

# Revolutionary Worker

ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS GROUP OF ZIMBABWE (RWG-ZIM)

Issue #4 May 2018, Price \$1, Solidarity \$2, Labor Donated

rwg.zimbabwe@gmail.com/www.rwgzimbabwe.wordpress.com

**ZIMBABWE AFTER MUGABE (AND TSVANGIRAI):  
REALITY AND PROSPECTS**

**NO TO ELECTORAL AND  
REFORMIST CHARADES!**

**FORWARD TO INDEPENDENT ACTION  
OF WORKERS AND POOR MASSES!**

With just over five months after the military coup in Zimbabwe that transferred power to the besieged Lacoste (after the crocodile moniker claimed by its political leader and new President Emmerson Mnangagwa) faction of the pseudo-nationalist Zimbabwe African Nationalist Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party, there is little that can be counted as positive both politically and economically. The so called “military assisted transition” or “coup not a coup” generated a lot of illusions on the suffering masses and opportunism on the part of the impressionistic opposition, civic groups, trade unions and miss-leaders of the poor and suffering masses. Imperialism and its regional and continental puppets were clear as to what was happening: that the reformist faction in ZANU-PF had taken over power in order to transform the methods of hoodwinking the masses and entrenching massive attacks on the livelihoods of the poor and exploited.

On the day of the coup we issued a statement condemning the military takeover stating, “*The Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z) condemns the military takeover on behalf of the western sponsored and neo-liberal bourgeoisie faction of ZANU-PF. A coup can never be a solution to the plight of the workers, poor peasants and poor masses. This has only been done to protect the interests of a certain wing of the comprador capitalists and their imperialist friends*”. Our position has been vindicated as events on the ground now slowly point towards continued dictatorship, oppression, exploitation and poverty. The only exceptions are the purges on the defeated G40 faction and all those in state organs linked to the pseudo nationalist faction fronted by former president Mugabe’s wife. The reformist and liberal rhetoric of the new ruling wing of the ZANU-PF regime has failed to translate into action and slowly but surely the mass-



*Recent doctor's strike in Zimbabwe. Increasing numbers of workers strikes points the way forward: For workers revolution throughout Southern Africa!*

**May Day!  
Workers of the World Unite to  
Smash Fascism and Imperialism!**

**End Capitalism and Build Socialism  
to Stop Climate Catastrophe!**

Comrades, International Workers Day, or Mayday, has been celebrated since 1886, three years after the death of Marx. But what are we celebrating? This year is 200 years since Marx’s birth, 180 years since the Communist Manifesto, 100 years since the Russian Revolution and 80 years since the foundation of the Fourth International. There is plenty to celebrate. But where is the ‘spectre of communism’ haunting the bourgeoisie today? True, the bourgeoisie fear communism. They fear the revolutionary proletariat as their ‘grave diggers’. But we, the international workers, have yet to turn that fear into the reality. Mayday has become less than a celebration of victorious revolutionary advances and more of a ritual occasion for the bureaucratic leaderships of the labour movement to hold ‘Sunday speeches’. Meanwhile the masses resistance to the rise of counter-revolution and fascism all over the world is isolated, and defeated.

We should remember that ‘Mayday’ is also an international emergency call sign. This is how we should ‘celebrate’ Mayday, by disrupting the ritual and calling for international workers to unite in action to overcome a global emergency of climate collapse and human existence. Everywhere capitalism is in crisis. It can no longer rule in the same old way. In fact every day capitalism survives only by destroying humanity and nature. And workers will no longer submit to extreme exploitation without fighting back. There is no way out for the bourgeoisie other than destruction and barbarism. To survive as a dying mode of production, capitalism is thrashing about destroying everything that has been won over centuries. It threatens to destroy humanity and nature unless stopped by the global socialist revolution. It is clear that for workers to live and humanity to survive, capitalism must die. But where

### Table of Contents

Zimbabwe after Mugabe	pg. 1-3
LCC May Day Statement	pg. 1,4-6
South Africa	pg. 7-8
Zimbabwe Semi-Colony of China	pg. 9
Catalunya	pg. 10-14
Brazil Election	pg. 15-17
New Zealand	pg. 18-19
Hwange Protests	pg. 20
Zesa Workers	pg. 21
Nurses Strike	pg. 22
Teachers	pg. 23
Military Takeover	pg. 24
What we stand for	pg. 24

Cont. from pg. 1 Zimbabwe after Mugabe....

es are bound to see through the colossal deception and once again continue fighting for their intrests.Our statement on the coup is very clear on the way forward we propose for workers and the poor masses, **“Only independent self-activity of the toiling masses can conquer a good life for all.”**

Political developments since the November coup have not been surprising at all to all who care to think objectively. The only change witnessed is the change of the leading figures of the party and state coupled with the overt participation of serving and retired military figures in party and government. Mugabe was given immunity and a golden handshake after being at the helm for thirty seven years. All individuals linked to the G40 faction have been suspended or expelled from the party and state positions, arrested on corruption charges and forced out of the country. The mainstream opposition led by the reformist Movement for Democratic Change –Tsvangirai (MDC-T) party, labour and civic leaders initially supported the coup calling it an opportunity to deal with a hated tyrant. The position was motivated by selfish interests of gaining seats in a new administration at best or political naivety at worst. The masses were lulled into supporting the transformation of a brutal regime with one opposition leader bolting out of hospital to lead the masses into the hands of the new-old ZANU-PF.The treachery culminated in the attendance by almost all opposition leaders of the inauguration of the coup president.Imperialist countries both western(US/EU) and Eastern( Russia and China) are cautious in their dealings with the regime instead waiting for clear signs in favor of their respective interests before protracted engagement. Western countries are not convinced of the ability of the regime to stabilise the country for maximum exploitation whilst Russia and China are worried of the developing relationship between the regime and the west.

On the economic front things have not improved but instead have worsened. The working conditions and remunerations have actually deteriorated as a result of the global economic slowdown, economic sanctions and brutal attacks on workers and the poor especially after the Zuva judgment that made it easy for employers to dismiss workers without benefits. Zimbabwe is undergoing an economic slowdown characterized by high unemployment, rising inflation, liquidity crisis, rising prices if basic goods, stagnant and falling incomes and closing industries. There have been a number of



strikes recently with the notable ones being the ZESA, Steward Bank, doctors and nurses strikes fighting essentially for improved working conditions and better wages. The response by employers, both private and government has been to deny workers their rights with the government going as far as dismissing all striking public service nurses. This was calculated to instill fear in workers as well as divide them.

The attempted transformation of ZANU-PF as an organ amenable to capital has become a poisoned chalice as it has brought to the fore new and serious divisions between the army( now referred to as the Cosleg faction after the DRC intervention in the late 90's) , the civilian members of ZANU-PF, the Lacoste and the veterans of the war for liberation. The former army commander and Vice President Chiwenga is believed to be heading Cosleg with the President heading Lacoste. The distribution of key posts in the party and the state appears now to be determined by considerations to balance the interests of the two main factions. The war veterans, who were eyeing the powerful commissariat post, were left bitter after the post was given to a retired army general. It's important to point out that these differences have no ideological or political grounding but are merely superficial maneuvers by individuals to position themselves to better protect their loot and be able to loot whilst doing the bidding of imperialism and local capital.

One would have expected the opposition to take advantage of the crisis in ZANU-PF but instead it is besieged by a more deadly crisis that threatens to split the main opposition party, MDC-T. This was compounded by the death of the MDC-T president and former trade unionist Morgan Tsvangirai. The unconstitutional and militia backed rise of the faction led by former student leader Nelson Chamisa to power both within the party and in the oppositional alliance, MDC-T Alliance,

Cont. pg. 3

*Cont. from pg. 2 Zimbabwe after Mugabe...*

threatens to further divide the already dwindling opposition vote. Faced with ideological barrenness and political opportunism the opposition with the trade union bureaucracy and civic leaders in tow has once again failed to champion the political and economic interests of the poor masses. The leadership of the trade unions, student bodies and informal workers/vendors has capitulated to the interests of the main mainstream parties and imperialism leaving workers and the poor masses in a vulnerable position. All activities called by these leaders are one way or the other meant to feed into the agendas of political parties.

The electoral period we are in (elections are due in July/August this year) poses serious dangers and opportunities for the working class and poor masses. We reiterate the call we made in our statement on the coup late last year that only independent, militant and conscious mass action of workers and the poor masses can bring real change to the lives of the exploited and oppressed majority. A quick survey of the pre manifesto speeches by the main parties shows a complete agreement on the perspective of neoliberal, pro austerity and capitalist agenda. It is highly likely that the parties are preparing for a second Government of National Unity (GNU) based on attacking the workers, poor peasants and masses on behalf of imperialism. It therefore pertinent workers and all the poor working masses build independent organs of class fight instead of relying on the mainstream parties and their civic allies.

It is important that we state our position on the coming elections for the avoidance of doubt. Support, even critical support, for the opposition MDC-T Alliance is wrong and a betrayal of the class struggle. We say both ZANU-PF and the MDC-T Alliance are popular fronts led and dominated by factions of the bourgeoisie and petit bourgeoisie that claim to represent the interests of the poor masses while deceitfully relying on their support. But MDC-T Alliance has shared power with ZANU-PF in the past and in government will act as a noose around the working masses' necks disarming them in the face of a military regime. A revolutionary organisation cannot, as a matter of principle, support a popular front coalition or give critical support to populist parties that include capitalists just as we cannot give support to open capitalist parties. To mobilise workers for revolution then we need to call for the formation of a mass independent workers party based on the workers in struggle, committed to a socialist program, which includes forming workers' and oppressed' councils and self-defence organs. As revolutionaries in such a mass workers party we would call for standing as the "tribune" of the workers in bourgeois parliamentary elections to raise the full revolutionary program. That program calls for the workers to build their own independent class organs of power to overthrow the capitalist state and impose a workers and poor farmers government.

**A living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!**

**Against the ever rising prices and inflation we demand a sliding scale of wages!**

**Against unemployment and destitution we demand a sliding scale of working hours to provide decent jobs for all**

**through massive public works programs to provide housing, education and medical care for all!**

**We call for free and quality health care, Housing and Education for all!**

**We demand the introduction of state projects to employ all the unemployed; the government must stop the attacks on the vendors!**

**Land must be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!**

**To provide jobs for all big and imperialist assets must be nationalised and put under workers control and self-management!**

**Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions! Workers take back your unions!**

**Militant workers to form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!**

**The government must stop the attack on the vendors, students and the urban poor!**

**Workers to form strike 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!**

**Workers to form workers defence guards for defence against state violence!**

**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!**

**A national strike committee to organise and plan for a general strike!**

**Workers break with the MDC-T Alliance and ZANU (PF) and form a worker's party that truly champions the interests of the workers and the poor masses!**

**Workers form rank and file bodies 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 reformist parties!**

**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.**

*Cont. from pg. 1 May Day...*

is the international proletariat rising up to smash capitalist imperialism, and to build world socialism?

### **Syria: Revolution or fascist genocide**

This is no more obvious than in Syria, the Paris Commune of the 21st Century, where the promise of the Arab Spring has been driven back to near defeat by the combined forces of counter-revolution. The bosses fear more than anything the spread of a victorious Arab Revolution setting an example to the rest of the world's workers - the imperialist powers and their murderous client regimes have resorted to fascist genocide. Whole cities and regions have been turned into bloody rubble because the Syrian Revolution has been ignored and isolated from any campaign by the international working class to join the revolution arms in hand. Most of those who claim to be international socialists have turned out to be social chauvinists and social imperialists. They condemn the popular Arab Revolution as a counter-revolution against Western democracy. The two imperialist blocs led by the US and by Russia have combined forces to smash the leading armed edge of the Arab and international revolution, by propping up a fascist dictator, and the servile Western 'left' has provided a 'left' cover for genocide.

This Mayday we are into the 8th year of the Syrian civil war and the approaching defeat of the revolution which will be a defeat also for both the Arab revolution and the world revolution. So we must ask what are the prospects for the international revolution right now. Let's reject Mayday as a ritual 'celebration' and make it a call to a global emergency. Then we can act to overcome that emergency by organising international workers as a revolutionary force able to defend every basic democratic right being destroyed by imperialism in its death throes and rebuild the 'world party of socialism' called for by Trotsky in 1938 based on the Transitional Program.

This means fighting for a Marxist program that can guide workers in every fight for their most basic rights and needs, across the bridge to the formation of soviets and militias, all the way to socialist insurrection and a world federation of workers states. For example, in Syria we need an international party strong enough to mobilise military support for the revolution for basic freedom and link it to all other Arab resistance. It means uniting the Palestinian revolution to defeat the Zionist settler state with the workers movements in every other country. We need international brigades in Syria, and militant uprisings against the imperialist ruling classes threatening world war.

In other 'hot points' where the crisis is bringing workers to their feet to fight, that new international party has to have the forces to intervene with a program that works to advance the revolution against the counter-revolution and make it 'permanent'. The forces of counter-revolution are the imperialist ruling classes, their client states ruled by national bourgeoisie factions and their political parties, and the treacherous fake 'left' of all shades that always sides with the bourgeoisie against socialist revolution.

Under today's crisis conditions, the imperialists and their client lackeys are exposed as naked class enemies. The fake 'left' however provides a left cover to fool the workers. They are the most dangerous enemies. We must expose and defeat these bosses' agents in our ranks. In every revolutionary situation where workers are mobilising they are on the side of the class enemy, demobilising the masses. Let's illustrate this

by using examples that demonstrate the way forward in both semi-colonies and imperialist nations.

### **Zimbabwe, South Africa and Africa**

The African continent alongside other semi-colonial continents like Latin America and Asia (apart from Japan and China) have been hard hit by the double burden of capitalism and imperialism. The over reliance on the export of raw materials and trapped as cheap labour havens causes acute suffering for the workers and the common poor. The dictatorial and openly ruthless regimes in most African states make it difficult for the common masses to fight for their interests and against dictatorship, poverty, capitalism and imperialism. So, as we celebrate International Workers day or May Day it is important to appreciate that workers, poor peasants and the poor oppressed and exploited masses can conquer a good life only through socialism which must inevitably come through the strategy of permanent revolution.

Two countries can help illustrate the condition of the working class and poor masses in Africa. In Zimbabwe the workers are under intense attacks by the post-Mugabe pro-austerity bourgeois regime that is delicately balancing between western and eastern imperialism. A 2016 Supreme Court judgement, despite nominal 'reversals', has made it easier for employers including the government to fire workers without compensation or real chances of redress. Over 30,000 workers have lost their jobs as a result of this ruling championed by the current President of the main opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC Alliance). As a result of the judgement and the intransigence of the bosses, workers have been forced to resort to militant actions such as those at the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) and Grain Marketing Board (GMB) where workers staged prolonged protests at the companies headquarters. Workers at the Hwange Colliery and ZESA (a public utility power company) are currently engaged in a vicious struggle to get their overdue wages and allowances. But most importantly, the strikes by doctors and nurses has brought to the fore the true colours of the regime, despite claims that this is a "new era". Nurses were summarily dismissed before being reinstated. In a clear show of what workers have to expect from this government it displays for imperialism its willingness to continue Mugabe's alliance with imperialism and to crush workers struggles

In South Africa the situation is even more delicate. The formal political independence of 1994 has failed to change the lives of the poor masses that are still faced with exploitation and poverty. The reformist African Nationalist Congress (ANC) party and its partners have failed to resolve the key aspects of apartheid which include subordination of the masses to the interests of imperialist investment enforced by the state, racism and exploitation of local and migrant labour as well as the continued plunder of natural resources. Despite a constitution that was hailed by imperialism and their middle class and petit bourgeois surrogates, the material conditions of workers and the poor masses has remained dire forcing workers, communities, students and poor peasants to rise in revolt. The most notable and watershed revolt of the suffering masses was the Marikana strike which resulted in the murder of workers by the state in collaboration with capitalist mine owners. The fight for a living wage, better working conditions and the unfettered right to strike has taken centre stage in the class dynamics of the state. The strike by bus drivers has dragged into the third week as workers reject slave wages

*Cont. pg. 5*

*Cont. from pg. 4 May Day...*

and attempts at dividing the working class.

Zimbabwe and South Africa to a large extent reflect the current situation in most African states in relation to the conditions of the workers, poor peasants and poor masses. Slave wages, land privatisation, commodification of education and services, plunder of local resources, rampant corruption and dictatorial regimes are the hallmarks of African societies. May Day gives us the opportunity to take stock of our position as workers and the common poor and be able to chart a way forward that ensures a better life for the masses. Only independent mass action of the working class and oppressed can win a better life. For this to happen workers have to be militantly organised and armed with a revolutionary strategy and program.

### **Brazil and Latin America**

In Brazil and Latin America, considered a “backyard” by US imperialism, the workers and oppressed people resisted neoliberal policies with militant class struggle in the streets. The reformist Left channeled this fight into parliamentary socialism or “socialism of the XXI century”, placing in power several populist Popular Front governments which continued to apply neoliberal policies and the dictates of imperialism.

The global crisis of capitalism has hit Latin America, and Brazil in particular, shaking governments that attack the working class as a way to resolve the crisis. The economic instability, political and social, is growing. Far from meaning “stability”, the return of the traditional rightist governments in Argentina and Brazil is met with the growing discontent of the working class, with their living conditions deteriorating, being hit by unemployment, “reforms” that remove their rights, and repression.

Unable to mitigate the economic crisis in Brazil, the ruling capitalists could no longer afford the luxury of the popular front. Thus Lula and the Workers Party (PT) suffered a “coup” by their bourgeois allies. Vice President Temer, in power today now has low approval ratings, faces protests, strikes and occupations of workers and social movements in the struggle for better conditions of life and work and against the “reforms” that remove rights such as the pension reform. The PT, even suffering the maneuver that led to the impeachment of Rousseff and Lula in prison, continues to defend the popular front and acts in the labor movement through the Unified Workers Central (CUT) and trade unions, demobilizes workers (as in the dismantling of the general strike against the welfare reform) and channels the struggle into bourgeois democracy and the elections in October. The Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL), in alliance with the reformist leader of the MTST (Homeless Movement) entered into the Popular Front, along with PT and the “democratic” bourgeoisie in the struggle for “democracy” and “sovereignty” during the government attacks and the growth of the extreme right and fascism.

The solution for the workers and oppressed peoples of Brazil and Latin America is the independent political struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie and imperialism. We must build the revolutionary party that fights for the organization of rank and file committees of all kinds: grassroots, factory, tenants’ and price committees, neighborhood committees, and workers self-defense guards that prepare the General Strikes to win in the struggle for the expropriation of the bourgeoisie and a true socialism. The Popular Front does

not fight fascism, it paves the way for fascism. The so called left-wing governments in Latin America apply the imperialist policy and harshly attack the working class. Conflicts with the US government like Venezuela’s do nothing to break with imperialism, and the linkage with the increasing imperialist bloc of China/Russian no way means “sovereignty” or “anti-imperialism.”

Latin American workers need to break with the reformist leaderships, which divide workers, prevents class solidarity, as is shown by the isolation of the Syrian masses’ revolution against Al Assad’s regime and how the restoring of capitalism in Cuba supports the repressive government of Venezuela. The Popular Frontists all together denounce as “C.I.A. agents” the workers in Nicaragua fighting against the government’s pension reform, just like Assad labels his revolutionary opponents agents of the west. This same “left” defends the Popular Front in Brazil against the right and the threat of dictatorship.

### **USA**

Every “disaster capitalism” calamity visited upon the world by the federal government is an index of the decline of U.S. imperialism. The seldom seen side of ‘populist nationalism’ is its inherent autarchy. The retreat from such minimal world consensus as is represented by the Paris Accords is a pennant on the Titanic smokestack! The missile attack by the U.S., Britain and France on Assad’s empty facilities only highlights the growing ineffectuality of the U.S.-led bloc while Trump on more typical occasions calls for U.S. withdrawal, leaving Syria to Russia. Crooks of the new “swamp” have more personal interests to satisfy and are getting theirs while those “qualified” to look out for U.S. imperial interests are fired by Trump. Ideologues replace professionals and the U.S. loses market share. This results in trade war, the prelude to world war. And Trump floats the idea of becoming a Bonaparte for life after hearing of Xi’s lifetime appointment. Nothing Trump says or tweets is a joke, but signals that he knows the various reactionary options. The Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall has U.S. imperialism by the short hairs.

Bourgeois talking heads won’t tell you the real effects of a 10% drop of stock market prices in the U.S. These losses have taken place post tax cut, i.e. THIS YEAR. They take place while investment lags and almost all economists say corporations are hoarding cash. Trump threatens protectionism while flip flopping on TPPA and NAFTA. None of his moves hide the fact that the recovery is an empty shell that keeps tens of millions of working poor people and their families in an endless cycle of poverty while wages have stagnated for decades. Workers often need to take two or three jobs just to pay the rent, while the ruling class continues its assault on meager and humiliating public assistance programs. The institutional hatred and state repression of the working poor and people of color is magnified by environmental racism and housing costs which trap people in zones of danger to their health. The lead poisoning of the water in Flint Michigan is just the tip of the iceberg of industrial pollutants toxifying life sustaining elements of the environment. Meanwhile, it is only a harbinger of the environmental threat the survival of capitalism inescapably poses to human and other species’ survival in the near future. The capitalists prepare for World War III, yet insanely retail the ICBMs of North Korea and reactors in Iran as the gravest dangers facing humanity to those who follow their kept media. They incite the MAWAs

*Cont. pg. 6*

Cont. from pg. 5 May Day...

(Make America White Again mob) against immigrants and jail refugees while putting the recovery of Puerto Rico from a century event hurricane on rations, and all the “friends of labor” have to say is vote for us in November. Workers need our own party now, not some day!

Some recognition that piles of money sit idle has resulted in revolts of the base in some organized sectors, revolts the bureaucrat/Democrats have so far been able to run around in front of. Thus the United States has seen outbreaks of social and class struggles. The 2011 Wisconsin struggle, followed by Occupy and the Longshore ILWU EGT struggles, the Ferguson stand off, the self-defense actions of the Black and Brown communities nationwide that launched #BlackLivesMatter, the fight of the First People’s Water Protectors against the Dakota Access Pipeline, pre and post Charlottesville mobilizations against alt-right fascists, the women’s marches and #MeToo movement, the broad defense of immigrants with social-media-organized spontaneous direct actions at the airports against the Muslim Ban and against torture committed at San Francisco Airport by Homeland Security, and the spread from state to state of teachers strikes and a growing resurgence in class struggle organizing and strike action by nurses and airline workers as we march on May Day.

While Zionism doubles down in its daily war against Palestinian lives, Israel can no longer count on the unconditional support from Americans of Jewish heritage who seek out and march in solidarity with their Palestinian comrades. Yet a blood oath is still required of the labor bureaucracy which is tied to the imperialist Democratic Party’s projects including unwavering support for Israel, Saudi Arabia and the ruling class’s never-ending wars against workers abroad and at home, both overt and covert. Likewise the labor bureaucracy is do-or-die committed to the idea that police are workers and not the slave patrols who daily terrorize Black and Brown communities. Today’s struggles provide a glimpse of what could be, except at every turn they are limited or derailed due to lack of revolutionary leadership. The pro-capitalist trade union bureaucracy behaves as if the power of the workers and the oppressed is small and has negligible possibilities beyond legalistic self-defense. And everywhere the bureaucrats are willing to sacrifice your right to healthcare, even in otherwise victorious strikes!

They permit no self-consciousness about how successful their strategy has been. It is a free fall cataclysm. The rights of the midwest labor movement which used class struggle methods to build the Teamsters and the CIO are mostly history now, ignored by labor officialdom and contained among arcane academics and nostalgic Reds. This is exactly because class struggle methods of combating the exploiters are treated as impossible to carry out today.

Not only the strategy but the psychology the bureaucracy projects is a supine weakness! The Trump administration teeters legally even as it carries out the real bourgeois program of “disaster capitalism,” slashing every protection the masses have won since the 1870s and now even threatening the existence of public education. Trump’s presidency really is only sustained at this point by public relations. Both parties are guilty of defending it with faint damnation: it becomes clearer all the time that Democrats are not interested in impeaching Trump this year, talking increasingly that they will not seek to impeach him next year, while many echo the

former FBI chief and now celebrity Comey who wants the voters to sort Trump out in 2020. This talk is fine with leaderships of central labor councils who never have struggled for impeachment, despite Nixon lawyer John Dean calling the present crisis “Watergate on steroids.” They organize labor walks for Democrat candidates. And the Democrats’ entire project is now transparently the cooptation of the masses’ self-defense movements!

The masses are hungry for direct action, but this is constantly used for politically limited pressure street protests and election campaigning. The “socialist” left is not able to contest for leadership. They refuse to fight for a workers party, as they tail after, or like the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), outright support Democratic Party liberal politics and the labor bureaucracy. The worst of them, the Assad/Putin socialists, also abandon the Marxist program for world socialist revolution as they gush over the brutal Syrian dictator Assad and promote Syrian conspiracy theories that would make Alex Jones blush. The fake left therefore loses whatever credibility it ever had with American workers and oppressed people and could not mobilize any real numbers of them in the April “anti-imperialist” actions following Trump’s missile attack stunt.

The revolutionary fight to defeat U.S. imperialism at home and abroad, the main enemy of the international international working class, also means linking up to the workers struggles in the Middle East and everywhere in the fight for world socialist revolution, not abandoning them to their own brutal comprador bourgeoisie. As for the anarchists, they are largely mute on smashing the state as they engage in “propaganda of the deed” militant but non-violent street actions, thinking they will eventually replace the capitalist state by building democratic assemblies and a utopian alternate society within the current capitalist system.

The leadership of the class is up for contest as demonstrated in the rank-and-file-led actions of the teachers in right to be enslaved states. To defeat the ruling class and fight for socialism, we have to defeat the fake leaders of the working class who keep driving us back into the Democratic Party in our unions and in our mass movements. **The fight for working class political independence leads through the formation of rank and file class struggle committees in the unions challenging to bring class struggle methods back.**

The present moment is a rare historical opportunity for workers to organize their own party, to see colossal corruption and perfidy for what it is and to see that what is required is uncompromising class struggle and the fight for a revolutionary socialist political program, the understanding of the class-for-itself political tasks of fighting for humanity’s future.

**Socialism is the last, best and only hope against the drive for imperialist war and climate destruction!**

**For a New Revolutionary Workers International Based on Trotsky’s 1938 Transitional Program :  
the World Party of Socialist Revolution!**

- LCC, May 1st, 2018

## SOUTH AFRICA - RAMAPHOSA TAKES CHARGE OF ANC: BREAK WITH THE ANC AND CAPITAL!

South Africa (SA) has entered a critical stage in the development of capitalism under the reformist comprador bourgeoisie African National Congress (ANC) leadership. Class and race tensions have been sharpened by the crisis of capitalism expressed in SA by the fall of commodity prices. The end of apartheid only signified the formal political independence and the transfer of nominal political power to the blacks whilst economic power remained firmly in the



hands of imperialists and local white capitalists. The election of Cyril Ramaphosa as the head of the ANC and president of SA early this year as well as the on-going raptures between the ANC and its alliance partners, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and South African Communist Party (SACP), reflects the challenges facing the ruling class amidst growing poverty and inequality. COSATU and SACP are in a difficult position following their uncritical support of Ramaphosa in the ANC power struggles. The base of these two organisations is pushing the leaders to denounce the policies of the ANC government that seeks to intensify the attacks on the poor masses.

After a fierce political struggle Ramaphosa was elected by a small margin as the head of the ANC ahead of Nkosazana Dhlamini-Zuma with the electors splitting by almost half along factional lines. The contest which essentially was (and is) about how best to control the masses and ensure massive profits for the various wings of capitalists was however projected as a fight between those fighting against corruption (Ramaphosa faction) and those fighting for radical economic transformation (Dhlamini-Zuma faction). In essence it was about how best to protect the interests of imperialism be it western (US, EU and Japan) or eastern (Russia and China). The critical role in the election of Ramaphosa was played by big business and the Stalinist SACP and pro-business COSATU trade union. But, also important were the tainting of the Zuma faction on corruption charges and the worsening economic situation. The election of Ramaphosa as the head of the ANC has not essentially changed the political premise of the ANC. The recent death of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela brought to the fore the simmering tensions in the ANC and society at large between those who prostrated before capital and the masses who feel they have been cheated.

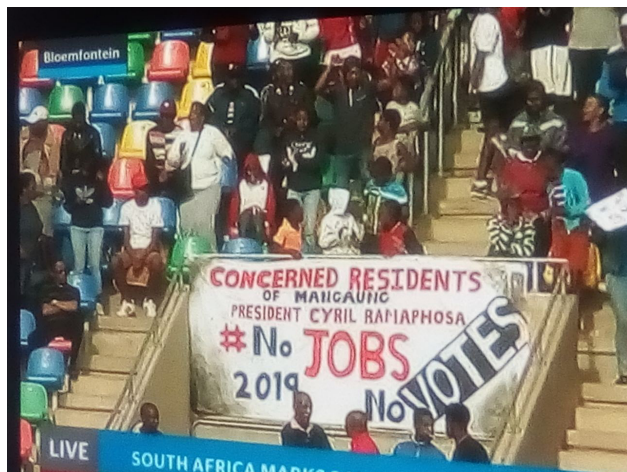
Rather, it has put to the fore the neoliberal and pro big business agenda at the expense of the radical and pro small capitalist agenda that was being championed by Zuma and allies as a political manoeuvre to maintain grip on power and ensure

that they got more crumbs from the capitalists' table. Ramaphosa is an openly pro market reformist politician who believes that foreign investment and "economic growth" bring prosperity to the majority of the people. But, to all intents and purposes this latest round of political gimmicks is the culmination of a protracted factional struggle within the ruling party as well as the incessant struggles between the ruling party and the opposition parties most notably the liberal

Democratic Alliance (DA) and the radical Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) which is a reflection of the struggle between different imperialist camps as well as big and small capitalists. The EFF is highly critical of Ramaphosa who they rightly consider to be a puppet of both Chinese and Western imperialism and is prepared to do whatever is necessary to ensure massive profits for his bosses. The Shanduka (owned by Chinese firms) case, where he recently divested from citing conflict of interests, is just one example of the capture of the president by big money. The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) spearheaded the formation of a militant trade union independent of the ANC (the South African Federation of Trade Unions, SAFTU) and is facilitating the formation of a worker's party albeit based on the Freedom Charter, a radical nationalist document that masks the class contradictions. Last month SAFTU led a strike against a proposed minimum wage and restrictions to the right to strike. For their part, both the Workers and Socialist Party (WASP) and the Workers Internationalist Vanguard Party (WIVP) have been consistent in their critique of the Zuma government and now the Ramaphosa one. Regimes can only be judged on the basis of their policies and programs and not the colour and temperaments of leaders. The real basis of the crisis within the ruling party is the long stretched crisis of the capitalist system that has also affected the so called emerging economies like South Africa, which are in fact advanced semi colonies.

The worsening economic situation as a result of the slow international recovery and stagnating prices of minerals and other natural resources has affected the working class and the poor mostly. South Africa is considered the most unequal society in the world regardless of the rhetoric of the black comprador leadership of ANC and its alliance partners. Twenty four years into formal political independence nothing has changed for the poor majority. To the contrary, China does not offer better or different deals compared to the traditional western imperialists. The so called win-win deals are in fact

Cont. from pg. 7 South Africa...



win-win situations between the China and the South African ruling class. Only a handful of the political leaders and their cronies have managed to get some crumbs from the table of bloody capitalists and imperialists. Workers and the poor masses have been left with no choice but to fight even for such basic rights as the right to strike, education, health and shelter. The crisis has squeezed the profits that the monopoly capitalists and emerging comprador capitalists have been sharing over the years since the end of apartheid in 1994.

The fall and later slow rise in the prices of minerals, which account for most of the national income, has severely affected the relationship between the two capitalist wings. South Africa is an advanced semi colonial country heavily dominated by international imperialism and presided over by a popular front ANC government with the support of the Stalinist SACP and pro government/employers COSATU federation. The workers and the ordinary poor still suffer deprivation and extreme poverty as multinational companies rake in billions of Rands yearly. The black government only serves to stabilize the capitalist system that is under attack from the black majority as well as to co-opt a few black and formerly oppressed groups into the native bourgeoisie circle to ensure continued plunder of the natural and human resources of the country.

All this was dramatically exposed by the murder of workers at Marikana together with the clear complicity of the ANC government and its partners in the tripartite arrangement. Today we are witnessing massive struggles by communities against poverty and social exclusion, students and bus drivers. The stage has been set for a decisive struggle between workers and imperialism in the form of a general strike. We salute the workers of South Africa who are leading the way in the regional struggles against imperialism both western and eastern and inspiring workers in other countries to take independent and militant action as the only weapon to conquer a decent life for all.

Workers should not be fooled by either section of the capitalists who all seek to exploit them for their own benefit. Workers must fight for an independent programme that puts the question of power and control of resources at the centre. Such a programme can only be based on the theory of permanent revolution which places no artificial distinctions between the fight against corruption and the fight for socialism. The reformist Freedom Charter cannot be the basis for

such a fight as it champions the interests of the black middle class and emerging capitalists. Furthermore, the fight against monopoly capital cannot be left to the black capitalists who are only interested in getting a bigger share of the profits squeezed from the workers. Workers should indeed move towards forming their own mass workers party on the basis of a revolutionary program and not the centrist program proposed by NUMSA and WASP, who are both intent on driving the workers into the arms of the trade union bureaucracy. The programme that champions the interests of workers and the poor masses can only be advanced through a mass workers party that pose transitional demands which must essentially culminate in a workers socialist republic of South Africa in a federation of socialist republics of Southern Africa.

**-A living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!**

**-Defend the right to strike!**

**-Against the rising prices we demand a sliding scale of wages!**

**-Against unemployment and destitution we demand a sliding scale of working hours to provide decent jobs for all through massive public works programs to provide housing, education and medical care for all!**

**-Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions!**

**-Workers take back your unions!**

**-Militant workers form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!**

**-Workers form strike 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!**

**-Workers form workers defence guards for defence against state violence!**

**-A national strike committee to organise and plan for a general strike!**

**-Workers break with the ANC Alliance and build a worker's party!**

**-No to US and Chinese imperialism fronted by mainstream parties!**

**- For a workers government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor!**

**-Nationalisation of all companies without indemnification to the big shareholders under workers control!**

**-Land to be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!**

**-A workers state that defends workers, poor peasants and the poor masses against local and foreign capitalists!**

**-For an African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!**

**-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!**



## Zimbabwe is a semi-colony of China



Under the years of Mugabe rule in Zimbabwe, China became a substitute for the old Anglo-American imperialist interests when Zimbabwe defaulted on its debt and had economic sanctions imposed on it in 2002. China's role was to rescue Zimbabwe, providing cheap loans and investment in construction and infrastructure as well as extraction of minerals, tobacco and cotton. Mugabe presented this relationship as a continuation of "socialist" China's aid during the liberation war in the 1970s, and one in which China's motive was the "win-win" strategy of helping Zimbabwe to 'develop' along the same lines as 'socialist' China.

However, since the beginning of the early 1990s, China's role had qualitatively changed from a bureaucratically deformed workers state providing aid to a similar one-party 'developing' country, to that of an emerging capitalist imperialist power whose interest is to extract and export surplus-value back to China. In other words, China's involvement in Zimbabwe is much less a "win-win" relationship than a "zero-sum" deal in which China reaps the big benefits of Zimbabwe's natural wealth and Zimbabwean workers pay for this out of the exploitation of their labour-power.

Zimbabwe is not alone in facing this quandary. Other African states, notably South Africa, now rely on the intervention of China to underwrite the developmental programs of their national ruling classes. It is this national oppression by imperialist powers that requires a 'comprador' ruling class in the semi-colonies to claim a share of the profits in payment for overseeing the super-exploitation of the masses and the suppression of mass discontent. China also provided the means of repression by supplying and training Zimbabwe's military. This parasitic comprador role explains why 'corruption' on the part of these client regimes is endemic, creating factional rivalry and political instability.

### China a new imperialist power

The question of China's role in Africa has provoked a widespread debate about whether or not it has become a new colonial power replacing the Western colonial powers. There are those who stick to the old version of China as a 'socialist' benefactor of developing countries, but increasingly the evidence shows that China uses cheap loans and swap deals where repayment is in minerals and other resources, to extract surplus-profits at no lesser rate than the old Western imperialist powers. Imperialist Russia's role as a rising investor in Zimbabwe confirms this conclusion and the fact that the two main imperialist blocs US/EU and Russia/China are competing for ownership and control of the world's declining

resources.

Workers need to have a clear analysis of China's role in Zimbabwe in order to develop a political program that opposes China's super-exploitation of their labour-power and the scarce resources of the country. It also means opposing the complicity of the political ruling class that still hides behind the myth that China is a 'all weather friend' and that the ruling ZANU-PF government is not sharing in the booty extracted by China at the expense of the working masses. In every struggle that the Zimbabwe workers and oppressed make they should be aware that their enemy is both the imperialist powers, West and East, and the national client regime, whichever party or party faction is in power.

### From Mugabe to Mnangagwa

The military coup that removed Mugabe and installed Mnangagwa in December 2017 proves that Chinese imperialism is the main enemy of Zimbabwean working masses. Mugabe's regime remained in power due only to China's colonizing influence. But China's super-profits were endangered by Mugabe's corrupt economic nationalism – the indigenization laws that specified foreign investors must give 51% of shares to Zimbabwe citizens (chosen by Mugabe), and his proposal to nationalize the diamond industry in which the Chinese military have a strong interest, not for the benefit of the working people of Zimbabwe, but of Mugabe's cronies. China was unhappy with this and played a key role in engineering the coup to replace Mugabe with another old friend of China, Mnangagwa. Mugabe was taking advantage of sunk Chinese investment to increase his factional cronies share of the profits. That is why there was a slowing down of new Chinese investment in the last few years while a smooth 'succession' could be arranged. Mugabe's sacking of China's choice of successor, Mnangagwa, was the cue for a coup. Both Mnangagwa and army General Chiwenga flew to China to get approval for the coup which once obtained gave the go ahead for Chiwenga to act.

The questions we are left with are these: will Mnangagwa be China's man and remove all threats of indigenization and nationalisation as risks to future Chinese investment in which case Zimbabwe is reduced to a virtual colony. Or will he also attempt to leverage a greater share of the booty for his factional cronies? If the latter, will Mnangagwa try to restore friendly relations with the US/EU powers and play them off against China and Russia? China has forgiven debt in the past and may continue to write off future debt as part of its economic strategy in Zimbabwe, but this won't be on the basis of any 'socialist' principle. It will be on the basis of the principle of imperialist super-exploitation. Nor will the IMF and Western banks remove the sanctions unless they get guarantees of further attacks on workers living standards to make the workers pay for Zimbabwe's 'recovery'.

In the last analysis the arrangements between imperialist powers and the Zimbabwe comprador regime matter less than what really is at stake. Whatever imperialist alliances Mnangagwa jacks up, this is only about how to divide up the proceeds of the super-exploitation and oppression of the working masses. As always under capitalism it is the workers that pay the price for capitalist crises. For the workers to live, capitalism must die!

## How to Free Catalunya, and How Not To

Catalunya has declared independence from the Spanish state, raising once again the specter of proletarian revolution in this country. This takes place as the world situation, characterized by capitalism's existential crisis of falling profits, seeks to download its crisis on weaker nations and the proletariat everywhere. As the imperialist powers compete to increase their hold over the finite resources of the world, the national bourgeoisies scramble to share in the booty. The Catalan bourgeoisie cannot win this fight against the Spanish imperialist state, but the workers and other oppressed can.



Photo: Liz Castro @ Wikimedia Commons

Here we argue for a Leninist/Trotskyist party and program to guide workers to fight against imperialist oppression, and to organize and mobilize councils/soviets and militias to take power and transform the struggle for national self-determination into an international federation of socialist republics. Failing to follow this course, leaving the fate of the movement to the various parties, whether bourgeois or ostensibly "workers," will result in another in a century long string of failures (think of the 1917 Catalan general strike against the Moroccan war and the draft as our starting point of historical convenience.)

In dialectics we employ affirmations, negations and negations of negations, both positive and negative. Mention dialectics, never mind performing their investigations and mental exercises, and you'll throw the anti-program and anti-party fake left into rages and anti-democratic maneuvers. As workers the world over begin in uneven ways to radicalize again, the fake left gets more desperate to keep consideration of the revolutionary program of the working class and what its organizational requirements are out of discussion and out of view.

Still other forces, nominal champions of the workers, seeing the radicalization such as has mushroomed again in Catalunya, prescribe programs revealing how little they understand revolutionary dynamics and how little heed they have paid our heroes, the most essential leaders of the Bolshevik revolution, Lenin and Trotsky. And we have met such fakers telling workers dialectics is hocus-pocus you will never understand. We will explain ourselves right now!

Recently a leading light of the Lambertists in the U.S., i.e. Socialist Organizer (their minimalism is the definition of objectivism itself; for them the class is not subjectively revolutionary so the minimal program reigns in the mass movement until the consciousness develops), castigated an opponent as coming from "the bizarro world of dialectics." Even that bunch would not argue with Engels that dialectics exist in nature, irrespective of human agency or approval. But we will argue that human agency is necessary to stop human destruc-

tion of nature! If nature is not to have the last laugh on humankind, the revolutionary program and party are the necessity the dialectic calls for. At their World Congress this fall the [Lambertists](#) greeted the Catalan Republic as a fact resulting from mass consciousness. Thus we get the following reassuring brilliance from these erstwhile Trotskyists...

*"We are confident of the fact that the result of 1 October, which affirmed the reality of*

*the Republic in Catalonia, will – regardless of events – continue to represent a first step that will be followed by others.*

*We are confident of the capacity of the workers and youth, in Catalonia and in every region of Spain, to find the path to organising, which will allow them to assert their rights."*

The Spain of the Bourbons and what's left of their empire, the Spain of the Castilian language, Francoism and fascists past and present, the Spain of a multinational capitalist bourgeoisie and their political parties, their 1978 Constitution and their Social-Democratic and Eurocommunist conciliators, this Spain is negating Catalunya's national-democratic right to self-determination. This is a right that is a component part of the bourgeois revolution, such as other, richer nations carried out in centuries past, before the imperialist epoch.

The Catalanian masses are again rising to attempt to throw off the Madrid yoke. But so far their chances are no better than in past risings. Their dilemma of dilemmas is the question of which class can successfully lead them across the finish line. At the moment their regional parliament, the Generalidad, has been suspended by order of the Cortes and direct rule imposed under Article 155 of the 1978 Constitution, after Barcelona declared independence. Eight Ministers of the Generalidad are in jail and President Puigdemont is in Brussels, having been placed under arrest while attempting to win support for the national project from European Union suits who have already made plain they are not in favor. Not incidentally, neither are either the ins or the outs of the U.S. ruling class regime. U.S. liberals tell us that Putin supports Catalan independence (Kurdish, Texan and Californian independence too.) This just tells us Putin's mob is not making any money in Catalunya. We demand the immediate release of ALL Catalan political prisoners, irrespective of party. Madrid is jailing people for their ideas! We must not let this pass. After the election of 12/21 we find the situation almost exactly as before: the independence coalition of parties has 70 of the 135 seats and King Felipe VI is rejecting anything but

Cont. from pg. 10 Catalunya....

unity and rejecting the indicted Puigdemont's call for talks. The ministers are still in jail.

### Breaking Away From Failure Mode

Trotsky's Transitional Program of 1938 includes organs of workers democracy across working class society and lays out the revolutionary tasks of each type of committee of the workers councils (Soviets.) None of these are mentioned by our opponents! Workers democracy was the beacon of the Paris Commune and is what we celebrate. The Petrograd Soviet, with all its proletarian committees embracing the life of the whole class is what we celebrate. And the 1917 Military Revolutionary Committee delivered All Power to the Congress of Soviets, not to any multi-class obstacle of bourgeois democracy. We marked that centenary in November. We are not calling for power to Puigdemont, who can't have it and wouldn't keep it if he got it, another lesson of 1917.

Instead of the fight for class-political, workers' independent organs we got a Constituent Assembly (hereafter CA) demand from the ardent "Jacobins", the un-reconstructed "ex"-Morenoites of the FLTI--- before the repression or the plebiscite vote! This is not Trotskyism or Leninism but Mao/Stalin "revolution," revolution that ties the proletarians to the national bourgeoisie. When what are called for are the independent organizations of class-political self-expression of the working class as a whole, these "Jacobins" offer another multiclass 'democratic' barricade in the revolution's path.

If your intention is to fall into Puigdemont's PdeCAT trap the CA is the place, but communists' task is to clarify class lines--that is done on the streets and barricades and by building soviets. Let the petty bourgeois call for a CA as a halfway house, but let them expose themselves when like in 1917 the fakers always try to steer the masses into the CA. To activate the transitional demands we have to call for workers independent soviets/councils, workers militias, and for all power to these organs as the foundation for a workers state. So far, the masses have not been demobilized by the Civil Guard repression and direct rule and so it is still incorrect to call for a CA, and so is the other "dialog" trap proposed by bourgeois reformism. In a situation where the masses take the streets demanding the release of all political prisoners, we see more confrontation than consciousness. Here a revolutionary party might have contested Rajoy's December elections, depending on the tempo of struggle and psychology of the masses, but in the party's absence an abstention campaign that popularizes the program of such a party is what is called for. The misapplication of the CA demand by the FLTI is a Morenoist style error. As many times as Moreno invoked a CA as a cure-all, the RCIT error is now worse, on the order of methodological in their recent Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa, where they call for Constituent Assemblies in every country!

We see the RCIT (Revolutionary Communist Internationalist



Riot police attack crowd during referendum

Photo: AP

Tendency) making the same error: consider in Catalunya...

*"The mass movement must control its leaders so that they implement the will of the people and that they not betray or undermine the liberation struggle! The leaders of ERC, CUP, ANC, Omnium Cultural (footnote) and other mass organizations should be pushed to organize the popular resistance which must focus not on parliamentary games but on the resistance on the streets and the workplaces."*

*"In our opinion, the strategic goal of the struggle should be to prepare for a popular uprising to defeat the Article 155 regime and to drive out the occupation forces of the Spanish state! For a revolutionary Assemblée Constituent (Constituent Assembly) to elaborate the constitution for the República Catalana! The RCIT is convinced that the perspective of the independence struggle should be the formation of a República Obrera Catalana (Catalan Workers Republic) as well as the creation of an Iberian Socialist Federation and the United Socialist States of Europe!" [I]*

### AND... This class agnosticism is what they call a socialist program!...

*"The RCIT calls all authentic revolutionaries to join us in the struggle for a Catalan Workers Republic and a socialist program!*

*Larga vida a la República Catalana! Long live the Catalan Republic!*

*Build the CDR as popular councils of action! For a congress of delegates of all mass organizations to coordinate the resistance!*

*Build self-defense units against the Guardia Civil thugs!*

*Organize a general strike!*

*Prepare for a popular uprising against the threat of foreign occupation by the Spanish state!*

*For a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly!*

*For a República Obrera Catalana (Catalan Workers Republic) For a Socialist Iberian Federation! For the United Socialist States of Europe!" [I]*

Here we see the RCIT at their typical game. They call for the revolutionary party in passing, but their real obsession is the convocation of a CA. Now a CA can be a good thing to convene when the mass movement must make a retreat under repression: it can make a great stand for democratic rights in the court of world opinion. But it is not an item on any mandatory equipment list of the socialist revolution irrespective of the state of the struggle!

Cont. from pg. 11 Catalunya....

**If this were not bad enough, look at the above citations and see what they would have militants do! Are they calling for a fight for dual power, self-organized workers' revolutionary organs? Apart for the call for arming the Committees for the Defense of the Referendum, what is it the RCIT wants to come out of the General strike movement? To fight Article 155 by putting pressure on semi-social democratic nationalist electoral parties and cultural organizations!!! This is a class agnostic approach!!! What does the Transitional Program of 1938 say is the urgent task? Not to pressure the rotten, legalist and Castilian chauvinist leaders of the CO and UGT union federations, but to recall them, replacing them with ever more militant layers of young workers!!! The task is to organize the *entire* working class to seize power, including the layers that inevitably escape representation by trade unions, into workers councils, not to pressure popular mass organizations whose leaders sometimes emit independence sentiments!**

### **Another Hydra head gets this wrong-- no surprise!**

Getting Permanent Revolution wrong, the ICL (the Spartacists) quote from Trotsky's History of the Russian Revolution. What they use is applicable to an underdeveloped country such as Russia was in 1917, and shows they don't really know which class' revolution they want this to be.

*"In order to achieve liberation and a cultural lift, the oppressed nationalities were compelled to link their fate with that of the working class. And for this they had to free themselves from the leadership of their own bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties—they had to make a long spurt forward, that is, on the road of historic development."*—*The History of the Russian Revolution (1932)*

It is the working class who are oppressed. Catalunya has a mass working class majority. Cultural development of the workers or any other Catalan social class is not the problem. ***Seizing the industries is! The ICL provides no programmatic guidance whatsoever. Where is the propaganda for sit-down strikes? Where is the call for soviets and all their component committees? For armed pickets and their training and centralization as workers defense guards? To write that your tendency upholds Leninist-Trotskyist tradition and forget to suggest what workers need to do is dilettantism! To call for national self-determination and the socialist revolution without the bridge of transitional demands is to embrace the failed social-democratic min/max methodology (see WV nos. 1119 and 1121). There never would have been a history of the Russian revolution without a transitional program, popularized among the masses by Bolsheviks.***

The mis-named Spartacists, long known for dismissing national liberation as an especial task of the revolutionary movement, have lately staged a "Back to Robertson!" shakeup on the question of their orientation to the right of nations to self-determination. So far we are still supremely suspicious of what this will mean in practice from those who could get this question so wrong on so many continents and in their own imperialist backyard too.

Lenin and Trotsky understood the national question contains a basic contradiction it is up to the workers' international

revolutionary party to solve. On the one hand the workers of the oppressor nations, Spain in the first place, but also France and all of the E.U. countries, have to come to realize that their own class interests are tied up indissolubly--by the modern world market--with the working masses of Catalunya. And this means the solidarity of the oppressor nations' workers with the Catalans' is required for success of their own struggles. Then in the course of the national struggle the Catalan workers, assured of this internationalist solidarity, will come to see the bigger picture, the necessity for the world socialist revolution and their important, if subordinate part in it. This may seem to be "ABC" to Marxist intellectuals conversant with writings of Lenin and Trotsky, but tendencies who have worker members on the continent need to show us they are making the effort to make this consciousness replicate itself in our social class. We don't see or hear of it yet. This is a question that qualifies or disqualifies revolutionaries!

Lenin says in *What Is To Be Done* that the Social Democrats fight the "possibilists," not cave in to their notion of what is practicable but raise the masses' demands irrespective of practicability in the immediate present. Here we see LCT (Argentina) being schematic, taking the opposition to nationalism out to lunch and opposing raising the demand for independence **at all.**[2] They say "No To Independence!"

### **Dialectics again: Not bizarro but natural...**

No national bourgeoisie can do otherwise than negate national liberation in the epoch of imperialism. The Catalan national bourgeoisie themselves, through their parliamentary parties and political agents will negatively negate Catalan national liberation, itself the negation of Madrid's negation of Catalunya's right to self-determination. They lead the masses-- into the arms of the police, of Madrid, Maastricht, and NATO. They have already begun to do so, even as Madrid jails their leaders momentarily. Thus, militant workers do not see their false colors yet and are mostly not helped by the national chauvinism of their class sisters and brothers elsewhere in Iberia or Europe.

We are in favor of a complete break with the bourgeois nationalists because they are already helpless and will leave the working class vulnerable to the fascists. What's more, any possible "independence" strategy of the capitalists will now already require the support of either a far more powerful capitalist country (as Puigdemont sought from Brussels) or that of a major imperialist power who will expect never-ending returns on investment. AND in the imperialist epoch that began with World War One there is ZERO CHANCE of a peaceful separation a la Norway's separation from Sweden in 1903. That is the historical record, not a theoretical abstraction. The historical record shows the total validity of our theory, Permanent Revolution. As matters stand, without the working class armed and organized in its own historic interests, the Catalan bourgeoisie stands ready to shed the workers' blood to get their income taxes reduced or more favorable contacts to spend them. For the average worker, that's no deal at all.

The traditional mass parties of the workers movement in Iberia, the PSOE and PCE, i.e. the social democrats and Euro-communists, are no help at all, showing no sign of support for the indisputably mass movement. What law attaches them to their shameful adherence to the Constitution they supported alongside the Franco Falangistas in 1978? Twenty-first cen-

Cont. pg. 13

Cont. from pg. 12 Catalunya....

tury Kautskyism does nothing and will do nothing to achieve socialism, while the ex-Stalinists' reversion to Menshevik politics tells the Catalans that the time is not yet ripe and/or now is not the time. Not time they say for Catalan independence, not time for workers republics anywhere and not even time for the fall of the monarchy, forgetting what they said in 1931 when "Narisota" (Alfonso XIII) was driven into exile! With Trotsky, speaking of our epoch and referring to the entire planet we say the time and the conditions are ripe and even overripe! So says the [Transitional Program](#).

If Catalans would be so fortunate as to achieve a mere juridical independence from the Bourbons of Madrid, a prospect at all times unlikely! without mass working class independent political struggle against all your bosses, you will find that this legislative independence declaration by the politicians of your local/national bourgeoisie puts nothing in your pay envelope. You will find you are still fighting the same bosses whether Catalan or Castilian. You will be fighting the demands of French and German banks who do not wish your independence project well. The EU prefers the armed might of Madrid do the dirty work of compelling/acquiring and channeling, from the relative wealth of the Catalan recovery, funds to cover the debts created by the 2008 world recession. Since Madrid has been coming up with its bailout payments to the banks, they will expect the same from an independent capitalist Catalonia. If you leave the task of national self-determination in the hands of the Catalan bourgeoisie you will be counting the days before Madrid employs the fascists to destroy all your gains and organs of struggle. Only worker's self-management in planning the economy and fighting for international socialism will provide an escape from this trap.

The ruling class remembers (100 years on) that national self-determination in the age of imperialism is posed on the streets as a class question; which, in order to resolve the contradictions which gave it rise-- how they tried to negate the national program before it became internationalist and socialist, replacing the legislative, parliament and constituent assembly dodges with the dictatorship of the democratic workers assemblies, which wield both legislative and executive power executed by the workers organs themselves. The memory of October 1917 still haunts the ruling class. They fear the Catalan masses because they know consciousness is mutable and that today's unfulfillable dream of economic salvation via capitalist self-determination can quickly turn into revolutionary proletarian political socialist consciousness--and they know that type of consciousness spreads with action across national boundaries, negating the capitalist's states.

We think Podemos' position of 'neither independence nor article 155' is ridiculous....The question history has always asked of Podemos was whether they were going to learn the

lesson of the Greek experience and solve the problem of how to lead the masses to power. PODEMOS was supposed to be the expression of the "Indignados", the Iberian oppressed. Podemos is now displaying for all the world to see how little they understand the condition of the oppressed masses or how to get out from under it...they proffer a dare nothing program when class political independence is the only way out....They have become the Spanish state's imperialist left. They bury the class contradiction the moment history calls on them to illuminate it! They maintain the illusion that it is somehow desirable to enter halfway house traps short of the socialist revolution.

We are not nationalists and we champion a free association of Iberian Socialist Republics. We know there are only ten roads through the Pyrenees to Europe. So when the right to independence for Catalunya has been truly realized then the Socialist federation of Iberian republics will be able to work in a qualitatively greater collaboration than at any moment in the history of the Brussels Europe. The Federation can carry out the plan to achieve democratic equality, supersede it and meet the Marxist goal *From Each According to their Ability, to Each According to their Needs* in ways the bourgeois leaders never dare dream of.



CNT workers in Barcelona during the Spanish Revolution

**Now they are facing a pre-revolutionary situation the moment the workers set out on the class independent path and however it manifests itself at the beginning.** This government in Madrid will try in every way to smash the working class. This is the content of the deal Poder Popular and the Monarchy, with the acquiescence of the PCE and PSOE, struck in 1978 to recognize the 1939 victory of the fascists. They are old hands at imperialist leftism.

The Catalans know the fascists are still there as a political force aimed at themselves, the Basques and Galicians and every state in the western NATO bloc has come out against Catalan independence. Liberalism in the USA as represented by MSNBC has fixated on Putin's support for Catalan independence as part of a plan for the disintegration of the US bloc (they say this about his support for Brexit, for an independent Kurdistan, etc., with never a thought to the validity of ANY national grievance!)...but Catalans don't have to think about this just because people in Washington (out of power) have the Trump-Putin 'Bromance' on their minds, and for the moment the US leaders are preoccupied with their own anti- DPRK hysteria, so this issue will be left to Brussels and Madrid so long as they can use the small relative uptick of the Spanish economy for collection purposes on the bailout funds the IMF Eurogroup extended to Madrid in 2012.

Just like the PSOE and the Eurocommunists, Podemos is committed to making the payments and we think the Catalan National bourgeoisie will go on making the payments too, and these will come out of the workers pockets.

Cont. pg. 14

Cont. from pg. 13 Catalunya....

We say Podemos has turned out worse than and is even a laughable new left fun house mirror version of SYRIZA, but the anarchist CGT leadership in Catalunya is hardly any better. They support one day general strikes they do not organize (they've called for them before), and they tell their members to search their own consciences as to whether to walk out, after receiving the legal blessing of the Spanish Superior Court in Catalonia. They have expressed themselves as against nationalism, which is well enough, but anyone can see they will not break with their Madrid fellow bureaucrats of the CO and UGT. The CNT leadership, likewise gives off militant rhetoric but did not condone the Nov. 8th strike. They left it up to their affiliates. These are not unions controlled by the rank-and-file, and this control is the battleground before our social class, i.e., to remove and replace the "labor lieutenants of Capital," to use the apt phrase of De Leon.

Madrid has suspended the Generalidad. Workers are you going to miss the Catalan Parliament? Composed as it was of the representatives of the Catalan capitalist ruling class which itself is not an oppressed class. Indeed it is the exploiter class of the Catalan workers and migrants from the rest of Iberia and plays hand in hand with the bankers of Paris, Brussels and Berlin(?) Now you are back where you were last summer!

Madrid is wrong in shutting down the Catalan Parliament, but as nominal 'democrats' they're wrong attacking the right of nations to self-determination too. What we have to ask the workers is what has this parliament ever done for you? We say the workers should constitute their own mass assemblies that put their own stamp on the struggle for national liberation. To win, the workers must make the revolution permanent. The national revolution can only be completed by the workers revolution which itself negates national borders as proletarian internationalism and worker's control spreads internationally, i.e., a pan-Iberian revolution as part of a revolution for a socialist united states of Europe!.

**Free all arrested protesters and voters.**

**Down with Madrid's Repression in Catalonia!**

**Defend the right to self-determination of Euzkadi and Galicia!**

**Smash the 1978 deal! Down with the Monarchy!**

**Defend immigrant rights! No human is illegal!**

**Defeat Article 155 in the factories, the ports, airports and streets!**

**Build a new international revolutionary party of the workers and oppressed to fight for world socialism, the last, best and only hope for humanity!**

**Build the factory committees!**

**Build the workers assemblies and workers defense guards!**

**Prepare the revolutionary general strike!**

**Cancel the debt!**

**30 hours work for 40 hours pay!**

**Free tuition and open admission to all educational institutions!**

**Free dental care as part of socialized medicine!**

**For a sliding scale of wages and and prices!**

**Fight for Pan Iberian working class united actions, for a pan-Iberian revolution!**

**Nationalize without compensation and put under workers control the commanding heights of the economy: industrial and finance capital, arms, metallurgica, autos, trains..., all large enterprises regardless of 'ownership'!**

**Abrogate secret Spanish treaties, publish them and quit NATO now!**

**For a revolutionary workers government based on a workers militia and workers councils! For a socialist United States of Europe!**

[1]

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/long-live-the-catalan-republic/>

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/collection-of-articles-on-catalunya-s-independence-struggle/>

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/big-decision-for-catalonia/>

[2]

<http://lct-revolucionproletaria.blogspot.com/2017/10/por-el-derecho-de-la-auo-de-terminacion.html>

[http://lct-revolucionproletaria.blogspot.com/2017/10/autodeterminacion-y-represion-en\\_76.html](http://lct-revolucionproletaria.blogspot.com/2017/10/autodeterminacion-y-represion-en_76.html)

*"In this situation, the proletariat, of Russia is faced with a twofold or, rather, a two-sided task: to combat nationalism of every kind, above all, Great-Russian nationalism; to recognise, not only fully equal rights, for all nations in general, but also equality of rights as regards polity, i.e., the right of nations to self-determination, to secession. And at the same time, it is their task, in the interests of a successful struggle against all and every kind, of nationalism among all nations, to preserve the unity of the proletarian struggle and the proletarian organisations, amalgamating these organisations into a close-knit international association, despite bourgeois strivings for national exclusiveness.*

*Complete equality of rights for all nations; the right of nations to self-determination; the unity of the workers of all nations—such is the national programme that Marxism, the experience of the whole world, and the experience of Russia, teach the workers."*

- Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, The Right of Nations to Self-Determination, 1914

The following is translated and reprinted from our comrades of the Grupo de Trabalhadores Revolucionários of Brazil (GTR-BR).

## Brazil 2018 elections: Break with the Popular Front! For an Independent and Revolutionary Alternative!



December 12, 2017 Sao Bernardo do Campo homeless workers encampment

The 2018 presidential election in Brazil is set to take place in the greatest period of instability in the country since re-democratization in the 1980s.

The global crisis of capitalism with the fall in the rate of profits that broke out in 2008 -- which has provoked great instability around the world -- did not spare Brazil. In 2011 the crisis hit the country hard and in 2015 and 2016 Brazil had the biggest recession in its history. Dilma and the PT got re-elected in 2014 by denying the existence of the crisis and promising that the country would “grow again.” The fall of GDP, high inflation and unemployment, increased misery and reports of corruption, increasingly amplified dissatisfaction among workers and poor people. The bourgeoisie and the media, who did not mention the depth of the world capitalist crisis, started an offensive against the PT (The “Workers Party”), with the main weapon being the Lava-Jato (“Car-Wash”) operation, saying that the problem of the crisis in the country was the PT and corruption. With a parliamentary maneuver, supported and orchestrated by the allies of the PT in the government, especially the current president Michel Temer’s PMDB, her erstwhile allies fomented the impeachment of Dilma.

But the crisis, corruption and the offensive of the “Car-Wash” did not stop with the PT. After the fall of Dilma, the bourgeoisie that ruled in alliance with the PT in its 14 years of government and maneuvered to overthrow it, are now also targets of the “Car-Wash”. Even the PSDB, which was not part of the Lula / Dilma governments, and is the largest right-wing party in opposition to the PT, and that before the PT administration was itself in power for 8 years, is touched by the scandal. All those who have governed the country in the last decades are under the eyeball of the “Car-Wash”.

In spite of the political crisis, with moments when his government seemed to be coming to an end like the leak of the recording of the conversation between Temer and the owner of the JBS (the meat manufacturer under investigation for corruption-bad meat transl. note--see ref. link below), the

revelation of the president’s involvement in corruption keeps on spreading. Temer has managed to approve “reforms,” such as labor, austerity measures such as the spending ceiling PEC (a “PEC” is a proposal of constitutional amendment--ed.), High School Reform and to conduct pre-salt oil auctions. However, the Social Security Reform, the main proposal of “A bridge to the future” program that spells out Temer’s actions as president after the impeachment of Dilma, is very difficult to carry out for the current government. Temer has also maintained the Lula / PT’s “progressive” policy of approaching Russian and Chinese imperialism and the BRICS. He visited China a few months ago and came back “impressed” with the country’s interest in investing in Brazil. Temer now proposes the “reconstruction” of Syria, putting Brazil in support of the dictator Assad who massacres the Syrian people and tries to end the revolution.

The media and the bourgeoisie, who support “Car-Wash” and attack the government, say that the continuation of the political crisis and corruption is what makes it impossible for the government to approve the economic measures they support. They are not against the economic measures that the government wants to implement, especially the Pension Reform, which is considered the great villain of the public accounts deficit. But they think the Temer government is not able to approve them. The PSDB, which at its December conference decided to leave the government, made a point of reassuring its commitment to the Pension Reform.

Faced with the greatest economic crisis and political instability the Brazilian institutions are already discussing the electoral process that will choose the new president and national congress in October, 2018. PT and PSDB have been in power for the last 23 years and PMDB was in all the governments since the re-democratization, and each are in crisis, worn out with reports of corruption, the austerity measures they apply and with very low popularity. The bourgeoisie is divided. Small parties try to present themselves as alternative, many are physiological parties, renting legends and adventurers, but also the extreme right ideology sees a possibility of ascent, in addition to interventionists who call for a military dictatorship.

In the re-election of Dilma, the PT denied the crisis and promised the “return of growth”. Now the PT says that the crisis has been caused by the current government and promises to return to investments and economic growth if Lula is elected in 2018. During Lula’s caravans across the country in recent months, he maintains that his government “did more for the workers”, that his government “invested”, that it is necessary to “make Brazil grow again” and that for these feats he is now persecuted by the media and “Car-Wash”.

Many workers are hopeful that with the return of Lula to the presidency of Brazil, the pre-crisis conditions may return, that is: “investments” and full credits. But we know that this is not possible. **Withdrawal of rights and attacks on living conditions of the working class are the only way out for the bourgeoisie and imperialism. What could happen to an eventual new Popular Front government that will have to approve measures to attack the working class, who have worn out Dilma and now Michel Temer?**

Cont. from pg. 15 Brazil....

However, Lula's candidacy is one of the great, and many, unknowns for the 2018 elections. Lula is threatened by the "Car-Wash", which promises to condemn him making his candidacy impossible. What can happen if Lula is prevented from contesting the elections? The PSDB elected the current Sao Paulo governor, Geraldo Alckmin, as party chairman and everything is headed for him to be the legendary candidate next year, with a divided and rather worn party. But a strong bid, which will have lots of money. Alckmin has so far been free from corruption and certainly the candidate of greater stability for the bourgeoisie.

In polls for the 2018 elections appearing in second place, behind Lula, is the far right candidate, Bolsonaro. A federal deputy for the PSC (the Christian Social Party), he is known for his extremist statements and defense of the military dictatorship. However, he is now leaving his current party and is having difficulties closing agreements with the parties he is in unity discussions with. All these are "nanny" parties.

But beyond the traditional right and the reformist left, in the electoral debate for "an exit to Brazil", reactionary sectors appear to be saying that they have the best "exit," like the declaration, months ago, of an army officer saying that in case of "chaos" the military must "act".

The PT is the largest leftist party in the country. It was built in the workers' struggles against the military dictatorship in the 1980s and generated great expectations among the entire working class of Brazil. The PT's alliance with the bourgeoisie and a popular front government that ruled for the bourgeoisie, big banks and corporations and imperialism, show that we should not put our hopes in bourgeois elections. In these elections the workers need an alternative to any popular front. ***It is necessary to stand against alliances of the PT with the bourgeoisie; this is the main reason for the PT's betrayal of the workers. For the PT to be on the workers' side, it is necessary to break with the bourgeoisie.*** However, the PT has never left its alliances with the bourgeoisie and nothing indicates that it will leave them in the 2018 elections. On the contrary, it is increasingly linked to the bourgeoisie, especially to the "coupists" who also try to defend themselves against "Car-Wash" prosecutions. During Lula's caravan across the Brazilian northeast, he joined on the platform with figures connected to the "colonel" of Alagoas, Renan Calheiros (PMDB), a well-known corrupt oligarch who was in the PT government and is also accused in the "Car-Wash" investigation. Lula also publicly stated that it is possible for the PT to make alliances with the parties that defended Dilma's impeachment.

PSOL and PSTU, the largest parties on the left that opposed the popular front government, say that a leftist alternative is needed in the elections. Everyone claims to defend a "Left Front" in the elections. PSOL defends a slate as an "alternative" to Lula / PT and is already discussing names to nominate. However, the major currents of the PSOL are not against alliance with the bourgeoisie and many cases have already occurred in past elections and occur in the workers' and students' movement, such as the PSOL alliance with the PPL (Partido Patria Libre) in the elections to the Poa prefecture in 2016. The PSTU in the last elections rejected the Left front and launched its own candidacies, but in the union

movement it makes alliances through bureaucratic blocs with the union bureaucracy linked to bourgeois parties like the PDT, Solidarity, PPL, etc. ***In fact, whether opportunistic or sectarian, PSOL and PSTU propose an alternative to the PT, but not an alternative to the Popular Front.***

Among private sector workers, especially the metallurgists, the workers who are blinded by the PT / CUT and the union bureaucracies, with the help of the PSOL / PSTU, through the "Brazil Metalworking Front." Just as PSTU / PSOL support the bureaucratic bloc with the union bureaucracy in the workers' movement against "labor reform" and social security cuts, they support the same bureaucracy in the organization of metallurgists. In the factories of the San Jose dos Campos (SJC), controlled by the PSTU, workers of several factories made a move and went on strike. The union leadership kept all the strikes isolated by factory, with economist guidelines and left the so-proclaimed "unity" and "fight against Temer and the reforms" for the Bloc it has with the bureaucracies and the "National Days of Mobilization". Recently it has been proved once again that diverting the struggle into bureaucratic blocs with the trade union bureaucracy serves to demobilize and demoralize the workers' struggle. This was on top of the betrayal where the CUT and other central bureaucracies disregarded the general strike of 5/12, which had been agreed among themselves against the Pension Reform. The same had already occurred in the General Strike on June 30th, which was boycotted by most of the plants, and by the CUT.

Another sector of the left that is quite numerous and has great influence is the MTST (Movement of the Homeless Workers), and its leader Guilherme Boulos (GB), and the sectors around him. Even the mainstream of the PSOL prevented its party congress in early December from deciding on a presidential candidate, because they want to persuade the leader of the homeless workers to be the candidate for the party. The MTST is the largest housing movement in the country. The occupation "People without Fear" in Sao Bernardo do Campo (SBC), started on a large plot occupied by a few hundred people in December. In a week, the occupation expanded to 8 thousand families! The "People without Fear" occupation of SBC is a great expression of the social crisis we are experiencing. What is the outcome for the homeless movement?

The main housing policy of PT governments was the Minha Casa Minha Vida program. This program was part of the PAC (Program for the Advancement of Children), which included other sectors of the economy, was based on the public financing of works of large contractors, through PPPs (Public Private Partnerships law projects) and concessions. Big construction contractors have never made so much money. They are the same ones who won a lot in the contracts with Petrobras and in the cartels that negotiated with the government, today denounced in the "Car-Wash". The boom in the sale of commodities and the large inflow of revenue enabled the PT to apply neoliberal policies in the country with some concessions. For MTST and its leader GB, demanding from the government My House My Life is the solution to the housing issue and is the solution for the more than 8,000 families in SBC and the millions of homeless in Brazil. GB, on several occasions, has appeared on the platforms with Lula and the PT.

Cont. pg. 17



Cont. from pg. 16 Brazil....

In the big cities of Brazil, with millions of unemployed, homeless, and workers losing rights and living conditions --in the interior and small cities the indignation of the poor people is increasing with an unbearable condition of life-- it is not difficult to hear of the revolts of those who set fire to prefectures and burn politicians' effigies. In the countryside there is a real civil war. Landowners and their paramilitary groups decimate indigenous populations and massacre rural workers and small farmers. Recently, in OESTE BAIANO, the people of a city invaded a farm and destroyed the entire hydraulic/electric system for irrigation, which left the river without water to supply the population. The end of public services, as one of the government's key measures to cut spending, has hit heavily the municipal, state and federal civil servants, who have initiated several strike movements across the country.

Last October we saw the left holding events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The uncertainties and instabilities that permeate the debate over the 2018 elections should bring to the fore debates such as the 100 years of the Russian revolution, the need for the Brazilian revolution and the Bolshevik party for an independent and revolutionary response from the workers to this crisis. Not what is happening; the examples and teachings of the Russian Revolution have remained only for "feast days." On the contrary, the "revolutionary" left says that the socialist revolution in Brazil is not possible!

Capitalism cannot solve the crisis without fascism and barbarism. The Popular Front is not capable of fighting fascism. On the contrary, it creates illusions in bourgeois democracy, demobilizes and demoralizes the workers and opens the way to fascism.

Workers need to break with the bureaucracy that drives trade unions and union centrals. Workers who have made great movements and strikes in recent years need to move forward to the formation of committees of workers and oppressed who can take in their hands the course of the movement itself and strike, resuming their traditional methods of struggle such as pickets and general strike. Not to mention, for example, in the teachers' strike in Rio Grande do Sul (RS) that for years the union leadership has kept workers on strike away from the workplace, preventing and / or discouraging picketing at school doors. This happened during the 94-day strike of this year (2017) and even in 2016, when the students formed a true united front and occupied the schools! Or what has happened in the mobilization and construction of the General Strike, in which the summits of the union centrals decided to carry out the general strike in meetings between four walls--in the same way that they regularly 'go-through-the-motions'!

***MTST and its leaders must break with the bureaucracy and the bourgeoisie. To advance in the construction of committees of workers and oppressed people and self-defense organized to fight against the bourgeoisie and imperialism.***

***For a Congress of Workers elected on grassroots committees to discuss and decide the course of the fight!***

***For a government of Workers' Committees!***

***In the 2018 election, support for workers' committees to launch their candidates as tribunes against the Popular Front!***

***For a revolutionary workers party that organize the vanguard workers to fight for workers power!***

***For a new revolutionary workers international based on the method of Trotsky's 1938 Transitional Program!***

[Revolutionary Workers Group of Brazil \(GTR-BR\)](#)

Sources:

<http://fortune.com/2017/09/14/jbs-batista-brazil-temer-corruption-insider-trading/>

Video of general strike action: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-politics-protests/brazil-protesters-police-clash-in-first-general-strike-in-decades-idUSKBN17U0EX>

## Class Warrior

Theoretical Journal Of the Liaison Committee of Communists  
Volume 2, Number 2, Spring 2017, Labor Donated (Solidarity Donation)

### Year 7 of the Revolution: Trotskyists and Jacobins in Syria

Jacobin is a prominent US journal of the broad left. Its title is apposite since the Jacobins were the revolutionary leaders of the French bourgeois revolution, so its name signifies the retreat of Western Marxism or the broad left from Bolshevism to a defence of bourgeois democracy. This may be a dead-in-the-wool Stalinist 'stagism' (first 'democracy' then 'socialism') or 'crypto' Stalinism, having arrived at stagism via liberal democracy. It is necessary to counter-pose a full-blooded Bolshevik-Leninism, that is Trotskyism, to this jaded Jacobinism.

Jacobins or Trotskyists?

In a recent article Syrian activist Razan Ghazzawi interviews Ramah Kudaimi on the 6 years of revolution and counter-revolution in Syria. Kudaimi defends the revolution but not in such a way as to advance its victory. It critiques those on the left who support the Assadist regime on the grounds that the rebels are Islamic terrorists and not Syrian revolutionaries. We have critiqued this social imperialist left as orientalist, Islamophobic, or 'BT socialists', since the onset of the Arab Spring. If this were not bad enough, even those who do support the Syrian revolution only give 'conditional' support to the revolution because they do not see the Islamic militias as fighting for 'democracy', but for an Islamic State.

This is a convenient 'catch-22' that dismisses national revolutionaries unless they fulfill the conditions of being secular and democratic. After all, how can a revolution for bourgeois democracy against the 'dictatorship' of fascism and imperialism succeed if led by reactionary, fascist and theocratic state advocates? The revolution is supposed to end with a new democratic regime in place. We call these fakers 'unconscious Assadists' because they all imagine that a bourgeois democratic regime can be installed in Syria without an uninterrupted or Permanent Revolution coming to fruition in the whole of MENA. Worse, even a democratic revolution is impossible in one country (with borders set and re-set by imperialism!) without the defeat of imperialism in the region as a whole.

So, for the social imperialists, the revolution by definition has to come from a secular, democratic base, and it cannot meet these conditions if its agents are calling for theocracy, Sharia Law and an Islamic State. Automatically, the only fighting forces that can militarily defeat imperialism in MENA are disqualified as revolutionaries and labelled 'sectarians', 'reactionaries' and 'terrorists' if not 'fascists'.

This means that the Western left has to fall back on imperialist intervention - a reactionary utopia. Reactionary, because it is imperialism that has created the conditions for Islamic radicalism, utopian, because imperialism is the No 1 terrorist,

and its apologists are aiding and abetting terrorism. It is a contradiction in terms, reflecting the social imperialist ideology of the dominant left currents who have never renounced the hypocrisy of supporting imperialism abroad to pay for socialism at home.

So, the Jacobin article correctly critiques the main US left demand for NFZs since 2011, because of the absurdity of calling on US and Russian imperialism that are already bombing Syria to impose NFZs. Yet the author replaces the NFZ with the demand to 'stop the bombing' which suffers from the same absurdity, that national revolutions can succeed against imperialist states by pressuring those same historic oppressor states to become 'democratic'!

As a result, the 'democratic' social imperialist 'left' has refused to take the necessary steps to arm the rebels because they are not 'democratic' enough. Yet a popular revolution is the only way that NFZs can be imposed. Without SAMS, the US, Putin and Assad can bomb at will. Even the children of Aleppo burning tires to create a smoke screen against the bombers were more effective than 6 years of begging imperialism to stop being imperialism. As we have constantly pointed out in the last 6 years, unless the Western Left arms the revolutionaries with high tech SAMS there can be no stopping the bombing. None of the imperialist 'cessfires' has stopped the bombing. None results from liberal pressure at home but rather are designed to weaken the revolution.

So, the root of the problem for the Western left is that it is no longer revolutionary, and so rejects the elementary internationalist duty of unconditional military support for any and all the enemies of imperialism. It resorts to calling Jihadists 'fascist' so 'democratic imperialism' becomes the lesser evil. This is much the same as the rejection of unconditional defence of the Soviet Union because the Stalinist regime was 'fascist' and so the war against fascism became the mission of democratic imperialism. To get out of this illogical the left has to return to Bolshevik-Leninism and the struggle to build a revolutionary Marxist party and program.

Permanent Revolution and Military Support

Those of us who claim to be Trotskyists have had plenty of practice rehearsing Trotsky's arguments about anti-imperialist military blocs in the period since 9/11. Trotsky fought to keep alive the programmatic advances of the first four Congresses of the 3rd Communist International, in particular Permanent Revolution and, as part of that, the tactic of the anti-imperialist united front or AUF. Based on the concept of the united front, communists have a duty to strike together against the class enemy, but at the same time, to march separately to maintain their

***Read Class Warrior!***

***Theoretical Journal of the Liaison Committee of Communists (LCC)!***

[Class Warrior Volume 1](#)

[Class Warrior Volume 2](#)

## NZ: Labour fails 100 Days in Government Test

We take a look at the promises from the Labour party when campaigning and on taking office – what will these really deliver for working people? As we argued in previous issues of Class Struggle, Labour forming a Coalition with openly capitalist parties means it cannot claim anymore to be a party that represents workers. It has an excuse to betray its working-class voters by trading any real gains for workers in exchange for becoming the government.

That is why our balance sheet of wins and losses for workers in the first 100 days is boringly predictable. Once Labour signed the fiscal responsibility deal with the Greens it meant it can't even adopt Keynesian spending to stimulate economic growth (boost profits) let alone spend on what workers need (living wages).

And to win Peters to form a government, Labour and Greens had to trade away some of its promises to appease his populist, conservative supporters. The result is that Labour now openly betrays workers on behalf of predatory, parasitic, international finance capital - most dramatically by signing the TPPA11! Labour is fully exposed as an open bourgeois party. We need an independent mass workers party!

### Cash trickle downs to profits

Tertiary fees will be dropped a year at a time. But fees themselves are less of a barrier to poorer families accessing tertiary education than living costs. Raising student allowances by \$50 a week will be pocket money for some students able to access a student allowance, the rest will have to increase their student loans, or continue to work part time to survive. The rent subsidy has gone directly into rent rises.

- Only a free, universal education from pre-school to tertiary paid for by taxing profits and rents can deliver the education we need!

Increasing the minimum wage to \$16.50 an hour is an insult to low paid workers. We need a living wage for all workers. And even \$20 is not enough!

- Only workers and students organising union-based wages and prices committees can decide what wage, allowance or benefit they need to live on!

### Tinkering with Workplace Law

Labour's tinkering with the workplace law doesn't even undo the worst of the last National government's attacks in favour of employers. And doesn't help most workers employed by small businesses with 20 or fewer workers. They still face the 90-day fire at will scenario. Labour's workplace policy is

based on the ideology of fair shares between labour and capital. Yet global capitalism's terminal crisis can only be solved by capital at the expense of cutting wages. To defend wages and conditions we advocate strikes and occupations.

- Putting people before profits means expropriating the means of production under workers control!

### Fiddling with the Housing Crisis

Labour proclaimed a housing crisis when attacking the National government, but what do they actually deliver? Nothing substantial. Subsidising private landlords instead of taxing capital gains means that the cause of the crisis is left untouched. The market cannot solve the problem. This just perpetuates property speculators parasitic on workers' wages.

- We are for minimum standards for all houses, homes, apartments, accommodation (boarding houses, motels, lodges, etc) to be set by working people. Increase secure tenancy for tenants to have longer term guarantees.

Banning overseas 'speculators' from buying existing houses will reduce demand but it won't stop speculation in new builds whether the landlords are Chinese or Kiwis. We are stuck with workers making speculators rich. Why not tax the speculators? The tax working group cannot address this as their terms of reference exclude it. Too many MPs owning multiple rentals to allow Labour to entertain this radical solution.

- We say a 100% capital gain tax on all speculative rental profits to drive the parasites out of business!

### State Houses for all who need them!

Gov't will stop the state house sell-off. Should we be happy? Not when there is no serious attempt to replace those sold off by previous Governments. We are against "social housing" as a thinly veiled return to capitalist philanthropy and a quasi-market substitute for state housing.

- A state house with rent pegged to 20% of income should be a right for all those who need it!

The "KiwiBuild" programme cannot produce affordable homes when the building industry is beset by profiteering monopolies like Fletchers, exploitation of subcontractors, terrible health and safety records, poor employment records (including super-exploitation of illegal migrants, cash jobs – tax free) which have driven up the costs and made housing unaffordable to most workers. So, Labour dodges the issue and sets up another committee - the "Affordable Housing Authority".



*Shaw, Ardern and Peters, the different faces of the Caring Capitalism popular front*

Cont. from pg. 18 New Zealand...

Obviously Labour refuses to put working people before profits. It won't challenge the property-owning democracy where land grabbing and speculation has always been a shortcut to wealth. Driven by the banks, property speculation will remain a fact of life enriching landlords and banks.

- We say we need a massive public works scheme to provide jobs for unemployed youth in the building trades and a crash program in state house building until the demand for rental houses is met.

### Fiddling with Family Incomes

Working families get a few crumbs. Paid parental leave, and \$60 per week for the following year is too little, and if it has to be applied for, then it won't reach those who need it. A winter energy bonus is welcome relief to some, but a stopgap in the absence of warm and healthy homes. So, in effect it is a bonus to (privatised) energy companies.

Child poverty. Labour expresses liberal concern. Sets a child poverty reduction target and budget reports on child poverty statistics. Goals are good but where is the action?

- We can't solve child poverty without full employment, a living wage, and decent, affordable, healthy housing. So, we are back to the spending constraints of fiscal responsibility!

### Mental Health, Prisons and Cannabis

Mental ill-health is a symptom of capitalist society that is broken and is alienating of the majority of the people. We know that most of the prison population have mental health problems or are in for drug offenses. Labour wants to cut the numbers in jails but won't look at the obvious measures to achieve this. So far it plans to build the Mega prison at Waikeria. We say No Mega Prison! One alternative to new prisons is legalising cannabis. That would cut the prison population by half at least. But the deal done with NZ First will put decriminalisation or legalisation to a binding referendum only in 2000.

- We say legalise cannabis now! Close the prisons! Rehabilitate offenders in socially useful work or training on union pay rates!

### Climate catastrophe

The "nuclear issue of our age"? Oh please. Zero net carbon emissions goal by 2050. We will all be dead or dying by then. Capitalism is the cause of climate change.

- We say the alternative facing us is survival socialism or human extinction!

Global capitalism is in its terminal crisis and all Labour can do in its first 100 days is tinker and fiddle. We get more committees, reports and talk shops: a Ministerial Inquiry to fix our mental health crisis, an inquiry into the abuse of children in state care, a Tax Working Group, a Clean Waters Summit, an independent Climate Commission, an Affordable Housing Authority.

But talk shops don't create change especially when they fiddle with symptoms and don't touch the real causes of these problems. For example, tax evasion by the rich, profiteering at the cost of substandard housing and damaging the environ-

ment are all symptoms of capitalism in its terminal decline.

- We say Destroy capitalism before it destroys us!

### TPPA11 cancels all the 100 days hype

The signing of the TPPA11 (Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement) is a sell-out of NZ workers to the global monopolies like Google, Microsoft or Apple who have the power to sue governments that tax or regulate their profits. What to do? We say national sovereignty means nothing if the working people do not control the economy. The profits from the TPPA11 will go into the pockets of the foreign and NZ capitalist class, the losses will empty the pockets of the workers.

Therefore, against the power of Big Pharma or Big Tech to monopolise patents and supply we say:

- Socialise the health and communications industries under workers control to provide full access and free health and communications for all!

Against the power of monopolies to dictate economic, social and environmental policy by refusing to pay taxes on capital gains and profits we say:

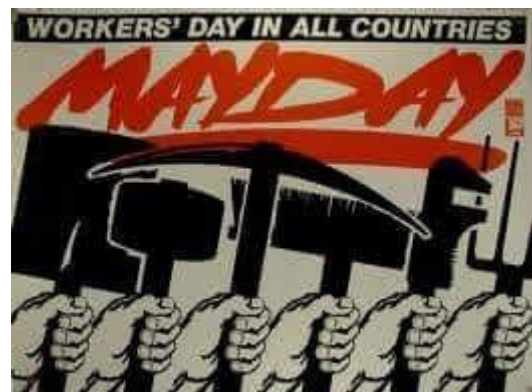
- Repeal the Fiscal Responsibility Act and tax profits and capital gains to pay for free comprehensive health, education and welfare!

- Organise workers committees and councils to determine economic, social and environmental policy to meet our needs!

- Nationalise without compensation the big four private banks and turn Kiwi Bank into a single State Bank under workers' control!

- Nationalise without compensation all foreign and NZ corporates that sack workers or close down!

We are for an independent workers party with a program for a Workers Government to expropriate capitalist property, socialise the economy and plan production for need and not profit!



**HWANGE PROTESTS:  
FOR AN ALL OUT STRIKE TO DEFEAT  
THE BOSSES!**

**SOLIDARITY WITH THE  
HWANGE WORKERS!**



For the past twelve days wives and relatives of Hwange Colliery workers have been staging a protest at the offices of the company over unpaid salaries and unfair methods of payment. The **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z)** supports the protests by the wives and relatives but call on the workers of the Colliery to go on an indefinite and protracted strike. That is the only way bosses can be defeated. Workers should not wait for the union to take the lead but instead should take the initiative themselves as demonstrated by their wives and relatives. It is not surprising that the mainstream media is quiet on the issue because it is on the side of the bosses and the state. We call on the mining union(s) and the labour federation to call for solidarity strikes in support of the Hwange Colliery workers.



We call for:

- An all-out strike and solidarity action to defeat the bosses of Hwange Colliery!
- Payment of all outstanding wages and timely payment of wages!
- A living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!

-Nationalisation of Hwange Colliery Company and all companies without indemnification to the big shareholders under workers control!

-A sliding scale of wages and prices and employment for all who can work; working conditions should improve for all workers!

-Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions!

-Workers take back your unions!

-Militant workers to form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!

-The introduction of state projects to employ all the unemployed; the government must stop the attack on the vendors!

-Land to be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!

-Workers to form strike 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!

-Workers to form workers defence guards for defence against state violence!

-A workers state that defends workers, peasants and the poor masses against the local and foreign capitalists!

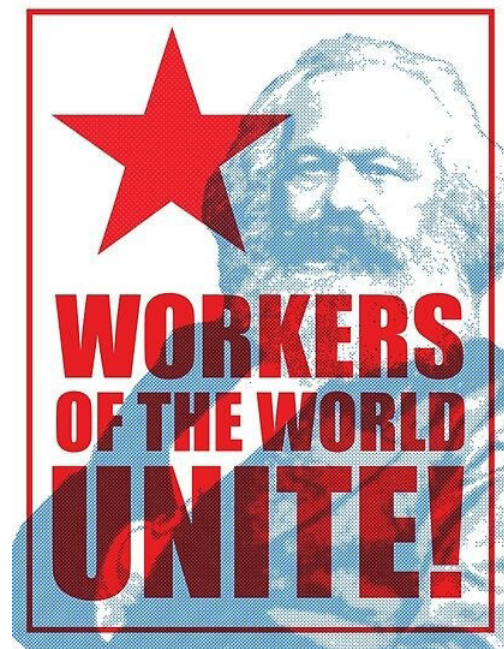
-An African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!

-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 Workers Group of Zimbabwe*

*(Zimbabwe section of the LCC)*

*11 February 2018*



## ZESA WORKERS PROTEST: FOR AN ALL OUT STRIKE!

### SOLIDARITY WITH ZESA WORKERS!



On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 workers from the parastatal sole energy entity, the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), staged a lunch time protest at the company’s offices in Harare demanding the payment of their outstanding salaries dating back to as far as 2012. It is commendable that the two unions representing workers in the sector, ZEWU and NEWUZ, are united in leading the workers. Workers are also demanding an end to corruption that has plagued the company leading to the failure to pay workers in blatant disregard to a 2012 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The **Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z)** supports the call to action but urge the workers and unions to embark on an all-out and indefinite strike action that alone can conquer their demands. That’s the only action that the bosses and the state understand. Further, we call for solidarity action from workers and poor masses.

We call for:

- An all-out strike and solidarity action to defeat the bosses of ZESA!
- Payment of all outstanding wages and timely payment of wages!
- A living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!
- Nationalisation of ZESA and all companies without indemnification to the big shareholders under workers control!
- A sliding scale of wages and prices and employment for all who can work; working conditions should improve for all workers!
- Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions!
- Workers take back your unions!
- Militant workers to form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!

-The introduction of state projects to employ all the unemployed; the government must stop the attack on the vendors!

-Land to be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!

-Workers to form strike 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!

-Workers to form workers defence guards for defence against state violence!

-A workers state that defends workers, peasants and the poor masses against the local and foreign capitalists!

-An African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!

-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 Workers Group of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe section of the LCC)*

11 February 2018

#### American Trotskyist James Cannon on the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strike:

*“Our people didn’t believe in anybody or anything but the policy of the class struggle and the ability of the workers to prevail by their mass strength and solidarity. Consequently, they expected from the start that the union would have to fight for its right to exist; that the bosses would not yield any recognition to the union, would not yield any increase of wages or reduction of the scandalous hours without some pressure being brought to bear. Therefore they prepared everything from the point of view of class war. They knew that power, not diplomacy, would decide the issue. Bluffs don’t work in fundamental things, only in incidental ones. In such things as the conflict of class interests one must be prepared to fight. Proceeding from these general concepts, the Minneapolis Trotskyists, in the course of organizing the workers, planned a battle strategy. Something unique was seen in Minneapolis for the first time. That is, a strike that was thoroughly organized beforehand, a strike prepared with the meticulous detail which they used to attribute to the German army— down to the last button sewn on the uniform of the last individual soldier. When the hour of the deadline came, and the bosses thought they could still maneuver and bluff, our people were setting up a fortress for action....”*

## **GOVERNMENT HANDS OFF NURSES! REINSTATE ALL FIRED NURSES NOW!**

### **ALL GOVERNMENT WORKERS STRIKE!**

### **FORWARD TO A GENERAL STRIKE!**



Yesterday, the eve of the independence celebrations, the government through the Vice President and former army general announced the dismissal of all striking nurses. In an opaque statement the government tried to shift the blame to the workers who are justly and legally fighting for their rights. The main reason for the dismissal was that the government view the action as political hence the measures.

The nurses have been on strike for about a week now demanding better working conditions, payment of overdue allowances and a review of their salaries and all legal procedures relating to the strike were followed. The real reason for the dismissal is to instill fear in other civil servants especially teachers who are set to strike when schools open on May. In essence this is the logic of class warfare which must be met with equal force.

The post Mugabe military based coup government is intent on attacking workers to lay the basis for renewed investor confidence and protection of the interests of capitalists. They want to send a clear message that indeed Zimbabwe is open for business and they can guarantee massive profits for their masters. In contrast to the workers and poor masses living from hand to mouth, the bosses and their surrogates are living large and can afford to charter planes for routine medical checkups whilst the masses die due to lack of medicine, proper facilities and money.

The Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z) salutes the gallant nurses who are fighting a class war on behalf of other workers in government and generally against austerity and slave conditions. We salute the nurses union for remaining resolute in the face of such attacks and also support the call by the main trade union federation for a general strike. The nurses must be defended. We call on all nurses not to bow down to this intimidation and instead intensify the strike. Workers should support the picket lines to stop scab labour. All government workers must down tools in support of the nurses and send a clear message to the government. A general strike is now a must if the working class is to survive.

We further call for:

**-The immediate and unconditional reinstatement of all dismissed nurses!**

**-An all-out strike and solidarity action to defeat the government!**

**-Payment of all outstanding allowances and timely payment of allowances!**

**-The opening of all books of the medical services for public view!**

**-A living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!**

**-Against the ever rising prices and inflation we demand a sliding scale of wages!**

**-Against unemployment and destitution we demand a sliding scale of working hours to provide decent jobs for all through massive public works programs to provide housing, education and medical care for all!**

**-Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions!**

**-Workers take back your unions!**

**-Militant workers to form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!**

**-The government must stop the attack on the vendors!**

**-Workers to form strike 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!**

**-Workers to form workers defence guards for defence against state violence!**

**-A national strike committee to organise and plan for a general strike!**

**- For a workers government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor!**

**-Nationalisation of all companies without indemnification to the big shareholders under workers control!**

**-Land to be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!**

**-A workers state that defends workers, peasants and the poor masses against the local and foreign capitalists!**

**-An African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!**

**-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 Workers Group of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe section of the Liaison Committee of Communists)*

*18 April 2018, Harare*

## VICTORY TO THE TEACHERS! ALL CIVIL SERVANTS OUT!

### FORWARD TO AN INDEFINITE GENERAL STRIKE NOW!



Zimbabwe teachers in the public sector, through their unions, have resolved to go on strike from the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2018 when schools open for the second term. The unions, in a rare show of unity, are organising under the recently launched umbrella federation of all teachers unions, the Federation of Zimbabwe Educators Unions (FOZEU). Workers have resolved to go on strike following the intransigence and indifference of the government to the plight of educators and civil servants. Government has continuously frustrated negotiations with its employees under the National Joint Negotiation Council (NJNC), a toothless body meant for collective begging and not bargaining. The government has also sought to divide workers who are represented by the APEX Council through selective engagements and promises. Workers have seen through this ruse and cannot take anything anymore. The leadership has been forced to confront the government in order to remain relevant and be able to control members.

Workers are fighting for a living wage, better working conditions, payment of outstanding allowances and the lifting on the ban on vacation leave in place since 2016. Teachers and civil servants last had a wage increment in 2011 and most are surviving through cyclic borrowing. This is in a context of extravagant consumption by senior government officials, the political elite and the capitalist class alongside its upper middle class agents. Instead of engaging the workers the state has sought to victimise, intimidate and divide workers. Government, riding on the back of nurses union induced retreat, is threatening all teachers who go on strike with dismissal. Further, government through its numerous press releases has sought to divide the workers as well as create a rift between teachers and the community. All this is bound to fail as the poor masses have come to realise that the so called “new dispensation” actually means opening Zimbabwe for business through attacking workers.

The Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z) fully supports the long overdue call to action by teachers in their fight for better pay and working conditions. We call on rank and file workers to set up strike committees to lead the strike and be able to move forward once the union leaders begin to retreat like what the nurses union leaders did. This strike cannot be allowed to be defeated or reversed as it would spell doom for all civil servants and workers. Let us be clear: Government has declared war on workers by threatening dismissals and the only way to defeat the government

and protect our class is through an all-out strike of all civil servants leading to a national indefinite general strike. Revolutionaries and progressives must offer practical solidarity to the strike. Picketing must be organized to stop scab labour.

**-An all-out strike and solidarity action to defeat the government!**

**-Reinstatement of vacation leave with full pay!**

**-Payment of all outstanding allowances and timely payment of allowances!**

**-A living Wage! Workers fight for a living wage and better working conditions through mass action controlled by ordinary workers!**

**-Against the ever rising prices and inflation we demand a sliding scale of wages!**

**-Against unemployment and destitution we demand a sliding scale of working hours to provide decent jobs for all through massive public works programs to provide housing, education and medical care for all!**

**-Organise the unorganised! Form unions of the unemployed as fully affiliated unions!**

**-Workers take back your unions!**

**-Militant workers to form class struggle caucuses in the unions to fight for this program!**

**-The government must stop the attack on the vendors!**

**-Workers to form strike 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!**

**-Workers to form workers defence guards for defence against state violence!**

**-A national strike committee to organise and plan for a general strike!**

**- For a workers government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers and the poor!**

**-Nationalisation of all companies without indemnification to the big shareholders under workers control!**

**-Land to be distributed to all poor peasants together with a state bank to provide inputs to all small farmers!**

**-A workers state that defends workers, peasants and the poor masses against the local and foreign capitalists!**

**-An African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!**

**-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!**

*RWG, 4 May 2018, Harare*

## RWG Zimbabwe preliminary statement on military takeover.

The Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z) condemns the military takeover on behalf of the western sponsored and neo-liberal bourgeois faction of ZANU-PF. A coup can never be a solution to the plight of the workers, poor peasants and poor masses. This has only been done to protect the interests of a certain wing of the comprador capitalists and their imperialist friends.

Workers and poor masses should organise against this coup just as they fought Mugabe's regime. They should also not wait for the so called intervention from SADC. Instead we call for solidarity from workers and poor masses across the region and globally. Only independent self activity of the toiling masses can conquer a good life for all. Furthermore, we call for an urgent meeting of the revolutionary and radical left to organise opposition both to the coup and the regime.

**-Form up workers and peasants councils that prepare the revolutionary general strike.**

**-Form councils of the street vendors and unemployed.**

**-Advance the program of socialism: Quality Jobs, education, housing and healthcare for all can be won by uniting the masses into independent workers councils and militia.**

**-For soldiers councils to arrest the bourgeois generals.**

**-Elect rank and file officers to rout out corruption and arm the masses.**

**-No faith in those who cut deals with imperialism at our expense.**

**-Seize properties forfeited to imperialism.**

**-Nationalize the economy under workers peasants controls with no compensation to the comprador and imperialists.**

**-Build our revolution across borders for a federation of southern African workers states**

*RWG Zimbabwe*

15/11/17



## 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-ZIM 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 Aotearoa/New Zealand (CWG-A/NZ), the Communist Workers Group of USA (CWG-USA) and the Revolutionary Workers Group of Brazil (RWG-BR).

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](mailto:rwg.zimbabwe@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.rwgzimbabwe.wordpress.com](http://www.rwgzimbabwe.wordpress.com)

**Twitter handle:** [@rwgzimbabwe](https://twitter.com/rwgzimbabwe)

**Facebook page:**

**Revolutionary Workers Group-Zimbabwe**

**Mobile number:** [+263713045654](tel:+263713045654)

### **Liaison Committee of Communists (LCC)**

**Revolutionary Workers Group of Brazil (GTR-BR)**

Email: [gtrevolucionarios1@gmail.com](mailto:gtrevolucionarios1@gmail.com)

Site: [grupodetrabalhadoresrevolucionarios.wordpress.com](http://grupodetrabalhadoresrevolucionarios.wordpress.com)

Guerreiro da classe Trabalhadora (Paper of the RWG-BR)

**Communist Workers Group-New Zealand/Aotearoa (CWG-NZ)**

Email: [cwg006@yahoo.com](mailto:cwg006@yahoo.com)

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

<http://livingmarxism.wordpress.com>

Class Struggle (Paper of the CWG-NZ)

**Communist Workers Group – USA (CWG-US):**

Email: [cwgclasswar@gmail.com](mailto:cwgclasswar@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.cwgusa.org>

Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)