

Revolutionary Worker

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WORKERS MOBILISE TO FIGHT POVERTY AND DICTATORSHIP!

The condition of the working class in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate on the back of the global recession now in its fifth year. Over the past year unemployment has increased with working conditions of those in employment deteriorating as capitalist employers demand a new labour law that will make it easy to continue plundering the resources and exploiting the working class. The drought has further imperilled the already difficult position of the poor rural farmers who rely on scarce and little state inputs for livelihood.

Youth unemployment is at its highest combined with the vicious attack on the students by the state demanding exorbitant fees from students. Education has essentially become a luxury to many working class and peasant families and even most of the lower middle class households who are struggling to make ends meet on the back of incomes far less than the liberal poverty datum line of about \$600. The recent increase of prices of basic goods have made the situation more difficult and a throwback to the pre- 2009 years where ordinary masses lived from hand to mouth.

The recent referendum clearly exposed the deceptive and murderous nature of the local rulers and their imperialist sponsors who conjured to trick and deceive the masses to vote for a document that essentially attacks their welfare and certifies their continued exploitation and oppression. It is most significant that most of the eligible voters saw through the trick and boycotted the charade which has been paraded by the political parties as historic and an incremental development in terms of democracy and human rights. Imperialism supported by the main political parties and most civic groups directly urged the masses to vote in favour of the capitalist anti-working people draft with other so called radical groups playing the role of a left cover and contingent plan for imperialism by advocating for a meaningless No vote thereby legitimising the sham referenda.

The **Revolutionary Workers Group (RWG)** campaigned vigorously for a boycott of the sham referendum calling on workers and the poor masses to mobilise for a Congress of delegates to write a constitution that will protect their interests and lives. The boycott by the workers and the ordinary masses reflected the rejection of the agenda by the main political parties on behalf of imperialism to plunder the natural and human resources of the country for the benefit of the capitalists and their comprador cronies constituting the GNU. Beyond that and more importantly the masses have to be organised and mobilised for independent and militant active actions that fight capitalism and dictatorship.

Internationally capitalism is experiencing its worst crisis after

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Revolutionary Greetings from CWG (Aotearoa/New Zealand) on International Workers Day 2013!

Comrades,

Since 2008 we have witnessed the deepening of the current crisis of capitalism from a global recession to a global depression. Capitalism is approaching its final crisis. All that is required is for the world proletariat to stand up and push it over.

In its desperation, capitalism is cannibalising its working class and its raw materials, provoking an intense crisis of destruction of humanity and nature. Not only is the immiseration of the proletariat provoking uprisings from MENA to sub-Saharan Africa to China and Latin America, the labor aristocracy in the imperialist countries is being driven into the ground. The result is the heightening of the class contradiction has reached explosive potential, only dissipated in numerous disconnected uprisings suppressed or contained by pro-imperialist regimes from South Africa, Egypt, Libya, Venezuela, because they are not yet united and mobilised into an international revolutionary movement.

In the imperialist countries, the spontaneous uprisings of the indignados, of Occupy, and of left-wing parliamentary tendencies such as Syriza, have proven incapable of meeting the challenge of revolutionary leadership. The crisis has thrown up neo-fascist elements that threaten to smash the new layers of militants before they can be organised into a force capable of mobilising working class struggle on the streets and workplaces.

The so-called revolutionary left of all colors from pink/brown national reformers, Bolivarians, Greens Anarchists and fake Trotskyists, are all feinting left and posing as revolutionary saviours of the working class. They are all traitors in the ranks

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EDITORIAL AND CONTENTS

This second issue comes in a very interesting and promising period both nationally and internationally. Nationally we have witnessed the staging of a referendum by the two main bourgeoisie parties (ZANU-PF and MDC-T) in alliance with their junior partner in government (MDC), imperialism through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with the support of the various opportunistic civic and social groups as well as unions. Though the new draft was endorsed by a wide margin the majority of eligible voters boycotted the charade with a few participants voting No as advocated by a motley of groups led by the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA).

The referendum exposed the working alliance of the major parties in the government of national unity (GNU) constituting a popular front against the masses but using them to legitimise their exploitation and oppression on behalf of imperialism. The main task of Trotskyists then is breaking the workers from the popular front through campaigning and mobilising for a revolutionary United Front comprising of all rank and file bodies of unions, student bodies, residents groups, unemployed bodies, social movements and individuals.

This issue especially through our main article focuses on the recent referendum and the revolutionary imperative of building a fighting United Front that organise workers and the poor against the popular front regime championing the interests of the local capitalists and imperialists. We publish all documents we issued relating to the referendum showing our position of calling for a boycott of the charade meant to hoodwink the masses laying the basis for further attacks on the poor. These documents are our statement on the referendum, the flier we distributed during our campaign for a boycott and our statement after the referendum.

We also publish our article on the Central African Republic (CAR) and international articles on North Korea as well as issues from our comrades in New Zealand and the USA. We also publish our May Day statement and our statement on the continued arrest of Maengahama and others who are victims of the GNU.

MAYDAY IS INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY! WE DEMAND JOBS FOR ALL AND A LIVING WAGE!

The **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)** welcomes all workers, the oppressed poor and all who fight with them to the May Day commemorations. Workers the world over commemorate May Day in the context of a global capitalist crisis that threatens to destroy all value created by the workers over centuries as well as destroy in advance what is yet to be produced. May Day is celebrated in recognition of the struggles by the workers over the centuries and is also a time to take stock of the reality of the workers condition thereby enabling the basis for preparing for future struggles.

Here in Zimbabwe we celebrate International Workers Day in the context of an accelerated attack on the living conditions of the workers and the oppressed by imperialism which is fronted by local capitalists and the brutal GNU. About 90% of the population are not in formal employment with those in employment earning far below the poverty datum line and working under deteriorating conditions whilst the capitalists continue to amass massive profits on the back of brutal exploitation and hoodwinking of the oppressed peoples.

The recently adopted new draft constitution has provided the legal and constitutional basis for further attacks on the working class and the poor masses despite the cosmetic and symbolic bill of rights. Workers rights have not been entrenched as shown by a meaningless listing of so called labour rights. The state and capitalists are intent on attacking the working conditions of the poor workers with the government taking the lead through its decision to freeze all promotions and transfers among others in the civil ser-

vice citing resource constraints yet they can find money to award each other golden handshakes and massive salary increments.

Workers must organise in their respective unions and workplaces and together with the unemployed, students, youths, rural and urban poor mobilise for a revolutionary and militant **United Front** to fight Imperialism and the Popular Front dictatorship.

- **Jobs for All! We demand a reduction of hours so that there are enough jobs for everyone!**
- **A Living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!**
- **Workers break with the ZANU (PF)/MDC Popular Front that continue to oppress and tie workers to imperialism!**
- **Workers form an active and militant Workers' Councils controlled by the rank and file activists and linked to organisations of the poor and oppressed!**

ISSUED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS GROUP

30 April 2013, Harare Zimbabwe

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Workers Memorial Day & May Day

First we mourn then we fight!



LM Otero/Associated Press, Emergency personnel conducting a search on Thursday of an apartment complex destroyed by an explosion the day before at a fertilizer plant in West, Tex.

In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings that killed 3 people and injured 282 on April 15th, the capitalist press has been whipped into an anti-Muslim frenzy of the by now usual sort frenzy. We have no idea what happened in Boston. What really happened? We notice the official story is not finding any greater ready acceptance than the official 9/11 story did. This terrible act was allegedly carried out by two Muslim brothers whose family originally emigrated from Chechnya. Just as after 9/11, this incident is being used to whip up anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant hysteria and will be used as an excuse to further the U.S. government's "war on terror" and erode democratic rights. The bombing will doubtless be exploited for all its worth to free the funding for the homeland security racket from the effects of the sequester.

The people of Boston and surrounding towns were subjected to Gestapo style dragnet while the FBI and Russian intelligence agencies played at finger pointing at each other for their information trading screw-ups. The police and federal agents turned Boston into a police state in the aftermath of the bombings. Calls from the right wing media for more surveillance and the use of inner city drones echo Obama's stepped up police state tactics. Following Clinton's "Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996," Bush/Cheney's "Patriot Act" and Obama's use of the FBI to coordinate dismantling of the OCCUPY movement, the hounding to death of internet activist Aaron Schwartz and the ongoing terror in the black and brown community were every 28 hours racist killer cops murder a black, brown or immigrant person, often by shooting the unarmed person in the back; indicates a trend toward the rise of a Bonapartist dictatorship under the guise of democracy—supported by the workers' very own rotten leadership in the AFL-CIO and Change to Win(lose!) Coalition.

On April 17th, two days later, in West, Texas, a fertilizer plant explosion killed 15 people, including nine first responders, injured as many as 180, and 60 were still missing as of the 26th. The blast destroyed or damaged 150 buildings. The fire spread to 25 square blocks and one side of West has ceased to exist. The explosion was registered as a 2.1-magnitude earthquake by the United States Geological Survey. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) last inspected the plant 28 years

ago and "found five 'serious' violations, including ones involving improper storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia and improper respiratory protection for workers. The agency imposed a \$30 penalty on the company (NYT Apr 18)." This company was fined last June for violations involving anhydrous ammonia by the federal Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Of course the criminally negligent homicides of workers by the profit-driven bosses are downplayed, as they don't serve the class interests of the bourgeois media. In the "free market" capitalist economy workers daily face injury and death on the job. Texas is a "right to work" state, where you work the number of hours the boss demands or

someone else has your job. This makes accidents happen in plants that are as good as unregulated and where the only law is profit. In right-to-work states, wages are low and attract the untrained and those who are or will be alienated. Just the kind of folks bosses want handling dangerous and explosive chemicals. Judging by the facts you would have to conclude that these conditions and employees are just what these non-union employers wish to have.

On April 25th, 350 garment workers were killed (with at least that many missing) in Dhaka, Bangladesh as a factory complex collapsed. Capitalist terrorists (line supervisors) forced workers to enter the building despite the visible cracks that raised workers' fears for their safety. This following a spate of deadly sweat shop fires in Bangladesh last year where capitalist terrorists locked doors and windows, forcing dozens to jump to their deaths or incinerate where they fell. The April 25th building collapse resulted in mass demonstrations of workers who burned two of the bosses' factories to the ground on April 26th. Yet in Bangladesh burning the factories will not end the capitalist wage slavery and terror. Only expropriation of big capital and the running of production under workers control can end their reign of terror! This is the task of the international working class, for which our class requires our own revolutionary international to unite all workers and bury the capitalist mode of production.

That West, Texas disaster was not a Bhopal is only due to the lower population density in West. And meanwhile Bhopal has had another disaster of its own. A hospital has collapsed, killing hundreds of hospital workers and patients and trapping hundreds more. Expect to see casualties from all over the world in this hospital collapse, as the impossible prices of medical procedures has given rise to "medical tourism," during this world crisis of the capitalist system.

It is also rather ironic that West Texas is just north of Waco, the same area where, in 1993, a religious sect, the Branch Davidians was targeted by President Clinton's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In a true case of U.S. state terrorism, 83 Branch Davidians were killed by the government after a 51 day siege.

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Workers Memorial Day cont from pg. 3

Bangladeshi workers burn two factories to the ground April 26, 2013

From a Marxist standpoint, the Boston bombings are indefensible acts of terrorism that targeted the working class as much as anyone or anything else. Marxists oppose individual acts of terrorism as a method of political struggle, even when directed against legitimate bourgeois targets or politicians. We are for politically organizing the working class to collectively abolish this barbaric and truly criminal system of capitalism once and for all; this we maintain requires a high level of independent working class self organization. As Leon Trotsky wrote in 1911:

"...In our eyes, individual terror is inadmissible precisely because it belittles the role of the masses in their own consciousness, reconciles them to their powerlessness, and turns their eyes and hopes toward a great avenger and liberator who some day will come and accomplish his mission..."

...If we oppose terrorist acts, it is only because individual revenge does not satisfy us. The account we have to settle with the capitalist system is too great to be presented to some functionary called a minister. To learn to see all the crimes against humanity, all the indignities to which the human body and spirit are subjected, as the twisted outgrowths and expressions of the existing social system, in order to direct all our energies into a collective struggle against this system—that is the direction in which the burning desire for revenge can find its highest moral satisfaction." (Why Marxists Oppose Individual Terrorism, November 1911)

These three events come on the eve of Workers Memorial Day, April 28th, and International Workers Day, May 1st. Workers must not let the lessons of these events go unheeded. Our struggle must not be limited to raising the minimum wage to a poverty wage of \$15 per hour or to getting more OSHA inspectors. Capitalism has proven itself unreformable it must be buried. The capitalist politicians are debating ending the 40 hour work week and ending overtime after 40 hours this is their idea of reform. We have to finish with them, we have a world to win we have nothing to lose but to lose but our chains.

For an economy where production and distribution are planned and controlled by the workers deputies!

Build a Revolutionary Workers International!

For workers Power Forward to a workers government based on workers councils!

Communist Workers Group – USA
 Subscribe to Class War: cwgclasswar@gmail.com
www.cwgusa.wordpress.com
 Workers Memorial Day and May Day leaflet,
 April 28, 2013

FREE MAINGEHAMA AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

The government of national unity(GNU) like the preceding ZANU(PF) government continues to arrest, persecute and kill democracy activist, civic leaders, community leaders, trade unionists, student leaders, journalists and socialists in a desperate attempt to frighten and cow them and others into submission and ensure no opposition to the intensifying capitalist exploitation and suppression of basic rights. The state, working obediently on behalf of both wings of imperialism, understands quite well the explosive nature of the policies they are pursuing and is doing everything to crush any nascent resistance.

Since the inception of the GNU in 2009 we have witnessed the arrest of many activists on trumped up charges all in an effort to starve off growing popular opposition to capitalist policies that have attacked the lives of the majority of the people despite promises from some sections of the GNU. In most instances the state cases have easily collapsed and in some the state had to withdraw its cases even before the commencement of the trial showing the lack of basis for such actions whose main purpose however is to weaken, demoralise and destroy all those opposed to the domination of capital.

Because of the strong dominance of the ZANU party on the security and policing organs it is clear that most of the arrests and persecution are carried out by ZANU with occasional and naive complicity of the main MDC (or MDC-T) party (referred here as MDC) through its Co- Minister of Home affairs who more often than not is sidelined and even embarrassed. This however does not absolve the MDC even from the arrest of some of its members but merely points to the current domination of Chinese imperialism on the state in competition with European capitalism led by the USA fronted by the MDC. The significance of the minor MDC is so small as it is only used by both parties as a bargaining tool.

The most prominent arrests thus far have been the arrest of Gwisai and others on charges of treason and the arrest of the MDC National executive member Last Maengahama and others on the charge of killing a police officer. In the first case the defendants were made to pay fines and in the second one still dragging in the courts all but five of the accused were given bail. Maengahama and four others in this case have been behind bars for close to two years now on the clear instructions of the ZANU controlled security sector which intends to send a clear message to all daring to challenge their rule.

One can not rule out the complicity of the MDC or parts of it in this case given that Maengahama was widely viewed as one of the leaders of the militant and "revolutionary" wing of the MDC which had to be demobilised as the party prepared to sell out on its founding "pro- workers and poor people agenda". He acquired this status partly because he is a former leader of the reformist International Socialist Organisation in Zimbabwe (ISO-Z). The Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM) broke from ISOZ and its popular front program.

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Having tested elusive power the leadership of the MDC became estranged from the grass roots of the party and the already visible reliance on so called peaceful and diplomatic tactics were entrenched in a clear attempt to co- implement the policies demanded by imperialism but which ordinary members could not accept hence the spectre of arrests for all those who dared take matters into their own hands. It's not surprising that these innocent activists are in jail while the real murderers from both parties roam free and congratulate each other with obscene packages and allowances. Both parties now serve the imperialists and are agreed on the basic need to exploit and crush the masses on behalf of capital.

Because of its obvious limitations even at its formation and more so now the MDC as a populist bourgeoisie party, despite its initial mass base, could not be expected to champion the interests of the poor masses in spite of its utterances which are only meant to hoodwink the people and some leaders of the workers, students, the general poor and even socialists.

We call on the government to immediately free Maengahama and all political prisoners who are victims of a GNU that is desperate to control the national body politic on behalf of local capitalists and imperialism which demands the imposition of brutal austerity measures that ruins millions and condemns generations to poverty and starvation. We demand and fight for their release despite the political differences we have with all of them who are supporters of the popular front regime and policies that essentially crush and brutalise the workers and poor masses.

FREE MAENGAHAMA AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW!

BOYCOTT THE REFERENDUM! SMASH THE POPULAR FRONT!

Zimbabwe is still reeling under the effects and impact of the more than a decade long socio- economic crisis that has impoverished the working people and the ordinary poor. Most workers were thrown out of employment with those few in employment facing starvation wages and increased attacks on their conditions. Students have witnessed the erosion of the right to education whilst the poor residents face the wrath of expensive and unavailable social services. In spite of the so called land reform poor peasants continue to suffer with no meaningful provision of inputs. Those in the informal sector are being harassed on a regular basis by the police and authorities for exercising the right to earn an income.

With the global economic crisis showing no sign of abating, the hope that the GNU will provide respite to workers and the poor has been shattered as the civil servants and workers in the private sector are still earning way below the living wage and face intensification in the attacks on their working conditions and livelihood. Instead all the parties in the GNU have shown their true colours

and intentions to intensify the attacks in order to stabilise the capitalist system and semi colonial dictatorship on behalf of their imperialist masters through putting the burden of paying for the crisis on the shoulders of workers and the ordinary poor. The draft constitution finally agreed upon by the three parties together with their imperialist masters as well as the coming elections will act as the political basis to further entrench exploitation and brutality on the masses.

The draft Constitution, a result of a long imperialist scheme, was finally agreed upon in January this year paving the way for a referendum on the 16th of March 2013. It is clear to everyone that the final document is a result of negotiations and compromises by the parties on secondary political aspects after having agreed on the basic capitalist nature of our society and their mission to manage the capitalist state through oppression of the masses and outright lies reflected by the initial July 2012 draft. Both parties are claiming that the constitution is a product of the people's views but at the same time promise their supporters to change it once elected into office. So the three political parties in the GNU and an array of civic organisations in tow are calling for a Yes vote on the draft as the best way forward in terms of resolving the challenges facing the country.

This is not surprising, the civic groups aligned to ZANU (PF) who have benefitted from the patronage system and those aligned to the MDC receiving funds from the same imperialist donors are clamouring that the people accept the charter so that they protect their privileges and also continue to receive donor funds. That the imperialist masters have agreed to raise funds for the referendum and the elections testifies as to whom the draft seeks to protect and the capitalist nature of the political regime that is a popular front of the national bourgeoisie and petit bourgeoisie.

On the other hand the NCA, ISO, PTUZ, ZINASU, ZCTU and other civic organisations are calling for the rejection of the draft through a No vote at the referendum and they have formed a 'United Front ' for the purpose. Their main contentions are that the draft is a result of an elitist driven process and besides this the draft itself is not a reflection of what the people said as well that the draft is not democratic and further does not protect the interests of the workers and the masses. Instead they are calling for the government to facilitate the convening of an independent commission to spearhead the drafting of a "people driven" constitution. On top of that the NCA is challenging the referendum date saying it does not offer the people enough time to look at the draft and make an informed decision.

As the **Revolutionary Workers Group (RWG)** we strongly reject both the call for a Yes or No vote meant to hoodwink the workers, poor peasants, students and youth, informal workers and the poor masses into believing that a good constitution can, in a capitalist society, advance or even protect their interests. A No vote simply suggests that proposed draft is not good for the ordinary poor and therefore must be rejected so that pressure is put on the government to incorporate the wishes of the people or that a new so called people driven process is instituted. This is utterly wrong and misleading to the working people and the poor masses that have to be told that a constitution will not offer them a living wage or a decent life but only an independent struggle by the workers and the poor can conquer their interests.

Our position from the inception of the constitutional reform process has been to urge for a boycott of the whole process calling for the setting up of independent working class action organs to fight for jobs, land, free education and real democracy. The reform process has been used by both the national bourgeoisie and their imperialist backers to stabilise the capitalist regime using the popular front government supported by various civic groups and pseudo leftist groups who have been exposed by their participation in the process and now are calling for a Vote No and thereby seeking to protect the basis of the popular front and capitalist oppressions. We call on all struggle organisations to meet as soon as possible and constitute a United Front to

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Boycott the Referendum cont from pg. 5

spearhead the demand for an active Boycott of the referendum. The **RWG** calls for these demands:

- 1) **Active BOYCOTT against this referendum!**
- 2) **Break with the MDC and ZANU (PF) popular front that serves in Zimbabwe the plans of the imperialist super exploiters!**
- 3) **Build an independent organisation of workers, students, poor peasants and urban poor based struggle committees coordinated nationally to prepare for a National Congress of Delegates of all organisations in struggle.**
- 4) **Forward to a national General Strike and Workers and Poor Farmers government based on struggle committees.**
- 5) **Forward to the expropriation without compensation and under workers control of all the assets of imperialism and the national bourgeoisie.**
- 6) **Forward to a Federation of Socialists Republics of all Africa.**

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS GROUP (RWG)

25 February 2013

BOYCOTT THE REFERENDUM! SMASH THE POPULAR FRONT!

The people of Zimbabwe are expected to vote on the Draft national constitution on the 16th of March 2013. The three parties to the GNU together with various civic groups are urging people to vote YES whilst the NCA and other civic groups are pushing for a NO vote.

The **REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS GROUP (RWG-ZIM)** call on workers, students, poor farmers, urban poor and the masses to **ACTIVELY BOYCOTT** the referendum through setting up independent action committees to fight for bread and butter issues as well as prepare for a National Congress of Delegates. To that end we call on all struggle organisations to attend a **UNITED FRONT** meeting to spearhead the boycott campaign. Our message is clear:

- 1) **ACTIVE BOYCOTT against this referendum!**
- 2) **Break with the MDC and ZANU (PF) popular front that serves in Zimbabwe the plans of the imperialist super exploiters!**
- 3) **Build an independent organisation of workers, students, poor peasants and urban poor based struggle committees coordinated nationally to prepare for a National Congress of Delegates of all organisations in struggle.**

Issued by the REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS GROUP (RWG-ZIMBABWE) 09 March 2013

AFTER THE BOYCOTT, ORGANISE TO DEFEAT THE POPULAR FRONT!

The referendum on the new constitution was held on the 16th of March 2013 with only around 40% of eligible voters voting on the acceptability or otherwise of the draft written by the three parties in government together with their imperialist masters through UNDP. Over half of the eligible voters boycotted the referenda in a clear sign of protest to the GNU and the policies of the three parties that have wrecked the lives of the ordinary poor and were using the referendum to create the political basis for further attacks on the poor masses through brutal austerity measures demanded by imperialism.

Of those who voted 92% were in support of the document with only about 5% rejecting it and the remainder filled by protest votes and/or spoiled papers. Even on this basis the draft cannot be regarded as legitimate given the number of people who one way or the other saw through the tricks of the inclusive dictatorship and rejected the referendum farce. All the parties in the GNU have welcomed the results as historic and now calling for the entrenchment of constitutionalism i.e. acceptance of the culture of capitalist domination. Those calling for a No vote have rejected the outcome and vow to continue to oppose the constitution until a democratic and people driven one is in place.

For us the number of people who boycotted the process represents a latent political force in Zimbabwe of workers and the ordinary poor who are opposed to the policies of the current regime but with no clear answer as to the real solution

given the historical domination of reformism and centrism. The popular front regime has brought untold suffering to the people and this must end through smashing the regime and its social basis in order to conquer the interests of the ordinary poor. Workers, students, poor farmers, poor resident, unemployed and the informally employed must mobilise now for a **UNITED FRONT** to oppose the popular front regime that is now preparing to launch another round of attacks on the living conditions of the poor.

In our campaign for a boycott and the meetings we held with workers, students and the ordinary poor we reiterated the need to launch the **UNITED FRONT** to spearhead the responses of the poor and exploited masses with the two meetings endorsing the call. To that end the **RWG (Zim)** will be agitating for the creation of **local struggle committees** in unions and struggle organisations to call for the convening of the **UNITED FRONT** of struggle organisations and individuals dedicated to the defeat of the policies being championed by the regime and those being proffered by those intending to replace the regime without replacing the capitalist basis. **We congratulate the ordinary people of Zimbabwe for boycotting the referendum and now call upon them to organise to smash the capitalism and its agents.**

**Revolutionary Workers Group-Zimbabwe
21 March 2013**

**DEFEAT THE COUP IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC! DEFEAT IMPERIALISM!
AFRICOM OUT NOW!
NO RETURN FOR BOZIZE
WORKERS AND PEASANTS TO POWER!**



On the 24th of March 2013 the Seleka rebel coalition took control of the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR) forcing president Bozize, who had unsuccessfully appealed to the French and American imperialists for military support against rebels to flee the country. The rebel leader, Michel Djotodia, has since dissolved the constitution of 2004 and has declared himself president and minister of defence for the three year transitional period that will pave way for new constitution and elections. Djotodia indicates he will be redirecting contracts previously favourable to the Chinese to the Western Imperialist businesses. Ultimately this fighting, devastating one of the poorest nations, accelerating a serious humanitarian crisis including widespread abuses, looting and persecution is the face of the inter imperialist struggle between the emergent Chinese and their proxy the South African Defence Force (SADF). The African Union (AU) has suspended the CAR and will not recognise the rebels further imposing sanctions with the regional body Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) also stating that the rebel regime is illegitimate and proposing an 18 months roadmap that will see the creation of an interim council comprising the rebels, opposition and civic groups.

Despite the South African government's figure of 13 dead, other sources report that among the dozens dead were children shot by the SADF soldiers who were there protecting the oil and mining business interests of top ANC leaders through the Shanduka group and Sasol alongside the Chinese interests. This triggered a revolt in South Africa (SA) that has forced the ANC government to withdraw the remaining soldiers. This is a political defeat for Zuma, China's proxy comprador in Africa, after he had indicated that the soldiers would stay for as long as possible. The opposition alliance has refused to be part of the transitional government accusing the rebels of filling the posts with supporters of the regime thereby ensuring total domination of the transition. The rebels claim that their actions were provoked by the

reluctance by Bozize to implement in full the ceasefire accord signed in January this year. It is clear that the rebels had the support of France, which had troops stationed in the capital during the rebel offensive and where a major French company Areva is mining Uranium in the Bakoum region alongside Elf and other monopolies, as reflected by the recent decree to review all trade and investment deals between Bozize and China. The US European Union and France have failed to issue a clear condemnation of the coup instead focusing on the so called legitimacy of the rebel regime.

The Central African Republic is a very poor country that relies heavily on foreign aid and assistance despite being endowed by minerals such as gold, diamonds and uranium as well as timber and oil which continue to be plundered by various imperialist thieves using weak and corrupt regimes in a country that has witnessed more coups than elections since its independence from France in 1960. Life expectancy in the country is around 40 yrs while the literacy level is very low adding to the brutal existence of the workers, poor farmers and the poor exploited masses.

Djotodia becomes the first Muslim leader in a country with a 15% Muslim population and various tribes divided by the militia leaders who constitute the Seleka alliance. The majority of the people rely on subsistence agriculture with about 74% of workers in the agriculture sector and the mines extracting precious minerals for the capitalist robbers. Years of Military rule have given rise to a very weak workers movement that aligns itself with the state at different periods and ensuring the total subjugation of the workers to the capitalist agenda.

The masses of the CAR are extremely poor and impoverished in spite of the mineral wealth of their country as a result of the brutal exploitation of the resources and workers by various imperialist states using the military and civilian leaders in the same way. Bozize like other military leaders came to power through the help of France but was soon discarded once he started to lean on the Chinese and the South Africans against his erstwhile allies. China is rapidly increasing its Outward Foreign Direct Investment in Africa in direct competition with the Western imperialists. China's imperialist agenda uses the carrot strategy of "mutual development" presented as investment in infrastructure development. But China has the same agenda as the Western Imperialists to massively plunder the resources of the semi colonial states. On the other hand countries like France which have seen their influence and business positions weaken in recent years are now taking an aggressive role to stamp their authority against the growing influence of China and Russia in their former colonies and the fight has taken a very dangerous level as shown by the invasion of Mali to protect their access to resources and a weak and unpopular regime.

In a country ravaged by imperialism, coups and wars the position of the working class and the ordinary poor has been weakened to a large extent with the obvious result being the weak trade unions and the absence of meaningful revolutionary groups to organise the workers, youths, poor peasants, students and the general poor against imperialist plunder and dictatorship. This is the social base that must unite in order to defeat the various militias and foreign troops (imperialist proxies) operating in the country. We call for the creation of a revolu-

Defeat the Coup cont from pg. 7

tionary workers party which will organize this social base, which will lead an anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist united front of workers organizations to power by creating local struggle committees of poor peasants, workers, youth and the ordinary poor as the organizational basis for a workers and poor peasant's government that will expropriate the imperialist plantations, mines and companies as well as institute real democracy. These are then our demands:

-Workers, poor peasants and youth organise to defeat imperialism and the military regime that seeks to serve imperialism!

-Mobilise for local action committees to spearhead action to defeat the imperialists and their lackeys!

-Forward to workers government that expropriates without compensation the imperialist farms, Mines and companies!

WE CALL ON WORKERS IN THE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES USA, FRANCE, AND CHINA: TAKE THE JACK BOOT OF IMPERIALISM OFF OUR NECKS! TURN THEIR COLONIAL WARS AND PROXY

**WARS IN AFRICA AND ASIA INTO CLASS WARS AT HOME!
DEFEAT YOUR RULING CLASS' ECONOMIC AND MILITARY INTERVENTIONS!**

-For a Socialist revolution in CAR as part of a revolution in the central African states and Africa!

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/01/central-african-republic-leader-government>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/26/michel-djotodia-dissolves-constitution-c-african-republic-_n_2955356.html

Statement of the **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)**

Endorsed by the **Liaison Committee of Communists (LCC)** April 7, 2013

**United States/South Korea and their Allies:
Hands Off North Korea!
Down with UN sanctions!
Defeat the imperialist war drive against North Korea!**



Obama at the DMZ prior to the March 2012 Seoul Summit, where he warned North Korea as part of US imperialist war drive in East Asia (Pool/Yonhap News via Bloomberg)

In the first week of April the United States along with South Korea and its other allies continued its escalation against the North Korean (DPRK) bureaucratically deformed workers state (DWS), one of the historic gains for the international working class in the aftermath of World War II. South Korea on April 5th deployed two Aegis destroyers to monitor North Korea, while 2500 US marines have deployed to Australia and there has been a military buildup in Guam as well. Under the pretext of the DPRK developing a nuclear weapons capability, the United States, the only nation to ever use nuclear weapons in a war, is going after the North Korean regime to promote its imperialist interests in the region. This is scare-mongering by the Obama administration to rally support for their adventures, much like the "Weapons of Mass Destruction" claim used by the Bush administration to wage war on Iraq. The DPRK has no capacity to hit the USA with long range missiles or any nuclear payload.

North Korea possesses zero nuclear warheads! No

reports that can be independently verified estimate any North Korean delivery systems capability in the next five years. Meanwhile, the US, which has about 8,000 nuclear warheads ready for use, also has ABM missiles deployed in Alaska and Guam. ABM's are not a defensive system but an offensive system based on maintaining First Strike capability. It can hit missiles on their liftoff minutes before they reach the apex of trajectory. In an operational scenario the USA strikes first, and then Russia or China launch with their depleted reaction force, then the ABM can hit the depleted enemy reaction force. This is an offensive system aimed at China, not Korea, which is not a threat to the United States. Japan's current Prime Minister Abe, who hails from a war criminal family, wants to rearm Japan with nuclear weapons. The five permanent members of this UN Security Council which imposed sanctions on North Korea: USA, Russia, China, France and Britain all possess nuclear weapons. The United Nations is a reactionary tool of the major powers to stamp approval on imperialist adventures. When they cannot agree, the individual powers do as they please in any case.

While undoubtedly United States would like to overthrow the North Korean deformed workers state, their larger aims in this whole affair are to assert U.S. imperialist authority in East Asia and the Pacific, primarily against the rising imperialist power of China. As part of its inter-imperialist war drive against China, these actions by the US are really about encircling and spending China to death. This standoff is less about Korea and more about the struggle between emergent imperialist China and its attempt to control its own back yard and beyond and the dominant imperialist thug attempting to maintain hegemony. Conflict between United States, its Japanese ally, and China spell increased imperialist rivalry as Mother Jones reported in January, 2013 in an article entitled Will China-Japan-US Tensions Sink the Global Economy?:

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“...a potential crisis of far greater magnitude, and potentially far more imminent than most of us imagine. China’s determination to assert control over disputed islands in the potentially energy-rich waters of the East and South China Seas, in the face of stiffening resistance from Japan and the Philippines along with greater regional assertiveness by the United States, spells trouble not just regionally, but potentially globally.”

For its part, while capitalist China would like to see the collectivized economy of the DPRK overthrown and capitalism restored, they certainly do not want it done by the United States, as that would place the United States strategically on their border. However, China doesn’t want to shed blood for North Korea or mess up their economic relationship with the United States at this time. China owns 54% of the US debt. After the nuclear test in February, the United Nations imposed a new round of sanctions against the DPRK, and Beijing helped create these. The economic sanctions have created conditions of starvation, much like the UN sanctions against Iraq led to the deaths of an estimated 1 million Iraqis from disease and hunger. Embargos themselves are an act of war and lead to actual shooting wars.

The Korean and Chinese people paid dearly for their revolutions. Their post war revolutionary opposition to US imperialism, which sought to replace Japanese colonialism with American hegemony, collided with criminal US provocations resulting in a Korean War that left 4 million Koreans and 1 million Chinese dead. The working class must place the blame for the misery of the Korean people squarely on the back of imperialism. And we warn the masses that today the Chinese Stalinists are unwilling to provide the backbone of support for the beleaguered DWS, which is now bristling with false bravado in the face of imperialist war exercises within binocular range. For the Chinese Communist Party a slow restoration of capitalism and the integration and transformation of the DPRK into a semi-colony was on the agenda. They do not care one wit to defend the workers’ property that remains in Korea, in fact they have eyes on it, but they will not tolerate capitalist reintegration directed from the south which leaves the US military on the Yalu River.

US Provocations against North Korea

The **Wall Street Journal** and CNN revealed on April 4th that the Obama administration had created “the playbook,” a step-by-step sabre-rattling plan that the Pentagon was following. This included deployments to South Korea of nuclear capable B-52 bombers, B-2 bombers, and F-22 Raptor fighters in March. This plan was concocted months ago as the brainstorm of former defense secretary Leon Panetta and approved by current defense secretary Chuck Hagel. The US commander of the Strategic Air Command during both the Korean War and the early Vietnam War years, Curtis Lemay, said he would not leave one brick standing on top of another brick in North Korea...and he did that with a massive bombing campaign. More bombs were dropped by the US on North Korea during the three years of the Korean War, 1950-53, than in all of World War II. No wonder North Korea is a little miffed when the United States flies B52’s and B2’s over the region.

All this has echoes of the Cuban Missile Crisis when Kennedy brought the world to the brink of a nuclear war in his drive to destroy the Cuban Revolution. And Obama has proven himself as reckless as “the bombing starts in five minutes” Reagan, an outburst in the Cold War aimed against the Soviet degenerated workers state. In a series of deliberate provocations, the

United States has engaged in a risky series of actions that apparently they are having second thoughts about now. Amid concerns that the US provocations “could lead to miscalculations” by North Korea, unnamed American officials have stated that Washington was now stepping back. That miscalculation could include considering the 1.1 million strong active DPRK army, their 180,000 special operations forces and their 8 million reservists. The United States may have the technological superiority, but it would be a bloody war.

US Imperialists are the Real Threat

The imperialist butchers of the United States have a lot of gall condemning North Korea for wanting weapons to defend themselves. After destroying North Korea’s 78 cities and thousands of her villages, and killing countless numbers of her civilians, US General Lemay remarked, “Over a period of three years or so we killed off – what – twenty percent of the population.” This amounted to an estimated 4 million Korean civilians killed. North Korea actually lost close to thirty percent of its population as a result of US-led bombings in the 1950s, while the United States military and their South Korean allies committed atrocities against civilians, like the now well-known No Gun Ri massacre of men, women and children. These war crimes were continued into the next decade in Vietnam, through executions, napalming, and the burning of Vietnamese villages and the carpet-bombing of North Vietnamese cities. My Lai has become synonymous with 20th Century imperialist war crimes. The US ruling class’ criminal actions continued into the 21st Century with their butchery in Afghanistan and Iraq, as documented by Wikileaks. PFC Bradley Manning is being made a scapegoat for these leaks. We demand his freedom.

In World War II, the United States used nuclear weapons for the only time in history, not once, but twice, murdering hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians. This followed the campaign of fire-bombing (that also took place in Europe), which were just as devastating. The atomic bombing of Japan served no real military purpose and was primarily a warning to the bureaucratically degenerated workers state of the Soviet Union whose Red Army had moved into Northeast China, Korea and Manchuria, liberating it from Japanese oppression. As Admiral William D. Leahy, President Truman’s Chief of Staff – and the top official who presided over meetings of both the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combined U.S.-U.K. Chiefs of Staff, stated:

“[T]he use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender. . . .”

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North Korea Day cont from pg. 9



U.S. military officers overseeing South Korean executions of civilians "suspected of collaborating" with the "communists," near Taegu, south Korea, April 1951. Photo taken by U.S. Korean Military Advisory Group (K MAG).

**For International Working Class Defense of North Korea
Against All Imperialists!
For Workers Political Revolution in North Korea!
For Socialist Revolution from China to South Korea to Japan!**

The international working class has a real interest in defending the collectivized property of the DPRK against the imperialist powers, despite the bureaucratic Stalinist leadership. This is especially true for the American, South Korean, Japanese and Chinese working class. The Obama administration that is threatening the DPRK is also deploying the Coast Guard as scabherders to break the West Coast ILWU struggle. The international working class is under all-out attack by capital on every continent. Just as workers would defend the trade unions or a labor strike against the capitalist state and the bosses, despite any bureaucratic leadership, so should they defend the North Korean workers state without giving one ounce of political support to the North Korean Stalinist regime. Rising to the defense of our working class sisters and brothers of North Korea and the working class gains (collectivized property, planned economy, state monopoly of foreign trade) of the deformed North Korean workers state requires not only rallies and demonstrations, but above all labor actions organized on an international basis. These actions would include labor boycotts, hot-cargoing of military goods, particularly by port and transport workers, as well as labor political strikes against "our" ruling class' war actions. **The main enemy is at home!** Just as with the heroic victory of the Vietnamese masses against US imperialism, a defeat for US imperialism in East Asia today would help to curb American military ambitions and be a victory for the working class and all the oppressed of the world.

Workers need to call for and try to organize rank-and-file soldiers and sailors committees in the US, South Korean and other imperialist armies that would arrest the officers and cease any conflict, fraternizing with their working class brothers and sisters across the front lines. Workers need to organize revolutionary workers parties in their own countries to organize against their own ruling class and abolish this system of exploitation that breeds poverty, racism and war.

For the working class there is only one way out and that is internationalist to the core. To defend the gains in social production and distribution achieved in the Korean DWS the parasitic bureaucracy must be defeated. Yet the North Korean workers cannot do this alone, as the military actions of imperialism will increase tenfold to stop a working class upsurge in the north. To win the political revolution in the north must link

with the workers in the south and complete the expropriation of the bourgeoisie on the Korean peninsula and drive out imperialist forces. This scenario is feared as much by the CCP as it is by the South Korean bourgeoisie, Japanese and American imperialists. All these forces are arrayed against the North Korean workers, whose destiny depends on the ability of the Chinese and American workers to join hands across the Pacific vowing to defeat their own imperialist bourgeoisie and turning the war drive toward WWII into the socialist revolution. **We call on all workers organizations in the USA, JAPAN and CHINA to commence labor actions against the bosses' war drive.** We know that when they kill us in our millions their stock portfolios swell.

We know the North Korean and Chinese workers are not our enemies. Our enemies are the big capitalists driving the nation-states toward war.

As Murray Weiss, a spokesman for the Trotskyist majority led by James P. Cannon (Founder of American Trotskyism,) wrote in answer to the "Third Camp" minority:

*"[I]t was this slight misconception as to who was the main enemy that helped to bury the German revolution. "For the Marxists, the main enemy of the Russian working class, as well as the international working class, is the class enemy.... The Bolshevik-Leninists in the U.S.S.R. will be the best fighters and because of that they will tell the Russian workers the truth: **In order to win this war against imperialism we must overthrow the traitor Stalin and appeal to the revolutionary working class of the world to come to our aid.**"(Our emphasis)
—"Marxist Criteria and the Character of the War," [SWP] Internal Bulletin, February 1940"*

As capitalism everywhere continues to reel from its systemic crisis, it is ever more vital that the international working class organize struggle against this system of exploitation and war, before the imperialist madmen embroil the world in another major, possibly nuclear, war. We must stop any war escalating into a 3rd World War that will destroy the working class as well as civilization.

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WORKERS MOBILISE TO FIGHT POVERTY AND DICTATORSHIP! continued from page 1

the 1930's depression which acted as the material basis for the eruption of the 2nd world war. Since 2008 capitalist strategists and politicians have failed to come up with a viable solution to the recession that has wiped out so much value created over decades just to save a system that thrives on the exploitation and impoverishment of the poor masses and semi colonial countries. The capitalists have been forced to place the burden on the workers and masses through an unprecedented attack on the working conditions of the workers and also attacking the living conditions of the masses especially the most vulnerable.

In the developed imperialist centres as well as the semi colonial countries the capitalists are imposing brutal austerity policies in the vain attempt to stabilise a degenerating and dying system. Workers, youths and the ordinary poor have responded to this through massive mobilisations and fights from the imperialist states to poor semi colonial states as shown by the massive protests in Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Bulgaria, China, Bangladesh and South Africa. Across the world the labour bureaucrats, Social democrats, Stalinists, radical petit bourgeoisie liberals, fake socialists and Trotskyists are all playing a key role of buffeting the workers from taking a revolutionary path to crush capitalism once and for all.

Here in Zimbabwe the workers and poor masses are still tied to the Popular Front leash of the bourgeoisie reformist MDC and the pseudo nationalist ZANU primarily because of a lack of a tested and viable alternative that offers real solutions to the fight for jobs, wages and protection of work and savings. Behind these two parties are a whole host of trade union leaders, civic groups and social movements' leaders who one way or the other help to tie the masses to the two wings of imperialism. They are also some socialists calling for the support of the MDC as the lesser devil that will, in their revolutionary wisdom, be easier to remove from power in a clear sign of a Menshevik two stage approach that substitute the primary goal of building an independent alternative to the tailing of reformist parties.

Other socialists still are mooted ways to support a party that will be launched by the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) with the support of trade unionists and civic leaders who campaigned for a No vote in the recent referendum on a new constitution. Their argument is that a radical party in the mould of the reactionary ANC of South Africa will offer a better way for revolutionary work in the absence of a mass labour party and socialists will maintain their independent role and champion the socialist struggle within. Both positions derive from a lack of appreciation of revolutionary dynamics and the primacy of independent and militant worker and poor masses initiative despite the invoking of Trotsky's writings to defend an anti-Trotskyist platform whose ultimate political aim is the continued subjection of the toiling masses to the whims of imperialism.

We have no illusions about the immense tasks that await the workers, youths and the toiling masses nationally and internationally and we stand guided by the best Marxist experience and program in our efforts to break the popular front jinx and pose the imperative of independent mobilisation of the workers and ordinary poor.

- **We demand a sliding scale of wages and prices and employment for all who can work, working conditions should improve for all workers!**
- **We demand the introduction of state projects to employ all the unemployed; the government must stop the attack on the vendors!**
- **Land must be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!**

- **Jobs for all with a reduction in working hours until all who want to work can find a job! To provide jobs for all big and imperialist assets must be nationalised and put under workers control and self management!**
- **Workers form action committees to lead the resistance to the growing attacks on the wages and working conditions of the poor and the livelihood of the majority poor!**
- **We call for free and quality health care, Housing and Education for all!**
- **We call on the workers and the oppressed groups to convene a congress of delegates from the working people, peasants, urban poor, youth and soldiers to come up with a constitution that guarantees a good life for all!**
- **Workers break with the MDC and ZANU (PF) and form a workers party that truly champions the interests of the workers and the poor masses, form rank and file unions to lead action in all unions and break with the reformist trade union leadership!**
- **For a workers state that defends workers and peasants against the local and foreign capitalists!**
- **No to US and Chinese imperialism fronted by the parties of the GNU!**
- **No to reformism and fake Trotskyism, build a fighting socialist party!**
- **For a workers and peasants' government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor!**
- **For an African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!**
- **For a new world party of socialist revolution based on the Transitional Program of 1938 to lead the revolution to end capitalism and open the road to socialism!**

Revolutionary Greetings continued from page 1

Of the class singing the siren songs of the popular front. The most dangerous and deceptive are those now organised behind the Bolivarians that unite fake Trotskyists with Castroists and Chavistas in a global popular front with Chinese imperialism.

Comrades, we must dedicate 2013 to our urgent struggles to build a principled new communist international that exposes and destroys all these left wings agents of the popular front from Southern Africa to North America to China and unblocks the road to revolution. The objective conditions for the smashing of capitalism and the building of socialism exist; all that is needed is an organised revolutionary working class to do the smashing. For that we need a new revolutionary Leninist/Trotskyist International!

**Forward to the New World Party of Socialist Revolution!
For the working class to survive capitalism must die!**

May 1st Communist Workers' Group (Aotearoa/New Zealand)
member of Liaison Committee of Communists

<http://www.redrave.blogspot.com>

Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)** is a revolutionary Trotskyist political organization of the working class and all the oppressed. The RWG stands on the theory and practice of the revolutionary workers movement associated with the names of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. We are part of the Liaison Committee of Communists (LCC) together with the Communist Workers Group of New Zealand (CWG-NZ) and the Communist Workers Group of USA (CWG-USA).



We fight to eliminate the system of capitalism and replace it with a socialist collective at an international scale through a socialist revolution that necessarily must be characterized by armed insurrection and civil war against the capitalist class.

We fight for the unity of all fighting and genuine organizations of the poor and the oppressed whilst keeping an eye to the dangerous policies of social democratic, pseudo-revolutionary and liberal groups bent on obstructing workers and the poor.

Only with a revolutionary world socialist party fighting as the leadership of the workers can the working class and the poor win. We are fighting for the construction of such a party. You can get in touch with us on e-mail: rwg.zimbabwe@gmail.com and website: www.rwgzimbabwe.wordpress.com. If you agree with us then join us.

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