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Strike November 30 Workers and students unite Link European actions



Another important step in the fight against the cuts has taken place with the agreement for strike action on November 30 in defence of pensions, jobs and services. This was agreed at the TUC conference as the first day of united action and will be an unprecedented coming together of all public sector workers and communities. If the unions organise and mobilise for this we could see a 3 or 4 million strong strike which would be the biggest since 1926 General Strike.

The anti-cuts movements are European wide and as the crises in Europe deepens, thanks to the banks demanding ever greater austerity measures, unions and youth will have to fight. Greek workers are facing barbaric attacks and youth unemployment in Britain is now officially above 1 million as total unemployment above 2.5 million.

Labour leader Ed Miliband has made it clear that he opposes strike action in the fight for the public services and has said he won't reverse any cuts if returned to power, thus showing his intention to continue to attack the working class; like the government he lies when he says that cuts are necessary in order to save the country, what he means is they are necessary to save the profits and bonuses of banks and big business who created this crisis. "Save the system" means make the working class pay.

At the Labour Party conference in Liverpool the Labour leader said he was, "Proud of the work our Labour council is doing". Liverpool's Labour council has cut £91 million from the budget this year and is closing children's services, support for the disabled and other frontline services with further cuts of £53 million next year.

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LIFE OF THE LIT

International Workers' League

Italy - Alternative Community Party

September Seminar

Dozens of militant trade unionists, leaders of immigrant committees, student activists and international delegates including the ISL from Britain and PSTU from Brazil attended the seminar as did a number of comrades from Tunisia and Algeria. The seminar discussed the history of Marxism, the experience of the Internationals, Trotskyism and the current national and international struggles.

During the seminar an occupation took place in Milan by immigrants demanding the right to stay for all and the seminar voted its full support to the occupation.

Internationalism is not simply for discussion but built in the struggles and the patient work of building revolutionary parties based in Marxism and under the banner for the reconstruction of the Fourth International and its program.

Portugal

Youth Rupture/ FER (IWL) held a political camp

With the backdrop of the revolutionary process in North Africa and the massive student demonstrations in Chile, about fifty young people gathered in St. Pedro do Sul in Portugal from the 9 to 11 September for a Revolutionary Youth Camp organized by Rupture / FER - the Portuguese section of IWL.

Students, workers and unemployed from Portugal and other countries discussed the role of the youth in the world events, the importance of young people in the revolutionary process in the Maghreb and the Egyptian revolution and the large student demonstrations in Chile. The discussion had a wide participation and was held in a great critical spirit of Marxism and with respect for diverse opinions.

Panama

The Workers League Toward Socialism

On October 17, 2009, a significant number of militant trade unionists agreed to establish a political organization of workers in order to promote the construction of a working class party in Panama. The Marxist-Leninist character of the political party was clear, whose strategic objective is a socialist revolution in Panama and the world.

The Workers League of Towards Socialism is two years old, it is an instrument of class struggle in support of communities and a party organized in the working class, which is socialist, internationalist, ecologist and governed by democratic centralism. The need to build a party of this nature comes out of the social situation, the ruling classes accumulate great wealth amid the outrageous misery experienced by humble Panamanians in the cities and the countryside.

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Editorial

Strike N30

Workers and students unite



(continued from the front page)

Trade union leaders voice their opposition to the cuts but they should be demanding that the Labour Party members mobilise for the November strikes. Some leaders have expressed admiration and support for the students who took to the streets against the National Union of Students leadership and created new organisations of struggle. Now students are renewing the fight and plan to demonstrate on November 9th and support the N30 strikes. Only praise for the students that leads to the same type of actions has any real meaning. Fight all leaders that will not mobilise, replace all leaders that will not mobilise that is the real lesson from the students.

At the TUC conference the Unite General Secretary Len McCluskey gave a powerful warning that unions would head into "terminal decline" if its 6.5 million members failed to stand up and fight. "Every conceivable form of protest and action should be carefully considered, from civil disobedience through to co-ordinated industrial strikes."

However he went on to attack the youth and Black communities, the most oppressed sections of this capitalist society, who rose up in August against

police violence and harassment, unemployment and no prospects. We must pressure the unions to take a lead in support of the working class youth, and attack the excessive and draconian responses of the state to the clashes. The unions should start by organising the youth and unemployed as part of the united fight-back against the cuts.

The initial response of the state to the youth 'uprising' was to introduce the use of plastic bullets and water cannon. This State is preparing and arming itself against the anger of workers that will match the anger of the youth when they begin to rise against the austerity programmes that will devastate their lives, communities and future.

We must build a united national struggle of all anti-cuts and community groups, student and youth groups, trades councils and union branches.

Just like the workers and youth in the Middle East and Europe we are fighting against a severe deterioration in our living standards. The past gains such as the welfare system and National Health Service are being eroded. Capitalism is unable to guarantee anything other than an increasing attack on the working class and widening the gap between rich and poor.

The world economy is in chaos, stock exchanges are falling and some banks are again on the brink of disaster. The IMF has warned that the risk to the international financial system is higher now than at any time since the collapse of Lehman brothers in 2008. As the Bank of England made the decisions to print a further £75 billion Mervyn King said, "This is the most serious financial crisis we've seen, at least since the 1930s, if not ever."

Pensioner groups and unions angrily described this decision as "a Titanic disaster" for savers. Greater austerity measures will follow and their defeat will need a united movement and leadership of all the working class forces across Europe. The leadership of that movement must be based on the principles of internationalism. We are part of the International Workers League, we recognise the need to develop a struggle to include a workers alternative towards the construction of the Socialist United States of Europe.

Capitalism has to be replaced by socialism to prevent this threatening catastrophe. Our future will be socialism or we will face darker days than the 1930s and lose the gains from hundreds of years of suffering and struggle. It took a fight to achieve them and it will take a bigger fight to keep them.

This is an absolutely necessary and urgent task in the process of our struggle. Labour offers no alternative, the working class has to build an alternative that will come from the youth, Black communities, workers and trade unions. In this the new party of class struggle Marxism will play a central role because the continuous fight for class independence and internationalism will be fundamental. The First International began the practice of a common workers fight and continues today in the struggle to rebuild the Fourth International. This is the central core to the work of the ISL.

Socialist Voice
interview

Defend the NHS

Join the strike

Larry Bowles is a Unite Safety Representative and Shop Steward at Broad Green Hospital where he has worked for 40 years. He is a member of the joint Shop Stewards Committee for the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust that includes Unite, Unison, GMB, Society of Radiographers and the Physiotherapist union and also a delegate to Liverpool TUC.

SV: What are the feelings amongst workers about the November 30 strike and the fight against NHS privatisation?

We have organised six demonstrations this year outside the Royal Hospital to fight the proposed privatisation changes by the government. We want all the staff to come to our future demonstrations and support the November 30 strike over pensions. Not all staff feel the pain of what will come, but they will. They want us to pay more in pension contributions and to receive less in pension payments.

Psychologically this is devastating to our members. The newspapers are talking about gold plated pensions but that is just propaganda, in fact many do not pay a great deal and they may be taken away in any case. These are pensions that we have paid into for all our lives. The real gold-plated pensions are paid to Ministers, bankers and the establishment.

The strike will represent the feelings of our membership over pensions, cuts, PFI and privatised restructuring. The strike will not put patients at risk and if there are life threatening situations they will be dealt with.

Of course if there is privatisation, companies will be able to change our pension scheme. After 90 days they will change our shifts and our pay and overtime. New starters will have a different pension schemes.

I want to thank the Liverpool Trade Union Council and Keep Our NHS Public

and all the support we receive for our demonstrations at the Royal hospital.

SV: What has privatisation done and what is threatened?

Since Thatcher in the 1980s they have wanted to privatise. When she came to power they went for the non-clinical services: cleaning and portering, and introduced compulsory competitive tendering.

We fought against that privatisation, but we had to tender in order to compete for the bids. However all our tenders were lost and those that won were based on reduced bonuses and holidays, and pensions were frozen. Since then there have been five different private companies and pay rates have been cut right down. This meant for example that the hospital laundry service, which was a great service, very efficient, where it was a hard but good place to work, was closed down and all laundry is now done in Blackpool not in Liverpool.

Car parks are now privatised, they want you to pay for visiting a sick person and to go to work. Vinchy, a French multinational company, is one firm that is running car parks. Privatisation also continued with maintenance. Now they want to use competitive tendering for blood services, the blood transfusion service will go if we don't stop their plans. They want to amalgamate Aintree and the Royal Hospital blood services, so that anyone who deals with the blood services, will be put into one unit. This will make it much easier to privatise and then our blood will be controlled by private laboratories.

Privatising blood transfusion and blood services shows there is no end to it, as all services are being turned to the market. The origins of the NHS in 1945 were not based on privatised services and it became the biggest non-profit organisation as well as the biggest employer in the country.

Big business and governments could see they could turn the NHS into a market, in order to make profit and



Larry Bowles campaigning

what was getting up their nose was that they knew they could create a market but they could not get their hands on it.

Eventually under successive governments the market was introduced. Now the Tories are going for everything and the firms that are lobbying them and beginning to run parts of the NHS have vested interests. Hospitals are and will be run like businesses which is against the principal of health. Hospitals are there to make sick people better, not to make a profit.

As far as I am concerned, as a public service the NHS gives the best care in the world. But over the next two years all that will change because of capitalism.

They got here by all the 'reorganisations' over many years. There needed to be more accountability but these plans and previous reorganisations have made that worse not better. I don't think the privatised services are cheaper or better than before.

What impact does PFI have on the NHS?

The PFI schemes are new builds but the costs are very high and paid over decades which means the payments will be impossible to maintain. There are empty buildings that the NHS had built but could not fill or they could not use, but will be paying for empty buildings over decades. No doubt the Royal will be added to the list of those hospitals that will not be able to keep up their payments because the PFI scheme to build a new Royal Liverpool hospital has been approved.

SV: What is your attitude to the Labour Party?

When Labour won the 1997 election there were shouts of joy from NHS staff, it was like the cavalry had come to save us. You've seen the movies haven't you! The Labour government did put more money into the NHS than any other government. And contrary to what people believe, the health service in parts did flourish under Labour. But because of capitalist leanings, the Blair government developed the Private Finance Initiative. And even ourselves, we had to win a tender to ward off privatisation. So much for the cavalry. We'd have been better with the unions.

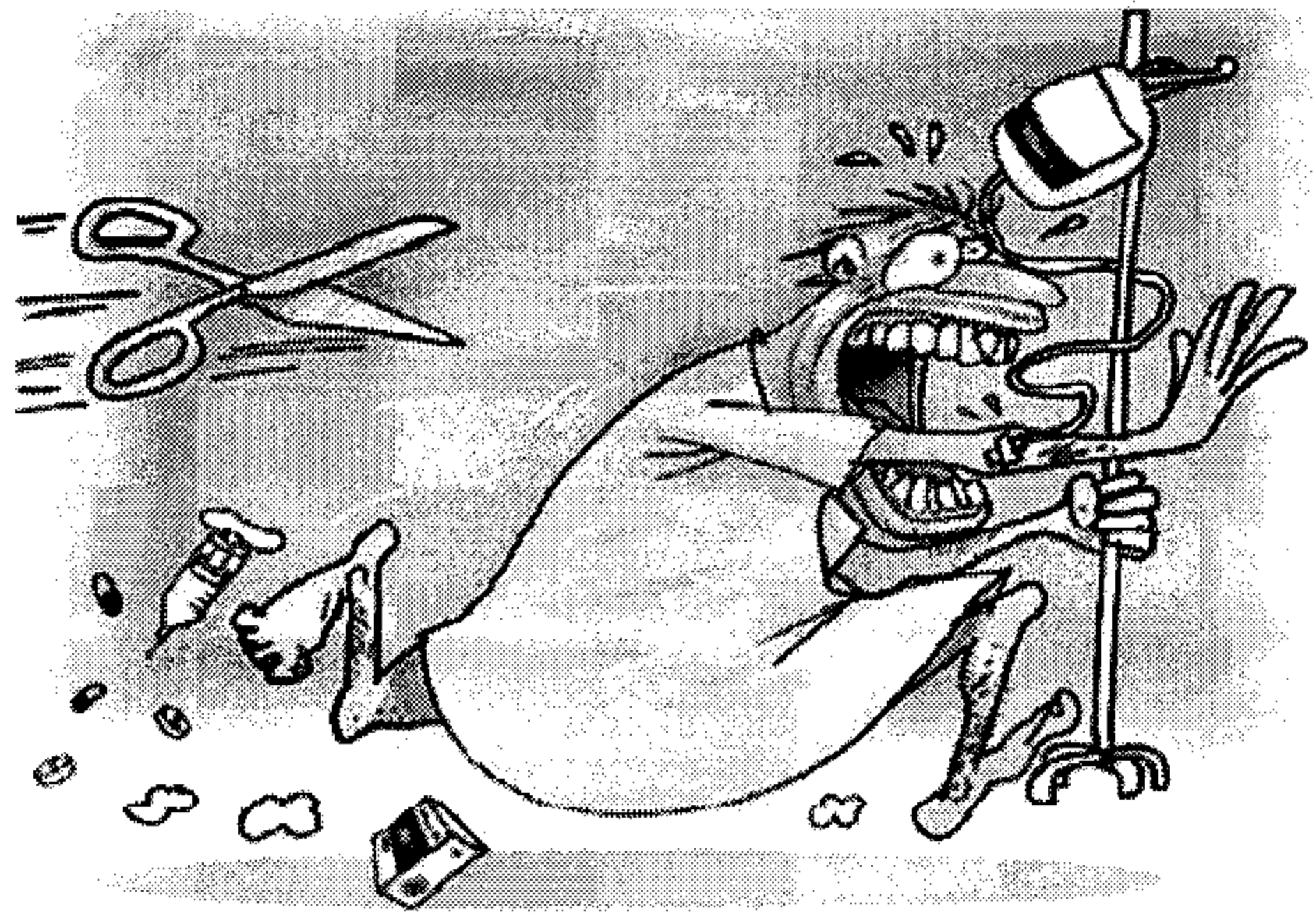
Ed Balls has told us that we are playing into the Tories hands by striking. We should remind Labour MPs what banner they should be standing behind, the trade union banners and the banners of working class struggle.

In the past the only party for me was the Labour Party and I was a Labour Party supporter. The Labour Party has buried its history and is only interested in votes, they are not representing the fight for pensions. They have some good people in the Labour Party but Labour leaders do not represent me. The unions voted Ed Miliband into the leadership of the Labour Party but he does not represent the ideals of what unions are fighting for because he is not representing the interests of the unions.



Fight privatisation

Margaret McAdam, Editor Socialist Voice



A book published in 2011 *The Plot Against the NHS* by Colin Leys and Stewart Player confirms what Larry Bowles says in the SV interview. The government is continuing two decades of policies supported by successive Labour governments but aimed at introducing privatisation into the health service. Labour hid its intentions but now the Conservative-Liberal alliance is shameless in their transparency. They talked of the need for modernisation, choice, diversity, improvement and re-organisation, but it was a cover for a drive to privatise. The book also shows clearly that privatised services in the NHS actually cost more.

Multi-nationals and privatisation

Vinchy a multi-national company mentioned in the interview, is a construction company that through PFI owns some of the buildings they build through PFI schemes, such as schools in Sheffield and Liverpool, hospitals in Bath, Oldham and Reading, housing in Sandwell, West Midlands and the management of many car parks.

Vinchy proudly announced on their web site that they, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust have received an award which "is a testament to the operational team who have worked tirelessly over the six years since appointment to ensure that the hospitals present clean, safe, bright and inviting environments to patients."

However the 22 NHS trusts that the government believes are at risk of going bankrupt because of PFI include St Helens and Knowsley. The government has said 22 trusts - running 60 units - are facing difficulties because of the privately-funded building costs. These hospitals represents nearly a fifth of the 100 plus PFI schemes in the NHS. Problems are being encountered because for some trusts repayments account for up to a fifth of their budget and PFI will force these trusts to continue paying this 'mortgage' over 30 years. Department of Health figures show that yearly bills are forecast to rise by 75% to more than £2.5bn in the next 18 years, due to inflation and the way the deals are structured. Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said: "The truth is that some hospitals have been landed with PFI deals they simply cannot afford."

Vinchy is just one of many multi-nationals that like vultures are devouring the innards of the NHS and other public services and will keep on doing so for many decades if they can get away with it.

PFI and pensions

PFI in the NHS transfers workers from the public sector to the private sector and thus TUPE will not protect the public sector pension scheme and offers no protection to new workers thereby creating a two-tier workforce.

Support N9

Build a joint movement with students

Martin Ralph, Editor Socialist Voice



Students in Britain are renewing their struggle for public education joining the world struggle. From Chile to Britain and from the USA to Greece, a fight for free and quality education not under the control of capital is underway. Internationally governments are carrying out the same IMF policy of privatizations, closures and cuts while putting teaching and research under the control of business.

In the UK the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts have called for a national demonstration for N9 and for support of the national unions strike day of N30. They have won the support of the National Union of Students which has 7 million members. Union leaders are also calling for support for N9.

The movement is developing and has advanced from last year, student fighters have strengthened their position inside the NUS and are reinvigorating the national NCAFC. At national and at local levels many more anti-cut activists have emerged as leaders.

The NCAFC needs to extend the call for student committees in all universities, colleges to include schools to organise for N9 and N30. New organisations that emerge in Britain have to build a powerful alliance between workers, students and youth, because the workers are the social class that produce the wealth and the working class is the force with the ability to lead a movement to defeat the government. The powerful basis of this alliance is that all are facing the attacks and must

fight against them.

Furthermore we urge all student activists to democratise the student movement in their institutions.

Students can help establish deeper links with working class communities by especially the youth and Black communities by going directly to help defend these communities against police harassment and violence and fight for jobs. The anger that erupted in August amongst the oppressed communities can be won to an alliance of struggle that also puts their interests at the forefront.

Students Attacked

Students will face state repression as recently happened in Birmingham. Three NCAFC supporters were arrested following a banner-drop at the Liberal Democrat conference in Birmingham. The student activists dropped a banner saying "Traitors not welcome - Hate Clegg, Love NCAFC", referring to the Lib Dems' broken promise to vote against fee increases.

In a move intended to intimidate student anti-cuts protesters, the three were charged with a minor road traffic offense (causing danger to road traffic users - although the prosecution admitted that no damage or injury resulted from the action). Two were bailed on condition that they did not enter central Birmingham until their trial; and a third was remanded in custody until September 26, when a

second hearing will decide whether or not he will be bailed until his trial in late October. He has now been suspended as an officer of the students union and from his studies.

This is a continuation of the repression and criminalisation of protest. Unions must take responsibility and defend these students and demand the dropping of all charges. Furthermore the extreme sentences meted out following the youth risings in August must also be attacked and the youth defended. To build a programme to fight the cuts that involves the widest participation, must include students and youth who will play an important and significant role in mobilising the working class. The government has robbed us of the education maintenance grants (EMA), they have trebled fees and cut courses. Universities, colleges and schools are turning to the private sector and local accountability will disappear allowing big business to squeeze profit out of education. Teaching and research will be controlled by and for the interests of business and there will be closures, merges and asset stripping just as happened with the nationalised manufacturing industries in the 1980s.

Internationalism

Capitalism and its governments managed to avert a crash in the 1990s by opening the world to the trillion dollar casino of the world's markets and a world programme of privatisation and misery for the masses. However all

No Fees No Cuts

this created the crash in 2008 and is pushing Europe to the brink again. This means capitalism must intensify its attacks on the public and private sectors to survive.

Against this we must proudly and confidently raise the banner of the working class internationalism. Our struggles can be international through an exchange of participation in each other's struggles in different countries and the development of common struggles. A new political leadership is needed to help guide this struggle based on Marxism and internationalism. The party and the international can help develop a leadership in all the struggles, it can help infuse actions with an internationalist understanding and combine the lessons of students and workers struggles across the world. We are fighting a common enemy who combine forces to make the working class submit to their attacks. The IMF, the world's and European banks and the European Union are demanding that we pay for their crisis. Our movement must build a stronger force than they have and we can. There are millions and billions of workers on this planet who suffer from this rotting system, we must unite and use our strength.

We call on students to reject the policies of division, build a principled movement that will fight for all sectors of the class. But above all fight to overcome the divisions imposed by capitalism in the struggle for socialism.

Brazil:

We support your mobilisations and strikes

The CSP CONLUTAS - Trade Union and Popular Central, which organizes about 200 unions, union oppositions, students, social movements and youth in Brazil send a warm greeting to the English students and workers who are fighting against cuts in public services, the government's attacks on employment and living conditions and the privatization of health and education.

In Brazil and throughout the world, especially in Europe, youth and workers are being forced by governments and the imperialist capital to pay for the economic crisis they created.

Governments everywhere and political parties are subordinated to the interests of international bankers and multinational corporations. In addition, the vast majority of union leaders collaborate with governments and try divide workers and prevent the struggles of workers and youth in defense of their rights, jobs, social gains and historical achievements.

Our side is different it is the side of workers and youth because they are not willing to sacrifice any more for these bandits who want to save their profits and millions, while our people face a deterioration in living standards.

We must unite our forces in Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East because in all these continents people are fighting against the same

attacks that we are all suffering. If we join forces, no government on earth will be able to defeat us. More than ever our unity and solidarity is fundamental to all who defend the exploited and oppressed around the world.

We also affirm our commitment, through the exchange of experiences, solidarity and international relations to build a new unionism based on workers' democracy, independence against employers and governments, combating sexism, racism, xenophobia and all oppressions. In solidarity and internationalism we combine our struggles of resistance and the struggle to end exploitation and oppression around the world.

The CSP CONLUTAS on behalf of 3 million workers organized in 200 affiliates is at the service of this struggle with all our might.

Long live workers' internationalism.

NO TO EXPLOITATION AND
OPPRESSION!

FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF TRADE
UNIONS!

LONG LIVE THE FIGHT & SOLIDARITY
AMONGST WORKERS AND STUDENTS
IN EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE
EAST AND LATIN AMERICA!

CSP-CONLUTAS

Dirceu Travesso

Sao Paulo, September 26th 2011.

Student Occupations

Edinburgh University

Students occupied Edinburgh University over tuition fees for students from the rest of the UK. **Robin Parker, NUS Scotland President**, said: "It's absolutely no surprise that Edinburgh University students are incredibly angry about their university's decision cash in on English, Welsh and Northern Irish students." The university want to charge these students £9000 per year.

Strathclyde University

Students from across Scotland occupied Strathclyde University against cuts and fees.

The plans that began at the end of last term to run down community education and geography, dismantle sociology and close down music have no democratic mandate and are opposed to the wishes of Strathclyde students and staff. At the

same time the University has decided to introduce fees of 27,000 for rest of UK students. This is part of an outright attack across Britain on the right to free and funded education for all. This occupation consists of students across Scotland and is part of a Scotland-wide movement of occupations against cuts and fees.

The threatening catastrophe in Europe

A programme for the working class



1930s - only class action and international struggle will stop the bankers policy of mass unemployment,

Market trader Alession Rastani shocked the BBC, when he responded to questions about the Greek bailout and the problems facing the Eurozone at a time when tear gas and the police tried to control the general strike on the streets of Athens as movements of opposition to the austerity measures heightened.

"Our job is to make money from it. And, personally, I've been dreaming of this moment for 3 yrs. ... people don't seem to maybe remember, the depression in the 1930s wasn't just about a market crash. There were some people who were prepared to make money from that crash."

"This economic crisis is like a cancer... just like a cancer its going to grow... The government doesn't rule the world. Goldman Sachs rules the world. Goldman Sachs does not care about this rescue package, neither does the big funds. ... in less than 12 months, my prediction is that savings of millions of people is going to vanish. And this is just the beginning."

These sentiments reflect the real feelings of the bank and bankers. The government and capitalists are saying that there is no alternative: they have to continue the cuts and privatizations. This is their program to maintain their wealth and power.

Today there are 610,000 millionaires up 17 per cent from 2008 to 2010, while mass unemployment is rising as is the gap between the rich and the poor.

Our program is for and of the working class, the students, the Black communities and all poor sectors of society.

The government has to immediately

stop all military interventions in other countries, such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. These are wars against the working class and poor people and mean death and devastation in these countries.

- Tax the rich, make them pay for the crisis they created
- Control bank speculation and the export of their wealth.
- Heavily tax the big fortunes of English millionaires and great landowners, including the churches, big properties and the Monarchy.
- Nationalize the most important private banks in UK because they control the money that the government needs to resolve the economic crisis and they can remove money from here to tax havens funding wars etc.
- Nationalize the great landed estates in UK, in the country and the cities. All the land has to be used for food production, housing and work.

With these measures there is money to stop the cuts and privatisations. We know that the Tories, Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party will never take these measures because it means a great attack on the profits of capitalists. These measures are the only way to resolve the crisis without cutting our jobs, pensions, public services, schools and hospitals.

The working class has to unite white, Black, old, young and immigrants - to put forward and fight for this program. In this fight we call on the support and the solidarity of the European peoples who are fighting the same enemy.

Spain: teachers strike

Spain,
Portugal, Greece...
are preparing for
October 15



Public education for all

Strikes and demonstrations taking place in Spain led by teachers, they are supported by parents and students and are struggling to defeat the cuts in public education. Public money is being used by the government to pay the debt of the bankers and transfer resources to the private sector, especially banking.

The attacks on education include increasing teaching hours and sacking another 3,000 teachers in addition to the 2,500 already dismissed.

The so-called public debt grew out of rescuing the banks, when the government pledged huge sums of public funds to avoid bankruptcy of the banks.

The attacks on education as well as health, labour reforms and social pensions is a robbery.

The mass strike and the demonstration, whose centre was in Madrid, shocked the Ministry of Education, as teachers, students, parents, other workers took to the streets.

It is necessary that this struggle becomes a struggle of all those below, that the students are a coordinated and increasingly active part in these mobilisations. It is necessary that all this struggle comes together on October 15 as an international day of struggle, which at the same time prepares for a general strike.

Taken from Corriente Roja <http://www.corrienteroja.net>



Ten years after September 11 imperialism is facing a global crisis



From the occupation of Wall street

Ten years after September 11 2001 (11S) a wide discussion has taken place in the media about the meaning and the importance of the attack on the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington and there is no doubt that 11S has been a landmark in recent history.

On the 10th anniversary the USA is in a deep economic and political crisis and facing great difficulties for control as the world hegemonic imperialist power. Important events that led to this crisis began precisely on that day and so it is very important to discuss the relationship between these events and the crisis and what is happening in the world today.

Many analysts believe that Al Qaeda was the main figure in the process and that the economic crisis was a direct consequence of the 11S attacks, but they are wrong. The truth is that imperialism has used the attacks to launch their "war against terror" offensive. One effect of the terrorist attacks was to draw American people closer to their government. Popular backing strengthened Bush's ability to launch his project and to gain initial success in Iraq and Afghanistan in the early years of the decade.

In the same way as Bush used the attacks to increase popular support in his country, things changed when the world's masses took centre stage in opposition to the offensive. Mass

actions not terrorist raids halted and defeated the offensive. Contrary to what analysts say, workers' struggles and revolutions drove the imperialists into the difficult situation they are now in. If isolated terrorist actions draw the bourgeois together, revolutions do the opposite, they divide them. That is why the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya are of such great concern to the bourgeoisie.

Al Qaeda played an insignificant role in the Arab revolutions and are not a reference for the mass movements in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya or Syria. Inasmuch as the masses are the protagonists of revolution, the "terrorists", not connected to them.

Bush used the raids

A debate continues on the attitude of the Bush administration over the preparation and undertaking of the raids by Al Qaeda commandos, headed by Bin Laden. There is a suspicion that the government knew what was about to happen but let it happen in order to use the subsequent impact on American public opinion in favour of Bush's political project for which it has clearly been used.

The New American Age Project brought together the extreme right wing of the Republican Party (who were critical of the then Democratic President, Bill Clinton, as well as traditional republican conservatives for being "soft" and unable

to reverse the "Vietnam Syndrome") to take the offensive and ensure American domination of the world.

Faced with economic crisis in the USA, revolutions in Latin America and the 2nd Intifada in Palestine, they considered it necessary to change the policy and launch a Bonapartist offensive. What they proposed was an aggressive and militarised foreign policy to overcome the crisis and take the oil and other energy sources. This sector won the Republican primary elections and then the presidential elections.

But the Bush administration was weak and so used the 11S attacks to win strong popular support with a policy to "defend" a country under attack. (at the time 75% of Americans supported the invasion of Afghanistan.)

In October 2001 American troops invaded Afghanistan and ousted the Taliban administration, who were accused of being backed by Al Qaeda and Bin Laden.

The Bush government also took advantage of the attacks to increase the "defence" budget and invest in the military industrial complex. He therefore combined his armaments policy with anti-crisis measures: new contracts for companies like Boeing that went from the verge of bankruptcy to enjoy huge annual profits; measures such as lowering the bank rates that gave a few years of economic growth.



Ten years after September 11

Mass movement defeated Bush

The swift triumph in Afghanistan pushed Bush to enlarge his plans. In 2003 American troops together with European imperialism and smaller countries aiding the USA invaded Iraq and defeated Saddam Hussein. The aim was to attack countries that would not submit to US imperialism, the so-called "axes of evil", these countries included Iraq, Iran, Syria and North Korea. The next step was to bring down the Ayatollahs' regime where American imperialism had unfinished business from the 1979 revolution.

But it was there that problems began. The Bush project and his international offensive clashed against an unforeseen factor the resistance of the mass movement. In Latin America a wide anti-FTA movement swept the continent and several neo-liberal administrations were defeated in the ballot-boxes and on the streets. In 2002, Bush mounted a coup in Venezuela against president Hugo Chavez. Chavez and his ministers had already surrendered when the coup was defeated by the masses.

However the very outcome of the project depended on what happened in Iraq. The occupation apparently triumphant, had turned into a war of liberation by the Iraqi people and it began to take an increasingly unfavourable course. Inside the USA opposition to the war grew and forced Bush to reduce the number of soldiers and promise a withdrawal.

Consecutive plans to stabilise and

control Iraq continued to fail. Obama decided to withdraw troops and leave the Iraqi administration to an extremely unstable government, consisting of Shiite and Kurdish sectors that are unable to guarantee stability. Unlike Vietnam there was an orderly retreat with several thousand soldiers remaining in super US bases..

American imperialism did not achieve its political, military or economic targets so it is not surprising that the "Iraq syndrome" has become a reference, for the fear of new land invasions that will turn into long wars and political-military quagmires.

The results in Iraq made an impact in Afghanistan.

The war of occupation in Afghanistan quickly became a war of liberation and the Taliban, who led the struggle now control most of the territory. Analysts agree that with the current political and military conditions, this is another war that "cannot be won". Obama's policy is restrained so as to try to gain strength in order to negotiate better conditions for withdrawal, which may mean the return to power of the Taliban. To make matters worse, Israel a strategic ally of imperialism, was seriously defeated in the 2006 invasion of Lebanon, under the leadership of Hezbollah.

A different face to suit new tactics

To make things even more difficult for imperialism, the failure of the Bush project has made it impossible to gain control over the energy sources and with the deep contradictions of the capitalist

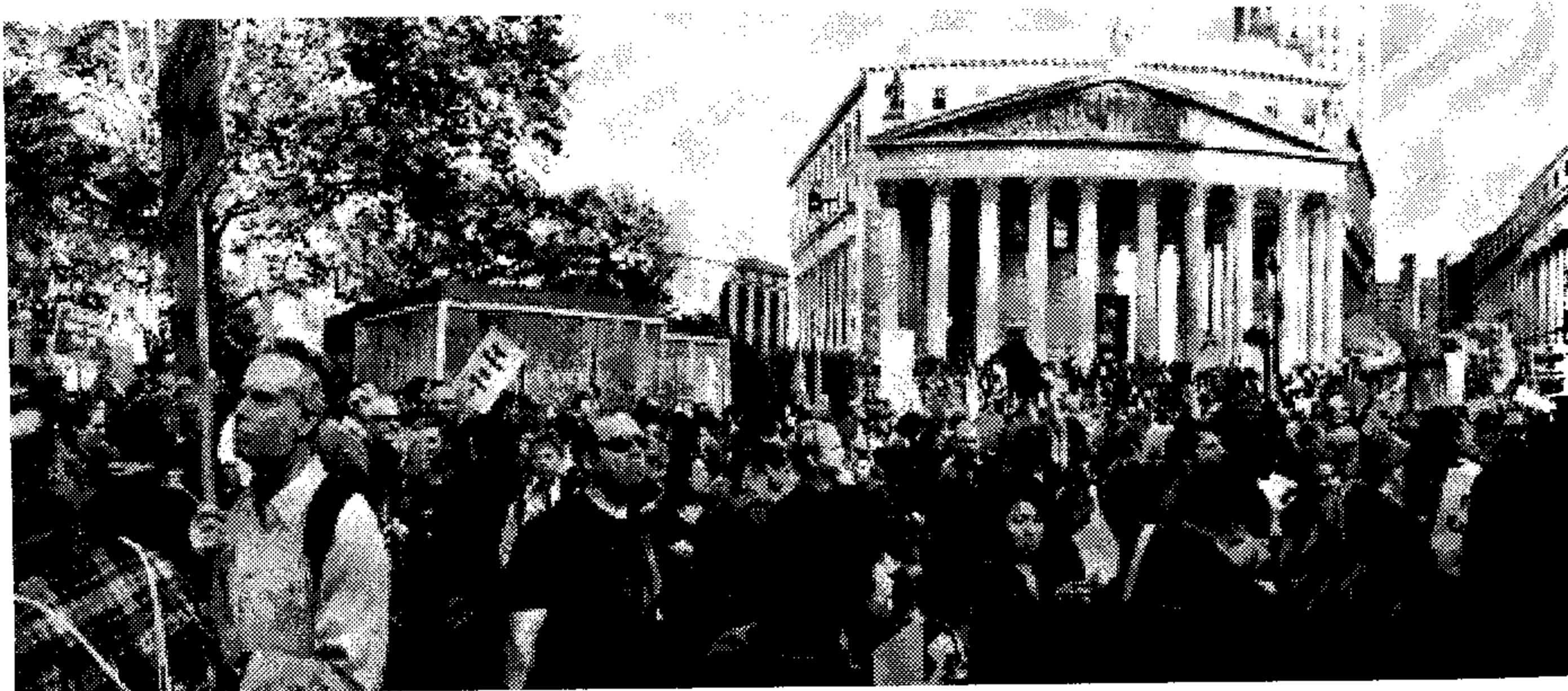
system that have accumulated for decades, led to the beginning of the serious economic crisis initiated in 2007.

Bush's defeat initiated a deep crisis in the political leadership of American imperialism. In 2008, facing two wars in very unfavourable conditions and a deep economic crisis, the majority of the American bourgeoisie backed Obama to achieve through negotiation and "consensus" some of what they were losing because of the class struggles due to the consequences of the economic crisis. They tried to win time in this way to find a solution while sailing through rough waters at home and abroad.

Obama did achieve some results: internationally to negotiate partial and orderly withdrawal from Iraq, and reached agreement on the restructuring of General Motors without any social outbursts at home. He managed to avoid a depression in 2009 and there was a partial recovery. But this recovery was not enough to overcome the structural problems that caused the crisis. He failed in his attempt to overcome the economic crisis at home and abroad.

The lack of solutions is the reason the American bourgeoisie are divided on most of the important issues: the economic crisis; political and military intervention in the world, continued investment in China; new "national" investments; support for the banks or for the military industrial complex.

These divisions are expressed in





Imperialism is facing a global crisis

a deep political crisis as became evident in the legislative debate over broadening the limits of the public debt when Obama was visibly defeated. But the most serious consequence as far as the American bourgeoisie is concerned is that the political regime as a whole is regarded with deep misgivings by the American people.

The deep tensions inside the American bourgeoisie is reflected in the doubt about whether the majority will continue to support the "face of change", and re-elect Obama, it's still not clear if there is a real and credible alternative among the Republicans.

What is clear is that the crisis of political leadership, created by the defeat of the Bush project, continues and this fact alone is enough to define the decade as being fraught with setbacks for imperialism.

Enter Arab Revolution

It is impossible to understand fully the balance of the 10 years since 9/11 without referring to the extraordinary revolutionary process taking place in the Arab world. We can say that this process represents a new defeat for the Bush project because imperialism has to cope with the tremendous revolutionary ascent in that region.

One of the central aims of the Bush project was to control the Arab and Muslim countries and their oil reserves (60% of the world total).

The revolution in the Arab world which swept through Egypt jeopardised

imperialism's plan for the region, threatening the strategic allies of imperialism in the region. Israel is going through a very serious crisis and is increasingly isolated internationally. Palestinians carry out mass actions against the borders and a sector of Jewish Israelis mobilise for economic demands. Turkey has had excellent political and military relations with Israel ever since its foundation and Egypt has difficulty guaranteeing the borders against Gaza, agreed in the 'peace' treaty that Anwar Sadat signed. The revolution threatens to undermine the Camp David agreements. Saudi Arabia also watches the revolutions with concern as it threatens the oil monarchies.

These revolutions represent an ideological defeat for imperialism. After 11S they launched a fierce campaign to characterise the struggles of the Arab and Muslim countries as wars led by "religious fanatics" and "terrorists". But the Arab revolutions saw youth, and workers and great mobilisations in order to make historic transformations. Their struggle has become an inspiration for workers and youth across the world.

Within this panorama a fundamental negative continues and explains why these processes have not expelled imperialism and workers have not yet seized power. It is the absence of an alternative revolutionary leadership. This absence allows imperialism to manoeuvre and try to deviate and halt the revolutions in order to maintain

domination.

Here we include events in Libya where the revolution developed into civil war. This revolution was fighting the local agent of imperialism, Gaddafi. In exactly the same way as imperialism had to get rid of Mubarak, it interfered in the process through the intervention of NATO and the pro-imperialist Transitional National Council. They used the lack of a revolutionary leadership to get an important sector of the rebels to regard this as "aid" and not as a counterrevolutionary offensive to recover control. But despite the dangers present it was a revolution where the armed masses were the protagonists who toppled Gaddafi, and that was a defeat of imperialism.

From every perspective imperialism is worse off today than ten years ago. The economic crisis is driving imperialism to show its worst features and attack the living standards of workers and people including in its central countries. The "new American age" lasted less than a decade and Bush fell with it, now Obama is slipping into the mire.

The main question that concerns us is the lack of an alternative revolutionary leadership with mass influence. But now the world crisis and all the difficulties facing imperialism offers us a real possibility for its construction. With better objective conditions than ten years ago, the construction of a revolutionary leadership continues to be the main task that the IWL-FI dedicates all its efforts.



Protests grow against Wall Street

The world's mainstream media fails and fears to report events on Wall Street which is growing not only in New York but across the country in about 70 other cities.

The movement is growing out of anger against the banks and government because of unemployment, impoverishment and the destruction of the economy by Wall Street.

The New York Transit Workers Union (TWU) voted to support the occupation. A member of TWU Local 100 said that they would join the protest. The TWU has four main divisions: Railroad; Gaming; Airline; Transit; and Utility, University and Service. The Union has 114 autonomous locals representing over 200,000 members and retirees in 22 states in the US.

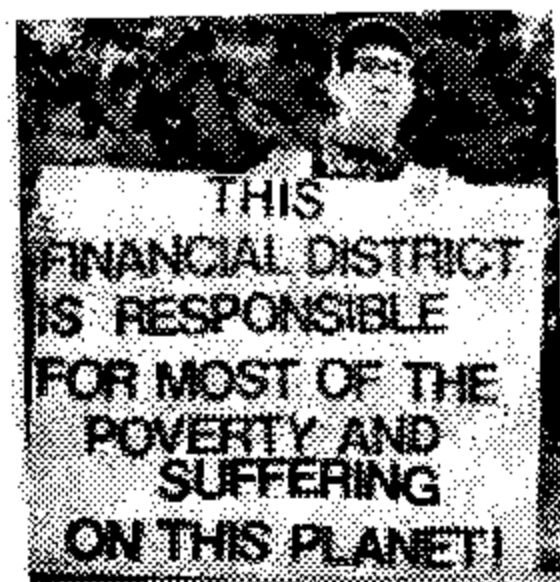
The Teamsters Union have declared their support and members of the United Pilots Union joined demonstrations in uniform.

The number on the streets of New York continues to grow, and now includes war veterans. A brutal showdown took place on Brooklyn Bridge, where over 800 people were arrested, which spawned another protest near City Hall.

Protesters are now planning to demonstrate outside of City Hall.

The purpose of this protest is to call for the dropping of all charges against the 800 arrested which took place when the occupation of Brooklyn Bridge closed it down in one direction.

US soldiers and veterans have said they will join the protest near City Hall and that they will help to protect protesters from another brutal confrontation with the New York Police.



Murdoch press attacks Aborigines

Derek Mortimer, journalist and writer. Sends us two stories one about the Murdoch press, The second story is about the barbaric racist immigration policies of the Labour government. These stories show important parallels with Europe.



Pat Eatock 73-year-old Aboriginal activist

Pat Eatock is a name few Australians had heard of until a week or so ago. But many are familiar with the name Andrew Bolt. Bolt is a right wing columnist for a number of Rupert Murdoch's News Ltd publications, a broadcaster, and according to him, the man who runs "... Australia's most-read political blog."

The elevation of the 73-year-old Aboriginal activist into the public domain came when Judge Mordecai Bromberg, of the Federal High Court, found on September 28 that Bolt and the Herald and Weekly Times contravened the Racial Discrimination Act by publishing two articles on racial identity which contained "errors in fact, distortions of the truth and inflammatory and provocative language".

Ms Eatock initiated the action and was joined by eight other Aboriginal writers, academics and community leaders.

In two columns published in the Melbourne, *Herald Sun*, Bolt sneeringly accused Aborigines who are of pale or white appearance, of *choosing* to be identified as Aboriginal to further their career or qualify for indigenous awards.

All in fact were brought up from childhood in Aboriginal communities. There was no choice, being black was their birthright.

Academic, and novelist, Larissa Behrendt, was said by Bolt to have had a German father and an Aboriginal mother when in fact her father was a black activist.

Financial damages were not sought, but the group did want an order restraining Bolt from publishing anything containing anything "substantially similar," and the removal of the two columns from Bolt's website.

Speaking outside court, Bolt predictably said, "I am not a racist."



Larissa Behrendt.

It was, he claimed, "a terrible day for free speech in this country...It is particularly a restriction on the freedom of all Australians to discuss multiculturalism and how people identify themselves."

That's not what the claimants thought. Ms Eatock described Justice Bromberg's decision as, "the highlight of my life."

"He set out to offend from the word go and he acknowledged that in his evidence. We're not saying you can't talk about racial issues. What the judgment clearly says is it's how you handle it, you cannot be malicious. You must handle it based on truth and fact, not fiction and racism."

Bolt was quoted in the Murdoch flagship newspaper, *The Australian* as saying, "if the judgment stands, this is not the country I recognise."

Many would say, that's great.

Australian Letter October 2011

Mass deportations by a Labour government

Even by the standards of the Australian Labor Party this minority government's treatment of asylum seekers is, to say the least, bizarre, brutal and racist.

The government under Prime Minister Julia Gillard, is pursuing a policy which would have asylum seekers, including children and adolescents, "processed" in Malaysia, despite the fact that the High Court has declared this would be illegal.

In an attempt to force through its "Malaysia solution," Gillard plans to change the Migration Act - and is pleading with the Opposition leader, Tony Abbott, for support.

The organisation, Chillout, [children out] said, "The Prime Minister is trying to change the laws so unaccompanied refugee kids can be deported to situations of human rights abuses ... Have we fallen so low that we make laws that allow us to abuse children - some are orphans and many are fleeing horrible persecution?"

At present newly arrived asylum seekers are quarantined offshore on Christmas Island, which is closer to Indonesia than Australia.

Refugee support groups are demanding that the process take place on the Australian main land, free of detention

When the Liberal-National Party coalition was in government it imprisoned asylum seekers on the tiny, remote island of Nauru in the western Pacific.

Most refugees to Australia are from the Middle East and fly first to Malaysia or Indonesia. Under the so-called Malaysia Solution 800 asylum seekers on Christmas Island would be deported back to Malaysia and Australia would accept 4000 Malaysian refugees over four years.

Around 100,000 refugees are trapped in Malaysia. The Refugee Action Coalition says that less than 10 per cent were resettled in 2009. Some have been waiting for 20 years, and all are forced



to live in impossibly difficult conditions and there is widespread abuse.

It describes Malaysia as "a human rights pariah which is not party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is regularly criticised by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

"It has not signed the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, which is intended to guarantee refugees fundamental rights.

"Refugees are subjected to arbitrary arrest and deportation back to the persecution that they fled. Even UNHCR-recognised refugees are subject to harassment and beatings by the authorities, and live in poverty and fear.

"When convicted of immigration offences, a refugee is liable for five years' imprisonment, a \$US2915 fine, and whipping or caning."

There have been 34,923 instances recorded since 2008.

Why is the Labor government determinedly pursuing its barbaric "Malaysia solution?"

Because it is desperate to hang on to power and is pursuing the right wing, redneck vote by showing it is even tougher than the Opposition on "border protection"

General strike in Italy

The general strike in September 6 was an important action against the Berlusconi government and its austerity measures. But the Italian General Workers Confederation (CGIL), the biggest trade union in Italy who called the strike did not offer an alternative to workers.

Comment from our Italian section

Calling the General Strike should not cause a surprise: across Europe - from Spain to Portugal, from Greece to France strikes are taking place. But the general strike called by the CGIL is, in effect, a novelty because for nearly three years, until May 6 it refused to call a general strike. Now, after three months, it's time for a second general strike. However for the CGIL bureaucracy it is both an admission of defeat and it was an attempt to try to get back into negotiations with the government. On 28 June the CGIL made an agreement with the bosses of Italian industry that limited the right to strike, which means the right has to be approved in a ballot - something like the situation in Britain.

Transform the general strike into something different

The Arab revolutions in the changing economic and social crisis of capitalism showed that revolutionary movements are capable of overthrowing secular regimes. The crisis of the economic system gives breath to new mass struggles. Italy is in the rear, thanks to the fact that our largest union, the CGIL, has so far only pretended to call workers to struggle. Today we must all join the general strike but make it the start of a mass struggle in our country. For this to happen we must transform the strike into mobilisations to the bitter end with the construction of committees of struggle in every town and work place, a path that leads to extend the strike to break the government and employers. The Communist Alternative (PdAC) will go to the streets on September 6 with an anti-capitalist and socialist platform.

Libya

The struggle continues

Cecilia Toledo, Editorial team Socialist Voice

The ongoing revolution in Libya has caused controversy on whether or not to support the insurgency against Gaddafi and imperialism. The anti-imperialist nature of the revolution comes from the struggle by the masses for the liberation of the country from imperialist control which is the root cause of poverty and oppression in Libya.

Political differences deepened on the Left when the Transitional National Council asked imperialism to establish a No Fly Zone against Gaddafi. However the ABC of Marxism clearly explains that the masses are not the same and cannot be compared with its leadership and the masses who are fighting against imperialism and Gaddafi.

Lenin and the February Revolution

There is a similarity with 1917 February Russian Revolution. In *Letters from Afar* (March 1917) Lenin made a careful analysis of the process in order to clarify the policy of the Bolshevik party, "every abrupt turn in history, and this applies to every revolution, presents such a wealth of content, unfolds such unexpected and specific combinations of forms of struggle and alignment of forces of the contestants, that to the lay mind there is much that must appear miraculous." Following the same reasoning we must ask how was it possible to destroy Gaddafi's 42 years strong dictatorship in such a short time (February to August 2011)? It was due to a combination of historically important factors.

The February Revolution, according to Lenin, came out of three years of class struggle, "Without the tremendous class battles and the revolutionary energy displayed by the Russian proletariat during the three years 1905-07, the second revolution could not possibly have been so rapid in the sense that its initial stage was completed in a few days". Libya has not had a revolution like the 1905 Revolution, nevertheless if we look at Libya's recent history we can conclude that a revolutionary process has been developing.

During 42 years of Gaddafi's dictatorship, despite ferocious repression and



control by the government over the working class, an opposition movement grew. Initially Gaddafi clashed with imperialism but at the same time he persecuted any opposition to his rule and although he was not a direct agent of imperialism he was against the masses. In 1969 he came to power and overthrew the monarchy in a coup d'état by army officials, without the involvement of the Libyan people. The new regime was led by the Revolutionary Council (RC) which proclaimed a new Arab Libyan Republic with the flag of "freedom, socialism and unity". However the Libyan people had little freedom, no socialism and no unity.

The RC took back the oil from imperialist control and the Libyan bourgeoisie used this capital to afford some concessions to the mass movement, mainly reform of public services which won Gaddafi popular support. The per capita wealth rose (11,000 US dollars), fifteenth highest in Africa, which helped build a strong middle class base of support for Gaddafi. At the same time repressive policies were applied to internal opposition movements and by 2000 Gaddafi had developed a good relationship with imperialist countries and renewed business with imperialist oil companies.

The two stages of Gaddafi

To understand the Libyan revolution it is necessary understand the two stages

of Gaddafi's government firstly, disagreement with imperialism; secondly, directly pro-imperialist. Importantly from the beginning terror was used against sections of workers and popular leaders. Opposition to the government began with demands for democratic freedoms and in the early years groups of refugees abroad condemned the lack of human rights in Libya and in 1979 Gaddafi made threats that these groups must "return home

immediately or you will be murdered". A wave of assassinations took place mainly in Europe and in 1982 Gaddafi repeated his threat and confiscated the property of refugees.

Gaddafi pursued his opponents all over the world. According to Amnesty International 25 opponents were killed between 1980 and 1987. Gaddafi's police were active in England from 2000 and with the help of M16 began to identify, persecute and arrest Libyan opponents living in the UK and return them to Libya where they were tortured and killed.

Agreements with imperialism, terror against masses

In the first stage of his government Gaddafi tried to maintain power by developing coalitions of "popular committees" and "revolutionary committees" that were popular and revolutionary only in word. These committees reported on and denounced any opposition to the government and bloodily repressed and persecuted activists and strictly controlled trade unions.

Over 42 years the Gaddafi family enriched themselves with petrodollars, controlled millions of hectares of land for themselves, owned shares in foreign companies and banks and committed atrocities against the Libyan people.

The Libyan dictatorship was not a motor for control but a motor for insurgency. In 1917, according Lenin, the motor for



revolution was World War I in 1914. Today the imperialist war we face is the economic crises that the bourgeoisie is putting on the shoulders of the working class across the world. In 1914 Lenin said, "Both the German and the Anglo-French bourgeoisie are waging the war for the plunder of foreign countries and the strangling of small nations, for financial world supremacy and the division and redivision of colonies, and in order to save the tottering capitalist regime by misleading and dividing the workers of the various countries".

It's the same today the imperialist attack on the working class is to save a dying capitalist regime from total bankruptcy.

As in February 1917, today in Libya two opposite forces made a joint attack on Gaddafi's dictatorship: on one side, sections of the Libyan bourgeoisie who jumped out of the sinking boat and the imperialist governments headed by the Anglo-French alliance; and on the other the Libyan people. The English and French did everything they could to keep Gaddafi in power, however the masses had seized their moment and the insurgency took control of several important cities. This loss of control by Gaddafi led imperialism to develop a relationship with the ex-Gaddafist officials, corrupt ex-ministers of the dictatorship and big business to help them take the power before the masses did.

The TNC had support from a section of the rebels and the people had expectations in them. However in order to destroy Gaddafi quickly, the TNC, without consulting the Libyan people, called on NATO to declare a No Fly Zone. This was an act of imperialist aggression against the Libyan people who now had two enemies Gaddafi and imperialism, both were trying to destroy the mass movement to prevent them from taking power.

Lenin said in February 1917, "That the revolution succeeded so quickly and seemingly, at the first superficial glance so radically, is only due to the fact that, as a result of an extremely unique historical situation, absolutely dissimilar currents, absolutely heterogeneous class interests, absolutely contrary political and social strivings have merged, and in a strikingly "harmonious" manner. Namely, the conspiracy of the Anglo-French imperialists, who impelled Milyukov, Guchkov and Co. to seize power for the purpose of continuing the imperialist war... on the one hand. On the other, there was a profound proletarian and mass popular movement of a revolutionary character (a movement of the entire poorest section of the population of town and country) for bread, for peace, for real freedom."

Do not put an equal sign between the TNC and the masses

It is a wrong to put an equal sign between the TNC and the rebels. Firstly, because they represent different social classes, and secondly, because they have different interests in the revolution and do not have the same program. An important section of the rebels are fighting the TNC and have caused divisions within it. The TNC called for the imperialist intervention, however the masses went on to the streets demanding "no imperialist intervention".

It was necessary for the masses to bring down the Gaddafi dictatorship and now it is necessary to expel imperialism and fight against its agent, the TNC government. There is an alternative that can express the real interests of the Libyan people that is the popular militia who brought Gaddafi down, who do not want to disarm and will not accept the TNC programme.

The struggle continues

The new government is an agent of imperialist capital, above all European capital. It is a bourgeois government which cannot give bread or independence to the Libyan people.

In this struggle the Libyan people has powerful allies: the whole mass of poor people in Libya, and the workers and poor people in Arab countries who are also fighting against the bourgeoisie and imperialism, and the masses across the world who support them. The Arab revolution continues and is inspiring many movements across the world. The struggle against all the Arab dictators has to continue as the struggles against European capital and the austerity plans must continue. In the process these struggles will find strength in growing together. That is the meaning of permanent revolution today, once the fight against imperialism and native capitalism begins in a time of world crisis, it has to continue or suffer huge blows. These struggles cannot wait for socialism to grow together; they will do that in the struggle for socialism and the most consistent force that will carry that through is the working class across the world as the struggles and revolutions grow over into other countries.



Argentina

Impunity breeds crime

Elizabeth Leonidez, member of the newly formed PSTU, Argentine section of the IWL



Latin America often regarded as part of the 'Third World' has often been in the headlines because of the criminal dictatorships ruling there. In Argentina, the last episode of such genocide lasted from March 1976 until 1983 and the officially admitted toll of missing people is 30,000. This does not include people who were kidnapped, tortured and killed with no witnesses to report it to the Human Rights organizations. Argentina once more deserves headlines but this time for our refusal to abandon the slogan "Never Again". If Nuremberg was a symbol of punishment for genocide, Argentina as a nation ought to take the prize for having punished several times the number of those condemned in Germany. In spite of all efforts made by representatives of both majority bourgeois parties, the Radicals and the Peronists, to let military terrorists get away with it, trials have been going on for years and several generals and a Catholic priest were convicted at public trials.

There was a turning point when the Kirchner "dynasty" took over with the explicit mission to put an end to the unruly atmosphere that followed the 2001 crisis. Duhalde tried to achieve this aim by repression but had to leave in a hurry. Five other presidents went in less than a fortnight in office. Unemployment increased, foreign debt played havoc with finances and IMF recipes were the only law the ruling class respected. Popular assemblies mushroomed all over the country.

Unfortunately, the crisis of revolutionary leadership was also at its highest peak and the proletariat was

controlled by trade union bureaucracy. Perhaps the worst aspect of this crisis of our leadership was that most of the left misunderstood completely the nature of this rebellion. Some became more sectarian than ever, others became unbearably opportunistic and all this in the name of Trotskyism. So people moved almost anarchically they knew what they would not have; they could not pose a positive demand and disdained from taking power. So the "que se vayan todos" became the battle cry of angry crowds.¹

But there was one feeling that could be satisfied in the short run without spending the money that "creditors of the Fake Foreign Debt" claimed to be theirs: it was the "Nunca Más".² So, overnight the Kirchners turned into the great champions of human rights.

Obviously they would not do anything that could hurt the capitalist system itself so dismantling the armed forces was out of the question. Cosmetic modifications had to suffice but they had to be convincing. So ESMA³ was turned over to the Mothers of the May Square to be used as a museum. The portrait of General Videla, head of the coup, was removed from the gallery of presidents of the country, 24 March was declared a holiday so that more people could join the demonstration of all human rights organizations held on every anniversary of the tragic coup d'état, and the Mothers were invited

¹ "Out with everybody"

² "Never again": in this context it meant no more dictatorship, no more concentration camps, and no more repression.

³ Escuela de la Mecánica de la Armada (Navy School of Mechanics)

to the Government House and greatly honoured in the media.

In the meantime the fact that the world economic crisis was more lenient in Latin America than in the central countries of imperialism allowed Mr & Mrs K to spare some of the money to build corrupt and corruptible relations with the most impoverished sectors of our society. This means that they distributed computers in schools where roofs leaked and underpaid teachers tried to teach in overcrowded classrooms; they created patronage "plans" for the unemployed. In short, the entire machinery for seducing the impoverished toiling masses was put to work. All this effort is doomed to fail even if recent electoral results may induce us to think otherwise. Little but repression - with all the risks it entails - now lies between people's righteous wrath and the government.

Not that repression had ceased altogether at any moment. Political and trade union activists are harassed and imprisoned, the most recent example being oil workers in the southern province of Santa Cruz. People still "vanish"... It is said that they are kidnapped to work in the prostitution business. This is probably true, for as the capitalist rate of profit dwindles, even very respectable bourgeois will commit crime to save their bank accounts.

The difference is that now, every time somebody is missing or inexplicably killed and families demand justice and if only a fake scapegoat appears, more often than not demonstrators bring bunches of parsley. So the "perejilazo" has become a new way of protesting against injustice⁴ and the reputation of the police is tarnished. They will now find it harder to repress and get away with it.

⁴ Parsley- in Spanish perejil is slang for scapegoat. A few years ago a woman belonging to an influential family was murdered at home. A young man of the working class was accused. Neighbours demonstrated carrying bunches of parsley and it began to dawn on public opinion that the police were ready to sacrifice a poor boy to protect the reputation of a rich family. A similar case happened when an 11 year old girl was kidnapped and murdered and demonstrators with parsley frustrated the attempt of having innocent neighbours from being punished for a crime they had not committed.

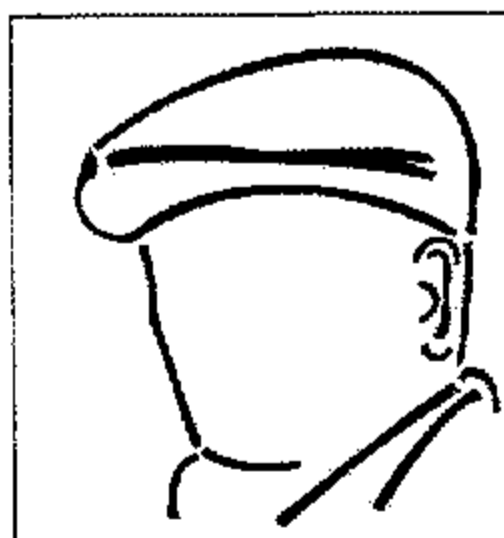
There have been some triumphs

The case of Sonia Colman, a typical example of "easy trigger", affected us directly for Sonia and her husband Antonio had been militants in our trend for over 20 years. What follows are quotations from an article in our paper, *Avanzada Socialista*.

"23 December 2007, Sonia Colman was assassinated by B.A. Province police officer Oscar Alberto Benitez who started shooting in a busy street where Sonia was working as vendor. (...) Her family immediately appealed for solidarity from political and social movements. We demanded jail for the murderer because the "justice" let him off concluding it was "an accident". After nearly four years of struggle, Antonio and his daughters managed to put Benitez in the dock (...) On 5 September we gathered in front of the Tribunal of San Isidro and cheered proudly when we heard the sentence: 8 years and 6 months jail (...) He was handcuffed and taken to prison immediately. (...) Now we must double our actions and go for more because now we know that with joint demonstrations we can send murderers to jail."

Julio Lopez ... the man who vanished twice

In the 70s, Julio Lopez was a Peronist bricklayer. He was kidnapped in 1976 and held in captivity until 1979. Then he was set free and never returned to political activity but he never forgot the brutality and injustice suffered. He was a key witness in the trial of his torturer,



This was one of the most popular images of struggle against impunity. Before the elections this image appeared on many walls with the question: where should Julio Lopez vote?

Miguel Etchecolaz, who was being tried for his participation in the genocide. But Etchecolaz's accomplices are still in the police force, and they know that if the whole truth is known, they will also



Sonia Coleman

have to pay for what they did. So Julio Lopez was kidnapped once more.

Following the pretence of a brief investigation they gave up the pretence of seeking justice and joined sham mourners who say, "There is nothing else we can do. He is missing person number 30,001." They ignore the fact that this disappearance took place during the presidency of Nestor Kirchner, husband of our graceful reigning Cristina, who still collects interests for her participation in the fake defence of human rights.

Last 18 September, on the 5th anniversary of Lopez's second disappearance, there were no Peronist flags on the demonstration marching from the Congress to the Pink House. Several blocks along the Avenida de Mayo were red with our flags, and some green flags. Here they did not stand for the ecologist Greens but for a small dissident Peronist group.

I remember what Bill Hunter once said, "Nature and politics loath vacuum". Cristina left the human rights position vacant. It is there for us to take before another great pretender does.

Outsourcing repression

Cristina knows that public education and health service are in ruins, that people are getting impatient about their pay, that new trade union leaders are appearing and replacing the old bureaucrats and she is running out of her old tricks.

When outsourced railway workers demonstrated demanding to be put overtly on the railway payroll one of these tricks backfired. The workers decided to organise a sit-in on the rails forcing the trains to stop, a group of

left militants accompanied them, so the red flag was waving in the wind. Then shots were heard and three of the militants fell, one of them, Mariano Ferreyra was mortally wounded. All the police had done was to clear the space. It was football hooligans in the service of Pedraza, a railway trade union bureaucrat and entrepreneur in the privatisation, who did the dirty work. He is in jail now thanks to our mobilisation.

Even if the Peronists have given up defending their victims of criminal repression we know it would be suicidal to follow suit. Impunity breeds more crime and any one of us could be the next Julio Lopez or Mariano Ferreyra, or we could be used as "perejil".

Without struggle there are no victories - so never give up

Ruben Pollo Sobrero and other five members of the union opposition list of Railway Workers' (Lista Bordó) were released from jail on October 4 because mobilisations demanded their immediate release. The police had tried to frame them by accusing them of having set fire to a train.

The Sarmiento railway links many suburban working class neighbourhoods. Travelling on that line has turned into a nightmare for many workers. In spite of generous grants from the state private lease holders do not invest in infrastructure maintenance which has resulted in trains often breaking down and leaving passengers waiting for hours for the next train to pick them up on their way to or from work.

There have been several outbursts of anger of the long-suffering passengers. Some time ago somebody set fire to a train that could not take them to their destination. Some people said that it was outraged passengers who did it. Others claim that this was a frame-up planned in order to discredit anybody who would dare to complain about the appalling service.

Several months passed (enough to "prepare evidence") and lo and behold it was the union oppositionist representatives of the Lista Bordó who were to blame! However some of them were a long way away when the incident happened.

Haiti

Fight starvation wages

In the context of heavily armed repression in the textile industry, including the use of thugs, the police carried out workplace raids at sites where fights for jobs and against starvation wages are taking place. At the same time the bourgeois are enjoying total impunity over acts that are openly above the State and the law.

On September 30 at the Multiwear factory, belonging to Richard Coles, bosses summoned Hilaire Jean-François, member of the executive committee of the SOTA union (the 6th committee member to be removed - see below) which was recently set up in the factory informed him that he was fired! When he asked why, he was told it was due to shortage of raw materials. He challenged this and showed them a photocopy of the union's legal registration at the Ministry of Labour (a document union members always carry) -bosses told him that was why he was fired.

The Labor Code and the Constitution forbids attacking workers because of their union affiliation. Until recently, the bosses would make excuses to cover up these attacks, but not now not only do they violate the law they do it **bluntly and openly!**

We in Batay Ouvriye say again: in the name of the legal **rights** that our class stood up for and seized, in the name of our **STRUGGLE, WE'VE JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT! WE'VE JUST BEGUN TO MOBILIZE!**

DOWN WITH ANTI-UNION REPRESSION!

DOWN WITH BLOODTHIRSTY DOMINATION OF THE BOSSES AND THE STATE!

FORWARD IN STRUGGLE, WE THE WORKING CLASS, WE THE LABOURERS AND PROGRESSIVES, FOR OUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, IN THE FACTORIES, IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, IN THE FIELDS, IN THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD!

Press Release No. 1 - Letter to be sent to the companies:

We've been informed of the union busting tactics that your company, a member of ADIH (Association of Industries of Haiti) have been involved in lately. Freedom of association is recognized in the Haitian constitution



and the Labor code. Workers should be able to join the union of their choice. SOTA (Sendika Ouvriye Tekstil ak Abiman) is legally recognized by the Ministry of Social affairs and Labor. As one of the owners of the assembly factory where workers were harassed, intimidated or dismissed because either they are members or sympathizers of the initiative IN forming a union to defend their rights, we are calling upon you to cease those practices and comply with Haiti's legislation regarding labour relations and the code of conduct of the companies notably the Gildan Activewear corporation. We demand the following:

The reinstatement of all OF THE SOTA executive committee members and other members and recognition OF the SOTA union as representative OF the textile factory workers;

Management and SOTA Executive committee to discuss the list of demands of the workforce of all the factories involved;

The minister of social affairs and labour to take appropriate steps to ensure the right of workers to join a union is protected;

The Gildan company requires its suppliers in Haiti to issue a statement to the workforce both verbally and in writing, stating that workers have the right to join a union and to bargain collectively with management.

All textile companies, members of ADIH, to stop blacklisting workers.

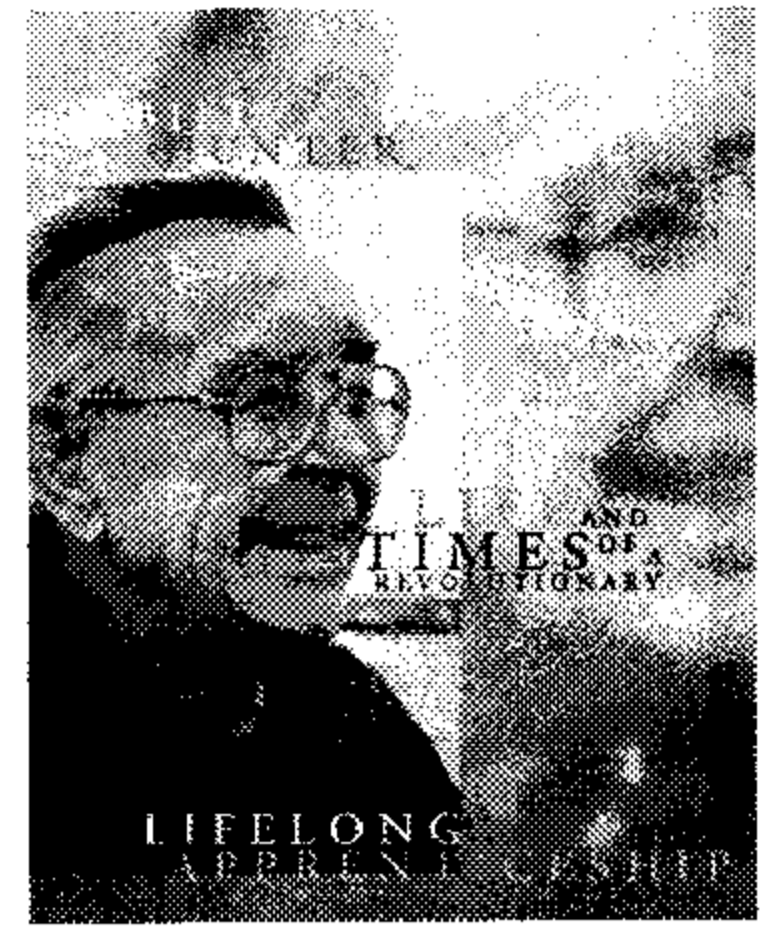
Please send your letter to the following addresses and cc to batay@batayouvriye.org:

Mr. Gerard APAID/GENESIS - gapaaid33166@yahoo.com

Mr. Charles Henry BAKER/ONE WORLD APPAREL - chbaker@pbapparel.com

Mr. Richard COLES/MULTIWEAR - rcoles@multitex.com

ADIH - administration@adih.ht



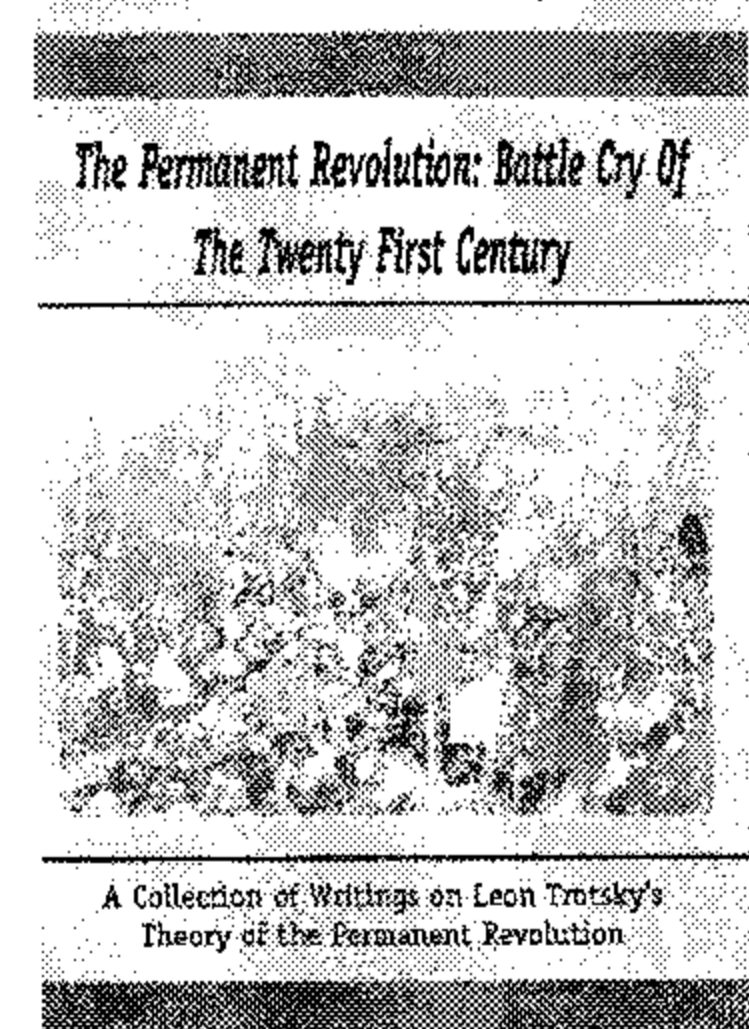
Lifelong Apprenticeship - Life and Times of a Revolutionary

These pages are crowded with thumbnail sketches of Trotskyist and working class fighters of the period before, during and after the second world war.

Rank and file dockers, engineering workers, and miners in whose struggles Bill played a part, either directly as shop steward or as editor of the lively left-wing journal Socialist Outlook (1948-54).

Lifelong Apprentice shows Hunter's part in the international struggles of the Fourth International against capitalism and Stalinism, and includes an inside account of the Trotskyists' response to the 1956-57 crisis in the Communist Party. It ends with the launching of the Socialist Labour League in 1959.

Price £8 including P&P



Price £2 including P&P

ISL, c/o News from Nowhere, 96 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY

Bill Hunter's archives

The Permanent Revolution - part 2

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of feudal relations and the institution of a bourgeois democratic republic, which was necessary before the working class could develop the conditions for a social revolution.

The famous pamphlet that gives Lenin's position is *Two Tactics of Social Democracy in the Democratic Revolution*, written just before the revolution of 1905. It was published in July of that year, a few weeks after the mutiny on the battleship Potemkin that began the revolutionary uprising.

At this time, Lenin did not believe that the coming revolution would be socialist. He considered that there had to be a development of capitalism and of the working class to make that possible. He wrote — with a sideswipe at Trotsky — that it was an absurd semi-anarchist idea, to believe

...that the maximum programme, the conquest of power for socialist revolution can be immediately achieved.

The present degree of economic development of Russia (an objective condition) and a degree of class consciousness and organisation of the broad masses of the proletariat (a subjective condition indissolubly connected with the objective condition) makes the immediate complete emancipation of the working class impossible. Only the most ignorant people can ignore the bourgeois character of the present democratic revolution.

Thus, at that time, it was his conviction that only after the bourgeois revolution, could the working class evolve the organisation and consciousness needed for the proletarian revolution.

The aim of Lenin and the Bolsheviks in the revolution was a government of workers and peasants, "a revolutionary democratic-dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry". This government would carry out a programme giving democracy to the masses of workers and peasants, instituting a republic in which capitalist enterprises would continue under the control of the workers' and peasants' government which would nationalise the land and distribute it, introduce



Trotsky, Lenin and Kamenev at the 1919 Congress

the eight hour day, and end trade union restrictions.

Lenin's conclusions on the coming revolution were firmly grounded on Marxist principles, including the independence of the working class, internationalism and the development of the anti-capitalist revolution in Europe. There was a unity of Lenin and Trotsky against the Mensheviks in that both placed the emphasis on the working class as the only consistent revolutionary force, and the only one that could unite the peasantry.

Lenin in February 1917

In February 1917, Lenin and Trotsky were united against the Menshevik and Social Revolutionary conciliationist leaders, who had handed power to the representatives of capitalists and the old regime. They both had the firm conclusion that the soviets had to take the power. This was in line with Trotsky's theory. Lenin, for his part, whilst still in exile in Switzerland, reacted, in the first weeks of February, with the demand of 'All power to the Soviets'. When he returned to Russia at the end of March, he began his sharp struggle that swung the Bolshevik party behind his policy.

To call for power to the Soviets, and to attack the conciliators and their illusions in the democratic revolution was no great step at all for Lenin. He had worked over the experience of Soviets in the 1905 revolution where they were thrown up spontaneously by the masses.

In February 1917, the workers, soldiers and peasants built on their memories of these flexible and democratic organisations. Lenin clearly now saw the Soviets as the instrument through which the working class and the peasantry could end Tzarism and clear away the feudal rubbish, creating the basis for the evolution of a socialist state. The soviets united the working class and the peasantry, with the working class in the leadership.

Lenin had realised their power and recognised that they expressed a high "...degree of consciousness and organisation of the masses." Here in the Soviets was the "democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry" with the working class in the cities leading (as Trotsky had prophesied). The war had further welded peasants and workers together as soldiers and, as 1917 progressed, they grew more united in their opposition to the profiteering and slaughter.

The February Revolution had exploded in Russia as a result of the international contradictions of capitalism. The chain of capitalism as Lenin remarked, had broken at its weakest link. Those like Lenin, who were single-mindedly and firmly devoted to the defence of the February Revolution, understood that it had to go further. This meant a government of Soviets making the revolution permanent with the assistance of the world working class.

In his April Theses, of 1917, with which he began the re-arming of the Bolshevik party, Lenin declared that the Russian working class might come to power first, before the European proletariat — but would still depend upon the revolutionary assistance of the latter. Lenin and Trotsky had reached a fundamental agreement that only the working class could unify the peasantry into a formidable force, and lead the revolution to the defeat of Tzarism, feudalism and reaction, and bring what the masses were demanding — Peace, Bread and Land.

They were united in placing the development of internationalism as the axis of their policy.



Bill Hunter's archives

The Permanent Revolution - part 2

To mark the 71st anniversary of Leon Trotsky's assassination at the hands of Stalin last month we reprinted sections of Bill Hunter's 2001 article from *The Permanent Revolution, Battle Cry of the Twenty First Century* in defence of Trotsky's theory of the Permanent Revolution. This month we reprint other sections of the article dealing with theory and Lenin. The Arab revolution and mobilisations in Europe bring to the fore yet again, the need to study and apply the theory of the permanent revolution today.

Why is the Permanent Revolution important today?

Although Stalinism has collapsed, the essential basic ideology of Stalinism, its nationalist theory of "socialism in one country" is carried on to discourage the independence of the working class and adapt to bourgeois nationalism.

In the inevitably uneven development of international struggle, it is understandable that there is confusion and a testing out of ideas. We are of the opinion that a new International will be built by new forces, with principled anti-capitalist positions but not necessarily supporting the Fourth International. However, the International cannot be built without Marxist-Leninist internationalism. In the struggle for this Trotskyism has made, and will make, an invaluable contribution. Trotskyism was built on the foundation of a principled and consistent opposition to the theory of 'socialism in one country' and a principled Marxist-Leninist approach and policy towards national

bourgeois and petty bourgeois leaders, going back to the time of Marx. An international world party can have no firm foundation without this.

Internationalism remains platonic unless it is consummated in building a world party. Through the weaknesses and betrayals of its leadership, the working class has gone through a period where its international revolutionary organisation has been at the weakest that it has ever been. Capitalism has been able to continue despite its decay, and it now threatens both civilisation and the earth itself. Yet never has there been a wider recognition amongst the masses that capitalism is an international form of exploitation.

Trotsky's greatest contribution to Marxism was his struggle against Stalinism, his fight for internationalism and struggle to resolve the crisis of working class leadership. At the centre of the Theory of Permanent Revolution is the necessity to make the revolution permanent in the under-developed countries through extending it. It was this that guided the strategy of Lenin in the 1917 Russian Revolution. Today's attack on Trotsky and his theory of Permanent Revolution goes hand in hand with refuting the struggle for the organisation of a new workers' International.

Lenin and Trotsky

Before 1917, Lenin and Trotsky had differences over the coming revolution in Russia. Trotsky's theory was accepted as a valuable contribution to Marxist theory after the experience of

the Russian Revolution up to the attack on Trotsky in 1924 by Stalin. Trotsky, in a collection of his writings on the Permanent Revolution, quotes the editors of the second part of Volume XIV of Lenin's collected works, declaring:

Even before the 1905 revolution he (Trotsky) advanced the original and especially noteworthy theory of permanent revolution, in which he asserted the bourgeois revolution of 1905 would pass directly over into a socialist revolution, constituting the first in a series of national revolutions.

Trotsky points out that this second part of Volume XIV was published while Lenin was still alive and "Thousands and tens of thousands of party members read this note. And nobody declared it to be false until the year 1924." The important historical truth is that before 1917, Lenin and Trotsky had agreement over the leading role of the working class. In that respect, they were both in opposition to the Mensheviks. (Until 1917, when the Bolshevik Party was formed, the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks were the two major wings or factions of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party).

Together with the majority of Russian Marxists, including the Mensheviks, they saw the revolution developing as a bourgeois democratic revolution with the working class fighting for democratic rights, agrarian revolution and the ending of feudal land ownership and feudal barbarism in the countryside. Lenin declared that the working class, together with the peasantry could take this revolution no further than the end

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For more information or to join contact ISL: mail.islinfo@talktalk.net

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