



The Spark

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BUILD THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY

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Statement on Zimbabwe crisis

Workers International Vanguard League condemns the use of live ammunition and other repressive methods to suppress the masses who were protesting against the election results in Zimbabwe. At latest count 6 unarmed protestors were killed in cold blood by the military. Mnangagwa was at pains to deny that he had taken power through a military coup, yet at the first sign of protests he unleashes the army to shoot down opposition protestors. Under the guise of an election, imperialism is continuing with a military dictatorship. Down with the military dictatorship of Mnangagwa.

In 2017 there was yet again an intensification of the class struggle. Both MDC and Zanu-PF are long discredited. The Zanu-PF leaders had split and there was every possibility of the struggle developing into a revolutionary uprising. Imperialism responded by a military coup to remove Mugabe, who, up to then, had been their trusty and loyal servant. Neither MDC nor Zanu-PF offered any hope of advancing any of the democratic and Socialist aspirations of the masses. Both these parties offered only a capitalist option.

On the MDC-alliance manifesto

While the social base of the MDC is the urban working class their allegiance is to British imperialism and the EU. While mouthing support for workers' rights the MDC commits itself to 'facilitate mining investment', to 'align with the EU' and to 'rejoin the Commonwealth'. They blame the Zanu-PF for the economic and social ills in Zimbabwe while hiding that Zanu-PF are carrying out the plans of the very imperialism that the MDC aligns itself to.

On the role of the elections

Imperialism used the parliamentary and presidential elections to give legitimacy to the military dictatorship. It was held before the masses had totally lost illusions in the Zanu-PF regime and the capitalist system itself. Imperialism had diverted the anger of the masses against capitalist rule to that of an individual, Mugabe.

On the other hand the left groups such as the International Socialist Organization ISO-Zim and the ZCTU helped sustain illusions in the system by calling for a vote for the MDC, knowing full well that their programme was capitalist and pro-imperialist.

What was missing from the left groupings and the unions was a class struggle approach to the elections, namely, they failed to call a summit or Conference of delegates from workers organizations, community organizations and poor peasants to prepare a set of demands to challenge and expose the military dictatorship and the other capitalist parties. A programme of struggle should have been agreed on and within that, an approach to the elections. It is here that a possible *critical* support for the MDC or boycott or putting up of alternative candidates or alternative measures could have been decided upon. The central theme should have been to build independent working class organization outside of parliament and against it.

On the Zanu-PF manifesto

The social base of the Zanu-PF is the leadership of the military veterans, the heads of the military, the upper peasant. In short, its base is the upper indigenous middle class, both rural and urban. Imperialism, through the Zanu-PF, makes a desperate attempt to pacify the middle class and to win space among other social sectors, in order to maintain control over the masses. Their manifesto shows the deep crisis for imperialism and the indigenous managerial class, the leadership of the Zanu-PF. The upper rural middle class was pacified by a programme of land reform splashing out over \$200 million, which saw the state provide support to the upper rural farmer, where they even bought up the crops of the local farmers for sale to the imperialists. The rural farmer is even promised that they will also get shares in the farms the veterans have taken over; they have been promised that farm ownership will be limited to one farm per owner and that the farm size will be reduced, so more farmers can share. The urban, upper middle class was bought over with the crumbs from the \$3bn in



Foreign Direct Investment, since the coup that brought Mnangagwa to power. The urban upper middle class is also offered a stake in the Export processing zones where imperialism will rule without restrictions. The upper middle class is even promised that the Diamond and Platinum mines will have a local stake. No mention is made of the stolen billions of dollars of diamonds and minerals nor of any plans to reclaim it.

The allegiance of Zanu-PF to imperialism is shown through their commitment to 'free enterprise', 'free market economy', engaging western countries on the terms of lifting sanctions, the setting up of Special Economic Zones for imperialism where workers will have little rights, guaranteeing that agriculture is for 'export' and 'for the global markets', that mines are 'export oriented', that for manufacturing 'international brands are attracted', that licence fees for 'independent' electricity producers is reduced (ie privatization of electricity), that airwaves are liberalised (privatised), that the imperialist slavery programme of 'food for work' (not wages) is introduced. In other words, the full imperialist programme of attack on the masses is central to the Zanu-PF manifesto. Then Zanu-PF adds that this programme is '*Socialism with market characteristics*! In other words the total slave conditions that imperialism has imposed on China is now served up on the Zimbabwean masses.

Zanu-PF makes further desperate promises to win space for imperialism to maintain its control: 200 hectares in every district is promised irrigation and 2 boreholes; they promise jobs and better facilities for the vendors. They promise 1,5 million houses by 2023; they promise finance for small business and informal miners. Zanu-PF has even made promises to the ex-Rhodesian farmers to get some of their land back (even though this is not formally in their manifesto). When bourgeois nationalist forces are under threat from the masses, they will even make common cause against us.

The way forward

In 2008 the Zimbabwean masses were on the point of overthrowing the regime, the soldiers were in mutiny and the generals had run to South Africa. The cowardice of the MDC leaders led to a re-establishment of the capitalist order. The situation needed a revolutionary working class party. It still does. Revolution is not a one day wonder. Although imperialism dominates Zimbabwe, capital that is SA-based also plays an exploitative role. As imperialism has reduced the masses to a state of 90% unemployment it is up to the working class in SA, the UK and the USA to give decisive solidarity. We call on the SRWP (Socialist Revolutionary Workers' Party) to assist with the development of a revolutionary working class party in Zimbabwe. We call on the workers' movement to provide the necessary resources to support the broader workers' movement in Zimbabwe and to embark on solidarity actions.

We call for the revolutionary left and the trade unions in Zimbabwe to mobilise for a working class summit, with workers' delegates from all workplaces as the centre, with street delegates from streets in working class neighbourhoods and representatives of the poor peasantry.

Forward to the 100% nationalization of the mines, banks, all imperialist assets and large commercial farms, without compensation, to be placed under workers' control. Socialise the land; support the small farmers

Forward to the right to protest; forward to freedom of speech and association! Forward to a revolutionary Constituent Assembly with delegates from the masses, one per 10 000. Subject to instant recall and not earning more than the wage of an average skilled worker; to be convened by the Working class summit; the question of armed self defence against the attacks by the state should be placed on the agenda.

Down with the military dictatorship of Zanu-PF. Forward to a workers and poor peasants' government, under the direct control of workers' committees and committees of poor peasants, subject to instant recall and not earning more than the wage of the average skilled worker.

For revolutionary socialist workers parties across Africa.

Forward to a federation of Socialist Workers' states of Southern Africa.

Forward to a Soviet Africa.



For the re-establishment of a Socialist, revolutionary International (for us the rebuilt Fourth International)
For Socialist revolution in the imperialist centres.

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On the #Totalshutdown 1 Aug 2018

Gender-based violence is an international scourge and it is sustained by the world capitalist system. It is a task of the workers' movement to spearhead the total eradication of it. We support a general strike against all forms of gender-based violence (ie violence against women and all gender non-conforming groups).

Mass rapes have been used as a method of war by imperialism to destroy families and to clear villages in the DRC for plunder. In this sense the cellphone and electronics industry is based on continued gender-based violence. Most of the raw materials (tin, cassiterite, etc) used for cellphones, laptops, playstations, etc come from the land in the DRC, which has been cleared of villages by imperialism. Between 1996 and 2003 more than 6 million of the masses in the DRC died as a result of the wars between factions all sponsored by imperialism.

Eradication of gender-based violence requires the overthrow of the capitalist system. This not to say that the struggle even for partial reforms is not to be supported. On the contrary, these partial struggles, such as the ones on 1st Aug 2018, calling for an Ombud on Gender-based violence, must be supported. However, the limitations and contradictions need to be pointed out. For years there has been a Women's Ministry. Has it helped? Are we not creating illusions in a parliament that has failed to hold imperialism-capitalism to account for their active support of the apartheid regime and its death squads? That has allowed imperialism to systematically plunder SA and the rest of the continent of trillions, thereby maintaining slave-relations. The SA govt sends soldiers to the DRC to protect the mining operations of imperialism. Kabila was supposed to step down in 2016, he is still clinging to power by violent means. In December the DRC regime massacred churchgoers who protested against Kabila. Each SA soldier is paid R50 000 per month for serving in the DRC, in effect supporting the mass gender-based violence perpetrated by imperialism.

Most diamonds from SA and the rest of Africa is taken by Anglo American to Israel, for cutting and polishing. This is money-laundering by imperialism to prop up the Israeli fascist state, which has just declared that only Jews have rights. Since 1948 the Palestinian refugees, now numbering 7 million, have been denied their right of return, despite a UN resolution to allow them to go home. The 7 million Palestinian refugees are the biggest refugee group in the world. Since 30 March 2018 there have been marches of unarmed Palestinians to the fence in Gaza, demanding only the right to go home. More than 137 have been shot down in cold blood by Zionist snipers.

Any march that wants to really address gender-based violence, has to address demands on the violence in the DRC and the right of Palestinian refugees to go home.

Fundamentally, the liberation of women can only take place if what is regarded as 'women's work' is socialised. Otherwise, working class women will remain on the margins of social, economic and political life. There has to be demands for cheap public laundries, for state-run creches in communities and at places of work, where companies and the state are forced to cover the full costs; for mass, cheap eating houses; for house-cleaning to be shared.

Now a last point: There are leading ANC and DA women who are labour brokers, the DA leaders are crushing our women through high tariffs and water management devices; they want to poison us with desalinated water. Let us remember whistle blower in the Life Esidemeni massacre, Noma Kunene, who is still missing to this day. Let us remember that it is working class women who bear the brunt of gender-based violence. Let us remember Dinah Makheta and many other housing activists who are serving long jail sentences for standing up for decent housing for all. Day by day, Zille, De Lille and others are evicting us. A river of blood stands between working class and lower middle class women and the capitalist women and the rest of the capitalist class.

The united working class in struggle is the only class that can end gender-based violence. We support #totalshutdown on the above basis.



On the crisis at CPUT

A necessary background

Before discussing any aspect of the current situation at CPUT it should be remembered that it is the absence of radical economic transformation is at the root of the crisis facing the masses.

The economy is controlled by imperialism. Every year hundreds of billions of Rands worth of wealth is stolen by the mines and banks. This plunder is well documented in the Journal of Southern African Studies [Ashman, Fine, Newman: Amnesty International: Capital Flight from Southern Africa]. The theft reached its peak in 2007 when 23% of GDP was stolen by Anglo American and other monopolies. This amounts to R600 bn just in one year. This theft is besides the actual profits of the monopolies which runs into over R1000 bn every year. Most of the profits are taken offshore. The ANC leaders turn a blind eye to this. Both ANC and SACP have investment companies that operate on the mines. All banks and mines have ANC and/or SACP leaders on their boards.

Every single one of our needs, such a work for all at a decent wage, free education, free housing, free health-care for all, could easily be met if the plunder was stopped.

The mass unemployment, the early death of hundreds of thousands due to diseases of poverty could have been prevented. Yet the mining capitalists and the banks are not seen as criminals. These thieves and murderers are revered in society.

Since 2001 the government has been cutting tertiary education expenditure. The 'increases' have always been less than inflation, which amounts to cuts in real terms. This is what has led to a rise in outsourcing at universities. The essence has been dismissing workers, cutting their benefits and salaries. In effect the unpaid labour of the outsourced staff has been subsidizing the salaries of the upper echelons of the university apparatus.

The wages of outsourced workers have been kept low until the recent explosion in 2015 #feesmustfall. A student-worker alliance was always going to have its frailties, especially the student side of the alliance, due to the high turnover of students as well as the middle class tendencies within them. Nevertheless, the student-workers alliance was crucial in winning insourcing.

The problem is that merely insourcing without changes in the overall structure of education, brings with it tensions. There are limited funds and thus limits on how high workers wages can be raised. Unless the super-structure of Vice Chancellors getting millions along with the top structure of the universities, is challenged then tensions will remain.

The need for a political solution

Free, quality education, with insourced staff receiving equal pay for equal work, is possible. With the Fees Commission report about to be released, a political solution can be found. In Tanzania, the diamond minds have been nationalised. The full nationalization of the mines and banks here, is possible and should be taken. The theft by the mines and banks over the decades is reason enough. The mines need to compensate the masses.

Students are going to push the boundaries and so they should. Every injustice deserves to be challenged. Does suspending 4 student leaders help matters? Does militarizing campuses help? The Pro-Events security are not trained in negotiations and de-escalation of conflict. They have beaten students at UWC on their heads, with the students having to receive hospital treatment, yet these untrained security are deployed at CPUT. More than 100 rooms in residences were kept empty purely because students did not have the money.



For 8 months the homeless students were expected to attend class on an equal footing with others. There was a special task team set up in 2016 called the RRTT (Rapid Response task team). How serious was the university about rapidly reaching agreement over wage and conditions of the workers? The permanent staff and workers received their increases 8 months late while the top management had received their increases months before. At a certain stage in the negotiations at RRTT it had been agreed that the basic wage for insourced workers would be R7500 per month. Then CPUT management collapsed the RRTT claiming that it was no longer working. The students and workers had to occupy the admin building before they could extract a promise to get their contracts by the end of August. When workers received their contracts the basic wage was R3500. Naturally workers and students are angry. Workers are only now getting group life cover. It would have cost the university only R14,81 per worker, yet they did not cover the workers from the time of insourcing. The University did not even deduct UIF until the end of August, completely illegal conduct. 4 insourced workers died between January and July. These workers families were left with nothing; they could not even claim the death benefits from the Department of Labour. The R14,81 insurance that the university was too selfish to pay, could have at least given the surviving families 3 years wages. For the University to claim they met their internal deadlines, is rather disingenuous.

All students and workers and even administrations should pressure government to take measures, not only for free education but that the allocations be increased so that the wages of the recently insourced workers can be rapidly raised to a living level.

Further, there needs to be good faith talks, with the university opening the books, so that workers contracts can be re-negotiated and not unilaterally imposed. The suspension of the student leaders should be lifted and the campuses demilitarised. If help is needed with mediation, there are credible facilitators such as the Cape Law society that are readily available. Nehawu and other unions should remember that they are there to defend workers interests, not to call on the very police that are now shooting 10 year olds in the mouth at 2 m range.

The situation is crying out for a genuine workers party that would mobilise the masses for their interests. Meanwhile Saftu and Cosatu and other federations should be challenged to mobilise for a socio-economic strike for free education. It is long overdue that the student-worker alliance of #feesmustfall, develops into a workers-student alliance. Workers to the lead, to end outsourcing and for free-quality education, from the cradle to the grave. 13.9.2017 **WIVL** workersinternational@gmail.com

Reference:

Journal of Southern African Studies [<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03057070.2011.555155>]



Unity of the masses, irrespective of religious belief, is key



The great march to return- Palestine- rejecting the 2-state bantustan 'option'

Since the 30th March 2018 there have been daily marches by tens of thousands of ordinary Palestinians towards the border fence in Gaza. These marches of return, up to and beyond the 15th May 2018 mark 70 years since the Nakba, the day the mass expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes by imperialist-backed Zionist forces began. Hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed. Today the biggest refugee group is that of the Palestinians, over 7 million, scattered mostly across the Middle East, across the world and yes, even in Gaza. In fact most of the 2 million people in the Gaza are refugees. All they want is to go home.

Ironically, in the wake of the rise of Nazism, very few countries were willing to take in the thousands of Jewish refugees; in the 1940's, even the USA was reluctant. Palestine was one of the few countries that welcomed the Jewish refugees, with open arms, sharing the little they had with them. The Zionist forces were propped up and funded by imperialism. They hijacked the sympathy of the masses for those butchered by Nazism to promote their own nationalist agenda, which involved the suppression of the Palestinian masses. From the start, imperialism funded and armed the Zionist forces to create a permanent division in the Middle East and to create a huge area of reaction, from which to discipline and suppress the masses in the region.

How US imperialism props up the state of Israel in its ongoing genocide on Palestinians

Every year, currently, US imperialism gives \$2bn in military 'aid' to Israel. There is other financial 'aid' from imperialism that props up the Israeli state. Imperialist companies such as Anglo American redirect most of the diamonds from South Africa and the rest of Africa, to Israel for cutting and polishing. This is money laundering as these diamonds find their way into the world market but huge funds go to Israel to fund their military apparatus and their attacks on Palestinians and to permanently threaten the rest of the masses in the Middle East.

The Great Return Marches in Gaza- marking 70 years of the mass expulsion of Palestinians

Since 30 March 2018 there have been marches by the masses in Gaza towards the fences around it. The marchers have been and still are unarmed. Yet, the Israeli army has assigned snipers to shoot down anyone who comes within 800m of the fence. At least 137 Palestinians have been killed since the first marches in Gaza and hundreds injured. The simple demand is to return home. The demands are politically significant as there is no demand for the expulsion of anyone from where Israel is today. In fact, there is enough room for everyone, even for the 7 million Palestinian refugees.

These marches are an independent movement not under the control of Fatah nor Hamas nor any religious group. The drive towards an independent position is reflected also in the 2017 local election results with over 60% of independent candidates winning seats.

Imperialism and the Zionist state realises that if the refugees return to their homes then, at one stroke, the state of Israel is no more. This is why they shoot down and now bomb the unarmed Palestinian masses. In 1948 hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed and at least 700 000 driven from their homes. They have never been allowed to come back, despite even a UN resolution to that effect.

<https://www.unrwa.org/content/resolution-194>. Yet, Israel claims that it is a democracy. How can it be democratic if it denies 7 million Palestinians their democratic right to return home?

There is, for example, the case of the village of Luby, that was destroyed by Zionist fascist forces in 1948. It is close to Nazareth. Part of the village land is now occupied by an Israeli village called Lavi, while most of it is covered by forests. There are several forests across 'Israel' that cover demolished Palestinian villages. In



Lubya one of the forests is called South Africa park and even flies the South African flag. This is an insult to the Palestinian and South African masses. The forest is used for picnics but the original inhabitants are not allowed to return. They have spent the past 70 years in refugee camps around the world. Many have died. It is out of the sense of urgency for the original masses to return, along with their offspring, that has sparked the marches of the Great return. US imperialism is arming and funding the Zionist destruction of the Palestinians. In a sense, the Great Return march is a political revolt against the growing alliance of Fatah, Hamas, the Zionist regime, all the other reactionary regimes in the region and imperialism. It is a political revolt that rejects the so-called 2-state 'solution' offered by imperialism, which is nothing but a figleaf for the destruction of the Palestinian masses.

The 24 March 2018 marches against guns in the USA

Hundreds of thousands of youth and parents and teachers marched in the USA against the widespread use of guns in acts of violence against the youth and against school youth in particular. This was after yet another massacre at a school. There had been several since the 1999 Columbine school shooting. In total, at least 187 000 school youth have been affected by shootings on their grounds. After yet another school massacre this year the youth revolted en masse against the state. On the 24th March 2018 hundreds of thousands of youth, their parents and supporters marched in many cities in the USA and around the world. Some of the organisers tried to turn the uprising into an election campaign for the Democratic party. However the anti-state and anti-imperialist element started to shine through. Some called for a limit on availability of converters that turn weapons into machine gun mode. Others called for increased background checks, while others called for books not bullets; the world should be gun-free, said another. In 1994 US arms exports were \$100bn. By 2015 it had expanded to \$190 bn, almost double.

Time for renewed anti-gun marches and actions in the USA and worldwide

- In 2003 US-led forces invaded Iraq on false pretences. Over a million Iraqis died
- From 1996 to 2003 the US supplied weapons to both sides in the DRC war; over 6 million died in clashes between state-backed and Rwandan-backed militias; much of the land has been cleared and minerals for imperialist industry such as weapons, cellphone, laptop and playstations all thrive today based on continued plunder and terror of the masses in the DRC and Great Lakes region.
- Since 2006 Israel has had several bombing campaigns in Gaza, killing thousands. There has been a crippling blockade of Gaza since 2006, which has also killed thousands and has kept the 2 million people there under permanent siege. The West Bank is under permanent military control by Zionist forces.
- US imperialism funds and arms both sides in Afghanistan
- In Syria they have bombed the masses and worked with Russia to destroy the revolution by the masses against the butcher Assad.
- They are arming Saudi Arabia and have helped bomb and terrorise the revolutionary masses in Yemen
- They support and arm the dictator Sisi in Egypt
- They have subverted the revolution in Libya by installing their own puppet regime.

In essence, the unchecked increase in sales of weapons in the USA is matched by the increase in sales of weapons by the US military Industrial complex on a world-wide basis. It is why no background checks are done locally and internationally. As long as sales increase. They need war, they need more shootings to happen, so they can profit. They will resist any curbing of arm sales. The military companies fund both Republicans and Democrats.

Exposing the Workers and Socialist Party (Committee for a Workers International-CWI) and their pro-imperialist policy on Palestine. (see <http://www.socialistworld.net/index.php/international/middle-east/israel-palestine/9808-gaza-protest-massacre-for-mass-struggle-to-lift-the-siege>)

The Committee for a Workers International- CWI, to which wasp is affiliated, supports a 'Socialist Israel' and a 'Socialist Palestine'. In other words they support a 2-state solution, identical to what imperialism has long



called for, but the CWI covers their tracks with socialist rhetoric. Where is this Socialist Palestine going to be? Along the lines dictated by imperialism. The CWI is not not even ashamed to call for the division of Jerusalem. The CWI wants East Jerusalem to be the capital of the Palestine bantustan. Thus they stand for the permanent division of the masses on lines of religious differences. Exactly in line with imperialism. They appeal to the Israeli union bureaucrats to lead solidarity with Palestinians. These same union leaders support the bombing of Palestinians. Even though they pay lip-service to the right of return of the Palestinians, they ignore the real intent of the peaceful marches, namely to call for a real return to their homes by the refugees. To the CWI the marches are just about breaking the siege. Let the siege of Gaza be lifted and let the Palestinians stay in their bantustan, is the message of the CWI. The masses have rejected the bantustan path and reject the reactionary position of the Wasp/CWI. We always fought against permanent division of the masses, why do socialists of the Wasp promote bantustans for Palestinians?

The pacifism of the BDS movement- the need for direct action

The Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is not only limited but leads to the masses being passive and give the leaders of the union and broader workers movement an excuse to do nothing.

The capitalist controls the funds for investment, so a call for disinvestment is calling on the very reactionary force that wants the destruction of the Palestinians. The same goes for a call for sanctions; most of the states in the world trade either directly or indirectly with Israel. It is part of the capitalist agenda to destroy the Palestinians. How can we appeal to the very governments that are strangling the Palestinians?

There are very few products from Israel and from Zionist firms operating in the West Bank. Yes these products need to be boycotted but this is just a tiny part of what should be done. Boycott of products is a passive act and has only limited impact.

It is a myth that BDS brought change to SA. The imperialist started withdrawing their funds only at the threat of revolution, when they could have lost everything.

If the masses can block the highways for housing, then why not for Palestine? If the workers can go on strike for wages and conditions, then why not also for Palestine? The world capitalist system is based on plunder of the DRC, it is based on permanent war against the Palestinians.

Is it not time to block the highways, the ports, the factories that thrive on permanent world-wide war?

The need for an international campaign against US imperialism capitalism

The only way to defend the Palestinians, the masses in Yemen, Syria, DRC, yes, even the youth in the USA, is through a campaign of sustained direct action, limiting and disrupting the flow of weapons from US imperialism. We need youth to link up with workers, to stop trade with Israel, to target the military industrial complex and the banks and imperialist companies that support and fund them.

The organised workers in the mining, metal, transport and other sectors can stop the wheels of industry, in the name of a unified Palestine, one state, with the right of all refugees to return, living in peace, irrespective of religious belief, in a direct workers' democracy. The pacifism of the BDS needs to end.

WIVL

15 July 2018

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Millions of the masses marched in the USA on 24 March 2018, against gun violence. Our natural allies against US imperialism

Water scandal in Cape Town- all for privatization and pure greed

The agricultural sector uses 59% of water and households only 12% (Business Tech); yet the DA-led province and City of Cape Town have concentrated most of their efforts to save water, on the households. How efficiencies in water use in agriculture can be improved, have hardly been touched. In fact, a quick check on the bottled water being sold in the 4 main retailers (Woolworths, Shoprite, Spar and Pick 'n Pay) shows that much of the bottled water comes from farming areas within the Western Cape, where 'the biggest drought in 100 years' is supposed to be raging. This includes areas like, Lower Paarl, Heidelberg, Citrusdal and Franschoek.

The ANC recently discovered that millions of litres of water have been allowed to leak from the Newlands reservoir, each month, for at least the past 7 years. This type of deliberate neglect raises the question: Have other areas also been allowed to leak and waste water?

Fix the 50 000 leaks

At the end of Winter this year (Sept 2017) the City of Cape Town announced the existence of a list of over 50 000 high water users. They defined a high water use as being over 20 000 litres per month. Normal household use would be in the region of 10 000 litres. This points to a wastage of at least 10 000 litres for each of the 50 000 households. This points to widespread leaks that the City knows about but refuses to fix on the grounds that these are on private property. Instead of fixing the leaks the City wants to install water restrictors that can



be remotely controlled. Each resident will be charged R4000 for the installation of the restrictor. In other words the City wants to prepare to privatise water so that soon, every resident will have to buy vouchers for pre-paid water (as is currently the case with electricity). Hand in hand with this will come massive increases in water tariffs that the City will use its control over the water, to enforce and blackmail the masses into submission. By fixing the leaks, there would be an immediate water saving. The cost of fixing the leaks could be shared on a social basis, which could come in as far less than R4000 for the water restrictor installation. As it is, **at least 500 million litres of water is being wasted each month through the leaks that the City has identified but refuses to fix. Over 1 year this is equivalent to 12 days of water for the City of Cape Town.**

Graphene technology- Limpopo

The University of Pretoria ran a project in Limpopo, on high ground. Through only 27m of graphene mesh about 1500 litres of water is collected in rural Limpopo province at Tshanowa primary school. The only task is to keep the gutters clean and to check the wire clips that keeps it in place. It does not use electricity and extracts water from the air. This could easily be installed in and around dams to limit the water loss through evaporation and in areas where the humidity is naturally high, such as Newlands and on certain areas on Table mountain or at housing close to the sea.



Tshanowa Primary in Limpopo gathers 1500 l water per day, through 27 m of graphene mesh

Unblock all the canals that feed the dams

In 2016 the DA government knew that the canals feeding the Voelvlei dam were blocked. They did nothing to fix it. Instead they played a blame game with the ANC. By their estimates at least 7,5 Billion litres were lost. This is equivalent to **3 weeks water for the City**. An audit needs to be done on all the canals that feed all the dams, to verify exactly what the losses are and to clear all of them.

Rehabilitate the 36 Camissa springs around Table mountain and open them to the public

It is well documented that there are 36 springs and even underground streams of fresh mountain water that wastes millions of litres of water every day. Just one of the tunnels yields 8,8 million litres per day while the spring at Stadtsfontein yields 2,7 million litres per day. This is only 2 of the 36 around Table Mountain. The water just flows into the sea. The City refuses to rehabilitate all of these claiming that the cost of purification is too high. The argument is negated by the use of the Newlands spring, which is also untreated, by the public. Further, the City is spending mega millions on rehabilitating sewage but refuses to use the abundant spring water. The Camissa springs should immediately be rehabilitated and made available for public use. Further,



the many springs around the Franschoek mountains and other mountain ranges should be put into municipal use. Every mountain has natural springs that could be put to social use. *But what is happening to the spring water?*

Spring water and tap water is being handed over for free to the major retailers for profiteering

A quick survey of the major retailers yields 2 surprises. The first is that most of the bottled water is being sourced from the Western Cape, where there is officially a drought. Spring water is handed over for free to private companies to profiteer from, directly from drought-stricken areas. This water should have been directly pumped into the public water system.

Secondly some of the bottled water is directly sourced from tap water, ie from public water resources, in the middle of a drought, and sold for a profit. This is an outrage and should immediately be stopped. The companies that openly acknowledge the use of tap water are **Bonaqua (Coca Cola) and Justwater (from George)**.

The sources of all the bottled water should be audited and all water sources currently used in the Western Cape, should be stopped and redirected into the public water system. This will also have the added spin-off of reducing the amount of plastic that is polluting the planet.

Pick 'n Pay	Just water	Tap water
	Tsisikamma	Humansdorp (W-cape)
	Evian	French Alps
	Aquelle	Franschoek (W-cape)

Checkers	Eastern Highlands	Citrusdal (W-Cape)
	Aquartz-Clover	Doornkloof East (Gauteng)
	Nestle	Doornkloof East (Gauteng)
	Aquelle	Kranskop (Kzn)
	Valpre	Heidelberg (W-Cape)
	Bonaqua	Tap water
	Ceres	Ceres (W-Cape)



Woolworths	Woolworths	Franschoek (W-Cape)
	Woolworths	Ceres (w-Cape)
	Woolworths	Normandien (KZN)
	Woolworths	Citrusdal (W-Cape)

OK/Shoprite	Bonaqua	Tap water
	Aquella	Kzn
	Valpre	Heidelberg (W-Cape)
	Nestle	Doornkloof East (Gauteng)

Spar	Spar brand	Franschoek (W-Cape)
	Henties	Witzenberg (W-Cape)
	Spar	South Paarl (W-Cape)
	Aquella	Ekhamanzi (Kzn)
	Bonaqua	Tap water
	Valpre	Heidelberg (W-Cape)

We have also identified at least 3 other private water bottlers operating in Franschoek, namely, Chamonix, Richeneau and La Vie De Luc. Rather interestingly, the channels between the Berg River and the Theewaterskloof dam run through the Franschoek mountains. The massive amount of water being drawn from Franschoek needs to be investigated as well as any link between the low levels in Theewaterskloof dam and the water being drawn from Franschoek.



The private water extraction should be abolished and the water sourced should be channeled to the public water system.

Concluding remarks

The crisis of capitalism leads the monopolies to search for new fields to plunder and make profits from. Here we see the DA government spearhead the privatization of water for the benefit of monopoly capital. The multi-billion expenditure on desalination is unnecessary. The neglect by the city and the privatization of water resources come together to boost the profits of big capital and the further increased exploitation of the masses. Water is life. It is not a commodity. Nationalise all the water resources. Place it under workers' control. Fix the leaks. Make use of rational technology for the interest of the masses not for the benefit of a tiny handful. On the 8th Feb 2017, we wrote to the City of Cape Town. (see below). The letter was not even acknowledged.

We call for mass protests against the privatization of water. Today it is the DA, tomorrow all levels of government will attack the masses. Let us mobilise all working class organizations to oppose the privatization of water. Away with bottled water; away with water restrictors. Boycott bottled water that comes from the drought-areas of the Western Cape.

26.11.2017

<http://www.urbanearth.co.za/articles/limpopo-school-harvests-fog-provide-drinking-water>

<https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/watercrisis-clampdown-on-50000-high-water-consumers-11357729>

<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/news/western-cape-moves-clear-vital-water-canals>

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/reservoir-leak-causing-huge-water-loss-9841938>

<https://camissapeople.wordpress.com/2013/06/16/reclaim-camissa-the-struggle-to-save-our-water-heritage-beware-of-the-greedy-tjommie-brigade/>

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/general/104441/who-is-using-all-the-water-in-south-africa/>

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/graphene-sieve-turns-seawater-into-drinking-water/>

8 Feb 2017

Dear Honourable members of the water saving division and honourable Mayor.

Workers international vanguard party has some suggestions for saving water, which you may wish to consider:

1. You have a database of households. This you should be able to check which of them have reduced their water consumption by the most. Deploy some staff to call them to ask what measures they took. Compile a list of measures that could be generalised, and publish this.
2. Run a competition in all primary and high schools, all colleges and universities. Offer prizes to all of them for the most innovative water saving ideas. E.g., offer R1000 per school and offer R10 000 per university or college. In effect, this would be a broad educational campaign that would help to sensitize every household and should lead to an immediate impact. You could establish a facebook page where anybody could post videos or tips for saving water;
3. Ask every household to check the water meter when all taps are closed. This would uncover if there are leaks. Get a toll free number or free sms line to report such faults and deploy teams to repair these.
4. In Brazil they have electrical connections that heat up water instantly; use of this product could help save water lost through waiting for the hotter water to reach the shower head;
5. Meanwhile, a bucket could be used to catch the colder water that would normally be lost when showering; this water can be used for gardening or for flushing; when showering, the taps could be turned off when lathering the facecloth and applying the soap lather to the body; the taps could then only be turned on in spurts to complete the lathering; the taps are then re-opened when washing the lather off completely;
6. In the educational campaign the promotion of saving water even in winter is important; this would help to boost reserves for the next dry season;
7. Between the hours of 10pm and 4am, the water pressure could be set lower so that the losses from leaking taps and pipes would be minimised;
8. There are underground rivers flowing under the CBD; this water could be diverted into the water system for recycling;
9. When opening taps, we should consciously reduce the water flow;
10. Use leftover water from a kettle, to wash some dishes;



11. There is a huge Coke bottling premises next to Manenberg; they use a lot of water; they should be asked to import their product from other parts of the country for a month;

12. Every business that is a high water user should be compelled to present and enforce a water saving plan.

Hoping that these would be considered

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Water Crisis Coalition and Saftu stand against privatization of water

Democratic Alliance #DRONK ALLIANCE..

What is really happening in the election period while the DA does their campaign?

Some of the Dronk Alliance members are being served alcohol during the time they are in service of the democratic alliance during the election campaign.

In the last two weeks of the election campaign Helen Zille would drive around in a huge truck with a music system dishing out bread and sometimes, if the community is lucky, she and her cronies would give people some food parcels to win their vote, while in their branches some leaders would receive some alcohol to give to their members and this is being done so that the other parties do not see how they operate; others would not know that they being given alcohol. So the real question is....

IS THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE WINNING SOME WARDS IN THE POOREST OF THE POOR AREAS IN THE WESTERN CAPE BECAUSE OF THE DOP SYSTEM THAT THEY USE DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD? Workers International Vanguard League



Masses in Elsies River revolt against privatization of water

The road to Kiev- 26 May 2018

On the 2nd May 2014 socialist Andrew Brazhevsky, was killed by a band of fascists in the House of trade unions in Odessa, Ukraine. The police strategically withdrew and allowed the fascists to enter and burn the building, killing a total of 38 activists. Earlier that year, on the 20th February, a band of fascists overthrew the puppet of Russia, Yanukovitch. The regime of Poroshenko came to power, in alliance with the Svoboda group, that used the swastika as its emblem. The core of the fascists who had gathered in the Maidan square in Kiev, were mainly football fans. They used hotel Dnipro as their base from which to carry out their attacks. At the time, the country was heavily in debt to the IMF.

The workers' movement had resisted the Yanukovitch regime as well as the fascist regime that came to power. One of their slogans had been for the return of the ex- USSR. If the workers had taken power in Ukraine, that would have posed an immediate threat to the mafia regime of Putin in Russia. On the other hand, through their control of Poland and Georgia, US imperialism has been steadily working to extend its influence in the region. US imperialism was behind the fascist coup that brought Poroshenko to power.

The strategy of imperialism has been to divide up the country and thereby divide the working class resistance. Russia was allowed to occupy the Crimea. In the West, the fascist Poroshenko regime holds sway. In the east, in mining regions of Lugansk and Donetsk the pro-Russian oligarchs are in control. In the East, Russian forces dominate the resistance and prevent them from marching on Kiev. The workers' resistance has been repeatedly bombed, resulting in schools, houses



and hospitals being without gas and electricity, in the heart of the colder months. Ironically, Gazprom uses Ukraine as a conduit for gas to Europe.

Not only are the Ukrainian masses under brutal fascist dictatorship, but there have been a number of attacks on their gains. Imperialist companies, Cargill and Monsanto are steadily taking over the wheat fields, the bread basket of Russia and the region. The pension age has been raised from 45 to 65. US imperialism met with Svoboda and declared they had broken from their fascist roots. Svoboda met with the Israeli regime and declared they had broken from their anti-semitism.

Why does imperialism still go ahead with sporting events in Israel and Ukraine, despite the openly fascist character of these regimes? It is that they want to normalise and generalise fascism.

When you brush shoulders with the local football fans at the Olimpiskiye stadium, spare a thought for the widows of Odessa.

They walk alone.....

Workers International Vanguard League workersinternational@gmail.com



Cde Mohamed Ismail, Numsa organiser, who passed away this year. Here he is at a Saftu-WCC march 2018



THE LEADERSHIP OF SAMWU PURGE WORKERS' DEMOCRACY- a workers' view

The workers in the municipality sector were demanding a decent wages increase of roundabout 15% and the capitalist ANC/SACP government has been offering the workers a meagre 4.4% increase for a multi year period plus 1% CPI , Consumer Price Index. Accordingly, these meagre wages increases would mean the workers will not keep up with the escalation in the price of food , electricity and transport cost. Currently in the public sector the treacherous leadership accepted a 7% increase and that is the demand of the imperialist IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank (WB) to cut workers' wages and for the capitalist government of ANC/SACP to divert more funds to the pockets of imperialism. Subsequently, the workers' demands were dropped by the treacherous leadership of SAMWU and they agree on a similar wage agreement as the public sector and that is a 7% increase , plus 1% and CPI in the next 2 years and that is without the mandate of the workers, who still demand 15%. There was no consultation with the workers; they have to find out by hearsay from their fellow workers, some were confused and found out on certain radio stations, or see it by accident on emails.

The treacherous leadership did in everything in their power to prevent workers democracy. Even the press conference was postponed. They were afraid it will influence the workers in other industrial sectors to demand better wages increases not the crumbs of the IMF and World Bank. Now the ANC within the Samwu leadership have expelled the critical voices within the union. These officials have started to form another union: DEMAWUSA. The left has been expelled to strengthen the ANC/SACP apparatus within SAMWU, and workers are caught between a rock and a hard place because there are now 3 unions in the municipality sector. This has split the workers further and has created space for the bosses to exploit the workers even more. The problem is that these officials who started a new union did not yet mobilise the workers to fight the capitalism system which is the root causes of corruption and they focus only on the missing funds that disappeared from Samwu. Focusing on the loss of workers' hard-earned money did not organise the workers, instead it has kept the workers at bay by waiting for an auditor to investigate the missing funds.

Recently SAMWU had their 15th National Congress and the theme was: ' FIGHTING FOR DECENT JOBS, WAGES, AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICE'. This is contrary to the reality of what is happening on the ground. There is a massive onslaught of services being cut , outsourcing , privatization and work being given to labour brokers . Those who work for EPWP (Expanded Public Works Programme) get meagre wages and no benefits. Work is under difficult and harsh conditions, with no proper protective clothing. Currently the permanent workers do not get a decent living wage, exactly the opposite, we get a meagre increase that ties the workers for three years. All this is a scheme of the imperialist IMF agenda to make super profits by have services collapse or put under their control.

The workers must demand immediately a special national congress and invite all the workers in our sector, irrespective which union who belongs to and even if they are not affiliates of Cosatu or Saftu. There, we must reject the 3 year agreement .Stop the poaching members of SAMWU or any union .Invite the outsourced workers, labour broker workers and workers in the private sector. Having different sectors is a mechanism of imperialism to divide the workers. Workers must demand insourcing , stop labour brokers , stop privatization of municipal services. Especially now that the victory of Numsa against labour broking gives the working class a further grip to fight privatization. Put the auditors under workers control , and demand free basic and tertiary education , free transport for students to study in any school in any area- in this way we can break down of the artificial barriers that exist.

We can clearly see the leadership of SAMWU and other emerging unions fragment and split the workers and the result is that we remain subordinated to the ANC/SACP CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT. Therefore it is important to start to organise and form joint workers committees at each workplaces and in communities, irrespective of union or party affiliation. Forward to an independent, revolutionary workers party. Build the SRWP. FORWARD TO SOCIALISM
23.8.2018



WIVL statement on Africa Day 25 May 2018

Bheki Cele, police minister is at it again, showcasing a raid on a building and portraying an image as if Mozambicans, Zimbabweans and Nigerians are criminals. This is an old capitalist strategy of divide and rule. It is a diversion to make worker fight worker, while imperialism continues to plunder the continent. The wealth in every country in the world has always been a product of multi-cultural primary and secondary labour. Borders have been constructed for spheres of influence for the various ruling classes.

Africa is still under neo-colonial control, plundered by imperialism. The African Union, the AU, and the PAP, Pan African Parliament, are instruments of ensuring that imperialist control of the continent continues.

The biggest slaughter since the second world imperialist war took place in the DRC, where between 1996 and 2003 over 6 million people were killed. The 1994 Rwanda genocide replaced a regime controlled by French imperialism with a regime controlled by US imperialism. It was the Rwandan army backed by the US military that marched across Zaire and overthrew the dictator Mobutu. In this way, US imperialism ensured they remained in control of the DRC/Zaire. Today Rwanda exports more minerals than is mined there. Rwanda and the DRC regime support different factions of militias in the DRC to create perpetual war with the net effect that the land is cleared for mining. The DRC region is the biggest reserve of cassiterite and metals and minerals that form the core of the electronics industry. Cellphones, laptops and playstations and electronics in general are thus based on continued war in the DRC. Apple, Samsung, Google, Facebook, WhatsApp and others derive their profits from this starting point. Yet there is not a single electronics factory in the DRC. 2 million informal mineworkers including child labour, scoop up the minerals with their hands, hand them over to merchants. Helicopters then carry the raw minerals to Rwanda and various parts of the DRC and from there they are shipped off to the manufacturing centres in the world. SA soldiers protect some of the imperialist operations, as a free security agency (each soldier being paid at least R50 000 per month). Umicore is listed by the UN as a smuggler in metals from the DRC, yet it is listed as a partner company with Anglo American. Umicore has Jonathan Oppenheimer on its board. You won't find Bheki Cele going after Umicore nor Anglo American nor any of the BEE companies operating in the DRC.

Joseph Kabila was supposed to have stepped down as President at the end of 2016. He violently suppressed protesters, with state troops killing a number of them. The Churches brokered a 'peace deal' which would have seen Kabila step down at the end of 2017. He did not and massacred a number of protestors over the Xmas period, even in the churches. The killings continued into 2018. There is no sign of when he will step down. However, even if he did step down, the imperialist plunder of the DRC would not change; it would still be based on war. Imperialism funds all sides of the war in the DRC, in order to keep the masses destabilized, so that their plunder relations can continue.

In the Cameroon, the imperialists divided the country into North and Southern Cameroon. The Anglophone South has long been persecuted by the regime in the North, however all the country is still buckling under French imperialist control. They still pay a huge colonial tax to France, that keeps the masses in poverty. US imperialism has opportunistically fanned the flames of division, wanting to use the legitimate grievances of Southern Cameroonians (Ambazonians) to drive out the influence of French imperialism. Some of the nationalist forces have already given an ultimatum that all northerners leave the South by the 31st May. Is this a prelude to another "Rwanda-type" genocide? It is imperative that all northerners and southerners, workers and poor peasants unite against the regime of Paul Biya; there is enough wealth for everyone; all imperialist assets should be expropriated, and placed under workers control. Let worker not fight worker.



There are a number of wars and capitalist dictatorships across Africa (Egypt, DRC, Cameroon, Mali, Libya, Sudan and South Sudan, Somalia, CAR, Algeria, Morocco, etc). It is only through the working class rising, supported by the poor peasantry, that will scatter these undemocratic regimes and establish direct democracy, that will value and protect the different cultural differences, while ending exploitative relations. However, without the active support of the working class in the imperialist centres and the rest of the world, Africa will not be freed.

Workers of the world unite to free Africa; we have nothing to lose but our chains; we have a world to win. Let us build new, working class parties across the globe.

Forward to Socialism.

Workers International Vanguard League workersinternational@gmail.com 25 May 2018



Masses resist evictions at Steenvilla- where housing subsidies are handed to banks

On the fall of Zuma

The revolutionary period of 1980 to 1993 was partially defeated by the negotiated settlement whose cornerstone was the maintenance of capitalist relations. The negotiated settlement was based on the protection of private property. By 1994 Anglo American directly controlled more than 50% of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange shares. Imperialism maintained its control over SA through the settlement.

By 2007 there was the beginning of large scale revolts against the failure of the ANC-SACP-Cosatu regime to meet the democratic aspirations of the masses. The SACP and Cosatu leadership were able to turn the revolt



into a parliamentary dead-end through a change in leadership of the ANC presidency. Vavi and Nzimande toured the imperialist capitals to win support for a Zuma presidency.

Since 2007 the world economic crisis has deepened and there has been a period of sustained attacks on the gains of the working class. This has gone hand in hand with the loss of support for the ANC within the workers' movement. This loss of support was increasing since 1994, with each class battle that occurred.. In the 2016 local government elections, not only had the ANC lost majority support in a number of key cities but overall, its support is now less than 50% of those who voted. This means that by the 2019 national elections, if the trend continues, that the ANC would only be able to rule with alliance parties outside of the ANC-SACP-Cosatu. There is the prospect of a right wing alliance taking power, in the form of DA-EFF. However both DA and EFF have been losing support. All parliamentary parties are losing support.

The 2012 Marikana massacre demonstrated that imperialism has a crisis of leadership. The ANC-SACP-Cosatu is unable to control the masses on their behalf any more. Since 2012 there have been revolts on the farms and a sustained revolt on the universities for free education and an end to casualization. The revolt at the universities has been weakened but is still alive. It has forced the state to concede free education for first year students , which will be increased to all students. This is a reflection of the deep crisis of legitimacy faced by the ANC.

On a political level, there has been the 2013 conference of the metalworkers union, Numsa, which had resolved to break with the ANC and SACP and to form a broad workers' united front and a workers' party. Faced with a prospect of the entire Cosatu breaking from the ANC and SACP and forming a new workers party, imperialism caused Numsa to be expelled, weakening the project for a workers party. However, the leaders of Numsa have also delayed the process to the formation of a new workers' party and have presented a draft which is based on the nationalist Freedom Charter, the programme of the ANC. There is scope however, to challenge and amend the programme.

The unfulfilled demands of the working class has been reflected in a split to the left from the ANC, which resulted in the formation of the Economic Freedom Fighters, EFF.

The crisis of imperialism and the stagnation of the world capitalist economy has meant more attacks on the masses and increased hatred for the ruling ANC. This increased hatred for the state has once again been diverted into an electoral channel but with a much deeper crisis. The removal of the President Zuma identified him as a scapegoat for the attacks by imperialism. The deep crisis of leadership is reflected in the choice of the new President who was directly implicated in the Marikana massacre. Imperialism faced a huge problem if the ANC split: who would control the working class on their behalf? This is why the change of President was handled in this way, through resignation and maintaining the unity of the ANC. This means that they will only make a show of going after smaller fish but the Zuma faction will not be prosecuted or will not face any harsh measures that would force a split.

The world capitalist crisis remains; all ruling parties in SA are forced onto the path of further attacks on the masses, further privatization, further exploitation.

It should be emphasized that by definition, the existence of decaying capitalism and domination by world imperialism, that mass theft from the working class in SA and the rest of Africa and the neo-colonial world, will intensify. The Journal of Southern African Studies reports that each year the theft by imperialist mining companies amounts to at least R200 billion each year. Compare that to the less than R10 billion which Zuma group stole and we can see that his removal has nothing to do with fighting corruption but about the state regaining face so that large scale theft by imperialism can continue. The message from imperialism to the ruling party is that they can steal but not too much. Imperialism is buying stability through a change in



leadership. However, 2018 is not 2007. There is a deeper loss of support among the masses for the ruling party.

Imperialism would love to limit the programme of the Numsa-led workers party to a variant of the Freedom Charter, in essence a programme of the co-option of the working class leadership into the capitalist relations. This should be combatted at all costs.

The rise of the independent Water Crisis Coalition is a sign of an independent working class movement that can possibly lead a resistance to the privatization of water, which is being attempted by the state. For the first time, forces of Cosatu and Saftu are united with grassroots committees. The WCC is however contested terrain as there is also a significant presence of the middle class, who would only be prepared to fight up to a certain point.

However, more significantly, the field is wide open for the rapid development of a revolutionary working class party. The Zuma group may be weakened but it is not destroyed as a faction. The resignation speech of Zuma warned of being a watchdog for radical economic transformation and that he regarded the moment as similar to when Mbeki removed him as Vice President- this implies that he will work on the ground to stage a comeback. However, imperialism has adopted his programme of free university education and of selective land expropriation. This is to neutralise his base. As the infighting within the ruling party continues, the scope for the development of a revolutionary working class party and for independent working class formations increases.

If imperialism goes ahead with their social experiment to turn off the taps in Cape Town, there will be a revolt that no force on earth can stop. It is this threat of revolution that forces imperialism to back down on their threat of turning off the taps but they are still pressing ahead to attempt to privatise water through large scale desalination plants and the imposition of prepaid water meters. There are a number of other attacks such as limiting the right to strike that are also being prepared.

Marikana, the mine workers strikes, the farm workers revolts, the university revolts were limited in scope but the moment is nearing for a generalised revolt. The Azanian spring is about to arrive.

The revolts in Zimbabwe, Cameroon and the DRC are all signs that the spring uprising will spread across Africa. We need to link up with workers across Africa, in other neo-colonial countries and in the imperialist centres. Imperialism controls Africa and we can only be free if the working class in the imperialist centres unite in struggle, with us.

The formation of a revolutionary International, for us, the rebuilding of the Fourth International, is what is required. WIVP 17.2.2018 workersinternational@gmail.com



Unionised workers and communities unite at the historic Working class summit



Renewed appeal for Solidarity with the Boiketlong 4

On the 21st April 2015 the Magistrates Court in Sebokeng sentenced 4 community activists from Boiketlong, to a total of 16 years in prison. The activists are: **Dinah Makhetha, Siphon Mangane, Dan Molefe and Pulane Mahlangu**. Key witnesses could not even identify the 4 but the courts sought to use the apartheid law of 'doctrine of common purpose' to jail them. They were found not guilty of 'public violence' but guilty of 'assault, arson and malicious damage to property'.

Pulane Mahlangu has run away and no one knows where she is or if she is in good health. Either way, she cannot come home.

Dan Molefe died of stress-related illness in December 2017.

Although released for a short period while the appeal process was underway, both Dinah and Siphon are back in prison as they lost the first level of Appeal. The magistrate is prepared to consider shortening the sentence but not the sentence itself. The appeal process remains underway.

There is now an opportunity for a mediated process that may assist in a process of early release. There is an urgent need to cover the costs of mediation which we estimate could come to about R40 000. Appeals have been made to the community to raise funds as well to the broader movement.

What is at stake?

The state has used an apartheid law, the '*doctrine of common purpose*', to attempt to crush the resistance of the masses. The law of common purpose is deliberately broad so as to be used to target leaders in the community and working class movement. If left unchallenged it extends the attack on the democratic right to protest. To petition for full Leave to Appeal and the higher processes are all very expensive and time-consuming. This places a huge burden on the families and community of Boiketlong. Ironically, sentences for murder and rape are quite often less than what the activists received. If you are rich and famous, you are likely to get a much reduced sentence but working class activists bear the brunt of this injustice. The infamous Oscar Pistorius was sentenced to only 6 years in prison, for killing his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp. The sentence was later increased to 15 years, still less than what the Boiketlong 4 were sentenced to. He had been released on parole after serving only 10 months in prison. How many men, who kill their partners, are even locked up? Comrade Dinah's granny passed away but the state denied her the opportunity to attend the funeral.

The increase of repressive methods against community activists is part of a world-wide trend. As traditional leaderships are discredited and no longer able to control the masses, so there is an increase in repressive measures against the masses.

If you are rich, the wheels of the 'justice' system turn. If you are a worker, you are locked up and the key thrown away. Thus the state is exposed as an instrument of big capital, an instrument of violence, to control the working class.

This marks a new stage in the desperation of imperialism to control the masses- the same dropping of the democratic mask of the state and the criminalization of protest, is seen across Africa, from Cape to Cairo. Special fascist gangs such as the Chrysalis black shirts are springing up like mushrooms. The fascist attacks



on immigrant poor are also similar signs of desperation by imperialism to use terror and force to attempt to break the resistance of the masses.

The community of Boiketlong have long suffered from broken promises of the ANC government. Since the elections in 2006, the ANC has come with empty promises to upgrade the area that by then had already long suffered a lack of sanitation, lack of water, lack of electricity and lack of housing. The 4 are part of the collective leadership, assigned by the community to lead their struggle for houses. This is their only 'crime'. **They are political prisoners of the capitalist state. They are not criminals.**

It is reported in the **Journal of Southern African Studies** that the mining giants have accelerated their theft through transfer pricing after 1994 to such an extent that in 2007 alone about R600bn was taken out by imperialism through illegal means. (This is about \$50bn, which is more than what is required to end world hunger for a year). The amounts that imperialism has stolen over the years is in the order of trillions of dollars, and this is from SA alone. If the entire Africa is also considered, we are looking at several trillions of dollars stolen by imperialism.

Yet, across Africa, all the regimes, without exception, turn a blind eye to this and are instruments of keeping the masses in check while imperialist plunder continues.

SA and Africa has enough wealth to meet all our needs, with decent housing, free education, free, quality health care, decent jobs for all. Yet everywhere there is poverty and suffering and only the imperialists and their paid hirelings benefit. Indeed, SA has enough wealth to care for the whole of Southern Africa, but it is a giant prison for the masses of Southern Africa.

Boiketlong is a symbol of the capitalist injustice that there is. The imperialist who plunder and steal and cause the early death of millions, get off scot free. The masses and anyone who dares raise a question, are brutalised and suppressed.

There should have been houses and proper facilities in Boiketlong but instead it is a slum. It is being kept a slum by the ANC government. That is why the 4 comrades were jailed: because they dared to challenge the slum conditions.

The SA government dares to blame the other African regimes for their 'nationals' coming to SA. The very same imperialism that plunders SA, also plunders the whole of Africa. All these regimes are responsible for the enforced poverty of the African masses. The SA govt has more blood on its hands. In the DRC imperialism funds the wars that have killed 6-10 million people. After the lands are cleared and imperialism opens up its mining operations for Cassiterite (raw material for cell phones, tablets playstations and laptops- 70% of the world's reserves are there). It is SA soldiers that are provided as a free security force for the plunder. Each soldier is paid R50 000 a month for this work of protecting Anglo American from the starving masses in the DRC.

The spread of HIV-Aids in SA, according to credible research reports, was largely due to the collapse of the health system which led to the re-use of infected needles, among other unsanitary practices. Thanks to the ANC government.

Yes, a lot of dwellings have been built but most of them are in the old group areas. In other words, the ANC government perpetuated apartheid housing policies.

There is enough wealth for jobs for all, but due to the theft that the ANC (and DA) governments allow, there is mass unemployment and starvation everywhere.

This is not peace but a sustained civil war against the masses which the ANC has continued from the old NP apartheid regime.



We need to draw the lesson. Freedom will not fall from the sky. The working class needs to be organised. We need to tear down the artificial barriers that separate us.

We call for a national and international programme of action against the criminalization of protest, for the freeing of the 4 Boiketlong activists.

One more appeal

We salute the activists from the Boiketlong and Sebokeng communities, from WIVL, SRWP, ILRIG, United Front, Giwusa, the respective anarchist groups, who have demonstrated their solidarity and/or visited the comrades in prison.

We salute the cdes from various international groups, such as the Las Heras families and prisoners, the FLTI, CWG, LITCI, CSP Conlutas and others, who sent messages of solidarity and material support.

It is necessary for one final round of solidarity to be sent. We call on the broader working class movement and the democrats in general to contribute, through renewed messages of solidarity and through financial contributions.

For this, please contact us via:

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30 July 2018



Workers from SA Breweries, unfairly retrenched in 2001, still fighting for their rights



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.**



Workers uniting at the historic Working class summit 21-22 May 2018



The Spark

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www.workersinternational.org.za or on our facebook group is called Workers International Vanguard Party WIVP