system nor of how imperialism sustained the brutal regime nor of how imperialism exercised its control over the means of production.



Sedick explains that he cannot understand how leadership who had gone through such suffering together can now have allowed SA 'to become the most economically disparate society'.

We offer a brief explanation: the 1994 negotiated settlement maintained the state apparatus intact- a section of the black middle class took over as managers for imperialism-capitalism- the monopolies are the real rulers of SA. The permanent revolution is confirmed yet again- in a semi-colonial country, only the working class, taking power into its own hands can begin to take radical steps to complete and meet the basic democratic aspirations of the masses. and even then the working class needs to take power in the imperialist centres.

Isaacs does not deal with the crushing of the left by stalinism to pave the way for nationalist partnership with imperialism. he mistakes the farsightedness of Helen Suzman as real support for the prisoners- She, before many others, realised that if the old regime did not make a deal with the liberation movements, then the monopolies, imperialism, would lose everything. The PFP, including Suzman, supported the military campaigns of the apartheid regime in Angola- they only became overnight converts to support the nationalist parties (ANC and PAC) when the threat of revolution was starting to breathe down their backs.

Nevertheless, the account by Sedick Isaacs is well worth reading and should be read by as many people as possible- it should be added to the school syllabus to enrich the discussion over our rich past. The struggles of the period when the mass movement had been smashed, all contributed to laying the basis for the resistance at the later period. and the courageous struggle against the system on Robben Island was a part of that. We are in no way linked to the publishers but we list their contact details for whoever would like to get hold of copies of the book: [www.xlibrispublishing.co.uk](http://www.xlibrispublishing.co.uk) email: [Orders@xlibrispublishing.co.uk](mailto:Orders@xlibrispublishing.co.uk) ISBN (softcover) 978-4535-3806-7 ISBN (ebook) 978-4535-3807-4



**Who's the boss?**



## **We expose the class aims behind the pending closure of the Centre for African Studies (CAS) by UCT**

Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 11:12pm

When students of the Centre for African Studies (CAS) discovered earlier this year that moves were afoot to close their department by the end of this year, they took the matter into the open. This has forced the UCT authorities temporarily to retreat from finalising the form of the closure.

We are reminded of the words of Karl Marx when he wrote in the Afterword of the Second German Edition (24 January 1873) of Capital Volume 1:

*“...the bourgeoisie had conquered political power. Thenceforth, the class struggle, practically as well as theoretically, took on more and more outspoken and threatening forms. It sounded the knell of scientific bourgeois economy. It was thenceforth no longer a question, whether this theorem or that was true, but whether it was useful to capital or harmful, expedient or inexpedient, politically dangerous or not. In place of disinterested inquirers, there were hired prize-fighters; in place of genuine scientific research, the bad conscience and evil intent of the apologetic.”*

The point is that universities in capitalist society are not ‘independent’ but serve the ruling elite. Further, the role of universities in semi-colonies like South Africa, are servants of monopoly capital, of imperialism, ensuring the continuation of the violence of class rule, of the rule of the minority over the majority. Thus the global trend of closure of school libraries, of cutting of funding to the arts, of the general ‘dumbing down’ of school education (euphemistically called ‘Outcomes-based education’) has in its inherent logic the ‘dumbing down’ of scientific inquiry at tertiary level. This is the basis for the pending closure of the CAS. This is what UCT means when they talk of the emphasis on the (practical) Sciences. What capital needs to study, receives funding; what is ‘inexpedient’ is ignored or so under-funded as to make scientific inquiry impossible.

To propose to dis-establish the AC Jordan research chair is to set up the CAS for failure; it means the de facto closure and ending of the little inquiry that they have struggled to produce with only 1 full time academic and two half posts. If the aim had been to set up a ‘New School’ for contemporary studies for Africa, surely the proposal should have been to establish two or more research chairs, not dump the only one the department has.

The Boeringher-Ingelheim Lung Institute does not have the funding for studying the relation between the increased Sulphur emissions from Platinum converters and the increasing number (to crisis proportions) of respiratory problems of children; yet it has funding for matters which can help expand the market of the monopolies that fund the Institute.



The CAS has little resources to fund the study of the wars for resources (paraded by the mainstream as inter-ethnic clashes), such as the wars in the DRC where over 6 million people have been killed since 1996. There are no resources to follow up on the UN report of Jonathan Oppenheimer, director of Umicore, that is one of the companies dealing in smuggling of cassiterite (plundered mostly from the DRC). Cassiterite and similar metals plundered from the DRC end up in cell phones, laptops and Playstations while their bloody trail has been covered up by the mainstream media and the research institutions.

Is it coincidental that Platinum and Cassiterite are both linked to Anglo American, one of the main, if not the main, private funder of UCT? The evidence shows otherwise.

Mamdani objected to a 'bantustan' Foundation course on Africa being established at UCT. Today the CAS community, the broader student community, the working class community outside the ivy-covered towers on the mountain, object to the neutering of the study of Africa by the UCT authorities.

The authorities claim they have 'learnt' from the Mamdani 'affair' and apply no 'administrative fiat' to stifle debate. The facts show the contrary: The matter has been discussed for 6 years and no-one thought of involving the CAS students; the students have requested documents but only extracts and summaries are presented, not the full documentation of the discussions of the past 6 years. Administrative fiat to force through the dis-establishment of the CAS is the modus operandi of the UCT authorities. The ABC of academic inquiry is study of the parts and the whole and the inter-connection between the two.

Hebrew and Jewish Studies has 3 full-time academics, cross-subsidized by other departments at UCT, yet the CAS, which has to study the full gamut of culture and struggles across Africa has only one full-time academic. Who has the funds to study the dollarization of Zimbabwe; there is no department of Amharic studies, for example; there are no funds to study the rich resistance that has now flowered in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and elsewhere? This is not the end of history but its violent evolution continues.

What is posited as one of the areas of concentration of further study is the supposed Brazil/India/China/South Africa axis; in other words, the promotion of a new front of semi-colonies who front for imperialism for the continued plunder of Africa. This is important as direct exploitation by imperialism always needs new forms to disguise their control as each time their plunder means the continuation of violence against the masses in Africa.

What is needed is an intensification of the struggle for the class history of the oppressed and exploited in Africa to be told, for the role of imperialism in the silencing and distortion of Africa to be critically examined, for the establishment of a full Centre for African Studies with a minimum of 6 full-time academic staff. This will open the doors for students of Africa to blossom instead of being limited by supposed lack of academic staff.



Many billions of Rands from the public coffers have been poured into UCT over the years; it is time the working masses begin to take control over the fruit of our labour. We call for petitions, pickets, marches, protests, strikes and a general mass action campaign until the critical study of class struggles in Africa is established at UCT and beyond. Only 13% of the 10 million youth between 15 and 24 have some form of employment, even fewer are studying. The youth in the North of Africa are showing the way to initiate resistance to capitalist dictatorship. We call on the youth from Cape to Cairo to take up the fight for freedom.

Free, liberatory education up the highest level! For the combination of work, study and leisure! For the establishment of a Journal of critical thought on Africa!

What is needed is the end of class society, an end to the expropriation of the African masses; the time has arrived to expropriate the expropriators.

## **The DA is the party of the big capitalists- they are racist and are for keeping the working class forever as slaves**

The Democratic Alliance (DA) is the party of the rich. They say that job creation must be carried out by the international companies with the help of the local capitalists. But let us look at the track record of these capitalists since 1994:

### **The DA stands for more unemployment**

Between 1994 to 2010 national unemployment among 'whites' have gone up from 55000 to 147 000 (and **increase of 92 000**), among 'coloureds' from 339 000 to 510 000 (an **increase of 171 000**), among 'Africans' from 3216000 to 5430000 (an **increase of 2.2 million**). In 2010 the province where there was the **greatest loss of jobs was the Western Cape**, a nett total of **45 000**, many of these in the clothing industry. When Rex Trueform and other clothing companies were closing down, where was the DA? *Absent*. What did the DA do to fight the loss of tens of thousands of jobs? *Nothing*.

The very companies who have retrenched millions of workers are the funders of the DA. The DA's claim that they stand for jobs, is false.

**The DA defends the existence of labour brokers.** They claim that they are for self-regulation of the industry. In other words, they say that the labour brokers must make sure that they do not exploit their workers. This is like giving a wolf a manual on how to take care of sheep. The DA is asking the very exploiters, who don't give any benefits, who pay you the least, who fire you without a hearing, to make sure that workers rights are protected! In other words the DA stands for the slavery of workers; the DA has no problem that 2 million workers are suffering under labour brokers; they open the door to other companies to retrench more workers and to hire more labour brokers which will give the bosses more profits and workers less wages.

**The DA gives fat contracts to their rich pals** while they even go to court to deny black residents of the city decent toilet enclosures. Haw & Inglis, a big capitalist firm was given



the major part of the R220 million contract to widen hospital bend (near Cape Town) to ease the traffic congestion. The widening of the N2 into Cape Town should have cost R20 million or less. The flyover from Grootte Schuur to the N2 (inbound) should never have been built (as it is so seldom used), while the outbound construction was a complete failure, causing delays of 20 -40 minutes (sometimes more) for traffic heading home in the afternoon.

The same Haw and Inglis was awarded a R150 million contract for widening the N2 along the Knynsa lagoon so that the French soccer team could have a more comfortable travel to their matches from their base there (over the 2 weeks they stayed there in 2010). Yet the City has no money toilet enclosures.

The City and province contributed R612 million to the construction of the white elephant, the Cape Town stadium. The capitalists who got the lion's share of the R4.4 Bn contract for the stadium were Murray & Roberts and WBHO.

For the so-called Integrated Rapid Transit (IRT) network the DA-controlled city awarded the juicy contracts to the big capitalists: Civils 2000 received R144 million; Martin East received R210 million; WBHO received R115 million; Group 5 received R137 million, Baseline R99 million. (and this is only up to January 2010). **Now, there is nothing integrated or rapid about the IRT (except the rapid profiteering by the capitalists).** The MyCiti buses, costing millions, run empty or with one or two passengers. The West Coast traffic has been crammed into 2 lanes for months while the bus lane lies vacant. Even when the bus lane opens, it is unlikely that the traffic will ease much, as the cost of bus travel which subsidizes the rich capitalist friends of the DA, will not be cheap.

**The real reason why the DA opposes national criteria for 'employment equity' is because they want to maintain the privilege of the white middle class:** over 76% of top management are 'white', while 'coloured' make up only 2% (while being 9% of the population) and 'african' make up only 14% (while being 80% of the population) of the top layers. As the economy is not growing and there is always a high turnover of management, this means that the privileged position of the 'white' middle class, who has the highest standard of living of any group in the whole world, is under threat. The Equity provisions deals with **new job vacancies** and **not** with dismissing workers to meet targets. The DA claims they are applying regional criteria- but even this is not true as the 'coloured' section of the Western Cape population is over 52%; yet the top management is overwhelmingly 'white', while 'coloured' top managers are only a fraction. The DA is opposing real measures to transform upper layers of companies. This white upper middle class is the base of the DA. This is why the DA is deliberately sweeping up 'coloured' and 'indian' workers, falsely claiming they will be dismissed, when it is really only the white middle class who will have themselves squeezed out of the top management positions. The proposed amendments are to give teeth to force the employment of more 'coloured' and 'african' top managers. This is what scares the DA. Here we see their racism uncovered. The truth is that the DA needs the support of 'coloured' workers if they are to retain their hold over the city. This is why the DA is so desperate to create a 'swart gevaar' sentiment among 'coloured' workers, just as the Nats used to do before 1994.

According to StatsSA, in the categories of unskilled workers, plant and machine operators, craft and related trades, sales and services, 'African' workers are already at 80% of the national profile. [Craft workers are 71% 'African']. This means that no



'Coloured' , 'Indian' or 'White' worker will be affected in the Western Cape nor in any other province in these categories. In any case it is illegal to dismiss workers to achieve a 'equity target'.

**Clamping down on 'illegal squatting'- a new form of influx control:**

When the Abahlali Western Cape tried to occupy some vacant land in Khayelitsha a few months ago, they were brutally suppressed by the City's 'land invasion' unit. Many of the residents were (and still are) living under electricity pylons- something which is hazardous to their health. The DA-controlled city does not want any new squatter camps- this is really a new form of influx control- similar to what the apartheid regime used to do- in the past, 'african' workers were expelled because they did not have the dompas; now the city expels 'african' workers with the excuse of acting against illegal squatting. The result is the same- to send the excess 'african' unemployed worker to the rural Eastern Cape to die of starvation.

**Dismiss teachers who 'came from the Bantustan education system'**

The DA's Wilmot James (on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011) called for the dismissal of bad teachers, many who 'came from the Bantustan education system' as a key part of improving the education system.

The international companies that the DA promotes, only need Africa as a place for exporting raw materials- they do not need much skilled labour. This is the reason why the education system produces largely unskilled workers. If the capitalists needed huge numbers of skilled workers they would have funded more teacher training and educational institutes. The technology to produce a computer microchip, for example, is kept away from Africa so that we can always be dependent on the international companies.

The DA blames the teachers and covers up the role of the international companies in keeping the latest scientific knowledge away from the working class. The DA's threat to dismiss teachers is really a threat to weaken if not destroy the base of the Cosatu teacher union, Sadtu. There is over 40% unemployment in many working class areas across the country- how are children expected to learn if for millions, the only meal a day is the sandwich they receive from the school feeding scheme (and in many cases there are no feeding schemes). The root of 'poor' teaching is the capitalist system

**Privatization of water and electricity, disguised as an 'indigent' 'policy'**

The DA makes much of their 'indigent policy', implying that they are so generous and caring for the poor. A closer look at the implementation of the policy shows their true colours:

Before you can get onto the indigent scheme you have to pay off your debts. People apply because they do not have money, are unemployed or work for peanuts for some labour broker. So to try to get onto the indigent list many people resort to selling their furniture, their beds, their stoves, their basic necessities to Cash Crusaders. Thus to get on the list you have to make yourself even more indigent. Some even take out loans from the loan sharks just to get on to the list. Many land up paying off part of their debts with the city but do not manage to get on to the list, only deeper in debt.

Secondly to qualify for the list you have to sign that you will have a pre-paid water and electricity meter installed. This is nothing else but preparation for the privatization of



water and electricity. The fight for water and electricity now becomes individualized, and thus weaker. If you do not have water, it is because you did not pay. Your neighbour may scrape together a few Rands to pay for water so does not feel the pressure when your water gets cut off.

Some pensioners have complained that they used to pay R150 per month for water and they now pay R750 per month (now that the water meter is installed). Several people are sitting with water bills of R7000 and R11 000. This is because the City does not send people to come out to even read the meters that they installed. The City estimates the water usage, despite having meters installed. Even if you pay your water bill after it is cut off, the water is often only re-connected the next day (in some cases it takes days).

What the water meter does is transfer the bill for leaking pipes of the city onto the shoulders of the poor. The water meters being used do not even carry the SABS approval and as such are untested.

The electricity meters have made it difficult for the working class to take up a joint fight against electricity price increases. [if you do not pay, you do not have electricity]. The increased use of water meters opens the way for the privatization of water and thus their massive increase in prices, much as electricity has been hiked for the masses while big capital gets low rates (in effect being subsidized by the poor).

We call for the city to open their books to reveal the top 20 of those with arrears in water payments- we are confident that the list will reveal that the companies are the main defaulters that are treated leniently, while the poor suffer the brunt of the city's 'indigent policy'.

When residents were demanding electricity in Brown's Farm, Du Noon and Phillipi East, the DA's response (in the person of Richard Bosman) was : 'it is not the city's responsibility'.

Further, the DA-controlled city admitted they were aware for a long time that people were eating food that had past its sell-by-date from the municipal dump. They did nothing about it.

Water should be free for everybody. Down with the water meters! Electricity provision should be freed from the clutches of Anglo American and other capitalists. Scrap the electricity subsidies for big capital. Solar and wind energy should be used for electricity.

Workers have reporting losing their houses due to their inability to pay their water bills. What does the City do? Evict the indigent from their houses and from squatter camps, to a living hell, a tin shack town called Blikkiesdorp, far from the centre of the city. The city was part of the attempt to evict the 20 000 residents from Joe Slovo in Langa, to Blikkiesdorp.

### **Shoot their eyes out...Hangberg**

The DA-controlled city claims that they are caring for the poor but in Hout Bay. When the homeless residents started to object to the land being sold to some rich capitalist, they occupied a small barren stretch of rock. The City sent in the police and in the process several people were shot, including 3 who had their eyes shot out. When Samwu shopsteward, Petros Msiza, was shot down by the police in a recent municipal drivers



strike in Gauteng, the DA did not condemn it but were more concerned with the inability of the Council to replace the drivers who were on strike (See statement of Justus De Goede 4.4.2011 in the Eastern Times). The DA cannot claim to stand with the family of Tatane when they use the same police violence against the masses, not only in Hangberg, but all over the city.

### **Palestine**

In 2008-9 when the Israeli army brutally murdered 1400 Palestinians in Gaza (among them many women and children), the DA called on both 'sides' to refrain from violence. They refused to condemn the massacre of the largely unarmed Palestinians by the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest army in the world.

The DA does not support the right of return of the 6 million Palestinian refugees who are scattered in concentration camps throughout the region. The DA stands for a Bantustan for the Palestinians comprising Gaza and part of the West Bank.

The DA supported the Mitchell and Tenet plans which call for the joint working together of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Israelis to put Palestinian fighters in jail on the West Bank. Today hundreds of Palestinians are in the jails of the PA, while over 7000 Palestinians (including many women and children) are held in prisons in 'Israel' (for example Nael Barghouti has been in prison in Israel for 34 years- Israel holds the title in the Guinness book of records of keeping prisoners the longest in jail).

Recently, despite local objections the DA-controlled City hosted an Israeli Ice hockey team. During this tour, back in Gaza, Israel was bombing the innocent yet again. A Palestinian man was called from the mosque where he was praying only to be told his daughter and wife had been bombed to pieces by the Israelis. His daughter was to be married the next week.

### **Libya**

The DA was the first party in South Africa to call for the imperialist UN to invade Libya. They congratulated the ANC government for voting on the UN Security Council in favour of bombing the masses in Libya. Now the imperialists are in a feeding frenzy, falling over one another's feet to get the oil of Libya. The UN uses radio-active 'depleted' Uranium bombs in Libya, devastating areas that will now be unusable for thousands of years.

The bombing campaign in Libya opened the door for the UN to send French troops to invade the Ivory Coast.

### **Liberal International**

The DA is part of the Liberal International. The Liberal International has as members Alassane Ouattara of the Rally of the Republicans in the Ivory Coast. Ouattara has been installed through the invasion of French troops, with the blessing of the imperialist UN. Ouattara was an IMF (International Monetary Fund) deputy director for 5 years and is clearly the tool of the US and French imperialists, who now have control over the world's biggest cacao producer.

Other members include the Alliance for Renewal of the Congo, which is part of the government of the DRC. This government has been involved in the rape and plunder of the resources of the DRC in wars (that are still continuing), where over 6 million have been killed, while Anglo American and other imperialists walk off with the diamonds, gold



and cassiterite (the world's biggest deposit is in the DRC- this mineral is used for laptops, cellphones and Sony playstations).

Other members include the Israeli Liberal group that is part of the Israeli parliament which oversees all the atrocities against Palestinians.

Other members include the Tomorrow party (el Ghad) which was part of the parliament during the days of Mubarak in Egypt- in other words, they operated with the blessing of the dictator and gave legitimacy to him.

### **'Rent a cop'**

In the DA's 'fight' against crime, they offer us their 'rent a cop' scheme (privatizing the police). The only ones who would be able to afford to hire the cops would be the rich. Imagine some druglord using somebody as a front and hiring the cops- they would be able to buy protection from the police against the masses. (Some may argue that the druglords already have the cops on their payroll and this scheme just formalises it.)

The DA privatizes everything. If there was a way to bottle air and sell it to the masses, you can be sure the DA would long ago have introduced pre-paid air meters.

### **Make the masses wait forever to return to District 6**

We can see that it is election time. A handful of houses are being built in District 6 to show that 'progress' is being made, while the thousands of claimants are kept waiting. Since the last election, several of the claimants have died. The DA is part of an Advocacy group which champions the cause of the property holders who were from District 6- many of them from the rich upper class who have their own houses. Many of those evicted from District 6 were tenants for the Advocacy group members that the DA defends.

A pensioner was reported to say that she could not afford to move back to her home in District 6 as she could not get the required R200 000 loan from a bank. The DA has privatized the return of those evicted from District 6 by the apartheid regime. Surely the City (and other levels of government) should accept that the state was responsible for the eviction and should bear all the cost for the return of the masses to District 6.

### **World class mayor?**

Lastly, the DA makes much of Zille's award as best mayor in the world for 2008. Firstly the award is not made by the people but by a select group of self-appointed 'experts' (a help-us-become-president club). The criteria are purely capitalist and do not deal with factors such as housing all people in decent homes; were all druglords locked up; was there state violence against the poor, etc.

Secondly, the Mayor of the year awards is designed to boost the profile of the recipient using capitalist criteria. The 2010 winner (Marcelo Ebrard- mayor of Mexico city) is considering running for president in their 2012 elections.

Yet Greater Mexico city, home to 25 million people, is largely a massive slum. More than 60% of the dwellings are one-room shacks. Many do not have electricity and water. Many of the multinational companies that operate there are exempt from labour laws, setting up maquiladoras (sweat shops), where workers work as casuals. More than 26% of the workforce work in these sweat shops. The multinationals make huge profits from



this flexible labour market. Yet Ebrard won the award because he developed an 'indigent policy' with a few crumbs which kept the masses from the path of revolution (for the moment). There are slum areas in Mexico city which each contain more than 1 million people. The rich and the capitalist politicians buy up lots, subdivide them and sell them, without services, at a profit. In other words even the slums are privatized. The capitalist politicians sell plots and services for attendance at political rallies. To get bank finance you have to attend 100 rallies; if you want to get a sidewalk in front of your 'house', you have to attend 40 more rallies.

In its bid to keep Mexico as its slave camp and increasing the desperation of the masses, over 30 000 Mexican workers were killed over the past 2-3 years at the borders with the USA. The multinational corporations made huge and increased profits over the past few years. In 2009, 44 000 workers at the state electricity company were dismissed. Such is the background to the award to Ebrard for mayor of the year.

While Zille was mayor of Cape Town they promised the same housing project in Pelican Park to different communities; the city moved to evict a number of communities from their informal settlements; the over 200 squatter camps in the City still exist and the masses are still waiting for housing. In fact, despite the efforts of the city to demolish more squatter camps, the numbers are growing because housing development is lagging behind population growth and the banks control the land and charge huge prices that enslave people who can afford them, for 20-30 years, or exclude the vast majority.

For helping to maintain this desperation for housing, creating huge profits for the banks, the DA's Zille was given the award of 'best mayor of the year'.

### **A lack of transparency**

The DA claims to be transparent yet they refuse to reveal where they get their funding from or how much they are spending on the elections. Now if the DA had really delivered to the masses why do they have to put up so many posters (on virtually every lamppost throughout the Cape Metro, if not all the cities and towns in the country). The cost of decent toilet enclosures for the masses in Khayelitsha would have cost far less and would have been real delivery instead of artificially trying to build up their image.

Let us tell the masses who really funds the DA: it is the companies who are responsible for high prices, who are evicting the poor and re-possessing homes, who are retrenching huge numbers of workers, who promote cheap labour through their use of labour brokers. This is why the DA does not want to reveal this information, why they are not transparent, because the masses would easily see who the DA is really loyal to, the big capitalists.

This is the DA, who wants your vote, who does not even have a policy on the rural areas (except to drive the excess homeless out of the cities to such areas). This is the DA who now wants to take over the running of the train network at local level. We can only expect train fare to double and triple in the hands of the DA as they will hand it over to the capitalists to make a profit (and judging from the hospital bend debacle you will pay triple and still be late for work).

The time has come for the masses to unite, as the masses in Egypt have begun to show us- let us get rid of the capitalist system and thus the parasites that live off the sweat of the working class but do nothing.



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