



The Spark

[Intlansi yaBasebenzi]

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PARLIAMENT MUST FALL



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#Parliamentmustfall campaign

1. The bourgeois democratic programme has not been fulfilled. There are the 10 Constitutional Court judges that can hold back any attempt to expropriate without compensation; the parliament is not constituency based and the masses have no direct choice of who their representative is nor is there any right of instant recall. The apartheid group areas still exist and they will continue to exist as long as the private property clause is there. The relation of imperialism to the neo-colonies mean that they cannot allow full bourgeois democracy as this means the real development of a local capitalist class that would become a competitor to it; also the solving of the housing and unemployment questions means that imperialist profits would be encroached upon. Thus the call for the most far reaching bourgeois democratic demand, the Constituent Assembly, still holds validity as a means to expose the real nature of the capitalist dictatorship and further help shatter illusions in parliamentarism. We cannot wish away the fact that several million are still tied to parliamentary illusions;
2. WIVP supports the formation of a **Red bloc of Socialists** that provide a radical pole around which the masses can be mobilised and to counter in practice the bourgeois attempts to save the system;
3. We propose the setting up of **#Parliamentmustfall** campaign structures, in every workplace, mine, farm, factory, school, university, area of the masses.
4. The following platform is proposed:
 - a. The **whole government must fall** (The government prepared and endorsed the fraudulent report on Nkandla; for years the income of pensioners have been cut in real terms; pension distribution is being privatised into the hands of imperialism; trillions have been stolen and continue to be stolen by imperialist monopolies like Anglo American; the govt has lowered the tax on company profits from 43% in the days of apartheid to 28% now- thus the burden of state income has been placed more on the backs of the masses; The imperialists make more profits than they made under the apartheid regime; the masses are denied basic rights to housing, education, health, work while the imperialists get richer and richer. Millions live in squalor and hundreds of thousands die from preventable diseases while the imperialists live in luxury. This government has given the go-ahead for the nuclear scam which will cost at least R3trillion; just one major accident will cost more than R1 trillion. The nuclear scam will destroy our youth and several generations to come; they will be slaves to pay off this scam. The Medupi and Kusile coal power stations are not even complete and corruption has more than tripled the cost) Further, we support the call of the NUM Youth who call on the SACP Ministers to step down and join the masses in the trenches against the system. We know that the SACP leaders will be found wanting.
 - b. **Parliament must disband**: it is not based on constituencies but on cliques that parties appoint; no constituency has the right of instant recall over their representatives; this is not the will of the people but the will of a club of thieves; 23 years of this limited parliament has only delivered entrenched suffering and poverty in the land of plenty;
 - c. In its place there need to be set up a **provisional government** based on mass **#parliamentmustfall committees** with the right of instant recall and no representative should earn more than the wage of an average skilled worker;
 - d. It is only such a provisional government that can ensure the setting up of **an unfettered Constituent Assembly**, with one rep per 20 000 people, again subject to instant recall, based on constituencies and with no rep earning more than the average wage of a skilled worker.

It seem that the Vote of no Confidence scheduled for Tuesday the 18th April may be postponed. Whenever it does take place or at a date that is determined by the #parliamentmustfall committees, we call for them to send their representatives to parliament and the Union buildings to deliver the mandate of the masses. These committees should have delegates chosen irrespective of union or party affiliation, whether local or immigrant.

Lastly, just a note that imperialism will try and keep the mass struggle against the corrupt parliament within the framework of the existing parliamentary parties; This is why the 12th April march was called for. The struggle



has been personalised by marching on Zuma's birthday but they dare not call for mass marches when parliament calls a vote of no confidence. This is because they want to sideline the masses and put the hands of the struggle in the hands of 'clever' lawyers and politicians. Imperialism wants to save the system. We need to usher it out.

This struggle can serve as a core around which the left should develop a programme that can serve as the basis for a new working class party.



UWC protest against mass dismissal of 143 workers

Imperialism prepares a palace coup against Zuma

When Zuma had a mass reshuffle of his Cabinet in the middle of the night (evening of the 30th March) the Rand dropped in value from R12, 84 to the dollar to R13,42. A drop of about 60 cents. Yet when imperialist rating agency, Standard and Poor, downgraded the SA credit rating to junk status, the Rand only weakened to R13,60, a drop of less than 20 cents. How do we explain such changes?

When the Rand is worth less compared to the dollar, it means that it takes more Rands to purchase anything in dollars. It means that imported goods become more expensive but also means that wages in South Africa are cut, compared to international standards. Imperialism uses currency manipulation to put the burden of their crisis on the shoulders of the masses in the neo-colonial areas such as South Africa.

Imperialism is very happy to have the ANC ruling the country. They have made more profits under the ANC than they made under the apartheid regime. Currently there is no strong alternative for imperialism who can keep the masses under control.

The bigger fall when Zuma changed the Cabinet showed that imperialism was upset at not being consulted. Imperialism has rolled out all their points of support in rapid succession: the ANC 'Integrity Commission', the SACP and Cosatu leaders and the S&P ratings agency. This is to discipline the ANC govt not to steal so much.



While Gordhan called for 'mass action' against Zuma, the ones with real control over working class formations, the SACP and Cosatu leaders did not even plan a single demonstration. Why? Imperialism realises that if the masses go on the march against the ANC government, the tide may become unstoppable and the regime may be threatened. Imperialism does not want regime change although they may want to change Zuma, if they think that can bring better conditions for them to continue exploiting the masses here. We need to remember the case of Zimbabwe when the MDC proved incapable of controlling the masses, imperialism settled for reinstating full control to Mugabe, even at the expense of pauperising the entire working class and having millions forced to flee the country. Imperialist plan to replace Zuma will involve a technical, legal process, a palace coup. They most likely have a successor in place, even though they do not have any credible candidate. This means that they would only temporarily stave off a mass revolt.

Thus at most imperialism may want to organise a palace coup, that is removing Zuma without the involvement of the masses, in order to keep the ANC regime in power.

The SACP- Cosatu wing and the Zuma clique are both in the service of imperialism. The SACP wing merely wants Zuma to be more careful and less obvious in his theft of the coffers of the state, while Zuma does not know his limits and wants more and more unbridled self enrichment.

Both wings are claiming to support radical transformation. A key to exposing both these pro-imperialist factions is the following programme of demands:

1. The banks have been proven to manipulate the currency over decades; expropriate the banks without compensation, including the Reserve Bank and place them under workers control;
2. The mines have long stripped the wealth of the country, often through illegal means and since 1994, at least, they have been on an investment strike. They carry off profits of at least R1 trillion each year. Expropriate the mines without compensation and place them under workers control
3. Use the funds to pay pensioners and grant holders the minimum wage; use the funds for decent housing for all, close to places of work; free, decent health care for all, free, liberatory education from cradle to the grave. Share the work among all who can work, without loss of pay.
4. Expropriate the 25 000 large commercial farms without compensation and place them under workers control;
5. The current Constitution was dictated by imperialism (the protection of private property) there is also no direct control by constituencies; thus we call for the immediate disbanding of parliament and the convening of an unfettered Constituent Assembly, with 1 delegate per 10 000 people, on a constituency basis, subject to instant recall and all delegates only earning the average wage of a skilled worker. The entire Cabinet must go. We support the call of the NUM youth that all SACP Ministers should resign. If they are worth anything, let them join the ranks of the masses in actions and marches against the regime. We support the call for marches against all legislatures and Councils, be the ANC or DA controlled. They must all go.

To give effect to the above programme of demands, we call for the setting up of action committees at each workplace, mine, farm, school, university, community; with co-ordination councils; all structures formed irrespective of party or union affiliation or whether local or immigrant. We do not support the marches of the DA/Save SA; mass action should be independently organised. [We have amended this position to now call for the left groups to join the marches as a Red bloc, raising our slogans and contesting for space and leadership of the growing movement against the regime. 15.4.2017].

We call for the left to discuss a framework of demands that would form the basis of a programme for a new, revolutionary working class party.



Zuma must fall- forward to a general strike

If the Mandela Rhodes Foundation and the SACP are calling for Zuma to fall, then it means that imperialism has already lined up a candidate in the wings. Rather interesting that the SACP statement of 31.3.2017 only criticises Allan Gray and Remgro (Anton Rupert) for their role in the Net 1 robbery of the poorest of the poor (Sassa grant scandal), yet they fail to criticise the role of the imperialist World Bank. The World Bank is not only the biggest shareholder in Net 1 but they bought their stake after the Constitutional Court found the relation between Sassa and Net 1 to be corrupt. The World bank now wants Net 1 to rob the entire Africa

The problem is that imperialism does not have credible candidates. The billionaire butcher of Marikana, Ramaphosa, is hardly credible. Motlanthe was involved in corruption in mining. Billionaire Sexwale is involved with the World Bank and Net 1 theft from our pensioners. *Will Zuma go silently or will he rage against the light?*

So the question arises whether we have reached our Gaddafi/Assad moment? Namely, has the moment arisen when the state will start using live ammunition on unarmed protestors? Or is it more of an Erdogan moment where state opponents are going to be dismissed en masse and stadiums turned into prisons?

The rise of the Trump era which is also characterised by fascist Ukraine, fascist Syria, fascist Egypt, fascist Israel, fascist Philippines, militarist Russia, bonapartist Italy and Brazil, fascistic India, fascist Myanmar/Burma, all point to rule by decree and undermining of the bourgeois apparatus. In other words, the democratic structures that exist, as weak as they are, have become an obstacle for further capitalist profits.

What is needed is the setting up of action committees in every workplace, mine, farm, factory, every community of the masses. There needs to be preparation for the groundwork towards a general strike until the Zuma regime steps down.

What is needed in its place? We need a Constituent Assembly, based on area representation, delegates of 1 per 10 000 people, subject to instant recall and not earning a wage higher than a skilled worker. The Assembly should not have any pre-conditions as happened in the 1994 period when imperialism insisted on the protection of their wealth as a non-negotiable.

For this to happen, the working class needs to be organised independently in action committees for a Constituent Assembly. Forward to working class power. WIVP 31.3 2017



Outsourcing and rape culture must fall- protests at UWC



Disband parliament - set up action committees

We condemn the wholesale removal of 20 Cabinet Ministers in the same vein as we condemn the policies of the ANC government. Parliament has shown itself incapable of holding Cabinet or the Presidency to account. Parliament approved of a false report on Nkandla; Parliament approved of cuts in pensions, they refused to raise the tax on company profits and refused to stop the imperialists from stealing trillions. As a result millions are dying early deaths due to poverty and exploitation. Free, decent housing for all is possible; free education, health care for all is possible. But the old and new Cabinet stand for the safeguarding of international monopoly capital. The World Bank is stealing the bread from our pensioners mouths; they are making illegal deductions from the 17 million grantholders; the government is supporting the World Bank's efforts to steal from the impoverished throughout Africa.

We do not defend the old nor the new Cabinet. They are fighting over the crumbs from the imperialist table. We reject them both.

We support the call for work stoppages on every mine, factory, workplace at 11am today (31st March 2017) and going forward from today, we support the call for protests at parliament and the Union buildings **but under our own slogans:**

- Disband parliament
- Out with the old and new Cabinet- they must all go
- Forward to a new, unfettered Constituent Assembly based on area representatives 1 per 10 000 people, subject to instant recall and no one should receive a salary or more than an average skilled worker

We call for the formation of action committees in every workplace and area. Let us set up co-ordination committees of delegates of these action committees.

31st March 2017 **Workers International Vanguard Party** www.workersinternational.org.za

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Historic statue at WUC, showing worker-student alliance. Outsourcing must fall!



Forward to total insourcing at UWC

Dear Comrades and friends, the 143 dismissed workers are entering a tough phase in their struggle for reinstatement. One worker, cde **Brenda Masala, has died** of stress. On Tuesday 2nd May, the workers met the management of Securitas in a bid to resolve the dispute. The management of Securitas made it clear that not a single worker will be taken back, as long as they are there at UWC. They made it clear that they don't want clever workers; they don't want workers who want insourcing; they don't care if some were not even present at UWC at the time; they said the workers must all go. This is despite there being an agreement with the UWC management last year that **all the workers would be ringfenced** and would remain at UWC and would never be deployed elsewhere. There are a number of other complaints such as workers being paid for 11 hours for 12 hours work; replacement workers are paid from money deducted from current staff, etc.

This is a short appeal to workers and students to rally in support of the workers, who have now been without income for 6 months.

Please contribute to the Workers Solidarity Fund and help with the mobilisation so that the workers can return. Workers need funds for legal costs as well as funds to sustain themselves and their families.

Let us make it clear that all university workers must be insourced. How can people even speak of radical economic transformation when workers are sold into slavery?

The contracts of all the outsourced companies, for cleaning, security and gardening services, came to an end on the 31st March 2017. This has been extended for 3 months **to the end of June.**

We salute the UWC management tribute to the fallen hero Ahmed Kathrada. Cde Kathrada said that while we are alive and even in death, we need to be bold to put right what was wrong.

We also salute the fallen hero Philip Kgosana. He taught us that in the face of massacres and slavery, we need to be bold to stand united, unafraid to take the rocky road to freedom.

We are proud of the statue of the unnamed worker who supports the student, on our premises. It was here at UWC that the pivotal role of the worker was openly acknowledged, long before any other university. It is ironic that UWC is one of the last Universities to insource.

Here is an opportunity for the University to put right a historical wrong, namely they can end all outsourcing at UWC. Outsourcing is modern slavery and does not belong here at UWC.

Our simple demands are as follows:

1. Reinstatement all the dismissed Securitas workers (by insourcing all of them).
2. Insource all the security, cleaning and gardening services workers and all outsourced workers that are permanently working here.
3. No financial exclusion



4. Resolve the accommodation crisis; assist all students currently without accommodation to get it
5. Ensure that all students whose bail conditions exclude them from campus, have their right to education restored by supporting amending of bail conditions and allowing them late registration without penalty.
6. Amnesty for all students; drop all charges and intervene with the state to drop all cases.
7. Police off our campus.

We call on all students, workers and staff to join us in a peaceful discussions and pickets in support of our demands.

Let us bring peace to UWC through dialogue and discussion. We call for an immediate mediation process to build unity and resolve our demands. Students, workers and staff should feel free to discuss their concerns and bring them to the mediation table.

Justice for Brenda Masala; justice for all outsourced and dismissed workers. Decent accommodation 4 all

JOINT UWC WORKERS STUDENT ALLIANCE

Sign the petition: <https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/bringbacktheworkers>



We remember the fallen cde Brenda Masala; armed security off Northlink college and other campuses



Response to Malikane

(We respond to Christopher Malikane's "Our chance to complete the revolution" April 16th 2017, Sunday Times).

One hundred years after the February and October revolutions in Russia, it is appropriate to explore parallels between the struggle for Socialism, here in South Africa, and the Russian experience.

What was the essence of the February revolution and why was it necessary to have an October revolution?

The February 1917 revolution overthrew the czar, set up a provisional government comprised of all the democratic forces, both Socialist and capitalist, except for the Bolsheviks (and the Anarchists). This was the most democratic regime in the world. There was freedom of movement, freedom of expression and association; there were councils of workers' delegates from working class areas as well as the industrial areas; even soldiers and peasants had their own councils and elected their own delegates.

Yet it was necessary to advance from the February revolution to have an October revolution where the working class seized power, supported by the poorer sections of the middle classes, establishing a working class dictatorship. It was necessary to overthrow the democratic regime. One of the central demands that led to the February revolution was the land question. The non-fulfilment of this demand was one of the key factors that led to the October revolution. It was only the working class in power that could nationalise the land. The multiclass democratic govt was incapable of carrying out this basic task.

In general, what led to the October revolution was the inability of the democratic regime to fulfil even one of the democratic demands. The October revolution grew out of this. The 1917 Russian revolution and its lessons provide the central basis for the refutation of the arguments of Malikane.

The decisive change in world capitalist relations since 1900 and its implications

By about 1900, the entire world was mostly divided up among all the imperialist powers; this meant that for any further capitalist expansion that one imperialist power had to encroach on the terrain of another. Thus opened up a period of capitalist decline; a period of war, revolution and counter-revolution. The development of capitalism within the colonies and semi-colonies was subject to suppression by imperialism. The main feature of imperialism capitalism today is the domination by finance capital, the rule of the banks and their cross ownership and control of all industry around the world, something ignored by Malikane. On the other hand, within the liberation movements, the indigenous capitalist and middle class elements that formed part of the democratic governments that came to power, had some of their individual demands met, namely a stake within the system. Without exception those capitalist and middle class elements associated with political power turned their backs on the broader aspirations of the masses. The new political ruling class formed an obstacle in the path of the masses from their achieving the most basic democratic demands. The development of local capital in any neo-colony leads to a clash with the imperialist powers that are still in control. To the extent that there is any local capitalist development, it is with the permission of imperialism. This means the maintenance of the super-exploitative relations that imperialism is based on in the neo-colonies. Thus the development of local capitalist relations rests on the suppression of the democratic aspirations of the masses.

The October revolution in 1917 shows that it is only the working class in power, on its own, that can complete the democratic programme, such as nationalisation of the land, etc.

What is the theoretical origin of the ideas of Malikane?

Malikane, in the 2002 work on the NDR (National Democratic Revolution), explains the Stalinist notion of the SACP of 'internal colonization' by the local 'white monopoly capital'. The tasks of the NDR is explained as follows: *'the main content of the NDR is the liberation of blacks in general, Africans in particular'*. (Malikane, 2002).



To achieve this central democratic demand, Malikane explains that:

'The movement characterised the principal contradiction in SA as between apartheid colonialism led by white monopoly capital on one side, and national liberation led by the black working class on the other side. The class aspect is determinant, and the national aspect dominant.'

This means that the contradictions between the black petit-bourgeoisie and the black working class are secondary not only because the relations between these two social categories do not define the mode of production, but also because the colonial situation defines the national character of the revolution.

The contradictions between the black bourgeoisie and the black working class are also secondary. The dominant contradiction, within the framework of the national liberation struggle, is between the black working class and white monopoly capital.

If the main content of the NDR is the liberation of blacks in general, Africans in particular, there is no basis for equating the black and white bourgeoisies. The two are on opposite sides of the national democratic fence.' (Malikane, 2002)

Thus Malikane argues that the alliance of the Black working class, the black middle class and the black capitalist class is necessary for the liberation of the black masses in general. This is expressed in the ANC government in terms of a mix of former worker leaders, some of the black middle class and some of the black capitalist class. He presents the argument that the black middle class and black capitalists are closer to the black working class than the broader monopoly capitalist class and that this alliance is necessary for the liberation of the black masses in general and the African masses in particular. Revolutions and class struggle, including the Russian revolution contradict his central argument.

In Russia in 1917 the February democratic regime proved incapable of nationalising the land, incapable of ending the participation in the war nor could they provide bread (ending starvation).

The ANC regime from 1994 onwards proved incapable of nationalising the land nor did they succeed in ending poverty nor were they able to fully liberate the black masses nor the African masses in particular. **The question is why.**

In his magnificent economic work, **Profitability and Crisis in the South African Economy** (January 2017), Malikane proves that any any capitalist plan means going on the attack against the working class, ie against the black working class in the main.

'It therefore appears that for the economy to resolve the current crisis on the capitalist basis, measures that raise the profit share and a slowdown in the accumulation process would be necessary to decrease the crisis rates of profit and to support the recovery of the rate of profit. Such measures would entail an attack on the working class. The slowdown in the rate of capital accumulation would increase the unemployment rate, which would suppress the growth rate of real wages below the value of labour power.' (Malikane, Jan, 2017)

Yet Malikane insists that a key feature of the struggle against monopoly capital is the broadening of the black capitalist class. Thus it follows that he argues that liberation of the black capitalist class takes priority over the liberation of the black working class. This is because the expansion of the black capitalist class means attacking the working class, a continued, if not expanded path of super-exploitation of the black working class. [the notes in square brackets are our comments, not those of Malikane]



'Among these classes is an aspirant bourgeoisie, which stands to gain by the subsequent dismantling of white monopoly of the economy. It is thus the basic, fundamental premise of the theory of the NDR that the national factor dominates and the class factor is determinant. [enrich the black capitalist first- the Mandela conception of breaking up monopolies and creation of a black capitalist class].

For example, in the light of the fact that there is a neo-liberal attack on the black working class, it would be a mistake for this class not to engage in issues such as the merger between black and white businesses because the structure of the private sector is also important even in the context of a nationalising democratic state. [in other words, nationalisation does not mean state ownership of monopolies but black capitalist ownership]

Even the notion of private-public partnerships makes no sense if the private sector is led by white monopoly capital on the one hand, and the public sector is led by the black working class led movement. Such a partnership notion denies the very NDR that we seek to advance because now the dominant aspects are thought of as possibly becoming partners in social transformation. [this means he argued for support for the tender capitalist here already]

Rather the issue here is the working class should also equally question the ownership patterns in the private sector, march against white monopoly of the economy with the same if not more vigour as it would against privatisation and the "neo-liberal" restructuring of state assets.' [ie the working class must march for privatization to the tender capitalist more strongly than the workers' fight against privatization!] (Malikane, 2002)

The central problem that Trotsky and Lenin identified in the fight for democracy was that the middle class, once they had their needs/hunger for land satisfied, would turn their backs on the revolution. This points to the central error of Malikane and the forces of stalinism, namely that they place the attainment of the full democratic programme in the hands of the black middle class and black capitalist class. The working class is used as cannon fodder for the aims of the black middle class. The fight to liberate the black middle class is regarded as more important than the fight against privatization. In the context of a stagnating SA and world economy, Malikane argues for outsourcing and the suppressing of real wage rates below the value of labour power. Thus the super-exploitation of the black working class, that was a feature of apartheid/slave capitalism, is to be continued and deepened and forms the main plank of the NDR.

On the 16th April 2017, (**Our chance to complete the revolution**, Sunday Times) Mailkane argues *'It is not possible to advocate political abstention.....The fight against white monopoly capital and its black allies is an integral part of the struggle to consummate the national democratic revolution. The tender-based black capitalist class is not likely to win this battle without the support of the mass of the black working class.'*

Here we have the absurdity that Malikane wants us to support that class of capitalists (the tender gang) that owes its existence to the privatization of state assets. He even says workers must support this privatization more strongly than the fight against privatization!

The Sassa scam, where the tender capitalists handed over the pension distribution to an imperialist thug (Net 1) who is fleecing the poorest of the poor through illegal deductions and entrapment through loans and airtime scams that no one asked for, shows the reactionary nature of this group. The same group of tender capitalists wanted to enslave the entire nation in a trillion Rand nuclear deal that will cripple generations to come; the same tender gang took shares in the Medupi and Kusile coal power, that was supposed to cost R190 bn but now the cost has ballooned to over R340 bn and the project. The projects were supposed to be completed by 2011 but it is yet to be completed- there is no end in sight.

Fake categories



Malikane also sets up fake categories. He claims that those who took shares in monopoly capitalist companies are corrupt while those who base themselves on tenders are somehow progressive and interested in advancing the interest of the black working class and their liberation.

In 2002 Malikane argues that the difference between the black petit bourgeois and working class is secondary; he also argues that the difference between the black capitalist and the black working class is secondary; Now, in 2017, he argues that it is only the tender capitalist that has secondary differences with the black working class. What makes the 'tender capitalist' progressive, he does not say. Even the category of 'tender capitalist' is a fake and artificial description. All the 'tender capitalists' are linked to monopoly capital. Eg, tender capitalist Khulubuse Zuma, the co-owner of Aurora mine, was a Director of imperialist company Labat Africa. Gibela, which won the R50bn rail tender, where tender capitalists from New Africa Rail and Umbambano Rail had shares, has a majority stake of 61% owned by imperialist firm Alstom. Even though Khulubuse Zuma has a R100bn oil tender in the DRC, he ran down the Aurora mine, plundered its resources and abandoned workers without pay for years. Even the DRC oil tender, which had been facilitated by President Zuma is on land where there has been large scale genocide- over 6 million people were killed in the DRC in wars instigated by imperialism to clear the land. Duduzane Zuma, director of Mabengela Investments, which owns Tegeta Coal, signed a R7bn tender with Eskom to supply coal for Komati power station. Within 2 months of signing, Eskom decided to mothball Komati power station. Eskom still has to pay Tegeta despite it not having done anything. How is this progressive? Was this not a bribe too? How does mass retrenchment of workers benefit the black working class? Duduzane Zuma and the Guptas control JIC Mining, which has labour broking tenders with several mines. They sell mineworkers into slavery on the mines and undercut the gains that have been won by unions through many years of struggle. There are many such examples which show that the tender capitalist is as bad as the share capitalist. We also show that the tender capitalist has no independent existence from monopoly capital. In fact, the tender and share capitalist are, in essence, identical.

The opportunist policy of Malikane

In 2002 Malikane claimed that the working class was dominating the ANC govt. This is questionable. He also stated his support for the ANC by stating that he is not discussing the GEAR economic policy. How could the working class voice have been dominant then, when GEAR was the policy of international capital against the working class, being implemented by the ANC govt?

In 2017, he tells us '*what cannot be explained is why "our government" is failing to resolve our centuries-old problem of white monopoly of social power*'. This is dishonest of Malikane. He claims that it is only the share capitalist that has thrown its lot in with monopoly capital. The facts show that the share and tender capitalist are in the pockets of imperialism. He is afraid to acknowledge that the very NDR is an opportunist policy that has subjugated the aspirations of the masses and the African masses in particular, to the profits and continued plunder by imperialism. In fact the alliance of the black middle class and the working class as expressed in the ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance is the main reason why 'white monopoly social power' still exists and that the democratic aspirations of the masses, including the black middle class, have not been fulfilled.

What Malkane argued in 2002 is that the support of the black working class is needed to support the ANC govt, due to its strategic position in the economy. From 2002 a tiny section of the black middle class from the ANC ranks, have become millionaires and billionaires while the apartheid group areas remain entrenched, while monopoly capital remains in control, while millions live a precarious existence, millions are outsourced and casualised. Thus while a fraction of the black middle class have achieved liberation, the black working class has remained in chains. This is what Malikane's NDR resulted in. It was the chief obstacle in the liberation of the black working class. It is not true, as Malikane asserts, that the class structure as existed pre 1994 is identical to what is existing now. Now we have an increased size of the black middle class and capitalist class. They have not been neutral but have taken the side of imperialism, guns in hand, as Marikana, the farm workers strike and the #feesmustfall struggles have shown. The same political elite that jailed and shot



students and workers, Malikane wants us to beg to give free, decolonised (yes, really) education. The very ones who maintain colonisation are going to usher in decolonisation, according to red professor Malikane!

In 2017, Malikane comes with the same NDR formula, calling on all unions to unite to pressure the black capitalists in the ANC for 'nationalisation' of the commanding heights. What Malikane really means is that the monopolies should be broken up and handed over to be run by the black capitalist class. Thus he is arguing for continued capitalist rule and thus for continued enslavement and even worse conditions for the working class. He is asking the working class to help the capitalist class to enrich themselves and to aid in attacks on the lives of the working class itself. Mandela, in 1955, in the *Liberator* newspaper, had the same conception of nationalisation, namely that the monopolies must be broken up to create a black capitalist class.

Malikane ignores the results of his own economic research, namely that even since 1994 there has been a steady decline in the rate of profits; industry is in decline. Thus the space for the development of a black capitalist class is limited, despite the billions spent from state budgets to Black Empowerment, aka creation of a black capitalist class. Monopoly capital controls all industries. The only way a black capitalist class can develop, under these conditions has been through shares, shelf companies, labour broking and state tenders. All of this is totally dependent on the crumbs that imperialism is prepared to share from their table. Malkane is wanting to use the black working class as a battering ram to increase the share of the black capitalist over the monopolies, ie further liberation of a tiny section of the black middle class, once again, at the expense of continued enslavement of the black working class. For Malikane, tenders/privatization are the path to Socialism.

That Malikane has a nationalist conception of monopoly capital is also reflected in the following: '*The strength of white monopoly capital is that it owns and controls the resources and has strong international backers.*' Thus his conception is not that imperialism controls everything but that the Ruperts and co are the ones in control and they have international backers, ie imperialism supports them. What Malikane is signalling is that the black capitalist should displace the Ruperts and become the new Ruperts to exploit the masses on behalf of imperialism. In fact Malikane is not even so brave that the Ruperts must be done away with, he calls for the merger of black and white capitalists as the cornerstone of 'transformation'. We have seen the merger of black and white capital at Marikana. It is not so appealing. Malikane also calls for working with the progressive international forces- does he mean imperialism too? A thoroughly capitalist notion that leads to the partial liberation of the black middle class and the continued enslavement of the black working class. The truth is that imperialism knows no colour, no religion. Their only god is the god of profits.

Malikane is dishonest when he blames the Treasury and Reserve bank for the continued control by monopoly capital. The President appoints the Cabinet. How can one blame the Treasury and not blame the Presidency? The budget is approved by Cabinet. Another case of amnesia by Malikane. The ANC NEC appoints the President. Parliament endorses the laws and conduct of Cabinet. Thus the entire ANC leadership and parliament is to be blamed for the antiworker policies as well as the continued domination by imperialism.

Malikane has no problem with the removal of the President's opponents in the middle of the night, nor with the fact that even the top leadership of the ANC was not consulted. In other words, Malikane has no problem with the abandoning of even the modest democratic gains that the masses had won. He is using his position as advisor, now highly paid and no longer so overworked, we may add, to cover for the anti-democratic and dictatorial behaviour of Zuma.

It escapes this red advisor that the state is the instrument of class rule; it is the instrument of monopoly capital to suppress the working class. Malikane shows himself to be a reformist, thinking that by reforms within the capitalist state that the conditions of the masses will be improved or that it can be the instrument of liberation of



the black masses. The entire history since 1994 has escaped him, as has the history of class struggle of the past 100 years.

Unity of the white and black working class is central

In 2010 Satawu and Utatu went on a national strike at Transnet. Besides wage increases, they were demanding that 5000 casual workers be made permanent. These were mostly, if not all black workers who were casualised. Here we had the unity of black and white workers fighting for the liberation of black workers. The state, dominated by the black middle class, opposed the liberation of the black working class. Within 3 days of the white workers joining the strike, the state was forced to compromise. There had been a national strike on the railways before this, which also forced the state to give in to the demands of the workers.

Malikane forgets that it is not only black workers that are central to the economy but white workers too. For us, the workers produce the wealth therefore they should have a decisive say in what the wealth is used for. Thus we call for nationalisation under workers control. This is the path to Socialism. Malikane calls for nationalisation under the control of a section of the black middle class. This means, for him, that control of the monopolies passes to the hands of a section of the black middle class and the working class and the black working class in particular, remain enslaved. The NDR and Malikane splits the working class. Malikane regards the base of Afrikaner capital to be the white working class; so he wants to use the black working class as the base of the tiny black capitalist class. In class struggle, the NDR, has over decades pushed the white working class into the arms of reaction instead of actively winning them to support the class struggle against the state. Malikane wants to maintain this permanent division which strengthens imperialism. In class struggle since 1994, the white working class has been a more reliable ally than the black capitalist class and the aspirant capitalists. The path to the liberation of the black masses and the African masses in particular, lies in the unity of the black and white working class.

From February to October

For the Bolsheviks it was necessary to overcome the February democratic regime as it proved incapable of achieving any of the democratic demands. Malikane puts his faith in the democratic regime that is dominated by a section of the black middle class. The Bolsheviks never had any conception of a 'national democratic revolution'. Their conception was to support national liberation while building up an independent organization of the working class. It was only the working class that could complete the democratic programme by taking power on its own, not in alliance with the middle class. The lower middle class would support the revolution but not be an equal partner nor leading partner. The conception of the Bolsheviks was always of international Socialist revolution, ie with the working class seizing power in the imperialist centres. The concept of NDR was a stalinist formulation that left the struggle for democracy in the hands of the middle class and meant postponing the struggle for Socialism to the indefinite future- in reality they never planned to get to the next phase.

It is quite telling that Malikane nowhere spells out when the struggle for Socialism starts. Rather, his main concern is: *'within sections of the middle class, African professionals are the worst paid and most overworked.'* Here is his concern, not the brutal enslavement of the outsourced black worker, but his own desire as a 'suffering' member of the black middle class. He also wants to enjoy the riches from the master's table, at the expense of the continued enslavement of the black working class. Rather, unsurprisingly, that the stalinist leadership of Cosatu supports and defends Malikane; they too, want to feed from the trough of the crumbs of the imperialist table.

The past 23 years shows the fraud of the NDR and the Freedom Charter. The very notion of the 'people shall govern' means that both the capitalist and the worker shall govern. The worker and capitalist have opposing and irreconcilable interests. The worker wants to end exploitation. The capitalist wants to increase and extend exploitation. In all such cases of governments of worker and capitalist, the capitalist have always dominated.



The past 23 years as well as the entire history of South America, Africa, Asia, shows that. How come company tax on profits were reduced from 43% in 1994 to 28% now? Monopolies have carried off trillions through transfer pricing and other mechanisms since and before 1994. The role of Mandela, Mbeki and Zuma have been instrumental in this. Malikane wants to blame the Treasury! Amateurish falsification from a bourgeois academic, parading as an advisor for 'radical economic transformation'.

Gigaba had to remind Malikane, when they both went to visit the real bosses of SA in the USA, that nationalisation is not ANC policy. Their mission was to tell the imperialists not to worry, their assets are safe in their hands; they want to prove that they can be the new boss boys for imperialism.

Malikane refutes himself despite arguing that the working class must support the millionaires in govt:

'The first question is whether the black bourgeoisie as it currently evolves is capable of being subjected to the policies of a working class led movement. Experience shows that the policies by which the private sector is deracialised have been characterised by little or no influence of the working classThe second question is whether the black bourgeoisie as it evolves is capable of being subjected to working class power, thus enhancing the working class in the struggle against white monopoly capital. Experience shows that this is not the case.' (Malikane, 2002)

It is true that the black capitalist class is not the same as the Afrikaner capitalist nor the imperialist. The imperialist are the most corrupt. That does not mean that we place in the hands of the black capitalist the aims of completing the democratic tasks of the revolution. The past 23 years have shown that the black middle and capitalist class is an obstacle in the liberation of the black masses and the African masses in particular.

In State and Revolution, Lenin stated:

'A democratic republic is the best possible political shell for capitalism, and, therefore, once capital has gained possession of this very best shell (through the Palchinskys, Chernovs, Tseretelis and Co.), it establishes its power so securely, so firmly, that no change of persons, institutions or parties in the bourgeois-democratic republic can shake it.'

The major emphasis of Malikane is the enrichment of the tender capitalist. The integration of the masses and the abolition of the separate Apartheid group areas, the overcoming of the massive poverty in the rural areas, and many of the basic democratic demands of the masses, escape him.

It is time for an independent working class party that mobilises the entire working class in support of demands for the total liberation of the masses, not only in SA, but the entire Africa and indeed the entire world. Let us take our place among the world battalions of the international proletariat.

Down with the reactionary NDR!
Forward to a workers' government!
Forward to Socialism!

1st May 2017

Workers International Vanguard Party



We demand libraries in all areas, within walking distance

[This is partly in response to the reply by Belinda Walker, Mayco member for community services and special projects, May 16th 2016. Her article is titled: Council has built more libraries and made sure they evolve with the city's changing demands.]

Her response has always troubled me. I decided to go on foot to the areas of Kewtown, Bokmakierie and Gleemoor, to investigate for myself. I was only recently able to do so.

It is not true that the capitalist class has built additional libraries and in fact on the contrary they have closed down 3 libraries just in Kewtown, Bokmakierie and Gleemoor. These libraries are still closed to this day.

They have close down the three above- mentioned libraries, and built one library in its place. Now , the Athlone library must provide services for the surroundings communities and addition also provide services for the residents of these affected areas. The residents of theses areas have to daily cross busy roads to get to the library. If this happened in part of Athlone, what happened in the City? The City must publicly announce how many libraries were closed and how many 'new' ones were built.

.What is the meaning of building only 9 'new' libraries, bringing the total to 100 libraries across Cape Town , with a stock of 4 million books? That is arguably only one book per resident. .What about population increase? We can say that we have less libraries now than before, per person.

.Where there are no facilities or resources,the residents have taken it on themselves to provide books in the form using their houses or arranged mobile facilities to provide books for school kids and residents.

Surely for the society to develop we need to build more libraries in each community across the country in walking distance. This is partly how we can dent the crime rate. To have libraries in each community it will enhance the society and the residents , parents and school kids will have more time to access knowledge and culture. This is the way to promote the culture of reading even further.

We demand that the capitalist class reopen the libraries in Kewtown ,Bokmakierie, Gleemoor and in every other area. Build libraries across the country.

FORWARD WITH ACCESSIBLE LIBRARIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

FORWARD TO SOCIALISM.!



CPUT workers on the march; We support the 1800 Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike



Exploding the myth of Syria being ‘anti-imperialist’ – the working class needs to mobilise independently to seize power

Syria has a population of 21 million, of which about 54% are urbanised. This means that the working class has a much greater weight in the Syrian revolution today than 50 years ago. From the 15th March 2011 up to the current date, much of the urban working class have not participated in the uprising against the Assad Baathist regime. The main reason for this is that the regime has managed to posture as ‘anti-imperialist’. Further, in March the regime gave a 20-30% wage increase to public sector staff and workers to attempt to curb the current revolt. But the central reason why the Assad military dictatorship has managed to sustain itself is that within the Syrian and the world working class movement the leadership directly and indirectly paint the regime as ‘anti-imperialist’. [A party or regime can be said to be anti-imperialist if they oppose the great imperialist regimes of the United States, France, Germany, Britain and Japan and their violent, brutal subjugation and domination of the masses of the world; as Israel is artificially sustained by world imperialism as its major policeman of the masses in the Middle East, being anti-Israel is also being anti-imperialist; The regimes of Spain, Portugal, Greece, Holland, Belgium, are minor imperialists].

The role of Stalinism

Before 1989 the Stalinist ‘left’ (of the ‘Communist’ parties and some groups who pose as Trotskyist but who adapt to Stalinist policies) and imperialism consciously built the myth that there was a ‘cold war’ between the Communist and capitalist forces. The reality was that the Stalinist (communist) parties were acting as an agency to behead the workers revolutions from within so that world imperialism could continue its domination of the world. The case of Syria illustrates this very well.

In Africa the stalinists promoted ‘African socialism’, which was nothing else but promoting the African middle class to become the local rulers on behalf of imperialism- in other words a new form of control by imperialism through co-option of the local middle class, in the place of workers organizing independently and seizing power through revolutionary means. In Africa the Stalinists either directly supported the African nationalist movements or where workers were already organising independently, they formed communist parties that tied the working class to support the national ‘socialist’ movements.

In the Middle East the Stalinists supported the Arab nationalist movements and the Arab national ‘socialist’ parties. In 1924 the Communist Party of Syria and Lebanon was formed. [in centuries gone by, predating the existence of Palestine and even Judea, several of the countries such as historic Palestine (including the entire ‘Israel’), Jordan, and Lebanon were part of Syria]. When imperialism carved up the region, dividing up Syria and Lebanon, the Stalinists obeyed their imperialist masters and dutifully split the Communist party between Lebanon and Syria. From 1941, when Syria supposedly declared its independence from imperialist France, there were a series of military coups aimed at pre-empting the masses overthrowing the regime. In 1958 Egypt and Syria unified into the United Arab Republic, UAR. The Syrian Communist Party opposed this unification. The UAR split again in 1961. A pro-unification coup took place in 1963, followed by a coup in 1966 led by a group of army officers and then Minister of Defence, Hafez Assad. By 1970 Hafez Assad became President, having consolidated the coup. Soon afterwards the Baathist socialist party of Hafez Assad formed a front, the National Progressive Front, which co-opted the middle class leaders of the popular committees. Both Communist Parties of Syria formed part of this front which accepts that the Baathist rule and are the only ones who can operate among students and in the army.

Both Communist parties (in reality fractions that had split from the same Stalinist Syrian Communist party) supported the bloody Baathist regime from 1970 up until the current period when the regime is violently suppressing the uprising by the masses.

This what the Syrian Communist Party wrote to all the world’s Communist and Workers parties as recently as 17th September 2011.

“...Armed gangs were formed, attacking public and private properties, and setting up barriers inside some cities in which they had had the upper hand.”...

“Further, we would like to add that the party has asserted, in all the documents adopted during the last period that it supported the national stance of Syria.”...



“Political solution and the continuity of a real and radical reform constitute the only way out of the crisis”...

“we call upon these parties to solidify with Syria because it is the most important Arab country resisting the imperialist plans to dominate the Middle East, and firmly opposing the American-Israeli plan to fragment the area in several sectarian entities whose control would be easy. Syria also supports the national resistance in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. Besides it supports the right of the Palestinian people to liberate its territories and establish a national state with Jerusalem as its capital.”

In summary then, the Syrian Communist Party supports the Assad regime, also labelling the resistance against the regime as ‘armed gangs’ and thus they also support the massacres by the regime over the past period. They oppose a workers revolution in Syria, claiming that a negotiated settlement with this bloody dictatorship is the way forward. Their justification is that the regime is ‘anti-imperialist’ and supports the masses in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. The opposite is true as we show below. The Syrian Communist party help to contain the industrial proletariat in Syria also through their support of the Baathist regime in the trade unions- the trade unions are also affiliated to the Stalinist WFTU (World Federation of Trade Unions). [There is only one union federation allowed in Syria, which allows only the Baathist party to lead it]. The Syrian CP supports the division of historic Palestine, accept the existence of Israel and thus has the same line as the CP of the Soviet Union under Stalin, which was the first state to recognize Israel, showing its role as a lackey of world imperialism.

We explode the myth that the Assad Baathist regime is ‘anti-imperialist’

While the Assad regime may have ‘nationalised’ the oil and gas sectors of the economy, these are **partnerships with imperialist companies and not under workers control**. For example the Loon Lattakia oil company is a **partnership** with Mena which is a **Canadian oil company; Gulfsands Petroleum** operates extensively in Syria- Gulfsands is in part controlled by the infamous **Blackrock** Investments, Schroder Investments, **Goldman Sachs** and Cheriot Norges bank. The **bank of America, Barclays, AIG and Merrill Lynch**, as shareholders in Blackrock are thus also participants in the imperialist operations in Syria. Earlier this year, imperialist magazine, **World Finance**, awarded **Rami Makhoul** an **award** as visionary business leader. Makhoul is part of the Assad family that through Cham Investment Group, Mada Transport (a motor assembly operation) and Real Estate Bank, control over **60% of the Syrian economy on behalf of imperialism**. **Makhoul** and other Syrian capitalists have opened their **warehouses as prisons** as the official prisons are overflowing with the regime’s captives. Yet the Syrian CP insists that the regime is ‘anti-imperialist’!

The Communist Action Party in Syria confirms that when the Assad coup took place the **local capitalist class was not expropriated** and continued to operate. Thus when the oil and gas sector were nationalised, it was a state capitalist regime that made this raw material available for imperialist exploitation- the state using part of the revenue to create perks such as free education and health care to create capitalist stability. [Free education and free health care are not in themselves indicators of a ‘socialist’ regime. Saudi Arabia and some other capitalist countries also have free education and health care but are brutal anti-worker regimes. Even if education may be offered free, under capitalism it is still a tool to brainwash the working class and produce tame and obedient wage slaves for capitalist needs.]

In 2002 Canadian Syrian, Maher Arar, was kidnapped by the CIA in New York, while in transit to Canada. He was sent by the CIA to Syria to be tortured for months as a ‘terror’ suspect. He was kept in the ground in a coffin-like narrow hole, 2 metres deep. After he was released because his name was cleared, the Canadian government tried to buy his silence through a payment of \$10 million. Aher and others have confirmed that **Syria** is one of the places where the **CIA has rendition prisons**. It is reported that Syrian-born Pakistanis are sent to Syria by the CIA to be tortured. Other regimes which also have rendition prisons of the CIA are Egypt, Jordan, Libya. **Rendition prisons are outsourced torture centres of imperialism** where their



captives are kept under harsh conditions which would not be allowed in the imperialist countries because they would expose the true, violent anti-worker nature of the regime. How can Syria be regarded as 'anti-imperialist' when they are one of the main subcontracted agencies of torture for US imperialism? Yet the **Syrian CP** and some of the world's left that pose as Trotskyist like the **Qina Msebenzi** group, insist that Syria is 'anti-imperialist'.

In 1975-6 the Syrian army invaded Lebanon to support the Maronite-Falangists against the Palestinian resistance. It was the Syrian military support of the Israeli-backed Falangists that allowed the **Sabra and Shatilla** massacres to take place. [The UN oversaw the disarming of the Palestinian masses, promising them safe passes out of Lebanon. When the Palestinians disarmed, the Falangist forces massacred them in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps]. The Syrian army stayed in Lebanon from 1976 until 2005, assisting imperialism to suppress the Lebanese masses.

In **1990** the **Syrian** regime sent troops as **part of the US-led coalition** against Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait. US imperialism was so impressed with Assad that they gave them **military funding and equipment**. Such military funding and equipment is now being used to slaughter the Syrian masses.

In 1983 Israel annexed the Golan Heights. Such is the cosy relations of the Assad regime with the fascist Israeli regime that the remaining masses in the Golan Heights have **Israeli citizenship** but trade with Syria, **having access the Syrian free schooling and free health care**. There are 300 000 refugees from the Golan Heights internally displaced within Syria.

The role of imperialism

Having shown that the Syrian regime is a lackey of imperialism, the actions of the regime can now be seen for what it is. The Egyptian regime shooting down protestors, the use of live ammunition to shoot down anti-regime protestors in Yemen, in Libya (under Gaddafi) and Bahrain, the use of tanks, the killing of soldiers who break with the regime in Syria are all part of the same strategy of imperialism to drown the attempted revolutions in blood. Where the masses have gone over to armed uprising, as happened in Libya, as is now starting to happen in Syria, imperialism deliberately caused a section of the political ruling elite to break with the local regime, to join up with the masses in revolt, in order to betray it from within. In Libya, imperialism deliberately set up the Transitional National Council as a counter-revolutionary entity to gain control over the insurgent masses in order to ensure that, in the event that the regime was overthrown, it could be reconstituted, on a capitalist basis, that is, as the same regime but with some new faces. Imperialism depended and still depends on the middle class leaders of the Libyan resistance who were part of the leadership of the popular committees that had been the base of the Gaddafi regime, to be the base of their TNC. The base of the TNC is the Libyan middle class.

In Syria, as soon as imperialism realized that the masses proved far more resilient than they thought they would be, they started setting up a Syrian Transitional Council, STC, made up of some defectors from the Assad regime and from deliberately placed counter-revolutionaries. The Syrian Transitional Council, STC, was formed in Turkey as a reserve puppet agency of imperialism to sidetrack the Syrian revolution. From the Libyan experience, the Syrian masses are correctly suspicious of this Syrian Transitional Council. Through repeated attempts for its counter-revolutionary agency to gain legitimacy, imperialism has used the Syrian Transitional Council set up a broader Syrian National Council which is trying to co-opt the leadership of the uprising, especially the leaders of the local co-ordinating councils. Imperialism is trying to set up the Syrian National Council made up of 60% internal and 40% external representatives. [Thus the 'new' Syrian National Council would include the Syrian Transitional Council- really just an expanded version of it where imperialism still has absolute control]. In other words, imperialism is trying to set up a counter-revolutionary council to strangle the Syrian revolution from within, attempting to generalise their use of the TNC in Libya to contain and



ultimately destroy the wave of revolutionary uprisings. Meanwhile imperialism still supports the Assad regime to kill off as many of the leadership of the resistance as possible.

In Libya, the imperialists used funding and all manner of political instruments to prop up *its TNC* to gain control so that it can now begin to disarm the masses and re-establish a capitalist regime. A few arms were given to the masses, and only to the extent to boost the TNC's profile as combating the Gaddafi regime. The TNC called for a bombing campaign by the imperialist Nato. The TNC hosted imperialist military 'advisors' on the ground. Imperialism bombed the anti-Gaddafi militias from time to time and prevented the really weaponry from getting into the hands of the masses; imperialism also prevented the masses from flying the planes they had against the Gaddafi army. Thus the fighting was deliberately dragged out so that the masses would be tired out and weakened. The TNC sent the militia lightly armed and in some cases unarmed to face the heavy weaponry of Gaddafi's army. Hundreds, if not thousands of the militia members were killed off by the Gaddafi armed forces and mercenaries during this period of deliberate delay. Despite this, a section of the petty bourgeois 'left', still called for a united front with the TNC under the guise of a 'defence of democracy', while refusing to call for a single cell to be set up of revolutionary socialists within the militia, nor did they even call to organise a council of delegates of the workers and militias to co-ordinate the fight against the Gaddafi regime. This council could have spearheaded the fight against the TNC as well. As it is, the only structure that was 'co-ordinating' the fight against the Gaddafi regime, was the TNC! This petty bourgeois 'left' broke from the fundamentals of the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International, which under the section on the fight against fascism state the following: '*...A merciless exposure of the theory and practice of the People's Front is therefore the first condition for a revolutionary struggle against fascism*'. In other words a consistent, merciless campaign to expose the TNC, its capitalist- anti-worker- anti-immigrant nature, from the time it was created and had little base among the masses, up to the current period, had to be conducted. Lean on the 'democratic' TNC and 'democratic' imperialist Nato forces against the fascist Gaddafi, the workers and militia were advised by the petty bourgeois 'left'- we will deal with them later, they said. The Libyan masses captured and killed Gaddafi despite Nato and its TNC. Nato and its TNC are now trying to disarm the militia and the masses to re-establish the Gaddafi regime without Gaddafi. The masses are currently resisting.

The existence of Rendition prisons of the CIA in Libya showed that the Gaddafi regime was an agency for imperialism. Thus imperialism had 2 agencies to crush the masses- the Gaddafi army on the one hand and the TNC and the Nato forces, on the other. Socialist Fight and the Qina Msebenzi group called for a military bloc with the imperialist agent Gaddafi against the masses, the identical position of world Stalinist 'communist' parties.

A correct position on the TNC is crucial for the Syrian masses and the world proletariat, as imperialism is trying to generalize the use of a transitional council in areas where they need to betray an uprising from within. In Syria, the Syrian National Council is already distancing itself from armed revolt and is also calling for Nato 'intervention'. What is needed is a merciless all-sided exposure and combat against any Popular Front/ Transitional Council that imperialism wants to plant from within the insurgent masses.

There is also a trend across North Africa and the Middle East that imperialism relies in part on the Muslim Brotherhood, in Tunisia, in Egypt, in Libya, in Syria, in Lebanon (with Hezbollah), in Gaza (Hamas) and the West Bank, to act within the mass uprisings as a force to maintain and sustain a capitalist regime. This means that the Muslim Brotherhood acts to ensure that a regime emerges from the uprisings, that is still tied hand and foot to imperialism. The trade off for this is a stake within the political ruling elite of the respective countries and areas.

Towards a programme for the Syrian revolution

We also have to demonstrate our programmatic differences with the 2 main branches of those groups who each claim to be the Fourth International: We deal first with the International Committee of the Fourth



International, ICFI (who produce the World Socialist WebSite wsws). The ICFI is largely silent on Syria and the massacres that happen almost daily- this is no accident as the ICFI produces a daily international bulletin. On Libya they oppose the Nato invasion and the NTC but offer no programme for the masses in their fight against the Gaddafi regime. Similarly while they criticize the military preparation that imperialism is apparently making against the Syrian regime, they offer no programme and do not even call for the Syrian masses to set up a section of the ICFI there. They do hint that the Syrian regime is under indirect control of imperialism as they expose that Total and other French companies have partnerships with the Assad regime for years now. The ICFI thus capitulates to the Stalinist notion that the Assad regime is progressive and somehow 'anti-imperialist'.

The United Secretariat of the Fourth International (who produce International Viewpoint and who are the main party in the French NPA) is more bold in their position: in their 21st August 2011 statement, after Tripoli had fallen, claimed that now a period of Freedom, democracy and the use of the wealth of Libya for the fundamental needs of the masses, is now on the agenda. They claim to oppose Nato but say nothing against the imperialist organ, the NTC, which is now taking every step to ensure that there will be no freedom for the masses and that the wealth of Libya is mainly for exploitation by imperialism. They claim that the next dictator to go should be Assad. Thus, while claiming to support the revolutionary 'processes' on the ground and to oppose imperialism, they actually land up supporting the agencies of imperialism such as the TNC in Libya and the Syrian National Council.

The USFI and ICFI do not link the fights of the masses in Syria, in Libya, with the necessary fight to overthrow the regimes in the imperialist centres; they have nothing in common with the programme of the Fourth International.

The Communist Action Party, although to the left of the Communist parties of Syria, has not completely broken with Stalinism as they call for a democratic front to defeat the regime- in other words, replacing the Assad regime with a regime dominated by the middle class, raising yet again the prospect of a new regime that is capitalist and a new agency for imperialism.

A draft programme for the Syrian revolution

1. for workers delegates, whether local or immigrant, local or refugee, from every workplace to join the local co-ordinating councils and to set up co-ordinating councils where none exist based on a programme to expropriate all imperialist asset and the local bourgeoisie (including Assad and Makhlouf the thief), without compensation, and under workers control; that rank and file soldiers and the rural workers , rural poor peasant and unemployed youth be invited to send delegates to the local co-ordinating councils;
2. for the nationalization of all the land, expropriating all capitalists and all large commercial farms without compensation, placing these under workers control; for model collective farms to be set up and the poor peasants invited to be part of them; for allocation of land for use by any peasant farmer with full support such as cheap credit and assistance with implements;
3. Free all political prisoners; close all the rendition prisons; expel all the imperialist troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the entire region;
4. disbanding the army, police and the bureaucracy and for the general arming of the masses;
5. Down with the Assad regime, all power to these co-ordinating councils, no to a parliamentary republic but a workers government based on delegates from these co-ordination councils; break with the capitalist Syrian Transitional Council and the Syrian National Council, break with the Stalinist communist parties. For the



formation of Bolshevik Leninist parties in Syria and every country in the region as sections of a new International- which can only be the refounded Fourth International

6. No to any Nato or capitalist intervention in Syria

7. for the clarion call: expropriate the 1% in Syria and every country without compensation, under workers control, to be taken across North Africa , the Middle East, into 'Israel', into Greece, into the entire Europe and North America, and indeed the entire world. In the semi-colonies we are enslaved by the agents of the 1%; in the imperialist centres the 1% enslave the working class and lower middle class;

8. For the Palestinian, Syrian and Jewish masses to unite to expel the Israeli army from the Golan Heights;

9. for the Palestinian and Jewish masses to unite against the Israeli bourgeoisie and Arab bourgeoisie, agents of the 1%; Free all Palestinian prisoners from the Zionist jails and that of Hamas and the PA. For a workers' and poor peasants' government in historic Palestine

10. For the refounding of the Fourth International, with sections in each country; for a federation of Socialist workers states of North Africa and the Middle east; for groundwork preparations toward the working class to take power in the imperialist centres.

Letter from the Las Heras families in Argentina

December 8th, 2016

Hello comrades! I am Claudia Pafundi, wife of Omar Mansilla, worker of Las Heras who was sentenced to jail three years ago by the Court, a pawn of the oil companies. My husband Omar, plus Pablo Mansilla, Dario Catrihuala, Daniel Aguilar, Enrique Aguilar and Rubén Bach were sentenced to five years while Jose Rosales, Humberto Gonzalez and Ramón Cortez were sentenced to life imprisonment.

We were thrilled to know that you will be holding a rally in Cape Town as part of the international day of struggle on the International Day of the Persecuted Worker. We were thrilled to know that you will also be honoring comrade Abu Al Baraa, who established with us the International Network for the Freedom of Political Prisoners of the World and Justice for Our Martyrs. Like you, we will raise here too, the banners of Syrian resistance well against the massacre and genocide, because we will not forget or forgive such revenge against the workers who fought for bread and freedom.

This 12/12 we will raise again here in Argentina the flags for justice for the martyrs of Marikana, the flags of the black workers of Africa plundered by the same transnationals that have condemned our comrades; and also we'll raise the flags of murdered African Americans like Michael Brown and all the young people killed by Obama police in the USA.

We will undoubtedly honor with you comrade Dan Molefe who has died due to the pressure imposed by the court; we will fight for justice for him.

This 12/12, let's fight together! An injury to one is an injury to all!

I send you a huge hug.

Claudia Pafundi



We pay tribute to cde Dan Molefe, fallen hero of the Boiketlong 4

Dear Comrades

The news of the falling of cde Dan Molefe makes us saddened. Indeed it was the stress, the violence of the system against him that has killed him. We live in a rich country. There are many minerals, gold, diamonds, platinum and many others, yet most of this wealth is carried off by Anglo American and other monopolies. There are many studies that show that the mines carry off at least R1000 bn in profits and through theft every year. This is more than enough to create jobs for all and to overnight build decent houses for all. Yet everywhere most are unemployed or have low wages and millions are homeless.

The government has all the means to build houses for all yet they deliberately keep us homeless so that the banks can make money off huge housing prices and loans. What the community did and what cde Dan did, was not a crime; we all resisted homelessness which was never supposed to be there. The crime is done by the state that denies us housing and allows the big bosses to carry off all the wealth that we produce.

We propose that we extend our campaign to help take care of the family of the comrade, namely his 19 year old daughter, Refilwe and his grandchild, 4 month old Lehape.

We want to assure you that around the country and around the world, the names of cde Dan Molefe and of the Boiketlong 4 and your contribution to the struggle is known, we will never forget it. Even from Argentina, where the oil workers of Las Heras leaders are in prison their families and comrades know of our struggle and support us; they send their greetings on this sad day.

Even today as the capitalist and imperialist is trying to kill independent activists in revolutionary Aleppo and Syria, by surrounding them with 5 armies and bombing them daily from the air with barrel bombs, the struggle of the Boiketlong 4 is known. The same imperialist that is denying us housing and who are stealing from us here, are trying to kill off a generation of the best fighters in Syria, whose only crime is standing up against a brutal dictator Assad, who is like their local Mugabe, only a 100 times worse.

Today, after 4 years, Aleppo has resisted and may fall; yet the masses resist; even if it does fall temporarily, we want the world masses to know that we all fight the same fight, we may be in a different place but we fight the same enemy. we need to realise that, tomorrow the same imperialist may want to bomb us here and indeed already we are being killed with hunger and stress, different tools but terrorising us nevertheless.

The masses in the world and in the country are rising and this we celebrate. we need to get more organised. Above all, we need to build a revolutionary working class party that unites activists from all over the world. Never again should we allow revolutionaries and activists anywhere in the world to be isolated.

Our simple message to you is :
the masses in Boiketlong will continue to resist, we will not go down;
just as in Aleppo, we will not go down, they may force us out briefly but the revolution lives.

Cde Dan Molefe, always present until the day of Socialism! revolutionary greetings 10 Dec 2016



We condemn the chemical massacre by imperialism against the Syrian revolutionary masses



SANDF off UFS

We can confirm that a SANDF helicopter has been deployed at UFS since Wed 12th Oct. This has been acknowledged by the official spokesperson for UFS, Lasha Loader, who claimed that the police had called on them to assist. The presence of the SANDF helicopter has been independently confirmed by staff as well as students.

We condemn the deployment of the SANDF as an abuse of power by the political rulers of the country.

We cannot recall the SANDF being deployed against Anglo American and other monopolies who are known to have plundered most of the wealth from SA and the rest of Africa, without paying the required tax. UNCTAD reported in July this year that \$113bn of the gold (ie almost all of it) since 2000, left the country unreported and thus untaxed. Here are the funds for free education for all as well as all other basic needs. Yet the arm of the state protects this. Even further, SANDF is deployed in DRC and other places across the continent at a rate of R50 000 per month per soldier, to protect business assets and plundering by these same monopolies and the ruling political class.

We call for the immediate removal of the SANDF from UFS and any other university where the head of armed forces may wish to deploy them. We call on off duty soldiers to march with the students and workers against the Chamber of Mines as well as to join up with the feesmustfall protests at the organs of political power. 14. 10 .2016

Statement by the FACTORY WORKERS OF LA PAZ - BOLIVIA ON THE SYRIAN GENOCIDE

After making an extensive analysis on the theme of GENOCIDE IN SYRIA, we, the Departmental Federation of Factory Workers for Peace, have reached the conclusion to provide our full support to our fellow exploited workers in Syria rejecting the massacres and extermination policies of ASSAD, PUTIN AND OBAMA.

We are calling for all international organizations to show solidarity with the Syrian people because this attack is an attack against the working classes of the world.

FEDERACIÓN DEPARTAMENTAL DE TRABAJADORES FABRILES DE LA PAZ
F. D. T. F. L. P.
Fundado el 26 de julio de 1941
Afilada a la C. G. T. F. B. Personería Jurídica N° 73352 - 16/4/57
Sede Social: Edif. Fabril Plaza San Francisco N° 893 Blo. Piso
Correo Electrónico: fedfabril@entelnet.bo - Telf.: 2406759 - Fax: 2407044
La Paz - Bolivia

**PRONUNCIAMIENTO DE LOS
TRABAJADORES FABRILES DEL
DEPARTAMENTO DE LA PAZ - BOLIVIA
POR EL GENOCIDIO EN SIRIA**

La Federación Departamental de Trabajadores Fabriles de La Paz haciendo un amplio análisis sobre el tema POR EL GENOCIDIO EN SIRIA llegamos a la conclusión de brindar todo nuestro apoyo a los compañeros trabajadores y explotados sirios, repudiando la masacre y política de exterminio de AL ASSAD, PUTIN y OBAMA.

Hacemos un llamado a todas las organizaciones obreras internacionalmente a solidarizarse con el pueblo Sirio ya que mediante este atentado se realiza un ataque a toda la clase obrera mundial.


La Paz, Bolivia, 30 de septiembre de 2016

La emancipación de los trabajadores será obra de ellos mismos



Message of solidarity to the strike movement, the Nuits Debout, the workers and youth in struggle

From South Africa, a section of workers, youth and soldiers, we send our warm revolutionary greetings to you. Your uprising is an inspiration to us and the entire world working class. Your programme poses central questions that we all face. Concretely, you point the way to the resolution of unemployment, the question of culture and posing the question of who produces the wealth but the minority of capitalists hold the power.

In South Africa too, the capitalists promised that flexible laws would lead to more jobs. It was a lie. In 2008 more than 1 million workers lost their jobs. Many other workers were dismissed and then hired back at much lower wages and without pension and medical benefits. Workers were dismissed in disparate areas so there was no unifying fight, the trade union leaders did nothing; they allowed the working class to be decimated. Today South Africa has the lowest labour participation rate in Africa, despite its supposed high level of development. Only 40% of those of working age are actually working. How can the bosses say that working longer hours will create more jobs? It is absurd.

We support your programme and will be discussing with other groups locally to adapt it and take these up in SA, in Southern Africa and across the rest of Africa and even beyond.

The whole of Africa is largely divided up between US and French imperialism. Many of the conflicts have been a contest where US imperialism has been gradually pushing out the influence of French imperialism. However, as in the Central African Republic in 2013, the French and US imperialism worked together against the masses.

More than 50% of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange is controlled by Anglo American corporation, which is nothing else but an extension of JP Morgan Chase bank. British imperialism still has influence but has largely been displaced by US imperialism. Most of the gold mines in SA are controlled by the Bank of New York. These imperialists controlled SA during the days of apartheid (slave capitalism) and even today. The ANC government are merely the new managers. Thus for us, the central demand around which all our demands can be met is for the expropriation of all imperialist assets, starting with the mines, banks and the large commercial farms, without compensation and for these to be placed under workers' control.

We remember that the revolution in Portugal in 1975 (even though later defeated) led to the overthrow, although partial, of direct colonial rule and to some extent pushed back capitalist relations, in Angola and Mozambique. Thus a working class victory in France will free all of the colonies and neo-colonies of French imperialism and inspire the masses in the rest of the colonial world. We depend on your victory and indeed our fate is interconnected.

How to advance the struggle?

No struggle is static; it needs to advance, otherwise there is the risk that the working class fighters may find themselves isolated from the masses. No organizational form is an absolute, indeed it needs to be extended and adapted to changing circumstances. It is also important to draw the lessons from other struggles.

It seems that developments are moving towards a general strike. Thus the question is of how to strengthen the voice of the working class in the assemblies and how to extend the assemblies as centres of struggle. Thus, if it has not been made already, it is necessary to organise factory committees in every workplace- thus general meetings of all workers irrespective of union affiliation, in every workplace, electing a factory committee. These factory committees would send delegates to the existing assemblies and where no assemblies exist, for these to be established. Consideration needs to be given to give attendees at assemblies, who are not delegates from workplaces, only a consultative vote, while the vote is given only to those delegates from workplaces. The unemployed from residential general meetings should also be given a direct vote in the assemblies. These assemblies should have a national co-ordination structure that centralises the actions as well as the next steps in the struggle. This structure should be composed of delegates subject to instant recall and accountable to the assemblies. This structure should be independent of the union leadership although perhaps they should be given a consultative vote if they are present.



The assemblies should decide when the programme should be place before the bosses and the government.

[You should actively seek out those who can present a thorough critique of the 1871 Paris Commune and the 1968 youth and worker uprising in France.]

Some of the lessons from Greece

1. The assemblies were amorphous and dominated by the middle class
2. The communist party split actions of the working class, often organising separate actions and at times protecting parliament from the masses in revolt (remember the world headquarters of the CP-led World Federation of Trade Unions is in Greece.
3. The trade unions held one day strikes, hoping that the masses would become tired and then finally accepting the programme of the IMF and ECB.
4. When the most militant strikes occurred there was a lack of co-ordination with the transport workers, thus hundreds of thousands who needed to get to Athens during crucial moments, the public transport was at a standstill;
5. Stay-at-home strike or occupy-the-workplace strike. The trade union leaders directed workers to strike by walking out of the factory/workplace. This gives up the workers power and puts workers at the mercy of the bosses; after building barricades and if these are broken up, another alternative is the occupation of the factory/workplace. This poses the question as to who the real owner is- the worker or the capitalist. Of course, occupation of factories needs a proper build up and will bring with it the threat of state repression. We consider also the crackdown by the state on protestors and how the trade union leaders distance themselves from 'violence'. Thus there is a need for self-defence committees that are accountable to the assemblies.
6. The main left groupings in Greece formed the Syriza party and entered parliament- they became the government and continued the attacks on the masses. Thus it is necessary to the assemblies to maintain its extra-parliamentary character- in fact these are a new power , opposing to the parliamentary power and a million times more democratic. The Senate of corrupt pro-business parliamentarians decided to push ahead with a law which is opposed by more than 75% of the masses. Thus parliament is nothing but the dictatorship of the handful of capitalists.

Some lessons from the Occupy Wall street movement

1. The capitalists and their stock exchange was a symbol of exploitation and became a mobilising point; can the CAC be similarly targeted?
2. The huge cost of housing resulted in tent cities being built in cities across the USA.
3. The military veterans, especially those from the 2003 invasion of Iraq, openly sided with the movement and organised their own marches, even throwing away their medals as a means of protest; it is important to do work among the rank and file of the army, to listen to their demands and to try to win them over to the side of the uprising;

Some lessons from Tahrir square

1. Even though the movement succeeded in overthrowing the old dictator Mubarak, the masses were too inexperienced to take power into their own hands;
2. Some of the left even supported the coming to power of the military. This military is directly controlled by US imperialism. This regime is in many respects worse than Mubarak.
3. The masses are contesting the new dictatorship but live under a permanent state of emergency.

Some lessons from Syria



1. The struggle of the Syrian masses hold serious lessons for us all
2. Where masses pose the threat of taking power into its own hands, imperialism will unleash all its forces from different angles, imperialism will even put aside their major differences to unite against the masses;
3. They will desperately send provocateurs into the ranks of the movement to try to hijack and divert it; Isis and other forces of terror may be dispatched; fascist forces of Le Pen may be built up.
4. Nationalist forces of all different hues will be rounded up to attempt to break your unity.
5. The state of emergency has nothing to do with isis but everything with the state having the tools to attempt to repress your resistance.

Some lessons from Southern Africa

1. We have sent the document on the lessons from June 16th which gives a broad outline of some of the lessons from our struggle here;
2. The period after 1994 has still been dominated by the nationalist political parties; these parties are allied to imperialism, differing only in rhetoric.
3. The Marikana mine massacre marks the period where most of the dominant parties have been involved in massacres of the masses
4. In the 1980's the trade union and national liberation leaders rode on the backs of the revolutionary movement, until the masses began to tire. In these conditions, the nationalist leaders were able to make a deal with imperialism.
5. A study in 2012 showed that more than 60% of Cosatu, the main trade union federation here, wanted to break alliance with the ANC and SACP and form a new party. The metal workers union NUMSA was the first to adopt such a resolution. However, the leaders of this union are now holding back the development of the new working class party and indeed want to turn it into a new parliamentary party and thus neutralise the masses once again.
6. In 2012 there were spontaneous workers committees that developed on the mines. These were comprised of workers delegates irrespective of union affiliation and of delegates from surrounding communities. The bosses encouraged a new union to enter the mines and within months, they had crushed the independent workers committees and established purely union structures. Thus, what was a revolt against the super-exploitative system of capitalism was turned into a trade union struggle.
7. The political revolt continued with #feesmustfall at all universities last year and the strength of the movement was that it was a worker-student alliance from the beginning. Once parents started entering the movement the regime quickly gave in to the demands so as to neutralise the revolt. At the same time the regime sent agent provocateurs into the movement to burn buildings and to encourage inexperienced students to engage in individual isolated attacks on buildings. Under this cover the state was able to crack down on the movement, several are charged under serious crimes and these cases are ongoing, while others have been suspended and some expelled from universities.
8. There are many community revolts for housing but these are isolated from the union movement.
9. There are a number of struggles such as getting justice for victims of those who had family members killed by the apartheid regime.
10. There are ongoing struggles around mines and many other sectors. The revolt is at a lower level but can break out at any time again.
11. For years there has been an ongoing revolt in Zimbabwe; even to the point of a revolutionary situation; the army generals ran away at some point as the soldiers were supporting the masses; alas, the left turned the revolt into a parliamentary party and



when they ruled for a short while, they turned their backs on the masses. Today, the old dictator, Mugabe, is back in his seat and smiling.

In conclusion

We sketch all these developments as we want you to succeed, we hope that you will minimise mistakes and learn quickly from them.

Out of the magnificent programme you have adopted, there needs to be developed a new revolutionary working class party, at once national and international. Our dream is to march with you. This party has to be anti-parliamentary, in the sense that it is opposed to the parliamentary system as a means to get to Socialism. This does not mean that it could not from time to time use the parliamentary platform to expose parliament itself. But that discussion is for another day.

The central question is for current French revolt to be strengthened towards a general strike and towards the working class taking power in its own hands. We hope that the above is a contribution that can be useful to taking your/our struggle forward.

Yours in the struggle for Socialism. For the **Workers International Vanguard League/Party** 18.6.2016

US imperialism plans dirty tricks campaign in South Africa

-- A terrible tragedy awaits some innocent people at a mall in Cape Town and in Johannesburg. The British and US imperialists have signalled that they will deploy their paid surrogate forces, aka isis, to either bomb or shoot masses during Ramadaan.

It is rather suspicious that shortly after the US imperialists issued their warning, that the UK imperialists did the same. They are serious. This time they intend to carry out their attacks on innocent people.

There are many historical precedent for attacks by imperialism to deliberately destabilise and divert the masses from fighting the capitalist class:

Before 1948 , the British agents would spread rumours among the Jewish community that the Arabs would be attacking them; at the same time they would spread rumours among the Palestinians that Jews would be attacking them; they would even instigate one group to attack another, even though they live side by side and were inter-marrying.

In the Iraq invasion by US and UK imperialism, evidence emerged of British soldiers dressing up as locals and going to bomb the market places. There is a long trail of such bombings by imperialism to create conflict between groups that lived in peace for centuries. Daily, the imperialist media reinforces the lies of Sunni-shia conflict so that imperialism can extract the oil unhindered.

A few months ago, 2 white men dressed up with black burkas shot at a security company on the parade. That case has gone silent. Was this a trial run?

Yes, imperialism wants us to fight one another so that they can continue to carry off the wealth of the land while their rating agencies help to squeeze out further pounds of flesh.

But there is another subtext besides diverting the masses and giving a cover for the state to crack down on the growing revolt.

imperialism has declared isis a global threat and needs to justify billions of dollars in extra defence spending. The problem is that their agency isis is localised to Iraq and Syria. They can only claim isis is a global threat by actually spreading their agency to the corners of the globe.



Ramadaan is supposed to be a time of reflection and forgiveness. What justification is there for launching an attack half-way around the globe, bypassing hundreds of US military bases and thousands of military personnel in Saudi Arabia, Israel, Egypt, etc, en route?

How does bombing innocent people in malls in South Africa weaken the US military apparatus? If anything, it would strengthen the imperialist offensive on the world's masses. It would divert attention from the growing working class revolt in France and elsewhere.

We wish we were wrong but the ominous signs are there.....

If you are going to a mall, make sure that your cellphone is charged so if there is an attack, you could take some footage which could help unmask and expose the imperialist agents.

The working class movement should consider steps to a general strike in the event that the imperialist carry out their threat to attack innocent people at malls in SA.

We have no problem with any US citizen coming to SA, they are welcome but steps should be taken to stop the imperialist plunder of Africa. Bombing a mall will not achieve that, in fact it would set it back. We need a revolutionary working class party to help co-ordinate the mass struggles so that capitalist-imperialist plunder can be definitively ended on a world scale.

#imperialismmustfall

#isismustfall

#dontbombinnocentpeople

#onlysocialismwillbringworldpeace

4.6.2016

Our message of support to Lalit on Mayday 2016

How smart are Smart Cities really?

Despite all the obstacles placed in the way of the working class and broader masses around the world, there has been a sustained international uprising against capitalist regimes around the globe since 2011. There have been years of ferment where the traditional party leaders have led wave after wave of attacks on the masses, taking away our gains and increasing exploitation, all so that the giant monopolies can increase their flagging profits. Small resistance has grown into mass revolts.

With such high unemployment it might seem logical that the emphasis of the state would turn towards the adequate provision of food, so that, at least, the masses would have enough food. Instead, around the world, the state is promoting the privatization of land into the hands of the banks and property speculators. Agricultural land is being cleared and housing estates are coming up in their place. In Cape Town, for example, the Phillippi Horticultural Area is coming under threat from the City, who wants to sell off the land so the banks can profiteer from housing construction; the same notion applies to the Mauritian state which is facilitating the selling off agricultural land so that 'Smart Cities' can be constructed.

The impact is as follows:

1. Scarcity of food is artificially created so that the masses are in a permanent state of hunger. This hunger is the foundation of the capitalist system as it creates a base for maximum exploitation and a desperation that drives down wages and increases profits to the limit. In other words, if the masses were well fed, why would they work for poverty wages?
2. The monopolies control the food industry and the reduction of useful agricultural land that is outside the grip of these monopolies, helps artificially raise food prices and thus their profits;
3. The selling off of agricultural land to the banks actually increases the housing shortage for the masses as they would only gain access to such housing via such banks. The housing prices are currently speculatively high so that it is an artificial



mechanism to increase the hardship of the masses without any increase in the actual value of the labour power used to build. Thus the same house could be sold ten years ago for a certain amount, yet today, it costs ten times more. The same labour power was used to build the house but what has changed is the amount the bank receives. Thus the policy of the state is not only the cutting down of agricultural land but also a deliberately slow policy of building houses for the masses. Land scarcity and housing scarcity go together. The banks and other monopolies benefit.

Thus we support the slogan of the Lalit for Land, Food, Housing and Freedom; we can only add Equal pay for Equal work, Share all the work among all who can work (a sliding scale of hours), without loss of pay. [Land - we mean the expropriation of the large commercial farms, without compensation, to be placed under workers control; the similar expropriation of the banks; that all land be nationalised so that food production and housing provision for all can be realised; we need a system of direct democracy, based on constituencies, both residential and workplace, and strict proportional representation, where there is the right of instant recall of delegates, where the delegates are restricted to earn only the wage of an average skilled worker. The working day should be reduced without loss of pay so that all the work can be shared among all who can work.].

For the establishment of factory committees and committees of streets and blocks, irrespective of union or party affiliation. Such council of committees should convene anew an unfettered Constituent Assembly to finalise the re-organization of society to end all exploitation and oppression. This also requires the organization of working class activists on national and international scale in a new, revolutionary International with revolutionary working class parties in every country.

Forward to Working class power!
Forward to Socialism.

30 April 2016
Workers International Vanguard League/Party

In Defence of the art of protest

The first thing that must be strongly condemned is the militarization of the university campuses. The reliance on heavy armed security and the riot squad as a first port of call must be condemned. There is a long history of student protest on campuses and what the university managements have done is surrender the tiny bit of 'independence' that was paraded as 'academic freedom'.

What next? Are we going to have armed riot police in every lecture theatre? Are we going to have armed police vet who comes onto campus or not? Is every student going to have to give their essay or assignment to the riot squad to check to see if their thoughts are in line with the state? These are all the implications of the alliance between the university managements and the police. Will the riot squad now sit on interview panels? Will the police decide who gets Nsfas and who gets accommodation?

Of course the puerile managements are going to jump on their high horses: 'Oh but they destroyed art. They destroyed property'. The simple answer is that the university management has trampled on academic freedom, the freedom of expression, the right to protest. The riot police (aka Public Order Police) are not trained to negotiate, they are unthinking brutes dispatched by the state to crush dissent. This is the monster that the University managements are relying on at the first instance! Their ethos is 'see target, take target down', no concern that here is a long tradition of peaceful protest that they are trampling on.

As an aside, targeting Smuts and Rhodes, well, that we can have no issue with, considering that they have blood on their hands. Other artefacts, well, put them in a museum of antiquities. Destroying these latter is misguided militancy. This does not detract from the serious attack on the democratic space at Universities by the managements and the state.



A socially responsible university would have met with the students and negotiated, really listened and found a way to resolve the dispute. Ironically, the state's response, by bulldozing Shackville rather than talk, is no different that what the apartheid regime used to do, as we are poignantly reminded of on the 50th anniversary of forced removals from District 6.

The main university private funders are Anglo American, who are specialists at mining underground to depths of 3000-4000m; yet close to their operations, they have not lifted a finger to rescue workers trapped less than 100m [underground .at](#) the Lily mine. The Universities, including UCT, have world renown engineering departments but they have not lifted a finger to send their resources to scene of the sinkhole. On the other hand, UCT professors have been quick to pronounce on the so-called need for a the multi-trillion Rand scam of the nuclear rollout programme- a scam that will enslave the youth and future generations. So what is the real role of UCT?

UCT has already received funds for part scrapping debt and for registration, they have billions of resources and reserves, yet they plead poverty on being unable to resolve the accommodation crisis that there is.

Anglo American and other mines have stolen trillions from SA and the rest of Africa. This is through direct and indirect theft. The state has not lifted a finger against them. Here are the funds not only for free quality education for all, but every other social demand such as decent housing for all, free quality health care, jobs for all at a living wage, etc, could have been met and still have much change left over. The riot squad is not sent to arrest the Anglo American bosses. Quite the opposite, our soldiers are sent to the DRC at a cost of R50 000 per soldier per month (and that is only the wage of the soldier), to protect the Anglo American mining operations. [This is on the back of an ongoing war in the DRC that has displaced hundreds of thousands of people so that Anglo American and other imperialists can plunder. So far more than 6 million Congolese have died in the war]

Now the state wants to hand over our pensions to the very imperialists who are plundering SA, the DRC and most of the world.

Who are the violent ones here? How many thousands have died as a result of the rule by Anglo American and other monopolies? How many are starving today and yesterday because of these monopolies?

How many generations of artists have been killed off by the system? How many artists have been excluded over the years by UCT?

Police and armed security, off our campuses!

Free the students!

Free education for all, including all the necessary accommodation and support!

Hands off our pensions!

#outsourcing/casualizationmustfall

#nationalisethemines, without compensation, under workers control.

17.2.2016



Internationale

**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 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.**



Unity of Arab and Jewish working class is the key to liberate Palestine



The Spark

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