

UN out of East Timor!



UN 'peacekeepers' confront Fretilin protest

Class Struggle No 73 July/August 2007

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Child abuse, Yes, but system abuse is the real killer

The tragic death of Nia Glassie and other infants in recent years has created a storm raging in the pulp media. It is no wonder, when members of poor families living on the edge of this intergenerational downward spiral for workers in NZ have reached the point so low that they abuse and kill their children. Those who struggle on and don't kill their kids are outraged. Maori are put on the defensive trying to explain why more Maori kill their kids. They blame colonisation and Rogernomics. We blame capitalism.

The latest public uproar about child abuse is designed to blame the poor families who beat their kids instead of the capitalist system that abuses them day after day. The Maori Party's Pita Sharples says the cause of child abuse is family 'dysfunction.' But that's a concession to John Key's demonisation of an 'underclass' of 'failed' families dependent on 'welfare'.

What is family 'dysfunction'? Nothing more than poverty wages on long hours, overcrowded houses, substance abuse, and angry kids and parents who attack one other and themselves instead of the system that abuses them first.

The Maori Party and National are beating up on the same victims. They identify a section of society and target them for blame. But it's not the families that have failed, it's the capitalist system. Families are like the characters on *Survivors* shows. Surrounded by threats and dangers, most of them manage to survive. But those that don't get the blame rather than the destructive forces that overwhelm them.

You can't blame the system say the talkback rednecks. There are tons of poor families that don't kill their kids. Maybe they don't but maybe that's just good luck, and maybe they kill themselves rather than their kids. 10 times more poor mums and dads kill their kids in drunken car smashes than kill their kids at home. Look at the facts. Before 1987 Maori child abuse was no worse than Pakeha child abuse. Neither was in the news because it wasn't newsworthy. Today after 20 years of social abuse, destruction of jobs, falling wages and rising cost of living, many families cannot cope. The violence that society inflicts on them is turned inwards onto their families. It comes out as a cocktail of wife beating, child abuse, car smashes and suicides.

The solution is not to target some vulnerable group and beat them up. Making membership of gangs illegal is like John Howard making Aboriginal having children illegal. Gangs represent basic collective security for poor people. Right wingers like Michael Laws are openly racist in tagging gangs and Maori as born criminals and child killers.

Maori liberals like the Maori Party reject the race

label but admit that it is Maori who figure high in the stats. They are correct to say that it is a Maori 'problem' inasmuch as Maori are the most oppressed people in Aotearoa. But they don't fully explain why Maori are oppressed. For them oppression is a policy option that can be replaced by a non-oppressive policy option. They think it is possible to undo the damage of colonisation and Rogernomics.

This view is argued well by Rawiri Taonui (SST, 5/8/07). He claims that colonisation and cultural

alienation is the cause of Maori child abuse. Therefore the cure is decolonisation which makes Maori equal, economically, politically and socially.

Yes, child abuse is a 'Maori' problem because Maori are the victims of colonisation and 'Rogernomics'.

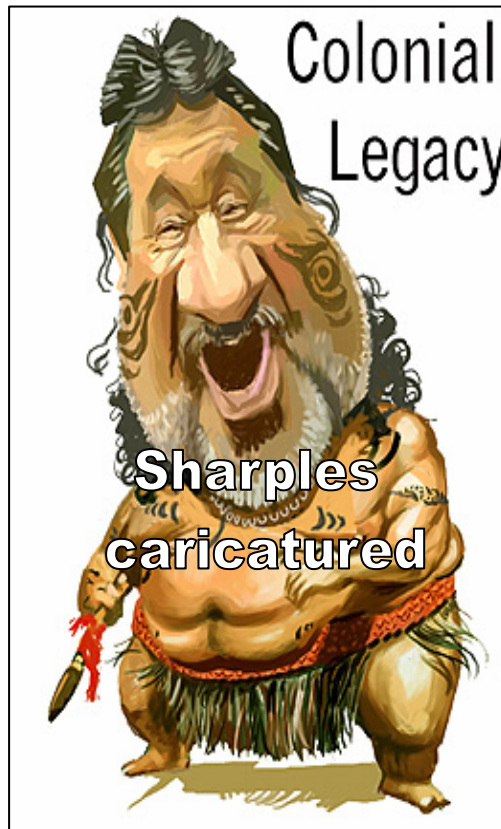
But colonisation and neo-liberal reforms are not something that can be reversed. The real cause of Maori oppression was land theft and forcing people to work for a wage i.e. capitalism.

This is still the case with Maori being overwhelmingly in the lowpaid sector of the working class - the local 'third world' population. Capitalism will never voluntarily give back to Maori the land or the wealth it has stolen over the generations. Working class Maori families will never have enough to live on unless the economy is socialised and harnessed to produce for need not

greed.

Te Whiti was half right. Collective labour is a miracle. But the miracle is not the work of god but of social co-operation. The land has to be taken back and the wealth generated by workers over the centuries expropriated, and worked collectively and co-operatively. The only way to do this is to unite as Maori, Pacifica, Pakeha and Asian workers and fight for a socialist revolution. For our children and their children's sake.

Black and Brown, Pink and White, unite as workers in the fight!



Auckland hospital workers win against 'Spotless'

Around 800 striking workers locked out of 13 public hospitals by **Spotless** on July 12 won a victory in the Employment Court, getting the lockout declared illegal. Spotless refused to sign up to an agreement reached with three other cleaning contractors to pass on wage increased to workers in the first 6 months of employment. When workers took strike action Spotless locked them out. Playing a strong role in this result was the staunch pickets such as at Spotless corporate headquarters in Penrose, North Shore hospital and marching to WINZ to get the dole. Workers even picketed the Court showing that they were not scared of being seen to be pressuring the Judge. The pickets were also successful in stopping some workers from doing the locked out workers jobs, but couldn't stop all scabs from doing kitchen, cleaning and orderly work for Spotless. The court decision forced Spotless to accept the agreement signed up to by the other companies which is a victory for the workers.



The win over Spotless was a victory because it dragged Spotless up to the level of the other companies. But it still leaves the workers divided between a number of contractors, and at least two unions. A fundamental weakness of the strike was the fact that the Spotless workers were isolated. These divisions can start to be overcome by a successful campaign for a MUMECA (Multi-Union, Multi Employer Collective Agreement). But more is needed.

We need mass rank and file action

Solidarity and unity cannot be imposed from above by union full-timers ringing around and 'servicing' their members. The union is only as strong as the backbones of its active members!

- **For an Auckland-wide rank-and-file committee of activists, across all sites and unions, to plan the strategy and tactics of the next negotiations well in advance.**
- **For a living wage based on shorter hours, shift allowances and overtime pay.**
- **End the contracting out of work to private companies that compete by driving down wages and conditions to poverty levels.**

Another weakness of the strike/lockout was the fact that all other health workers stayed on the job despite an obvious health and safety risk resulting from the lockout. Lowpaid health workers need to link up with other health workers like nurses and doctors too plan a common campaign to fight for adequate state funding for the health system, and for an end to the health system being managed by business people like Wayne Brown, chairman of the Auckland Health Board, who run hospitals like they are private corporations.

- **For a fully funded public health system operated and administered by the health workers themselves!**
- **For a free public health system accessible to all in need when they are in need!**

For Fighting, Democratic unions!

The SFWU is an 'organising' union based on an active rank and file. Going hand in hand with an active rank and file, is rank and file democracy and control of the union. This brings the rank and file up against the industrial law. The Employment Contracts Act passed by the Labour Government in 2000 treats employers and employees as equal partners in industrial agreements.

But employers and employees are not equal. Employers live off the wealth created by employees because workers have to work to live. Employers can sack workers or employ strike-breakers and scab labour and the unions are bound by the ERA to take them to Court. If workers want to take strong action that is outside the ERA to win their demands they have to make these decisions and act themselves. For example, building a mass picket to physically stop the employer from using scabs is illegal.

That is why we need to organise for mass, democratic, rank and file controlled unions that can use their power to close down industry to win their demands for a living wage, a shorter week, work for all, and to build a labour movement with the power to occupy and renationalise all former state assets, and to nationalise key industries without compensation to the bosses and under workers management and control!

Fiji Labour Strikes - what's behind the scenes?

While we certainly defend the right of unionists to go on strike for a wage increase, we question the motives of the particular unions involved in the latest round of strikes in Fiji. The Western media, including an Aotearoa Indymedia feature¹ do not do any in-depth investigation into the political and economic background to these strikes. Most take the position of the US, Australian and NZ politicians that the latest coup in Fiji is an attack on democracy, so that the strike against the military government is seen as a progressive fight for democracy.

Unions racially divided

These strikes are ostensibly against the 5% wage cut introduced by the military regime when it took power in December 2006. But they are complicated by the fact that most Indo-Fijian workers have not gone on strike. This is notable because in general Indo-Fijian workers and poor farmers are worse off than ethnic Fijian workers such as teachers and nurses in the public sector. There is a racial division in the unions that reflects the widespread division in Fiji between those ethnic Fijians who supported the Qarase government, and the majority of Indo-Fijians who tend to support the military regime which includes prominent Indo-Fijian politicians.

Despite the usual claptrap about Bainimarama's coup being the 'fourth' coup, in reality his coup is directed at all those who supported the earlier coups and then sought amnesty for the coup-makers. These earlier Rabuka and Speight coups were designed to defend the role of the traditional Fijian chiefs as the dominant faction of the Fijian bourgeoisie doing deals with imperialism.

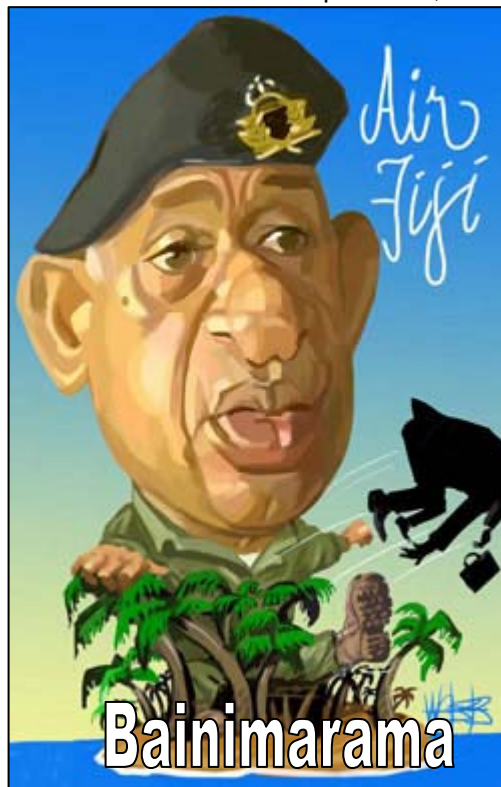
These coups both deposed Labour –or Labour dominated – governments which were expected to give the Indo-Fijians more or a central role in the development of Fiji. While ordinary Fijians do not benefit from these coups, or the deals that they promoted, many of them, even in the unions, remain loyal to tribal leaders. That's why Maori nationalist support for Bainimarama has been much less than that for Rabuka and Speight.

Speight sought to depose the Labour led government so that he could proceed with his lucrative

deals with imperialist MNCs for flogging off Fijian native hardwood timber. Bainimarama who was at the time a senior military officer stood up against Speight and barely escaped with his life. He was then instrumental in ending the coup and appointing Qarase as interim PM. A subsequent election saw Qarase elected as PM. But his policies turned out to be just the same as the earlier coup makers, favouring the traditional elite at the

expense of the Indo-Fijians and the common people of both races. Despite many warnings that the military would not put up with policies that favoured those behind the earlier coups, or proposed to free the coup-makers, Qarase continued with his pro-elite policies. When the level of corruption had reached epidemic proportions, Bainimarama stepped in and imposed a military regime.

In the light of this history what role is being played by the strikers? Are these strikes genuine workers' struggles, or 'political' strikes as Bainimarama says - that is, designed to oppose and bring an end to military rule? Or maybe they are both. Maybe the workers fighting for justice are also being used to campaign for 'democracy'. So what is going on and what position should internationalist workers take on these strikes?



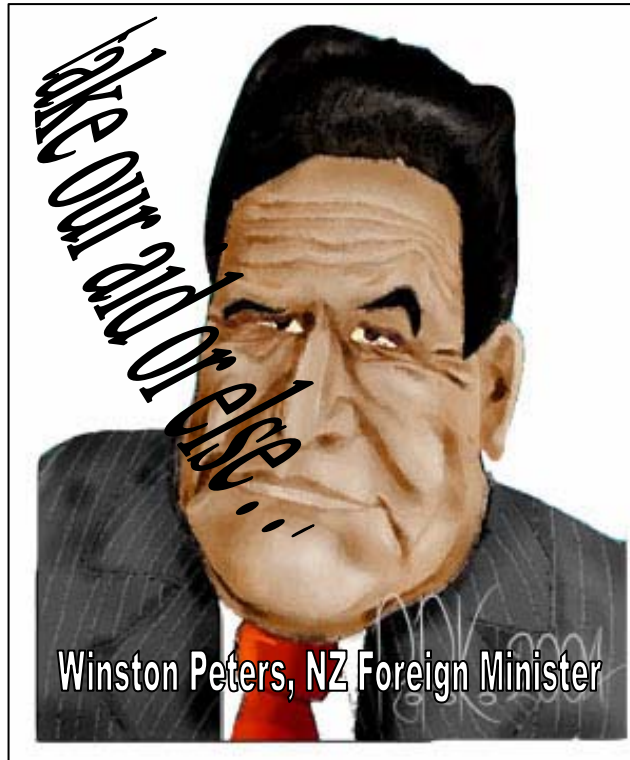
What is 'democracy' in Fiji?

Many leftwing commentators have criticised Australian and New Zealand's stance in condemning the latest coup and demanding an early return to 'democracy'. They point to the corruption of Qarase's regime and the fact that the major powers in the region benefited from the deals done to exploit Fiji's resources under his 'democracy'. They note that Fiji's economy is suffering

¹ <http://indymedia.org.nz/feature/display/71695/index.php>

from the economic and political boycotts imposed by these powers to force a return to democracy. What is at stake here seems to be a concern on the part of the Imperialist states in the region that Bainimarama could turn out to be another Chavez, or closer to home, a Pacifica populist who turns Fiji into a 'rogue' state and opens up investment to China, Japan etc and excludes the US, Australia and NZ.

In other words, the spat in Fiji isn't really about 'democracy' at all, It's about which foreign powers and their local agents are allowed to profit most from Fiji's valuable resources. Qarase was a reliable ally in this exploitation, but Bainimarama is not. So we can expect increased pressure on the military regime to destabilise it and create a 'regime change' to restore friendly relations between Fiji and the 'West'., For example: NZ Foreign Minister, Winston Peters threatened to cut aid to Solomons over the appointments of Moti as Attorney General and a new police chief from Fiji who promptly armed the police.² We have numerous warnings from Howard and Clark about the situation in East Timor getting out of hand. [see article]



We can expect the regional 'big brothers' to continue harping on about 'democracy' and impose further boycotts against a 'rogue' state (rugby matches etc). We can expect personal attacks on Bainimarama and scaremongering about deals with China, North Korea, Iran, Venezuela etc. But as we showed in our previous article on Fiji, Bainimarama is hardly a leftist or Chavez type figure.³ We can also expect more pressure from the World Bank, IMF, and WTO on the military regime to restore normalcy or risk becoming a 'failed' state on the brink of economic collapse.⁴

But even though Bainimarama's 'road map' for Fiji includes a promise to abolish race-based voter registration, we can't put our faith in the army any more than the chiefs to unify the nation and solve the problems faced by the people of Fiji. He may eliminate the racial electoral roll and put everyone onto a general role, but this will not stop existing political parties dominated by

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http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=10450773.

³ <http://redrave.blogspot.com/2006/11/imperialism-pushes-fiji-towards.html>

⁴ On the role of the WTO in the South Pacific see Kelsey: <http://www.arena.org.nz/bigbully.pdf>

ethnic and Indo Fijian bosses playing their 'race cards'. What is needed is class unity between the workers of both races against the traditional elite's treacherous role as sell outs to imperialism.

Fight for a Constituent Assembly

The labour movement must demand that the military regime convenes a Constituent Assembly which is based on one vote for each person over the age of

16. Such a Constituent Assembly would have the mandated delegates of the people vote on a new national constitution. This would introduce a popular democracy and empower the majority of workers and poor farmers of both races.

However a Constituent Assembly is still an institution of the bourgeois state in which the capitalist class can guarantee the new constitution protects the private property of the ruling classes.

Therefore, during the campaign for a Constituent Assembly workers should advocate the formation of a Workers and poor Farmers government, in which the military is replaced by a popular militia, elected by

the people, to defend the government.

Its program should include:

- ***repudiate the national debt, kick out the IMF, World Bank, World Trade Organisation etc.,***
- ***nationalise without compensation, and under workers and poor farmers control, all of Fiji's vital resources on the land and sea, instead of letting the old ruling class, or the new entrepreneurs selling out to MNCs and pocketing the profits,***
- ***form a government the ordinary working people of Fiji and their supporters in the ranks of the military, to take control of the economy and develop its resources for the benefit of all, especially those most in need!***

- **For a non-racial popular Constituent Assembly!**
- **For a Workers and poor Farmers Government!**
- **For a Socialist Republic of Fiji in a Federation of Pacific Socialist Republics!**

Work Key to Dole

Key spouts on about the 'emerging underclass' and now he wants to force people to work. He calls it "activity in the community". The Aussie system is being touted by National as the 'humane' form of work for the dole. 48% go on to get jobs. What jobs? Howard's reforms have meant that workers now face unprecedented casualisation. NZ is already a low wage country with wages 35% lower than Australia. Forcing the few thousand unemployed into the workforce will force wages down further and make life hell for more workers.

The figures show that NZ workers are no better off today than they were in 1987 before the new right reforms bit them in the bum. The rich have doubled their wealth several times over, while the poor have paid for it by taking cuts in real wages. This is exactly what Marxists predicted in the 1970s. NZ's postwar wealth was a fragile balloon deflated by the long run downward grind of a shaky economy. New Zealand's wealth was entirely dependent upon its comparative advantage in agricultural commodities which are extremely vulnerable to falling prices to pay for its overinflated imported lifestyles.

While the Labour Government says it wants NZ to be a high wage country with profits coming from increased productivity, National knows that capitalism in NZ will always be dependent on the world economy. NZ can never be a knowledge economy when its biggest export is brains! NZ will continue to be an agricultural and service economy that imports foreign capital, and exports its profits and skilled labour elsewhere. Therefore its role is to exploit cheap labour in farming, processing and servicing the MNCs. Keeping wages and taxes down is the key to keeping profits up. This is called 'community activism'. We reject that totally. The unions must mobilise against this threat to wages and living standards by uniting employed, unemployed and beneficiaries!



We reprint an article from the latest *Red*, paper of the Communist Left of Australia on the experience of Work for the Dole since it was introduced by Howard in 2002.

Howard forces 80,000 more to Work for the Dole

When Work for the Dole was introduced by the Howard Government in 2002, many of the projects involved light community programmes such as assisting a food co-op or working on a history of migrants in the Marrickville area. Many supposedly progressive organizations took advantage of the scheme and were co-opted. These schemes should have been carried out by paid community workers. Since then though, the work has got tougher and the hours of work longer. Older unemployed have also been forced to do it if they are classified as "shirkers".

Work for the Dole has meant slave labour doing tasks such as concreting, teaching and nurse aid work, light construction, bush regeneration and other tasks. For this unemployed are paid a mere \$15 dollars per week on top of their dole payment. In some extreme circumstances the extra money may not even cover transport to the project. Whilst the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has clamped down a bit, safety and amenities on many projects are still inadequate.

All this is a serious attack on the employed workforce as the jobs done under work the dole should be carried out by workers paid award rates and with award conditions. Work for the Dole as well as "mutual

obligation" provisions are part and parcel of the government's programme to undermine wage rates.

From the employers point of view there is no reason to hire workers when there is a pool of unemployed forced to work for nothing. Work for the Dole is therefore a job destruction project and not a job creation project. If unemployed refuse to comply they are "in breach" and this may mean eight weeks without any income.

On the whole it is the public and community sector which has been taking advantage of this free labour e.g. churches have benefited from work on Church schools and community centres. Farmers suffering from the drought also benefit from free unemployed labour.

The current "welfare reform" is based on Howard's belief that the official level of unemployment is effectively full employment. He therefore believes that everyone on *Newstart* for any length of time is a bludger. From now on all long term unemployed, "shirkers" or otherwise, will be forced to do it.

But the figures he uses are wrong. They do not include those who live off savings and don't register. They don't include underemployed who work for eighteen hours a week. They don't include those who

choose not to register or illegal immigrants. But also, just because there are plenty of jobs doesn't mean employers will employ many unemployed.

Discrimination against older unemployed is rife. Many who were unemployed before this new boom do not have the skills to get a job in the current environment. Many are understandably demoralised. The jobs are not necessarily in an area where unemployed live. The jobs boom is linked to a boom in mining so those communities which need workers are in parts of Queensland and Western Australia. It is extremely difficult for those in the Hunter Valley (where there is a jobs shortage) to move thousands of kilometres to where the jobs are. Often in the new growth areas there is a shortage of housing.

Howard's reforms will not create jobs. They will create suffering. It is difficult to live on the dole at the moment. It is tougher when you have to work for it

What should be crystal clear is that the "welfare reform" programme is not merely aimed at the unemployed. It is part and parcel of their overall programme to undermine the wages, conditions and union organization of all workers. It is therefore disgraceful that "welfare reform" or Work for the Dole hardly rates a mention at massive rallies against Work Choices. The unions including the supposedly "left" CFMEU (covering miners and building workers) and the Australian Manufacturers Union have dumped it in the too hard basket.

Especially treacherous is the Labor Party. When

Work for the Dole came in "Left" leader Anthony Albanese was strongly opposed. Yet one organisation taking advantage of free unemployed labour is the NSW Labor Government led by Morris Iemma. The state government uses unemployed labour to maintain gardens at Lidcombe TAFE as well as state schools. Albanese's political ally Carmel Tebbitt, state member for Marrickville, explained that "Work for the Dole was part of the scenery" and was "ok when it was working well" She explained that this was the case at Lidcombe TAFE.

Slave labour is never justified. If Lidcombe TAFE wants labour to maintain its' gardens then the state government should pay for the labour at full rates!

Work for the Dole is one issue on which ALP Federal leader, Kevin Rudd maintains his silence. He has actively support Howard's reactionary "reform" to make single parents and those with disabilities be work tested and, if required, do work for the dole.

Work for the Dole must be smashed. We don't object to unemployed people doing work. But all work must be full time work with proper conditions, paid at proper award rates. REAL JOBS FOR REAL WAGES!

The attack on unemployed people not only forces them to suffer it is part and parcel of Howard's offensive against the workers movement. It is therefore a disgrace that the workers movement refuses to act. It is not surprising though. It is a product of the reformist and Stalinist politics which dominate the union leaderships and the degeneration of their politics

Anti-Anzac riots rock East Timor. UN Out!

By Scott Hamilton originally posted on <http://readingthemaps.blogspot.com/2007/08/down-with-john-howard-anti-anzac-riots.html>

Riots have broken out in East Timor's two largest cities, as opponents of new Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao confront Anzac police and soldiers. Gusmao's National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction party won only 22% of the vote in last month's parliamentary elections, trailing behind its rival Fretilin. Gusmao has been able to take power this week because of the intervention of his close ally, President Jose Ramos Horta, who invoked a clause in East Timor's constitution that gave him the power to decree a government.

Fretilin activists have been outraged by Horta's act, insisting that their party has the right to form an administration because it won the largest share of the vote and the largest number of seats in parliament. Fretilin leader and former Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that 'People are really frustrated...they voted for Fretilin, expecting Fretilin to govern the country and suddenly with some kind of interpretation of the constitution, the second party was invited in'.

The riots began after protesters in the capital Dili and the eastern town of Bacau were confronted by Australian and New Zealand soldiers and police. Refusing orders to disperse, the protesters, who chanted 'Down with John Howard!' and held banners denouncing Horta as an Australian puppet, built barricades of



burning tyres and threw rocks at police and soldiers. Australian troops opened fire after youths smashed the windows of their vehicle near the pro-Fretilin Comoro refugee camp on the outskirts of Dili. The camp has been a centre of anti-occupation protest since Australian troops shot and killed two of its residents on February the 22nd. The Australian embassy was targeted by rock throwers, and in Bacau a building associated with the UN was burnt down. Protesters attacked New Zealand army vehicles in both cities.

It is not surprising that protesters have chosen to express their anger at Gusmao's illegitimate government by attacking Anzac forces and property. For more than a

year now, John Howard's administration has been flagrantly interfering in Timorese affairs on behalf of its close allies Gusmao and Horta. In the first half of 2006 Howard's government waged a campaign to destabilise the Fretilin-dominated government of Alkatiri by splitting the army and police forces, funding anti-secular demonstrations by the country's powerful Catholic church, and spreading anti-Muslim and anti-communist smears against Alkatiri. The result was a wave of violence which was used to pressure Fretilin into agreeing to the deployment of an Anzac 'peacekeeping force' of soldiers and police.

Howard used the occupying force to secure Alkatiri's resignation, and to make Horta temporary Prime Minister in his place. In response, Horta lavishly praised Australian and American foreign policy and took a much more conciliatory attitude to plans to expand Australian exploitation of oil fields in the Timor Gap. But political and social stability proved hard to restore, and last February and March riots shook Dili in response to the killings of Timorese civilians by Anzac troops who had been deployed against Horta's enemies. During this year's Presidential and parliamentary elections, Anzac

troops were often used to bully Fretilin opponents of Horta and Gusmao. When John Howard visited Dili at the end of July to give his support to a Gusmao government he was met by protesters demanding an end to the Anzac presence in their country. The new uprising in Dili and Bacau only proves how widespread opposition to the occupation has become.



George Galloway doesn't get our Respect

George Galloway is correct to oppose Islamophobia, but he has no answers to political Islam. He is a hypocrite because his Stalinist politics contributed to the defeats of the Arab and Asian revolutions and gave the Islamists the opportunity to rise to power. He is an old Stalinist popular frontist who is part of the problem and not the solution. While he was against Stalin's 'crimes' Galloway does not recognise the popular front as a crime against the working class. The reason that a reactionary political Islam has become a force among the Arab, Iranian and Asian masses, is the betrayal of the Stalinist parties which led to the defeat of these same masses in the period after the second world war.

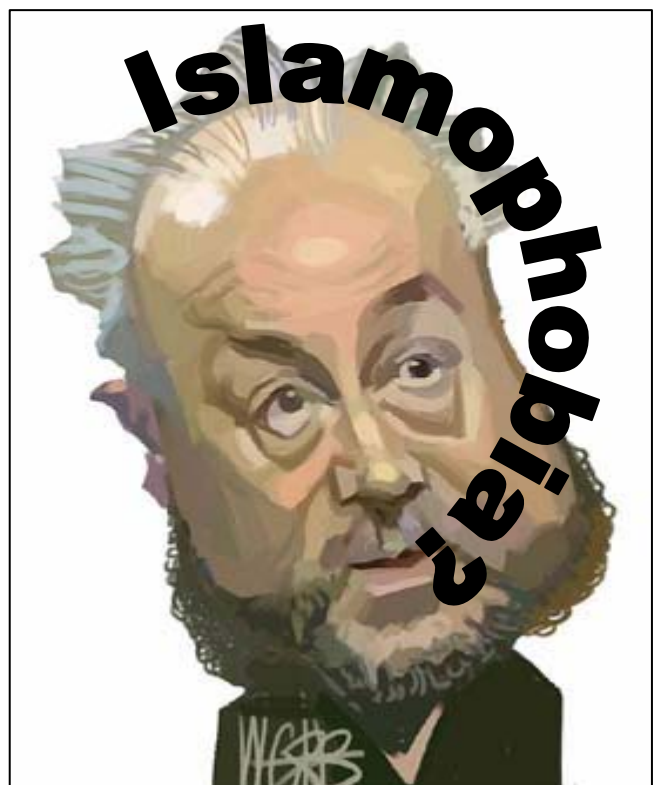
So while Galloway is correct to condemn US and UK imperialism for making a political enemy of Islam as a cover for the 'war on terror', he also has blood on his hands. He helped create political Islam as a reactionary force to be used against the masses.

This may sound surprising, but the rise of radical Islam was the direct result of Stalinists like him siding with nationalist leaders in the Arab world rather than fighting for working class leadership of the anti-imperialist struggle.

For example there is no way that Saddam Hussein could be a force for progress in Iraq. He was installed by the CIA, used to kill Iraqi communists, invade Iran, subdue the Shia and the Kurds, and then branded a new Hitler by his former friends when it became necessary for the US to invade Iraq to seize its oil.

But during the Cold War the Stalinist Communist Parties sucked up to the nationalist leaders like Saddam and Khomeini against the West, or in competition with the West, to win allies for the USSR. Khomeini thanked the Irani Tudeh Party for their support against the Shah in 1979 by turning on their members and killing 1000s of their best fighters.

Only when Saddam turned on the Iraqi CP in the 1970s and destroyed it under orders from the CIA, did he become the enemy of the USSR and the likes of



Galloway. After the first Gulf War in 1991 when Saddam became the enemy of the US, he became once more the friend of the Stalinists.

The real reason that Galloway visited Saddam and praised him after the first Gulf War was not because Saddam was a progressive leader of the masses against imperialism, but because Saddam was now the enemy of the US and the friend of Russia.

Old Stalinists like Galloway used the masses in the Middle East as cold war fodder just as the imperialists did. The result was the defeat of the working masses at the hands of the nationalists like Sadat in Egypt, Saddam in Iraq and Islamic reactionaries like Khomeini in Iran.

The wholesale murder of the revolutionary leaderships of the popular masses in these countries, and the forcing of many others into political exile, allowed political Islam to enter the vacuum, declaring Jihads against imperialism, and winning the support of new generations of fighters.

The solution to Islamophobia is two-fold.

First, Islamophobia is being used to mobilise public opinion in the West behind this terrorist war for oil. In the West, workers must unite to defeat their imperialist ruling classes led by Bush, Brown, Howard and their lackeys like Helen Clark, who are fighting a terrorist war against Islam as a cover for an imperialist neo-colonial war for oil and other vital resources. That is why we say

victory to Iraq and defeat for imperialism!

Second, Western workers must give military support to all those forces, including Islamic nationalist groups, that actually fight imperialism. At the same time, they must call on the workers and poor peasants to politically oppose all factions of the national bourgeoisies, including the Islamic organisations, because sooner or later they will turn on the masses and act as their executioners in order to do deals with imperialism. These leaders, no matter how 'radical' are all prepared to sacrifice the masses as fodder in their oil wars.

That is why Hamas wants to make a truce with Israel and the West. That is why Hezbollah stands by while the Lebanese army slaughters the Palestinian refugees in the camps in Lebanon. That is why even Ahmadinejad will be prepared to sacrifice the Iranian masses to do deals for oil with the West and Israel.

Only the armed revolutionary masses can rid the world of imperialism and all reactionary nationalist, capitalist ideologies that delude the masses into fighting among themselves instead of against the common class enemy.

Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains!

Reports expose Hugo Chavez as anti-Marxist

"Chavez is quoted in Aporrea (7/29/07) that in recent speeches he has said the new party, the PSUV, will not be Marxist-Leninist because Marxism is a dogmatic thesis that is now over and is not in accord with today's reality. In addition, the working class, he says, is not the motor of socialism. Chavez says: "Work today is something else, it is different, it is information and it is televised and Carlos Marx couldn't dream about such things." He added: "I am a socialist, Bolivariano, revolutionary. In respect to the Marxist road, I am not a Marxist. I do not share this thesis because it is a deterministic vision of socialism." He then attacked Marx for supporting the invasion of Mexico by the US and India by Britain. (I believe Marx later modified his position E.G.)

One day after Chavez's speech, the Minister of Peoples Power and Planning and Development, Jorge Giordani stated that: "There does not exist any contradiction between private enterprise and Venezuelan socialism." Apparently, he doesn't see the contradiction between being a "Minister" and Peoples Power when the people never chose him to lead them.

Apparently, Chavez is taking a turn to the right. If the working class is not the motor of revolution, then apparently the officer corps are that motor. Though he may make justified criticisms of Marx, by rejecting the Marxist method he is following the footsteps of such figures of General Velasco of Peru and General Juan Peron of Argentina."

Earl Gilman from: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Argentina_Solidarity/message/5253

'WE are not going to take anyone's private property away' Agencia Bolivariana de Noticias (ABN) via aporrea.org 8/03/2007 [Translated and Edited by Labour Action]

Caracas, 8/03/2007. ABN (Lisbeth Barberini).- Hugo Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, said, "What we want is to give a hand to private owners, to help them in alliance with the state and the communities. " The President made this statement during a ceremony inaugurating the Cipriano Castro City Laboratory of Bioconsumables, located in La Grita, Jáuregui

municipality, Táchira state, where he handed out land allocation certificates.

"We are not going to take anyone's private property away ("No le vamos a quitar la propiedad privada a nadie"); on the contrary, we are going to promote private property for a social cause. The land belongs to the producers, and we are helping them with a lab, technology, quality cattle, genetics,

irrigation, credit, commercialization," he said.

Chávez stressed that the campaign to discredit the national government "is raging," and asserted that the Venezuelan people will not allow themselves to be misled.

President Chávez exhorted the Governor of Táchira state, Ronald Blanco La Cruz, to make strategic alliances for acquiring cattle from Argentina. Chávez recalled that the cattle come to Venezuela through an agreement made with Argentina, that receives petroleum products, diesel and fuel oil, among others, in exchange.

This Friday, the President distributed financial resources from the agricultural and cattle-raising, fishing, forest and related development fund (Fondafa) and the national land institute [Instituto Nacional de Tierras, INTI] for co-management agreements [convenios de cogestión] to risk committees and gave Argentinean heifers to small producers in Táchira state, as well as credits, land allocation certificates, land deeds, and agrarian charters.

**Chávez confirms the Venezuelan people have the right to decide their destiny.
From TeleSUR via rebellion.org July 30, 2007 [Transl and Edited by Labour Action]**

Hugo Chávez, President of Venezuela, confirmed this Sunday that the proposed indefinite reelection that he is promoting in the constitutional reform, is an attempt to "give the people the right to elect the President however many times they want."

"I consider that the Venezuelan people should give themselves the right to keep a male or female President for the time the people want to, whether 5 years, 2 years, 12 years, or 40 years. Whatever the people say," Chávez stressed in his Sunday [radio] program, "Aló, Presidente."



Chávez also expressed confidence that "the Venezuelan people will be aware of and support my humble proposals."

As for criticisms by his opponents, who assert that the Venezuelan President's intention is to impose himself in power and institute a dictatorship, Chávez asserted that their attacks make him stronger.

"My friends from the opposition already know me. The more they attack the constitutional

reform, the more I go forward ... I will know how to defend, explain to, and convince the majority of Venezuelans of the need for the comprehensive reform I am proposing," he warned....

**We are building a petroleum-based socialism very different from what Marx imagined.
Prensa PDVSA via aporrea.org 7/29/2007 [Translated and Edited by Labour Action]**

The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, referred to the construction of the socialist model based on the potential that oil resources offer, during his program Aló Presidente, number 288.

"We are determined to build a socialist model very different from what Karl Marx imagined in the nineteenth century. This is our model, relying on this oil wealth," Chávez said.

The Venezuelan Chief of State stated that "oil socialism cannot be imagined without oil activity" ("el Socialismo petrolero no se puede concebir sin la actividad petrolera") [selling oil? -- YM], and this resource "gives a particular shape to our economic model."

"This must allow us to devise a Venezuelan socialist economic model, taking oil as one of the powerful levers for developing enterprise networks connected to oil or completing economic development," he stated.

The President also stressed that in that model other resources must be considered, like minerals, gas, and fertile land from: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Argentina_Solidarity/message/5256

Debate

Bolivia: Has Morales sold out?

[<http://boliviarising.blogspot.com/2007/03/between-insurrection-and-reaction-evo.html>]

Federico Fuentes runs *Bolivia Rising.blogspot* and writes for the Australian Green Left Magazine. He is an open supporter of Morales. Here he defends Morales from the criticism of James Petras who thinks that Morales has 'sold out' the 'social movements'. CWG replies that Fuentes and Petras are both wrong. Fuentes is uncritical in his support of Morales, while Petras is disappointed that Morales has not fulfilled the promise of the Constituent Assembly because he did not base it on the social movements and has made too many concessions to the imperialists and national bourgeoisie. We argue here that the MAS is a popular front party, and that a Constituent Assembly is by its cross class character a popular front. Petras however, is a dependency [exchange] theorist who thinks that the popular front can be progressive by asserting the power of the masses against the ruling classes and 'reconstituting' the existing state. So while he attacks Morales for not empowering the social movements, he shares with Garcia Linera the illusion a popular front can develop Andean capitalism in the face of world imperialist in crisis.



In March 2006 [Green Left Weekly, March 29, 2006] Federico Fuentes was critical of Petras' hostility to Evo Morales:

"...For Petras though, it seems that if Morales does not immediately embark on a more radical course, he must be a neoliberal sell-out. However, such a black-and-white — or rather, red-and-white — dichotomy fails to recognise the reality in Bolivia today, placing itself in opposition to the actual course of the popular movement. As Fred Feldman pointed out in his February 25 article in the Canadian Socialist Voice, "what has come under fire from much of the left is not just or even primarily Morales, but rather this course of the masses. Of course he is not 'betraying', because he is authentically representing the popular worker-peasant-indigenous movement that used him to take the presidency of the bourgeois state for itself."

Morales's party, the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), is not a revolutionary party, nor is Morales a Marxist. But then neither are the overwhelming majority of Bolivian working people, including those involved in the social movements based in El Alto that Petras counterposes to the MAS [Movement for Socialism].

It would be more accurate to speak of Morales and the powerful movement behind him as pushing for a "national revolution" against imperialism. That is, the platform of the MAS, backed by the majority of the population, cannot be implemented except by taking power from the pro-imperialist elite that currently holds it — and in the final analysis, this requires a revolution.

Central to the struggle to realise these demands has been the call for a constituent assembly that would rewrite the country's constitution, but for the first time with the participation of the indigenous majority. This measure — one of the major demands of the popular movement that the government is attempting to implement against right-wing opposition — is completely ignored by Petras."

But Petras is not an opponent of the Constituent Assembly. He accuses Morales of failing to make it a revolutionary CA by involving the "participation of the indigenous majority" - that is the 'social movements' - in its election. He thinks Morales is doing deals between the rich peasants, imperialism and the national bourgeoisie at the expense of the 'social movements.' All the evidence points to this. Morales has used the 'popularity' of MAS among the coca growing peasants to push this class collaborationist program right through the years 03-06. And as Petras explains, this collaboration breaks the class alliance that had been built between the most advanced workers and poor peasant organisations, that he calls the 'social movements', which reached its high point in May-June 2005 in El Alto.

Thus Morales, along with the Castroite leaders of the COB [Bolivian Workers Central] in particular Solares, diverted the worker/poor peasant insurrection that was building in May-June 05 into new elections for a Constituent Assembly where the existing parties were represented rather than the social movements. The MAS

is the party of the better off peasantry and is negotiations with PODEMOS, the party of the ruling class inside the Constituent Assembly, over a new constitution.

Against Fuentes claim, the election of Morales was far from 'popular' among the most advanced workers and peasants organisations, was the result of outright betrayals, which, Petras correctly argues, gave the ruling class time to recover and re-establish its class rule, demobilizing the 'social movements' into lengthy debates in the Constituent Assembly.

Since then, every outbreak of worker/peasant militancy has been met by police and military repression. In Cochabamba, Huanuni and El Alto, Morales again used the rotten Castroite COB leadership to contain the mobilisation of peasant/workers against the Cooperativistas who want to privatise the mines, and the neo-liberal state governors. This July in Huanuni 800 armed police confronted the state miners barricades in a struggle over workers control of the state mines [see article on the Huanuni miners below].

What confuses some people about Petras however, is that he is critical of Morales yet now seems to support Chavez. But this is no mystery. Petras does in fact give the role of the Constituent Assembly strategic importance. When he says the historic 'moment' was lost by Morales he means that Morales should have fought for a revolutionary Constituent Assembly based on the social movements which would have opened the way for 'reconstituting' the state. In other words he should have followed Chavez who Petras claims is successfully reconstituting the state from above, under pressure from below, and is apparently not making huge concessions to imperialism or the national bourgeoisie.

But of course, there never was going to be a revolutionary Constituent Assembly in Bolivia as a vehicle for the 'social movements' to fight for a socialist revolution. The workers and poor peasants did not need a Constituent Assembly to open the road to socialist revolution. They had the potential power to win over the base of the army and form their own Workers and Peasants government. And even if, as Petras wanted, the Constituent Assembly had been based on the 'social movements' and not the political parties, it would have been a retreat from insurrection and the masses demand for 100% nationalisation of gas.

This is because the 'social movements' in Bolivia are dominated by the bourgeois and petty bourgeois leaders of the indigenous and peasants organisations. Any Constituent Assembly based on the 'social movements' would have been as much a popular front as the present one based on political parties. It would have fragmented the revolution into the same factional divisions that currently exist on the question of how to represent the nationalities and the different regions, and who is to get the biggest crumbs.

What is happening in Venezuela is different from Bolivia only in degree not kind. Chavez has his popular front of workers, petty bourgeois, and national bourgeoisie (mostly state functionaries but also businesspeople). He is now uniting these different

classes in the PSUV under his control. He has succeeded so far because he has been able to make more favourable deals with imperialism, and the national bourgeoisie, apparently for the benefit of the people.

As a result, Petras thinks that Chavez is 'reconstituting' the state to represent the interests of the 'social movements'. Yet the state remains a capitalist state, and Chavez 'expropriations' are really nationalisations with compensation under bourgeois state control. Any attempt by the masses to exert an independent politics and pressure Chavez further to the 'left' is now being contained in the PSUV and by Chavez regime's recent open right turn to identifying 21st century socialism as 'market socialism' [see the article on Chavez above].

Nor is the concept of Andean Capitalism merely a fancy theory of Bolivian Vice-President Garcia Linera designed to disappear without trace. It is another variant of the Stalinist two-stage doctrine now applied throughout Latin America by the Castroites and Chavistas. According to Linera, Bolivia does not have the working class vanguard capable of leading the masses to a socialist revolution. It will be the historic task of the indigenous nationalities to complete the national revolution in the form of Andean Capitalism. This fits well with Chavez' 'Bolivarian Revolution' - as a creeping revolution from above, under pressure from below, that will sometime in the 21st century passover from the stage of state capitalism to the stage of . . . market socialism!

So it seems that Petras has illusions in the Constituent Assembly as a means by which the workers and poor peasants can take over the state on the 'peaceful' road to socialism. What Petras can't understand, because he is no Trotskyist, is that Constituent Assemblies are popular fronts which subordinate the independent revolutionary organisations of workers and poor peasants, trapped inside populist or social democratic parties, to the program of the bourgeoisie in defence of private property. Because the capitalist state is the instrument of the class that owns the means of production it cannot be 'pressured' to abandon its class rule through parliament and to reform its unequal EXCHANGE relations.⁵ Because capital is by definition an unequal SOCIAL relation, and the state defends this social relation, it must be overthrown by the armed, independent organisations of the proletariat.

⁵ Exchange theory argues that unequal exchange (paying prices below or above the value of commodities) is the cause of capitalist exploitation. Therefore the capitalist state can be used by the people to impose their 'power' and equalize exchange. This is the ideological basis of Latin American populism where the masses pressure the elites to pay a 'fair' i.e. equal share of the wealth to the people. Marxists, on the other hand, argue that it is the unequal SOCIAL RELATIONS of capitalism that cause exploitation and that only by revolutionising those social relations and expropriating private property can real social equality be achieved.

Bolivian miners hold their line against the army

Huanuni, 6th of July 2007

Evo Morales represses and jails the workers like Goñi!⁶ Stop the repression! Release the miners of Huanuni,⁷ hostages of the repressive austerity government of Morales and the Constituent Assembly! Delegates of all the workers and students in struggle, go to Huanuni with your demands to organize a truly unified fight of the exploited workers and poor peasants!

The brutal repression of the miners by the government, would have been the envy of Goñi himself. In this attack on the miners barricades of Huanuni hundreds were injured and more than 40 comrades imprisoned. This attack shows the true face of Evo Morales.

His government is in league with the fascists of the Luna Rossa.⁸ He guarantees the superprofits of the transnational companies and the national bourgeoisie and represses and starves the working class and the poor people.

His government is anti-worker like the government of Kirchner, which represses, jails and kills the Argentine workers; or the government of the "Socialist" Bachelet of Chile that represses, jails and persecutes the striking contract miners of Codelco.⁹ This is the true face the Latin American bourgeois governments!

The miners of Huanuni resisted this carefully planned and executed attack by armed police organized by the bourgeoisie. At the same time that the leaders of the miners unions tried to negotiate with the Government ministers, the government gave the order to attack the miners. The police fired until they ran out of ammunition but could not break the miners barricades. When troops of the military were sent from Ururo to reinforce the police, the miners wives and families blocked the road and prevented the troops from moving out of town.

This policy of repression against the demands of the miners is now applied widely. It was used against the health workers and the teachers. However, the attack on the state paid miners of Huanuni looks like an attempt to smash the historically most advanced layer of workers in struggle to defeat the whole working class. It is designed to demoralise and defeat all struggles for better wages and conditions, against demands for decent work, against the demand for the autonomy of universities, for more state funding for health and education, for land to the landless, all of which this bosses' government cannot meet because its interests are to first negotiate with and defend the rights of private owners. .

To help repress the working class demands the government looks to its main collaborators in the labor movement, the leadership of the COB [Central Labour organisation of Bolivia] in particular Montes and all the other mainleaders of the COB, who marched alongside Morales on May 1st this year.

We cannot allow that one more worker suffers repression at the hands of Morales and Montes! We cannot tolerate the imprisoned miners in jail for another minute! The miners of Huanuni have the authority won in many hard battles to call for all workers to unite in a single national struggle.

We cannot continue fighting divided and isolated. We cannot win our demands in separate struggles, all we get is talk, batons, bullets and jail!

The students of Potosí after more than 6 months of struggle continue blockading and demonstrating; the college students of Cochabamba face the reactionary forces of the Rosca (rich mine owning elite); the teachers are preparing another strike; sectors of poor farmers fight for land; and most of the workers are gritting their teeth against poverty and bad work conditions like the

⁶ Goni was the nickname of the former mine owner and President Sanchez Lozada, who was ousted by a popular uprising in October 2003

⁷ On the recent struggles of these miners see <http://redrave.blogspot.com/2006/10/bolivia-leninist-trotskyist-statement.html>

⁸ The 'half moon'; describing the shape of the Amazonian East of Bolivia where most of the countries rich gas and mineral resources, as well as their private owners, are found.

⁹ Subcontracted miners in the state mines who are fighting for equal rights to state paid miners. See the FLT statement that follows and also 'Chile: Statement on El Teniente strike' <http://www.geocities.com/communistworker/cs65.html>

health workers showed recently.

- **End the divided and isolated struggles! While the workers fight sector by sector, Evo Morales agrees with PODEMOS¹⁰ in the Constituent Assembly to exploit and oppress the workers.**
- **Build a committee of struggle with delegates of the rank and file of all the organisations that are fighting, to convene in Huanuni and prepare for a united national strike! This is the only way to avoid defeats that strengthen the bourgeoisie and its government.**
- **Bolivian workers raise a single cry: All to Huanuni to organize a great national committee of struggle! Immediate freedom of all the political prisoners!**
- **Worthwhile work for all! For a living wage set at the level of the family shopping basket!**
- **No miners shall exploit other miners! State work with equal rights for cooperativistas!**

The government says that it doesn't have the money to pay for the workers' demands
The revolutionary proletariat has its own solution!

- **Out with the transnational companies! Nationalization of all the mines such as Mutún under the control of their workers!**
- **Expropriation without compensation and under workers' control of all the oil and gasfields, refineries and pipelines! Here are the funds for the education and health budgets.**
- **University Autonomy! Down with the Rosca! [mining and landowning oligarchy]**
- **Fully fund the education budget under control of the state, teachers and students, with a student majority in all the universities of the country!**
- **Expropriation without compensation of productive land to distribute to the landless peasants combined with land nationalisation and planned production on the land!**
- **Down with the MAS-PODEMOS pact and the fraudulent Constituent Assembly!**

This committee of struggle of all the exploited people with its headquarters in Huanuni must demand that the leadership of the COB and the CODs [departmental union centrals] breaks with the bourgeois government of Morales and when it refuses, take the power out of the hands of the class collaborationist leaders.

These are some of the demands that can be used to unite all the exploited people. The miners of Huanuni must act as the revolutionary vanguard of the whole of the proletariat.

The policy of the leadership of the FSTMB [miners union] is to ensure that the miners vanguard being formed in Huanuni remains isolating from the rest of the Bolivian workers and does not once more take up its historic program, the Theses of Pulacayo, and lead the workers and poor peasants on the road to revolution as it did in the revolution of 1952.

Only retaking the way of October and May June of the 2003 we will be able, inclusively, to take to the government of Morales the minimum demands to him.

- **Freedom to the prisoners to fight!**
- **Delegates of militant workers, students and poor peasants; to Huanuni to organize a great national fight!**
- **Long live the international struggle of the working class!**
- **"The liberation of the workers, will be the work of the workers"!**

Red October Internationalist, member of the Fraccion Leninista Trotskyista international
Chile: Leaflet signed by POI in solidarity with the contract miners and homeless organisations

¹⁰ PODEMOS "We Can", main part of the Media Luna bourgeoisie.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL COMBATIVE WORKERS IN STRUGGLE!

The same class, the same fight!

Important and powerful fights of workers, students and many popular sectors have taken place all over the country.

Some of them have been national strikes like the student occupations of May and June of 2006 and the recent occupations of the grammar school and universities; there have been the land occupations in the Metropolitan Region and the national campaign of the indebted homeowners; the armed struggle of the Mapuche against the forest owners, landowners and their gangs, the police and the government to occupy and reclaim their land; the strike of the contractor forest workers of April and May 2007 for a wage increase; the ongoing struggle of the sacked fishing workers of the eighth Region for work; the protests of the self employed fishworkers for fish quotas; the general strike of the subcontracted miners of Codelco with the occupation of the Radomiro Tomic mine; the public opposition to the Transantiago plan [cuts to public transport] and the strikes of the drivers for a wage increase... these are just some of a long list of workers and popular struggles that take place every day in our streets, cities and regions.

But what is really important today is that the militant fight of the the subcontracted copper miners that are super exploited (earning around a third of the wage of company employees) by the biggest mine company in the world (CODELCO the Chilean state owned corporation), symbolizes the plundering of the country by the transnational companies who benefit from the poor wages and conditions. They are the vanguard of all the workers who today rise up against the regime of the the Agreement (Concertacion) and the bosses.

The massive struggle and rejection of the system that our class has demonstrated across the country, has been met with a massive state repression, police persecution, totally protected by the Pinochetistas laws of the constitution of the '80s, and in the creation of the National Intelligence Agency (ANI) voted by parliament, as the instruments use by the government to physically defeat to labor movement and the popular struggles.

That is why we all declare our commitment to nothing less than total class solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have embarked on their struggles, because their demands express the needs of all the oppressed and exploited people of the nation.

- We will not wait for one more murder of a worker, Mapuche or student, to denounce and to fight the repression and persecution against the Government they are fighting!
- Unconditional Freedom for all political prisoners!
- We are all subcontractor miners of Codelco! SAME CLASS, SAME FIGHT!
- Drop the charges against the subcontractor miners of Codelco!
- Immediate reincorporation of all the sacked militant miners!
- End the political persecution by the police and judiciary of the subcontractor miners of Codelco!
- An urgent campaign of education, support and solidarity that overcomes the isolation and advances the unity of all the workers and popular sectors in struggle!

IF THEY HARM ONE OF US, THEY HARM US ALL!

Association of Homeless (Puente Alto)

National conference of Workers Patriotic Front of Manuel Rodriguez

POI, Workers International Party- Fourth International of Chile.

Member of the Leninist-Trotskyist Fraction.

What We Fight For

We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of "nature" and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism's wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

We fight for Socialism

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism –a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only Cuba and North Korea survive as degenerate workers states. We unconditionally defend these states against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of world socialism.

We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism's continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual "freedom" and "equality". It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary

class-consciousness.

We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeois and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a *transitional programme*, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism, to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers' power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionise every barrier put in the path to the victorious revolution.

We fight for Communism.

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made "fair" for all; that nature can be "conserved"; that socialism and communism are "dead"; we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution; the Third Communist International until 1924, the revolutionary Fourth International up to 1940 before its collapse into centrism. We fight to build a new, Fifth, Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

Class Struggle is the Bi-Monthly paper of the Communist Workers' Group of New Zealand/Aotearoa, a member of the Leninist Trotskyist Fraction.

The other members are the International Workers League (LOI-CI) Argentina, International Workers Party (POI) Chile, Revolutionary Trotskyist League (RTL) Peru, Red October International (ORI) Bolivia, and the Trotskyist Fraction (FT) Brazil. PO Box 6595, Auckland, NZ.

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Class Struggle is also on our website

<http://www.geocities.com/communistworker/>

CWG blog at <http://redrave.blogspot.com/>