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Youth need jobs not police harassment



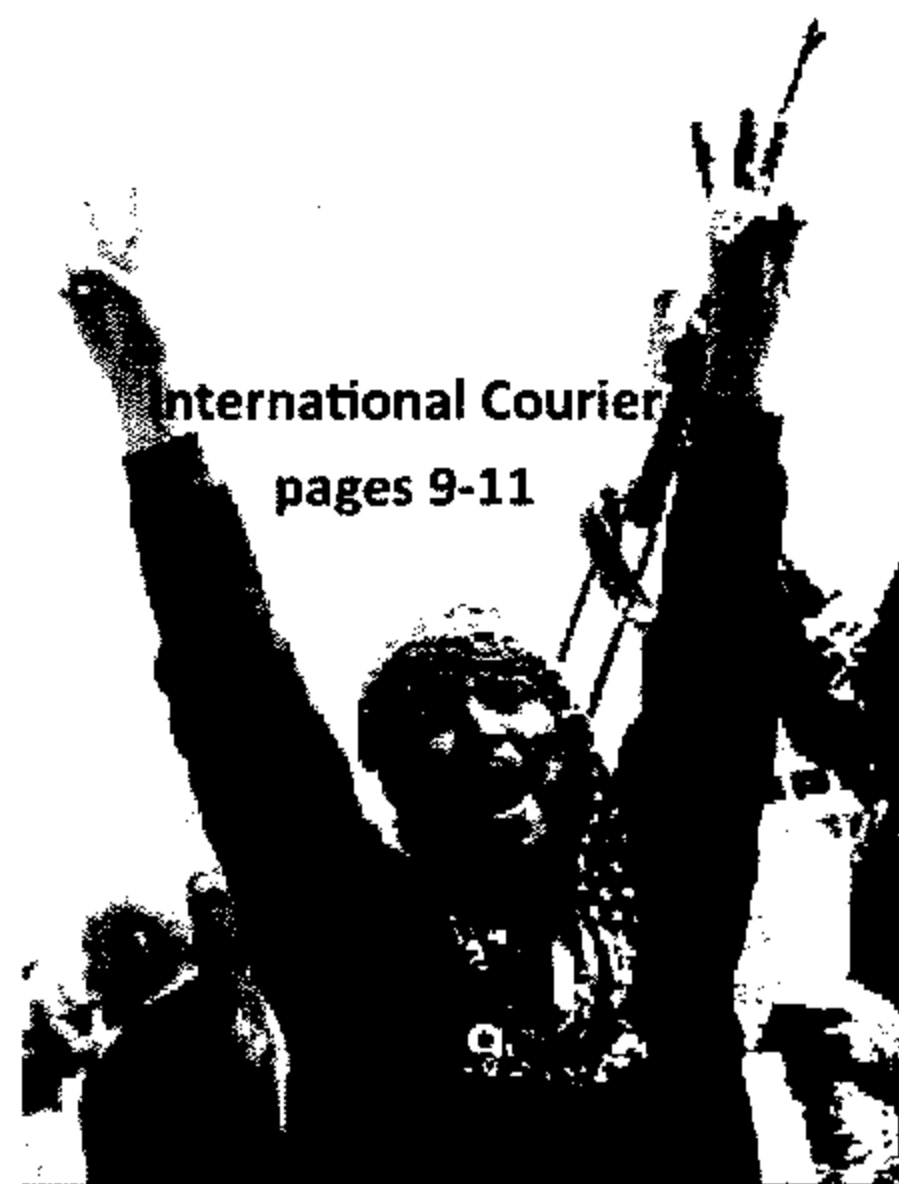
Flames that reached high into the night during the August 'riots' illuminated more than burning buildings and cars they cast a penetrating light on the way the youth and poor working class communities have been neglected for decades under this and previous governments. The flames also shone a light on the future, the total destruction of working class communities or a united working class struggle fighting for socialism.

The flames of the Arab revolution also showed us something, dictators can be overthrown and like in Libya important victories can be achieved quickly, as in Tripoli, when there is mass support for change. But we warn that in Libya that victory cannot stop there, now the struggle must continue against NATO, foreign control and the Transitional National Council.

The youth in England protested creating panic amongst the political and ruling elite of this country, at the same time a riot was shattering the stock markets of the world which escalated the economic crisis in the USA and Europe. The shockwaves that spread through the financial markets following the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers in 2008 created a financial maelstrom which is out of control and is continuing to sweep across the world causing chaos and resulting in direct attacks on the world's working class.

The living conditions which sparked the struggles against dictatorships in the Middle East can be glimpsed in Britain: one million youth unemployed with disproportionate

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LIFE OF THE LIT

International Workers' League

Spain

Call for a European Day of Action

Corrient Roja is a revolutionary and Marxist political organization in the Spanish State in which the comrades of the IWL belong and are part of the leadership. They point out that even the COO and UGT union federations are talking about calling a general strike, much like TUC leaders call for co-ordinated strike action but do nothing when it happens.

CR is calling for increased actions on the streets such as occupations and demonstrations and to organise on October 15 an international day of action of workplaces, communities and universities to prepare the conditions for a general strike.

Brazil

Support the Chilean students

The National Association of Students - Free (ANEL) of Brazil has launched a manifesto in support of Chilean students who are fighting in defence of public and free education. The purpose is to collect signatures from the Brazilian student movement and from other countries to strengthen the struggle in Chile, as it is facing strong repression by the police forces of the Piñera government. (see page 16 and 17)

Argentina

Left Front Advances

With 512,000 votes and a national average of 2.5% of the vote, the Left and Workers Front has exceeded the anti-democratic requirement of the Electoral Act that stipulated that 1.5% of the vote (almost 400,000) had to be achieved in order to submit nominations in October for the national elections.

The importance of overcoming the barrier imposed by law was understood by many thousands of workers in a large number of factories, working class districts, colleges and schools. The victory was possible because a large section of independent left activists and workers agreed with the fight against this proscriptive law. The newly formed PSTU (Argentina), section of the IWL, is part of *Left and Workers Front*.



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Editorial:

Youth need jobs not police harassment



(continued from the front page)

levels amongst the immigrant and Black working class, daily police harassment against the youth and Black communities, deaths at police hands, harassment of the unemployed, no grants for 16-19 year olds, tripling tuition fees, benefit cuts and cuts to youth services. With nothing on offer young people took to the streets spontaneously.

Across Britain in 1981 black communities experienced SUS laws, saturation policing and harassment which led directly to serious conflict between them and the police. The conflict was no surprise to the majority of people who lived in those areas as since the 1970s warnings had been given that conflict was imminent if serious issues were not addressed. In the late 1970s and 1980s evidence was gathered by working class groups about the experiences of the Black youth and there was evidence of serious levels of intimidation and harassment, racist practices and racist behaviour by the police. On top of this Black communities suffered disproportionately from unemployment, poor housing, no social amenities and with very high levels of policing. Then the political and media response was the same as today to focus on images of black 'rioters', 'looters' and 'arsonists', 'muggers' and 'thugs'.

But his crisis of capitalism has been

created by greedy, immoral, self-seeking bankers and speculators who for decades have been allowed to rob and loot, fuelled by "a pathological sense of entitlement", and who continue to receive colossal bonuses despite having to receive bailouts from public money. In collusion with imperialist governments they devastate and pillage countries across the world in an attempt to own and control the wealth and resources of the world. They exploit and extort with no regard for human life and suffering. Across the world it is the working class who are paying for their crises with cuts and privatisations to essential working class services and with hard won gains being ripped from under their feet shattering lives and communities. This is the backdrop to and cause of the youth uprisings which politicians are too afraid to face up to.

Trade unions must lead

Today the ruling class is preparing to use a high level of repression against the growing opposition to their plans which will include the use of plastic bullets and water cannon. Plastic bullets are lethal weapons, in northern Ireland they killed 17 people 9 of whom were children and none of whom were involved in 'rioting' with no-one from the army or police force

ever being convicted.

Trade unions must begin to campaign against the increasing militarisation of policing and build links of solidarity with the youth and all communities to defend them from police harassment and the daily humiliations they suffer, and call for trade union led community inquiries into harassment. Furthermore we must involve them in the fight to defend and extend public services, to fight for jobs, decent housing and decent areas. We must also call for an immediate end to the reactionary draconian penalties that have arisen over uprisings

All our struggles must contain a conscious political aim. There is no escape from the impending economic decline, mass unemployment or the destruction of health, education and welfare services without a united movement of the masses as in the Arab countries. So a trade union leadership that calls on workers to accept some cuts, continues to negotiate while others are on strike and postpones their struggle to wait for a Labour government is a betrayal. We need a united struggle that will continue until the working class gains power and control in society through its own organisations that can move towards the construction of a socialist society. The British working class needs a revolutionary party of its class to fight for that aim and advance that struggle today.

Build action against cuts and privatisation

Martin Ralph, editor International Socialist League

Following more than a year of struggle by workers and students to stop government and council cuts, the government is pressing ahead with the wholesale decimation of public services.

In the last year we have seen the beginnings of huge austerity cuts and privatisation plans for public services because that is what the banks and big business want who need wholesale change to secure their profits. Britain is being run in the interest of bankers, who refuse to be regulated to control their greedy, stupid and precarious practices which caused the crisis in the first place and who are unfit to run any of our services. One of the central demands of the bourgeoisie is for a greater re-organisation of British capitalism which will require lower wages and conditions and lead to the ending of public education, welfare, health and youth services. Only a victory of workers' struggle can change this.

Cuts and privatisation

"A survey of local authorities by the Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services in February 2011 showed that budget cuts averaged 28%, but that some authorities were cutting 70%, 80% or even 100% of services. It found a total of more than £100 million being cut from local authority youth budgets in England by March 2012 and that the services most affected would be open-access youth clubs and centres, which 96% of the 41 heads of youth services who responded said would either be reduced or stopped altogether by April 2012." (Public funding of youth services, www.parliament.uk) Spending on youth services was £397 million 2007-2008, by 2009-2010 it dropped to £350 million, with a further £100 million being cut.

A secret email obtained in September, through a Freedom of Information



application has revealed plans to hand over up to 20 hospitals to international health companies who are looking for at least £500 million in revenues.

These secret plans are proof that Cameron intends to end the NHS and universal provision, "Private healthcare companies have been engaged in a massive lobbying effort to fundamentally change the NHS in their own interests: employing politicians (including former health ministers), hiring lobbying agencies full of government insiders, and paying think tanks close to the Conservative Party." (www.spinwatch.org) The NHS will be in competition with any 'willing' provider.

The government wants to put 80% of the NHS into the hands of GPs and the new bill will demand that GPs use the cheapest providers which will allow private companies to make billions out of health care.

The majority of the population including GPs are against the dismantling of the NHS, and now the British Medical Association national council has agreed to begin campaigning against the dreadful Health and Social Care Bill.

The Government is deceiving and confusing the public by repeating the lie that there will be "no privatisation of the NHS", however the central purpose of the bill is just that and must be defeated.

According to the Public Accounts Committee the privatisation schemes that were promoted by Thatcher, Blair and Brown, are increasingly being given to big business and are being run from tax havens. As with all other privatisations school buildings, education and health provision are being treated as commodities to be bought

and sold on the world's largest casino that is the international markets and through secret transactions of the big banks.

Private and Finance Initiative is a ticking time bomb and is bleeding public money for private profit. At the time of the major bank's crises, who were bailed out by billions of public money, banks decided to increase their charges, and the cost of loans increased by 33% during 2009 which will cost the taxpayer an additional £1bn over the next 30 years.

Fight for class action

The struggle against union leaderships who are resisting taking action against the destruction of the NHS and public services has to be intensified.

The present leadership of the trade unions are against building links and building internationally except in the boardroom meetings of bureaucrats to discuss how to divert the movement. If they will not unite strikes and build an international movement of workers then a new leadership will have to take their place and begun that fight.

The political conference season is here and there are planned demonstrations against both Tory and Labour Party conferences, there are plans for strikes in October and student demonstrations in November – now is time to raise the question of preparing for a general strike.

Anger at decades of neglect and repression

Margaret McAdam, editor *International Socialist League*

In August 2011 following two nights of conflict on the streets of Liverpool 8, 200 residents met with the police and local Labour councillors. There was a substantial degree of anger and the community was in no mood to listen to patronising and ineffectual responses by the local councillors, police and Police Authority. It became clear in a few short minutes that people were going to have their say and that the foundations of the conflict on the streets today were exactly the same as they were in 1981.

"Nothing has changed except you can't use the N word anymore"

"From the 70s, 80s and 2000s the same thing is going on and nothing is ever done. In the 70s you made promises, but you can't even understand that there is nothing to do here, nowhere to go and now we have the cuts!" Serious concerns were expressed about the lack of youth services and recent drastic cuts to youth workers and legal services and concerns were also raised about the closure of the local JET service (providing support, career advice and job searches). Institutionalised discrimination has caused the high levels of unemployment in the area, "most people in this room are unemployed", and the historic absence of black representation in the city centre banks, offices and stores blatantly continues in the new Liverpool One complex. People expressed scepticism about promises being made frustration about the total neglect in the area that has gone on for decades was clear. Others revealed that housing strategy meetings were a farce where if you spoke up and raised concerns you were immediately shot down and deemed a subversive. The councillors made it clear that the council put profit and business before the needs of the community, "We have to get the best price", plainly showing that their wringing of hands and having to make "heartbreaking cuts" were nothing but empty words and rhetoric.



Boarded up houses in Cairn Street, residents are campaigning to keep the housing

Liverpool 8 Voices

"I am twenty-five years old and I experience what my parents experienced. I feel very vexed with you". "Young people have been criminalised in his area for decades – they are put in vans and given a beating, I kid you not, I've been there thirty years ago. They are marginalised, criminalised and sectioned off, beaten up and written off! If you do nothing we will protect our kids. At the end of the day I don't tell them to fight but I feel helpless. Over section 30¹ and section 60², you are enforcing it far more in this area." (Community Worker)

The attitude of the police was described as "disgusting" by a local woman and this was loudly endorsed by everyone in the room. She raised serious questions about an incident when 8 police raided their home, her daughter pleaded with police that there was a new born baby in their home, but they responded saying "Whatever!" Police attitudes to the community were described as being abusive with excessive force being used. "50 came through my door, 4 pinned me to the floor, handcuffed me, My 10 year old daughter was in the room, I pleaded for them to go easy on her. They wrested her to the floor and handcuffed her". (40 year old male).

He went on to explain that the Police claimed to be looking for drugs, so he protested to them that he had never been in trouble and had no record. They found nothing but paracetamol! He explained that he went through the complaints procedure and then, "I went to the IPCC and it was all upheld, they said they made a mistake!"

There were many accounts of police harassment and abuse revealing just the tip of an iceberg.

A young refugee talked about an incident when he was stopped on his way to work, adding that another officer in a car shouted "search him!" Clearly distressed and upset by this experience he asked the police officer, "Is it a crime to be black?" Another young man talked about his experience with friends being beaten by the police in the back of a van when they were being dispersed for no reason. Others talked about being stopped and searched four and five times a night and never receiving the stop and search slips which should include the officers identity and an explanation about why, where and when you have been stopped. The high level of stop and search continues to be a daily humiliation and degradation for people especially young black males who are being stopped by young white police officers. Stop and search has institutionalised racial profiling into policing practice by police officers who have lawful discretion to apply their own prejudices in order to assess who is deemed suspicious and worthy of stopping.

The Area Commander insisted that they had made progress and enhanced community relations because of equality training within the police force. His denial of discriminatory police behaviour provoked further anger with the community, "you can't train people not to be racist!" said an older female resident.

The politicians and the police defend a system that is the root cause of the

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Interview with Liverpool 8 activist

Stop and search is a common experience

Socialist Voice interviewed Anne Traynor, Volunteer Worker in the Canning community

SV: What is the background to the youth clashes with the police in August?

SD: It started because of oppression by the police against Black communities. Some people say it is not the same as 1981, things are different but the only thing that has changed is you are not allowed to say the N word any more, it is against the law, but you have to prove that they said it.

If the police dislike a particular group of young lads or they have it in for someone then stop and search is a common occurrence. When the lads go out of the house there is tension all the time because they could be stopped and searched. It is highly offensive especially for the older guys.

You have some rights under these laws but if you ask questions about why you are being stopped the police just say, "you've got attitude". The police never apologise and they talk to you like you're two years old. It may be someone from the Black community or maybe a white youth but afterwards they'll go home angry.

The police target certain people. When I lived in Kensington I put in a complaint and then I was stopped 13 times over 2 years.

SV: What other forms of discrimination exist?

When I look around Liverpool you don't see Black fireman or Black bus drivers. You don't see Black people working in the shops unless they own them. Discrimination is obvious.

In one place I worked one white guy was racist to a Black guy all the time. They ended in a fight and they both got sacked. What people said is that the Black guy should have made a compliant but a grown Black man is not going to go to his boss and complain about the N word. He has to deal with it himself.

Our area is very close to the university and the students appear to have everything. No doubt they have high

levels of debt but they do not get arrested for throwing paper onto the streets or flicking their used cigarettes onto the street. Recently a man with mental health problems was fined £85 for doing just that and he is obviously mental ill.

SV: What are local services like in the area?

We have no youth workers, young lads in the middle of the day have nowhere to go, they want to do physical activities and you can see them getting angrier and angrier. Just like other people in this area are getting angrier and angrier. We are not being consulted in anyway, public buildings are being sold off. Buildings are being given over to private landlords, all their buddies. For example the Toxteth Community College is closed down and is perfectly placed for the community. It could be used to serve this community with advice, serve as a centre for people on their own and help break down isolation, we could help those with mental health problems. Since April we have enquired about the building but I was told nothing would happen until autumn! Then we find the council are on the verge of selling it off to Blackburne House (women's education and training centre) and that does not serve the whole community. I have evoked the Freedom of Information Act to find out how they proceeded.

Another complaint is that houses have been left derelict or if knocked down there is extensive wasteland and nothing is happening. This is another thing that the community is very angry about because the council is doing nothing about that. The council is just about money.

I made a complaint about Tesco, it was not about the fact that half of the people hired were local but because we want more than till jobs. Tesco did not use any local people for their builds. Tesco have set up ten supermarkets



within a mile and the head of Tesco was on the board of Liverpool 2020 who are property developers for the city. None of the contracts for building came to Liverpool.

I do not mean just the Black community are hard hit, but also the poorer white workers who live here. The community is very unbalanced because of these things and the youth see and feel it.

SV: What now?

Talk on the street is that if no one listens to us what they have seen is just a prelude, what will happen will be a 100 times worse, what have we got to lose. We need funding for the youth, we need properly trained youth workers. I understand the lack of respect from the youth, from the top down from Murdoch, politicians to the police? Who is going to be their judge? They are all it together, Murdoch and his cronies will get off. How can you respect anyone who can get away with defrauding the country because they have money or position. These are not decent or clever people, they just have money.

In this area there is 40% ethnic diversity, but that is not reflected in employment and the dole stop people's money at the drop of a hat.

I grew up in Liverpool and I have been called every name. Racism has more forms now and that comes from hundreds of years of ruling the rest of the world. I was born in England but it is no better elsewhere so my attitude is stay and fight.

Interview with Liverpool 8 activist

Stirrings of political awareness are becoming visible

Interview with the Darrin Rawlins.

Chair of the Grovelands Tenants Association and a member of SORD - Survivors of Racial Discrimination

SV: What are the reasons for the actions the youth took?

There was sympathy across the country over the killing of a Black man in London. Amongst the youth in other cities the same problems exist, pockets of the same unemployment, the same police harassment and people who are dying in police custody and therefore there exists a kindred spirit. There is a great deal of frustration because our kids are getting picked on. Now there is the emergence of the same thing happening to kids in poor white areas and they are also fighting with the police, only white youth rioting has to a large extent been played down.

The police feel at the moment that they have community support for their tactics. The fights were not as severe as in 1981 in Liverpool, but the situation will lead to more confrontations with the youth. There have been severe cuts to youth schemes leaving youths with nothing to do with their time.

Look at the dilapidated areas where people are living in Liverpool 8. We are supposed to have had a Capital of Culture with hundreds of millions of pounds being spent in the city. This development has taken place to celebrate the city's diverse cultures and yet the only place in this city that is truly representative of the many different cultures in this city, that is Liverpool 8 and parts of Liverpool 7, has had very little investment or development within them. But you can bet your bottom dollar that these same investment companies lied, when obtaining grants and funding, that their respective developments would create jobs within the local communities. These companies will use these run down communities when bidding for this funding or contracts but have no intention of doing what they



claim regarding these communities. Now the community feel they are being encroached upon by development aimed at overseas students that is now encroaching upon our community and along with this encroachment the community feel it is the same old story of investment in infrastructure, but no investment in the communities that reside where this infrastructure is being developed.

Look at the economic climate and the austerity measures. We are heading into a desperate situation. The middle classes do not understand yet that the attacks that have hit the poor are going to hit the middle class as well. Inflation is above 4% and as there is a wage freeze many people are suffering wage cuts.

The rich have been attacking the poor for a long time, look at the U.S. and Europe, and look at Ireland that allowed the IMF in. Greece is having a fire sale! A small percentage are acquiring the wealth of the world. The whole thing is going to collapse.

At the bottom are the youth who have no understanding of what these austerity measures are about or how they occurred. They have no political understanding of how this situation comes about. They see politicians as being liars who are out to look after themselves, and the older generation as being the people responsible for what is occurring within the world today. You cannot blame them for this, as they were not responsible for what has happened and yet they have been saddled with a debt of £18000 pounds and their children have been

sold into 'economic slavery'. This is akin to what happened in America in 1938, with the introduction of the Social Security Act, 20 years after the Federal Reserve (private finance group) took control of the issuing of currency, America was declared bankrupt and the Federal Reserve loaned the American government money and Social Security was used as collateral against that loan. In short people and their dependents were sold into economic slavery as the debt was never paid back and could never be, as the Federal Reserve controls the interest rates on the outstanding debt and adjusts it accordingly so the debt is ongoing.

SV: What is your experience of job discrimination?

Many youths who come from a poverty stricken background to a large extent will be criminalised before they reach an age where they need to find work as a result of these stop and searches. The same thing happened to me at or around their age. There will come a time when you are in an interview and you have to answer the question "have you got a criminal record?" and you say, "I was stopped a long time ago." The employer has two options, the first is under the Right to Rehabilitation Act an employer can examine your previous actions and make a decision as to whether to employ you or not.

You hear comments against Polish workers who are working here,

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Anger at decades of neglect and repression

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injustice and attacks that have led to the uprisings and as stated by many people this was nothing compared to what will happen in the future, "that was the calm before the storm".

In an attempt to ameliorate the feelings of the community the Area Commander ended up revealing that their aim was to protect the properties and businesses in Liverpool One and that is why they contained the situation in Liverpool 8 hence revealing the lie of so-called 'community' policing, the reality is that is the protection of private property is at the heart of policing.

National responses ignore the voice of the youth

Nationally 'moral' outrage has been expressed by the media and all politicians to the youth who rose up just as happened in 1981 - 'rioters', 'yobs', 'thugs', 'looters' and 'arsonists', so as to depoliticise and criminalise the uprising, the young people and the working class and thus justify an escalation of militarised control with water cannon, rubber bullets and mass incarcerations.

Politicians from all parties have adopted an extremely reactionary response. The number of arrests and convictions is alarming and completely disproportionate to normal practice. Thousands of young people have been imprisoned on remand and shocking and outrageous sentences are being meted out in an attempt to suppress the political might of the youth. The longest so far has been a four year prison sentence given to two young men (20 and 22 years of age) with no previous criminal record, for posting messages "encouraging riot" on Facebook as a joke, at a location where there was no riot! The prison population has now exploded to 86,821, the highest in western Europe.

Furthermore Cameron has brought in from the US William Bratton, "the architect of zero-tolerance policing across the world such as New York City to Mexico City and Caracas"³ in order

to provide a voice in support of his plans to transform the Criminal Justice System and increase the powers of the state so that they can "implement en masse and use the welfare system as an outpost"⁴ of the CJS, as with the plans to evict the families of "rioters" from public housing and cut off their welfare support.

The long term use of these powers will not be confined to the youth uprisings but they will be used against the working class at a time when deeper and harsher cuts and austerity measures will seriously cut the standard of living and create civil unrest and an increase in mass mobilisations of opposition.

Defective blame theory

As previously stated the political response has been to deny any connection between the "riots" and police harassment and intimidation, cuts, austerity measures or poverty and an 'official discourse' has been resurrected that creates and blames an 'underclass' in society. An 'underclass' who come from broken families where a culture of dependency exists with no moral barometers to guide behaviour. Cameron said, "I don't doubt that many of the rioters out last week have no father at home. Perhaps they come from one of the neighbourhoods where it's standard for children to have a mum and not a dad, where it's normal for young men to grow up without a male role model, looking to the streets for their father figures, filled with rage and anger."

Cameron has clung onto the right-wing theories of American Charles Murray from the late 1980s who blames the individual for their own poverty. Murray's research focussed on single mothers and was based on innuendo, assertion and anecdote and this theory is revived during various stages of economic downturn to gain legitimacy for attacks on welfare and cuts in services. Cameron has borrowed this defective theory in order to blame the 'welfare system' for creating a culture of rights without responsibilities and communities

without control in order to popularise and implement cuts in welfare spending and militarised control.

Anti-youth culture

The emergence of anti-youth policies began in the post-war period when unemployment became a persistent feature of capitalism with young and Black people being overly-represented in this 'surplus population'. This has led to the creation of stereotypes of 'dangerous classes' to enable policies of control and repression. The previous Labour government expanded the powers of repression targeting young people under the Anti Social Behaviour Act and also lowered the age of criminal responsibility, which led to staggering number of young people being imprisoned in England, far more than in any other western European country. An anti-youth culture has developed in this country because of a fear of the political force that young people can develop.

Stand by young people and our communities

The crimes of the politicians, bankers, police, and media remain unaccounted for and unpunished, their wealth increases and their powers are extended as opposed to the despicable and outrageously disproportionate draconian response to the revolt of the youth which is a demonstration of the fear that the ruling class has of the working class as well as the hatred they feel towards the working class.

"We have a political culture which has been manipulated by Rupert Murdoch and the press. We've got a feral elite of politicians, press, police and banks running the whole system. And there's so much anger right across society—not just in these kids. This is not the end of rebellion, it is the beginning."⁵

A Liverpool 8 resident said, "Enough is enough and we will no-longer stand-by while our young people and communities are marginalised

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INTERNATIONAL COURIER SUPPLEMENT

International Workers League August 2011



Great victory of Libyan people

Gaddafi's bloodthirsty regime in Libya is falling apart

The bloodthirsty regime of Muamar el Gaddafi in Libya is falling apart. The whole world is being deeply moved at the sight of armed rebels entering Tripoli accompanied by crowds hungry for democratic freedoms in what might be the final offensive of a five months old civil war.

The scenes of men and women with weapons in their hands, waving flags, fists raised high, bravely storming the Bab El Aziziya Palace (Gaddafi's residence and headquarters of the dictatorship) are so powerful that they cannot but remind us of the most impressive victories of our class. There is joy on the streets of Tripoli, people feel victorious and free and feel their own power. The dictator, even though his whereabouts are unknown, has lost control of his country. He spoke a few months ago about "crushing the rats" and "persecuting the rebels street by street", now he finds himself in a position very close to the former dictators of Tunisia and Egypt.

From the IWL-FI we greet this unquestionable political and military victory of the Libyan people and of the entire revolutionary process most effusively. Let's be clear, we have a tremendous victory of people who took weapons and their destiny into their own hands and waged a civil war against a fierce dictatorship that wielded power over them for 42 years. The Libyan people armed and organised into Popular Committees and are annihilating not only the dictatorship but the entire oppressive regime with its main institution, the army.

Nevertheless, as we discuss later, it is necessary to warn against the dangers that lie ahead of this victory because imperialism is intent on defeating or deviating the revolutionary process by using the traitors from the Transitional National Council (TNC), a bourgeois and pro-imperialist body, that wants to rule when Gaddafi falls.



The fall of the Gaddafi administration and regime comes out of the direct action of the masses and represents a big advance for the Arab revolution, which together with Europe is one of the two central poles of the world revolutionary process. As at the beginning of the of the Arab insurrections, the heroic struggles waged by the masses in Tunisia and Egypt cleared the way for a revolutionary process in the entire region and expanded it. Now the Libyan revolution will reverberate and inspire the revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa. In Syria and Yemen and even Tunisia and Egypt this victory has stirred hearts and minds.

This Libyan revolution is part of the great Arab revolutions that have taken place but has greater elements. Unlike the popular insurrections in Tunisia and Egypt, in Libya the people rose up in arms and destroyed an army that was the main institution of the bourgeois state and the Gaddafi regime. There are no regular troops in Libya now. What does exist are many thousands of armed men and women, looking for deep changes for which they risked or gave their lives.

The contradiction of the process

It is a well-known fact that imperialism has been intervening in Libya through

NATO, not because of the "massacres" or in defence of "human rights" which they hypocritically used in their rhetoric to justify their actions. They intervened after the popular armed insurrection had already begun in order to stabilise the situation as quickly as possible and fundamentally to control the revolutionary process. They needed to recover control of the reserves, and maintain a normal flow of oil. **But their central interest is political: it is to control and defeat the ascent of Libyan masses to prevent their example from spreading to other countries within the Arab world. This aim had to be achieved with or without Gaddafi.**

At first the military intervention was aimed at forcing Gaddafi to a negotiated withdrawal but that did not happen. Then they had to accept that Gaddafi had lost his capacity to contain the advancing masses so his downfall became their objective. This is a huge contradiction in the process, in the middle of a civil war, which did not occur in either Tunisia or in Egypt, imperialism was compelled to intervene militarily to defeat Gaddafi.

Chavez and Castro say they supported Gaddafi because he was an "anti-imperialist", but he had been giving oil to American and European multinationals since the beginning of the century. The contradiction is that



Great victory of Libyan people

militarily there was a united front with ultimately directly opposed aims, the masses wanted to free the country from oppression, and imperialism wanted to stop the revolution so as to continue to loot the wealth of Libya and the Middle East.

Imperialism could not just observe the development of a civil war with unforeseeable consequences and duration that was paralysing oil flows and with a revolutionary wave sweeping across the Arab world. That was the reason for NATO's intervention with France and the United Kingdom heading the operation. The only reason troops were not sent in was because Iraq, Afghanistan and the Arab world is ablaze and imperialism is unable to occupy whenever and wherever it desires. This is the fundamental problem for imperialism, once Gaddafi falls they will be unable to intervene as they did in Iraq and Afghanistan with thousands of marines because they will have to disarm the masses who are triumphant and have the real power in Tripoli. Imperialism will need to manoeuvre, to confuse, to negotiate and if this fails, then go in with occupation troops.

Defeat or victory for the masses?

Chavez as well as Castro expressed their unconditional support to the Gaddafi dictatorship. This may appear to be a "contradiction" in governments that claim to be "revolutionary" where support for the people fighting against dictatorial and murderous government would normally be expected. Supporting dictators like Gaddafi and Assad provides justification for imperialism to 'act as the defender of the human rights and the democratic freedoms' of the masses. Such reference points by the world's Left can increase the confusion Libyan or Syrian fighters who see the "Left" (Chavez and Castro) support a dictator who is starving and killing them, while imperialism "helps" to defeat this dictator. Furthermore creating confusion in

the understanding of the masses and the world vanguard.

The Venezuelan president went as far as mounting praise on the Arab dictator, "What Bolivar is for us, Gaddafi is for the Libyan people". In relation to the massacres committed by Gaddafi, Chavez said, "I have no proof of that, and of course from so far away, I shall not condemn somebody who has been my friend for such a long time without knowing exactly what is going on in Libya." This shamefaced support sharpened when the imperialist intervention began. The Castro-Chavist trend exploited this in order to galvanise support from most of the Left for the Libyan dictator. They began defending the hypothesis that it was an "international conspiracy" against an "anti-imperialist" leader. The thousands of victims of Gaddafi's attacks on popular demonstrations became fictions of imperialism, "I am sure that the USA is exaggerating and distorting things so as to justify an invasion."

Now that Gaddafi's end is near, this trend asserts that Libya signifies a defeat for the people and a victory for imperialism, specifically the military intervention of UN-NATO. This is not true, the fact is that imperialism was forced to intervene, and to say it's a victory for imperialism belittles the victory of the mobilised and armed masses who are now getting rid of a ferocious dictatorship.

The fact that at the end of his rule imperialism withdrew their support for Gaddafi and staked everything on his fall does not automatically turn the Libyan dictator into an "anti-imperialist" entitled to political support from the world's Left. The change was not due to Gaddafi's "anti-imperialism", it was because Gaddafi was unable to contain the Libyan revolution. Less than a decade ago Gaddafi ended any conflict with imperialism and became their



Gaddafi friend of Imperialism

agent in the region and Imperialism supported him. Castro-Chavism presents Gaddafi's defeat as a defeat of the people. It is exactly the opposite.

Our position has always been unwavering rejection and opposition to the imperialist intervention because we are clear that their aim was to defeat the present revolution. However, this did not lead us to support the bloodthirsty Gaddafi.

Fight Imperialism, No confidence in the TNC!

Imperialism will do their utmost to control the current situation, as they fear that the popular armed uprising will go beyond the mere toppling of Gaddafi. After decades of hunger and oppression, accumulated anger is unpredictable.

Imperialism will try to control and lead the "transition" in Libya. But even at the risk of being repetitive we must insist that it will not be easy for imperialism, for they will have to convince the Libyan masses to disarm and go home peacefully after such a tremendous victory. They will not only have to convince the masses to disarm but will have to reconstruct a new regime and new bourgeois army in Libya, because the insurrectionary masses destroyed the old one. The contradiction is that they have a certain prestige for cooperating in the destruction of Gaddafi's military apparatus.

Imperialism cannot allow a delay over the question of power, in a situation where the people are armed and the regional strategic interests



Great victory of Libyan people

are a powder keg. For them it is urgent, even more so during this time of economic crisis, to rebuild a government, a regime and an army that guarantees stability in the country and the region in order to resume control of the oil fields and the flow of oil.

In this task of destroying the revolution and rebuilding a traitorous regime, the National Transitional Council (NTC), a body composed of former ministers and other Gaddafi defectors who are returning from abroad, and a self-designated parallel government during the armed struggle, is proving to be an ally of imperialist desires.

Mustafa Abdel Jalil, president of the NTC and former minister of justice in the Gaddafi administration, declared that now that Gaddafi is overthrown the new government will respect all the contracts signed by Gaddafi and will consider supplying France, England and USA with oil as a top priority, for they were "friends" of the insurgency. The NTC also proposes, once Gaddafi is defeated, that the rebels should disarm themselves and "once again become productive citizens." Jalil, even threatened to resign if there were "acts of revenge" and called for the "respect of life and property" and that no-one "must take the law into their own hands."

The IWL-FI asserts that now that Gaddafi has been overthrown only the Libyan people can decide their own future. This is the reason why a free, democratic and sovereign National Constituent Assembly must be convened to re-establish the country on a new political, social and economic basis that guarantees full democratic liberties for the Libyan people.

If this is to be achieved the Libyan people should not only abstain from granting confidence to the NTC, an unelected organ, they must also challenge it overtly. The bourgeois NTC wants to reorganise



the political regime and army to loot the energy resources at the price of impoverishing the people. Neither the NTC administration nor imperialist intervention in Libya's internal affairs should be allowed. We are for the maintenance of armed Popular Committees. Let the political power stay directly and completely in their hands.

That is why we cannot ignore the possibility of an attempt to occupy the country with imperialist troops to take direct control of the situation. This is probable because in order to stabilise the country bourgeois and pro-imperialist forces will be needed like the ones that were destroyed by the masses. Armed militias exist and imperialism has to annihilate them as soon as possible. We are absolutely against the sending of troops by imperialism, whether they are conventional or "humanitarian" under the disguise of the UN or NATO for they would be in Libya to defeat the revolutionary process, disarm the toilers and reconstruct the regime in order to loot the wealth of the country. An imperialist occupation would be worse than Gaddafi's administration. That is why the IWL-FI says: Not a single imperialist soldier in Libya! NATO, UN or Imperialist! Hands off Libya and the entire Arab region!

It is our opinion that the armed people should govern Libya and spread the revolution to the entire Arab world. Only a government of Libyan popular committees can summon and guarantee free elections for a really free, democratic and sovereign National Constituent Assembly. Only a Libyan workers' and popular government based on armed grassroots' committees can confiscate the properties and fortunes that belonged to Gaddafi and his followers and place them in the service of the people; punish Gaddafi and the remaining members of his dictatorship for the theft and crimes committed against the people; terminate

all the oil contracts and other pacts with imperialism signed by Gaddafi; nationalise the oil and the economy of the country under workers' and popular control to satisfy the vast needs of the masses and urgently carry out an emergency economic plan to satisfy the urgent needs of the people. We insist that only a government of the working class can guarantee this programme. We can expect nothing from the NTC administration not even the completion of the democratic aspiration of the victorious masses. The NTC will fight against the Libyan revolution whose task is to hand power to the people through their organisations and accelerate the Arab revolution as a whole towards a Federation of Arab Socialist Republics. Long live the Libyan people's revolution!

Long live the Arab revolution!

For a government of workers and of armed people that will ensure a free and sovereign Libya

National Constituent Assembly!

Total dissolution of Gaddafi's armed forces!

Trial and punishment for the crimes committed by Gaddafi and his dictatorship against the people!

No confidence in the NTC!

Imperialism and NATO hands off Libya and the entire region!



Syria: Despite the brutal repression, the struggle goes on

The Arab world is on fire as revolution and counterrevolution wage a deadly battle. In the midst of blood, barricades and cries of freedom the Arab revolution in Syria is acquiring renewed importance.

The slaughter by Bashar-el-Assad, current president of the a forty-one year old ruling dynasty, ruthlessly continues against the heroic Syrian people who since February have fought the regime with mass radicalised demonstrations.

The background to the mass Syrian mobilisations is the same as in the rest of the region. It is an explosive cocktail of legitimate democratic aspirations and the appalling effects of the current economic crisis, in a place where 50% of the wealth is owned by 5% of the population, the majority linked to the State and Assad family.

Chavez and Castro support Assad

Chavaz is supporting the Syrian dictator whom he decorated with "Bolivar's sword" and said that "[Assad] is not only heading the Syrian people but also the peoples of Arabia in the constant and brave struggle for liberty, peace and against imperialism." For Chavez it is the people who are terrorists not Assad!

When Castro-Chavism support bloodthirsty dictators who murder people fighting to overcome oppression they reveal their true nature. With Syria, the betrayal by Castro-Chavism is clear as there is no imperialist intervention, unlike Libya where that is being used to justify support for Gaddafi.

The expectation from governments that regard themselves as revolutionaries is support for the struggle of the people, conversely the opposite is the case. Justification for this position is the claim to be "anti-imperialist" however their position provides imperialism with the opportunity to act hypocritically as "defenders of democracy" and "human rights", while being the biggest criminals to mankind.



Social activists and the international Left, including those claiming to be Castro-Chavist, must question the position of Chavez and Castro and their defence of dictators against the people. Solidarity is central in any struggle and with Egypt and Tunisia it led to a triumph of the masses.

If the Syrian masses succeed the whole Arab revolutionary process will become stronger and important steps in the Arab revolution and across the entire planet will be made. But the masses needs active solidarity.

The Policy of Imperialism

Imperialism's policy is aimed at preventing the strengthening of the Syrian movement and its development across the whole region. Defeating the revolutionary process is a strategic question, as the world crises will deepen if it continues. The fundamental interest of capital is to pacify the region, guarantee the supply of oil and maintain political control through these dictators or negotiated solutions will be at risk.

In Syria imperialism has acted as they did in Egypt and Tunisia, as the masses gained confidence and mobilised imperialism began to shift its position. The Syrian dictatorial regime became unable to contain the masses and that is why the White House criticised Assad and imposed sanctions, saying it was in response to the extreme violence used by the army. Obama even went as far as to say Syria "would be better off without Assad" and Hilary Clinton said that he had "lost legitimacy" and was not indispensable.

This 'change' is not about the thousands of Syrian casualties, what

is essential for the imperialists is to break the movement through a negotiated solution in order to maintain the regimes of brutal repression against the Arab revolution.

The USA has withdrawn support for Assad because he is no longer playing a central role in defeating the revolution. Imperialism considers he has been trying to extinguish a fire by pouring petrol on to the flames and imperialism is at risk of losing everything.

Unite all the struggles of resistance and self-defense!

It is necessary to unite the mobilisations in the whole country for the Syrian people defeat the dictatorship, impose their demands and stop the repression. That is why it is necessary for the organisations of the Syrian resistance to take defensive measures and use the strength of the mobilisations to arm the masses.

The strength and forcefulness of the revolutionary mobilisations have created cracks in the state army which can be deepened. On the August 17 in the city of Hizr al-Shughur collective desertions from military units took place as soldiers refused to shell the population. The soldiers mutinied and joined the civilian demonstrators which led to an extremely tumultuous battle between loyal military forces and the 'mutineers'. Discipline and hierarchy began to crumble under the blows of the revolution.

We urge the Syrian toiling masses and the most conscious fighters of the resistance to trust in their own revolutionary force and to have no expectations in imperialism, the bourgeois trends or the Arab Islamists. It is necessary to continue to fight until Assad falls and a new government of and for the Syrian workers and exploited classes takes over, a government that can summon and guarantee a free, democratic and sovereign Constituent Assembly to achieve ademocratic liberties and free the country from imperialism.

Anger at decades of neglect and repression

Continued from Page 8

and criminalised. As a community we have a duty to support young people." We must put pressure on the organisations of the working class to defend those subject to these exemplary penalties and like the youth we must take to the streets to demand their freedom and oppose the excesses of state power on our streets and in the courts.

NOTES

1 Section 30 of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 allows a senior police officer to give authorisation for officers to issue dispersal orders in areas where he has reasonable grounds for believing that any members of the public have been intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed as a result of the presence of behaviour of groups of two or more person and if anti-social behaviour is a significant and persistent problem in the area.

2 Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, gives police the right to search people in a defined area at a specific time when they believe, with good reason, that: there is the possibility of serious violence; or that a person is carrying a dangerous object or offensive weapon; or that an incident involving serious violence has taken place and a dangerous instrument or offensive weapon used in the incident is being carried in the locality. This law has to be authorised by a senior officer and is used mainly to tackle football hooliganism and gang fights.

3 Rachel Herzing <http://www.irr.org.uk/2011/august/bj000015.html>

4Jon Burnett <http://www.irr.org.uk/2011/august/bj000014.html>

5 A Sivanandan Institute of Race Relations

Debate

Open letter to the Socialist Party

In August the Socialist Party in Liverpool issued a statement on the 'riots' which they put forward as a motion to the Liverpool anti-cuts group on 18 August saying,

"We are appalled at the current rioting which has resulted in the destruction of working peoples' homes, workplaces, and the community facilities and shops they rely on."

"We recognise that there are those who are using riots to engage in criminal activity and this is to be condemned.

"In condemning the wanton destruction..."

This opening reflects exactly the same position of Cameron, Miliband and the police and gives a green light to implementation of draconian penalties.

The SP leaflet and motion did not mention the killing of Mark Duggan by the police, nor the intense police harassment.

The Tory and Labour parties are saying that the struggle is criminal and all who participated are criminals. The Socialist Party is saying the same. The young people are fighting against the terrible cuts and conditions they face. To build the strong links we need to defend the youth.

The motion did call on the Labour council to reverse the cuts, however it said nothing about defence of the youth or building the links with the unions.

At the same time we need to warn the organised working class that plastic bullets and water cannon can now be used against us all.

After a passionate discussion most Socialist Party members in the meeting opposed amendments that were put forward which removed any condemnation.

Amendment: "Liverpool Against the Cuts stands for: Defending the youth against police harassment, racism and arbitrary and unjust sentences which are nothing more than Tory retribution against the poor

Building links between the trade unions, the communities, the youth are marginalized and alienated from society. All of us are under attack from the Con Dem government, all of us are under economic siege and we need to organise a joint political fight against cuts, economic and social deprivation, austerity measures, racism and police harassment."

It was a large meeting and the amendments were overwhelmingly endorsed.

The working class has a powerful history of struggle and can show the best way to fight against the bourgeoisie. This is the main point for us the revolutionaries of today, how to organise the working class and its trade unions to support Black and poor working class communities with the most effective methods to fight and win.

The hate and anger which has built up in the Black communities against the police has to be channelled against capitalism.

We ask the Socialist Party to review their position as the attacks on services, mass unemployment, police repression will produce all kinds of explosions of protest.

How the Labour Party supported capitalism in the post war years

Paul Humphreys, member of the International Socialist League

Public sector debt, economic turmoil, rising unemployment, inflation, a programme of cuts, agreement with the IMF, agreement with the Liberals. Is this 2011? No, this was 1976 to 1979 under the James Callaghan Labour government. Attacking the working class to pay for the crises of capitalism was developed long before Thatcher, Blair and Cameron unleashed their offensives.

Due to Britain's balance of payment crisis in 1976 Prime Minister Callaghan implored the IMF for a loan, at the time it was the largest in the history of the IMF, as international speculators were attacking sterling and depleting the UK's financial reserve.

The conditions of the loan stipulated the implementation of large public spending cuts. Before the terms of the IMF loan were announced, Callaghan shocked the annual party conference saying, "We used to think that you could spend your way out of a recession and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting government spending. I tell you in all candour that that option no longer exists." It no longer existed because he was bowing to the demands of the international financial markets for draconian attacks against the working class and welfare state, and the re-organisation of capitalism.

Prior to this, when Callaghan was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1967, he rejected the post-war commitment to full employment and embraced monetarist policies, marking the end of the post war boom. This led to the ending of the Bretton Woods agreement which had tied the dollar to the gold standard and maintained relatively stable exchange rates. This was forced upon imperialism due to the cost of the Vietnam War, the quadrupling of oil prices which created more instability in the world markets, the falling rate of profit and the strength of the working class internationally.



Labour leadership dedicated servants of capitalism

During the sterling crisis of August 1965 the Callaghan budget removed what remained of Labour's election promises. "The [U.S.] Administration has in fact been deeply impressed by the willingness of a Labour government to throw away or defer cherished social measures in defence of the pound." (Financial Times quoted in *The Newsletter*, August 1965, paper of the Socialist Labour League). The SLL issued a warning that the Wilson government (1964-1970) was committed to serving big business and that because of the financial crisis they would be forced to make an all-out attack on the living standards of the working class, standards that had developed since the second world war and were taken for granted. So in 1966 the Labour government put the Royal Navy on standby to break the Seaman's strike by moving the ships that had blockaded the ports.

Then in 1969 Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity and former left winger, drafted an anti trade union White Paper, *In Place of Strife*. It was the first of its type in the post-war period. Bill Hunter wrote, "The Labour government of 1964-1970,

therefore, began the attack on legal rights of union struggle which the later Tory governments carried on. The re-organisation of industry and concentration of capital went ahead under the Labour government." (*They Knew Why They Fought*)

This attempt to break the union movements was defeated because of mass and unofficial strikes, "The powerful reaction of the rank and file of the unions to this attack eventually split the cabinet and forced the defeat of the government's plans." (ibid)

Labour governments from Wilson onwards developed into dedicated servants to the needs of capitalism. Callaghan played an important role in the restructuring of the world financial system during the crisis years which ended the post-war expansion of capitalism and became one of the supporters of new IMF system. At the same time employers were planning ways to curb the power of workers, such as the dock workers, with the assistance of the government and the trade union bureaucracy.

At that time the gap between the poorest and the richest 10 per cent was the closest it had been since the industrial revolution 150 years earlier.

Between 1976 to 1978 there was a two year strike for trade union recognition by workers the Grunwick Film Processing laboratories in North London, by mainly East African Asian women, which received mass support from the whole labour movement.

In 1977 fire-fighters began a dispute for better wages and conditions which the Labour government crushed by bringing in the army.

At the time a minority Labour government maintained power in what was known as the Lib/Lab pact (1977 to 1978) with the Liberals, Ulster Unionists and Scottish National Party. A wage freeze had been agreed, but at a time of high inflation the working class opposed these plans and widespread strike action began. It was the Lib-Lab pact that prepared the way for the eventual formation of 'new' Labour, thus fundamentally there is an organic connection between 'new' Labour and 'old' Labour, one emerged from the other. They shared a commitment to maintaining a national capitalist economy and defending the historic interests of the British ruling class by opposing and trying to curb the struggle for socialism by the working class. **The Labour Party was not merely defeated by Thatcher, it was defeated because of the attacks on the working class.**

Trade union membership in 1979 was the highest in the world, outside of the Stalinist countries, that is 55 % of all workers. **The number of trade unionists on strike in 1979 rose to its highest point compared to any time since the 1926 General Strike and the government's plan to force a wage freeze was defeated as they were unable to crush workers' demands for wage increases above the planned 5% ceiling.**

Ford workers gained a 17% rise following a two-month strike, an 'unofficial' strike that was eventually supported by the Transport and General Workers Union because they feared losing control of the rank and file membership.

The lorry drivers followed and TGWU drivers struck on January 3, 1979.



Thousands of petrol stations were closed and drivers picketed ports and refineries across the country. Supplies transported by road came to a virtual standstill. In the weeks during and after the lorry drivers strike there was a series of strike action taken by public sector workers and on January 22 there was a "Day of Action" by public sector unions, following a number of strikes by railway workers. **That day marked the largest general stoppage of work in the UK since the 1926 General Strike with 1.5 million workers striking.** Mass demonstrations were held in many cities and 140,000 people took part in one demonstration in London. Schools and airports were closed and ambulance drivers struck. Following January 22 many workers continued to strike and even the Royal College of Nursing demanded a 25% pay increase. There was an ambulance drivers strike in mid-January and 1,100 NHS hospitals were only treating emergencies.

In late January there was a strike of gravediggers, who were members of the GMWU (now GMB), in Liverpool and Tameside and following two weeks of strike action the gravediggers accepted a 14% increase and returned to work. Towards the end of the winter Refuse workers were on strike, which



ended on February 21, with a 11% pay increase plus an extra £1 a week. The lowest paid workers such as the refuse collectors and grave-diggers had been working in conditions akin to those described by Charles Dickens more than 100 years earlier.

Officially strikes ended on February 14, however many strikes were continued by rank and file workers. **By the end of February a total of 29,474,000 working days had been lost due to strike action which helped stem the tide of inflation and pay cuts and led to a significant improvement in conditions for tens of thousands of workers.** Callaghan had opposed the strikes and called on workers to scab, saying, "I would not hesitate myself to cross a picket line if I believed it right to do so." Echoing those sentiments in June 2011 the Labour leader, Ed Miliband, condemned the public sector strikes over pensions as wrong saying that, "negotiations are ongoing. So it is a mistake to go on strike ..."

For socialism not sectionalism

It has gone down in political bourgeois history that an excess of trade union power and widespread strike action led to the victory Margaret Thatcher, but the truth is, it was the anti-working class policies of the Callaghan government that led to their defeat. A Labour government had led attacks on the class, rising unemployment and the closure of nationalised industries such as Standard Triumph in Liverpool.

Today the Cameron government is implementing in full the attacks that were intended against the working class from Wilson onwards through every subsequent government Tory, Labour and coalitions.

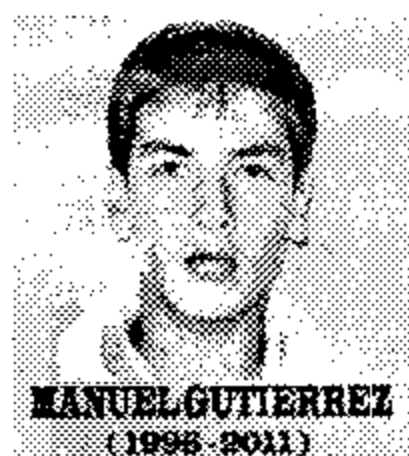
An important conclusion from this history is that the militancy and combativity of workers going into struggle cannot be confined within a trade union framework, that is fighting solely for sectional interests. That is the great lesson we have from the militancy and powerful struggles of the late 1960s and 1970s.

Chile: Support Chilean Students

16 year old killed by police in struggle for education

On August 26 a teenager was murdered in Santiago, 16 year old Manuel Gutierrez was shot in the chest in the Macul district by police who denied the shooting. The victim's brother witnessed the shooting, and initially thought it was a rubber bullet. It was only when the doctors announced boy's death that he realised it had been a bullet.

Despite denials by the Police Chief of the involvement of police officers, relatives and friends of the teenager accused the police Special Forces, who were just 300 feet away, of the killing. They also pointed out that the boy was not fighting with the police.



A powerful general strike had been organised on August 24 and 25 led by students and workers in the struggle for free public education and against the neoliberal economic policy of Sebastián Piñera. Demonstrators shut down access to the mines, demanding the government put aside a percentage of mine revenues to go directly to develop the infrastructure of the region. Later in the day thousands of protesters marched through the town in support of miners and student movements.

The National Union of Workers of Industrial Assembly and Civil Works which represents 50,000 miners, donated 10m Chilean pesos (\$21,000) to the Chilean Confederation of Students.

The strikes, intensified on the second day, and many marches took place in the major cities of Chile. The government repression was brutal and apart from the killing of the teenager 1,394 protesters been arrested. The murder deepens the crisis the government is sinking into and its support at its lowest since the days of the Pinochet dictatorship.

MANIFESTO OF THE BRAZILIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT

The National Association of Students - Free (ANEL) of Brazil has launched a manifesto in support of Chilean students. The purpose is to collect signatures from the Brazilian student movement and also from other countries to strengthen the struggle in Chile, as it is facing strong repression by the police forces of the Piñera government. The struggle of the Chilean students is the same as the struggle of Brazilian students and students across the world in defense of quality teaching, against cuts in public education and for universal access for all to public education, without discrimination.

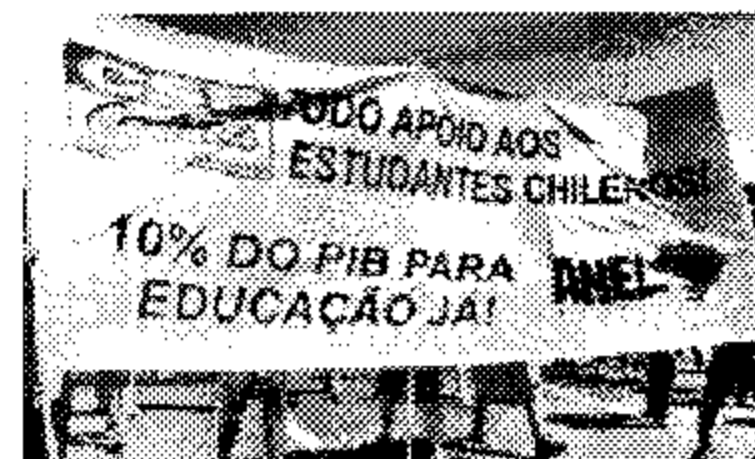
The Brazilian students union (ANEL) went to Chile to support the struggle of the Chilean students. This struggle has created a serious political crisis for the government.

The International Socialist League calls on British student organisations to sign the Manifesto and where possible to send a delegation of students in active solidarity with the Chilean students. The ISL fully supports the struggle of Chilean workers and students for free and quality education for all.

We declare our full support to the struggle of the Chilean students and completely repudiate the repression carried out by the government of Sebastian Pinera.

Since May this year the student movement in Chile has organised the biggest demonstrations in the country since the days of dictatorship of half a million people. Their demand is free education in a country where there exists high levels of privatisation and very high fees for public universities.

Seven out of ten Chilean students have to study in the private sector and those who get into the public sector are forced to pay high enrolment fees which result in massive debt.



The struggle of students has the support of 80% of the Chilean population. Parents, teachers, health workers, transport workers and copper miners all support the protests. Occupations in the majority of colleges and universities are taking place alongside mass demonstrations and students have adopted creative methods of struggle that have been inspired by the demonstrations in the Arab world and Europe.

In recent protests the Piñera government intensified its crackdown on the student movement, utilising a law from the Pinochet dictatorship. The police attacked the protesters leaving hundreds injured and took a thousand political prisoners. Today the government is experiencing a serious political crisis with the support of just 20% of the population.

The Brazilian student movement wants to convey through this Manifesto solidarity and strength to the students and workers to continue their fight to the end. Furthermore demands that the Piñera government immediately release the political prisoners and end the repression.

Public education, free and quality education is the right of all Chileans, it is not a commodity.

In Brazil we are committed to this fight and call on the support of all students. Signed so far by more than 30 student organisations

Support this manifesto and send a message of support to the Brazilian students anelonline@gmail.com and islinfo@talktalk.net

Interview with Liverpool 8 activist

Socialist Voice interviewed Darrin Rawlins. Chair of the Grovelands Tenants Association and a member of SORD

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but that is the small minded and xenophobic. British people go abroad and want to be accepted but here they moan about people coming. The question needs to be asked when these people are calling for British jobs for British workers, do they mean white British people? I never heard any calls for jobs for British born racial minorities, nor was there any calls taking place over the last 30 years when we never had jobs. Through SORD we defend people, such as a person who changed his name because he changed his religion. He was working for about 5 years and was asked by his employer to apply for a more senior post. He did apply in his newly adopted name. He stated his other name in his CRB check which revealed he had been arrested when he was 17 years old. He did not mention this to his employer and when the employer found out there was an investigation and he was dismissed. This individual had turned his life around and was doing well enough in the job for his employer to recommend that he applied for a higher post, but it is the employers who are left to make these decisions and in most if not all cases, this will be the outcome.

Within the Human Resources department of the university racism exists, the same with the council. We have represented several Black people who have been discriminated against when applying for jobs at the university's HR Department but the latest case was a case we felt sure we should win, and that this would be the case that enabled the community to expose what we have known for decades. It operates institutionally racist practices that have enabled it to exclude the local community from its employment. These figures are hidden by the amalgamation of the figures relating to the hospital as there are a number of racial minorities working within the hospital environment. The figures



from the university HR Department portray a true representation of their reluctance to employ minorities from the local community.

In SORD we tell people that the chances of winning a case for racial discrimination in Liverpool, is almost zero. In London Appeal Tribunals, it can be different than that in Liverpool. Experience of the Liverpool Employment Tribunal Service, reveals that there are certain judges with their sidekick rightwing members looking for any reason to throw the case out.

SV: How do we defend the youth?

It is important for the youth to know the laws that are being used against them. The Liverpool 8 Defence Committee supported the youth after 1981 and also they picketed outside the courts and prisons where people were held.

The youth do not have the political awareness they need, but hopefully they will develop a political understanding and forget about looting. The youth need to become aware that there is a much larger prize to be had. The youth need to realize that internationally, there are



youth like them attempting to bring down those they see as responsible for their predicament. These youth need to organize in order to bring the rich to book, those bankers, and multi-national companies who think they are entitled to more of this planet's wealth than anyone else.

The unions and the Labour movement need to fight to redress the situation. An effort has to be made to obtain jobs proper training and apprenticeships for our youth, and to also bring an end to this requirement for students having to pay to be educated. Education should be free to all at the point of delivery. Unions need to fight for real equality and in Liverpool 8 that means jobs.

The unions should arrange meetings with the youth, discuss these issues with them, show them that you intend on calling on the government to provide this to them. The youth need to develop their demands and present them in an articulate way as to inform those people in authority clearly what it is that is moving them. They say the kids were looting but if the looting was examined in detail the stirrings of political awareness was becoming visible. I live on Grove Street, said to be the scene of the worst of the rioting and yet not one house or car on our estate was touched. These youths left our property but damaged the property of students and others that had moved in to the area as a part of the gentrification of the area. These youths then went on to attack Tesco's and student accommodation, but they left local shops alone. Not one of these facts were reported on any of the local newspapers or news items that covered events in Liverpool and the piece that did cover Grove Street only dealt with the gentrified part of Grove Street and cars damaged there were mostly if not all student cars.

The Permanent Revolution

To mark the 71st anniversary of Leon Trotsky's assassination at the hands of Stalin we are reprinting a part of Bill Hunter's article that was published in 2001 in *The Permanent Revolution, Battle Cry of the Twenty First Century* which was a defence of Trotsky's theory of the Permanent Revolution. This question takes on a direct meaning for millions of workers because of the living example of the Arab revolution. That revolution is just beginning, the future of which depends on the struggle for the theory and practice of the permanent revolution if it is to succeed in defeating imperialism and its own native oppressors, the old dictators and any new leaderships that arise who want to maintain capitalism.

Trotsky's theory

Trotsky produced his theory of Permanent Revolution in the first decade of the twentieth century. It was concerned with countries, such as Russia, where capitalism and a working class had already developed in a semi-feudal, or colonial society, dominated by imperialism. For their liberation, these countries were facing an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution. The native capitalist class, because of its links with other exploiting classes, could not lead its own revolution through to the end and establish an independent bourgeois democratic republic. Above all, it could not lead a revolution for a radical redistribution of land to the advantage of the peasantry.

The only class capable of leading the peasantry and solving the tasks of the bourgeois revolution was the working class. However, argued Trotsky, the working class would not be able to stop at the limits of the bourgeois democratic revolution. Having reached power, the proletariat would be compelled to encroach even more deeply upon the interests of private property in general, that is, to take the road of socialist measures.

He insisted that a workers' government would have no alternative but to secure the revolution by taking action



Trotsky

against capital. The barrier between the minimum and the maximum programme would disappear immediately the proletariat came to power (that is to say the minimum programme of bourgeois democratic demands and the maximum programme of demands laying the basis for socialism).

For Trotsky, the only class capable of leading the peasantry and solving the tasks of the bourgeois revolution was the working class. He said that in its alliance with the peasantry the working class must take the lead, because of the difficulties of peasant organisation owing to its petty-bourgeois consciousness based on individual ownership. If the working class did not take the lead of the bourgeois democratic revolution and carry it forward in building the basis for socialist transformation that revolution would stop half way and be distorted. Furthermore, if the revolution was not made permanent by its development outside its frontiers with revolutions in other countries, eventually, reaction must triumph.

He believed that the Russian Revolution would realise "in the particular affairs of absolutist Russia the general results of internationalist capitalist development." He gave a clear summary of this in 1929 in his Introduction to the first Russian edition of his book, *Permanent Revolution: 'But do you really believe,' the Stalins, Rykovs, and all the other Molotovs*

objected dozens of times between 1905 and 1917, 'that Russia is ripe for a socialist revolution?' To that, I always answered: 'No, I do not. But world economy as a whole, and European economy in the first place, is fully ripe for the socialist revolution. Whether the dictatorship of the proletariat in Russia leads to socialism or not, and at what tempo, and through what stages, will depend upon the fate of European and world capitalism.'

Permanent Revolution in the post-war world

The history of the colonial and semi-colonial countries in the post war period, decisively refutes the essentially Menshevik two-stage theory (first, the democratic revolution and then the proletarian) and underlines in a negative way the correctness of the strategy which flows from the Theory of Permanent Revolution.

After World War II, the conclusions of Trotsky's theory became of central importance for tactics and strategy in the imperialist empires. The struggle for colonial freedom gathered strength as a powerful independent force in the world arena in this period. However, the bourgeois and petty bourgeois leaderships were unable to 'carry the democratic revolutions to the end. In large areas of the globe, in Africa, Latin America and the Far East, former colonies of great powers which achieved their

political independence, remained in various degrees of semi-colonial status. In many of them, particularly in Africa, the populations in the past two decades have been descending into an abyss of hunger and misery.

Their economies are dominated by transnational combines and the imperialist institutions — International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organisation. They are subordinate to the economies of the leading imperialist nations, as the suppliers of raw materials or manufacturing with cheap labour. The central reality of this imperialist epoch, which was proved by the Russian Revolution and whose truth has been underlined in the national and proletarian struggles since, is that the winning of national independence can only be temporary, can only be unstable and distorted, until the struggle extends to the victory of the working class.

Nowhere under the leadership of the petty bourgeois nationalist forces have the questions of national independence and development of national freedom been resolved. The struggles were led by forces some of whom paid lip service to socialism, many were close to Stalinism, but nowhere were they led by the forces of proletarian internationalism and thus their revolution was distorted, destabilised and open further to imperialist exploitation. The truth lies in Trotsky's summary: *Colonial and semi-colonial countries are backward countries by their very essence. But backward countries are part of a world dominated by imperialism. Their development therefore, has a combined character; the most primitive economic forms are combined with the last word in capitalist technique and culture. In like manner are defined the political strivings of the proletariat of the backward countries: the struggle for the most elementary achievements of national independence and bourgeois democracy is combined with the socialist struggle against world imperialism. Democratic slogans, transitional demands and the problems of the socialist revolution are not divided into*

separate historical epochs in this struggle, but stem directly from one another.

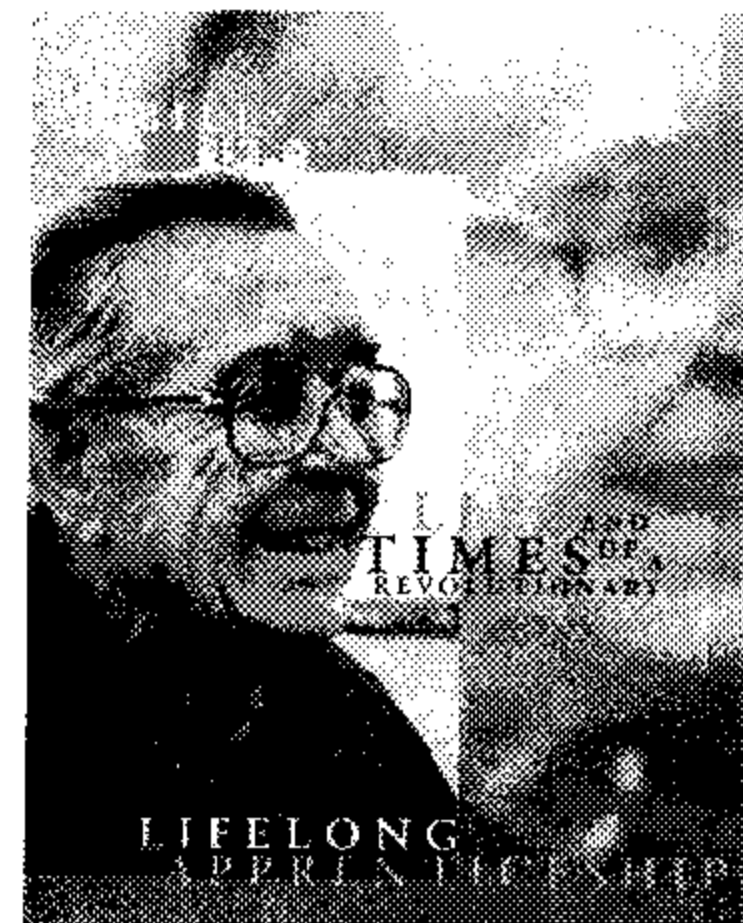
In the framework of its post-World War II agreements with the capitalist powers at Yalta and Potsdam, the counter-revolutionary policies of the Stalinist bureaucracy enabled European and US capitalism to survive the post-war revolutionary upsurge. Imperialism was not only able to rebuild the capitalist states in Europe, but entered a long post-war boom. Then, from the 1970's it exerted financial, economic, and military pressure upon the workers' states, which acutely sharpened the difficulties and distortions of their economies arising from their bureaucratic degeneration and distorted planning, and brought them to stagnation and collapse. The course on which Stalinism set out, to build socialism in a single country, led to failure and calamity.

Internationalism, or Socialism in One Country?

Trotsky summed up the vital question at stake when he declared that the difference between Trotskyism and Stalinism was that between Permanent Revolution and Socialism in One Country. To begin with national programmes and not a world programme is to be deliberately blind to the experiences of post war revolutions.

In the last decades of the century the verdict on "socialism in one country" has been delivered in the collapse of the Soviet Union, the degeneration of social-democratic parties, and the crises of the democratic revolutions in the former colonial countries. The counterrevolutionary activities of Stalinism at the end of the World War II allowed imperialism to rebuild itself on a world scale. The stage of the bourgeois democratic revolution in a period of the decay of imperialist-capitalism has been proved utterly wanting.

Understanding the struggle against capitalism and the struggle for a leadership capable of taking those struggles to socialism is only possible with a serious attitude to history and the great struggles of the past.



Lifelong Apprenticeship - Life and Times of a Revolutionary

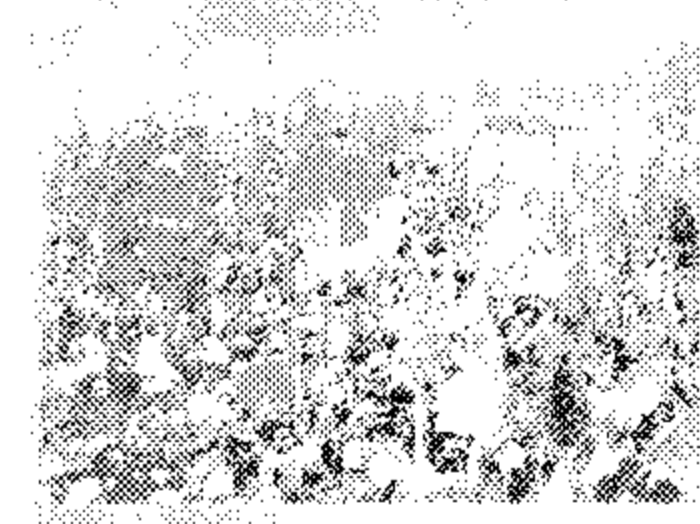
These pages are crowded with thumbnail sketches of Trotskyist and working class fighters of the period before, during and after the second world war.

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

The Permanent Revolution: Battle Cry Of The Twenty First Century



A Collection of Writings on Leon Trotsky's
Theory of the Permanent Revolution

Price £2 including P&P

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



Bill Hunter's archives

Inquiry into Allegations of Police Violence

A reproduction of material from a Liverpool and Knowsley Trades Councils inquiry into police violence.

A committee was set up in 1979 to establish an Inquiry into Allegations of Police Violence, Bill Hunter was Chairman, Kevin Earley was Secretary. Another well known local person who participated on the committee was Margaret Simey who served as a Labour Councillor for the Granby Ward of Liverpool from 1963, and was chair of the Merseyside County Police Committee at the time of the Toxteth riots in 1981. She frequently clashed with the then Chief Constable Kenneth Oxford. Today Bill recalls that she was a formidable woman and very active in supporting the work of the committee.

Many sections of the working class in the 1970s, in particular the Black communities, suffered disproportionate levels of unemployment, discrimination in schools, work, housing and public services and hard line aggressive and violent policing targeting Black and Irish communities and workers in struggle such as the miners and the building workers.

One of Inquiry's interim report said, "We have a number of statements from Liverpool 8 where the black youth suffer the added attack of racial insult. There is the example of the raid on the Babalou Club last April, when a number of people were arrested. Most of them were acquitted.

A 22 year old girl says the police came into the club in a provocative way. The club was mainly used by young Black people. She says she was put in a van with four young men who were told to lie on the floor. She says they were then kicked and punched and their heads banged on the floor by policemen. She says when she spoke she was hit on the face and told: 'Shut up you black bastard'."

"A Black man claims that he is stopped at least once every couple of months in his car for a trivial reason and wonders if the fact that he is black has anything to do with it."

In agreeing to initiate the inquiry the Liverpool Trades Council looked into the killing and injuring of James Kelly of Huyton, Liverpool, who died in police custody on the night of June 21 1979 and Michael Cavanagh who underwent surgery after being arrested by the Kirkby police, in Knowsley.

By December 6 1979 the inquiry had established weekly surgeries to take statements from potential witnesses and victims of police violence. A LTC letter dated December explained that the aim was to "build up a case file of incidents, together with our own report, which will, we hope, be forwarded to MPs, National pressure groups (National Council for Civil Liberties etc) and of course the Labour Party, T.U.C. and the like."

The committee went on to warn that they could only advance their task with the continued support of the

union movement and community.

An interim report published in January 15 included the information that, "... there were 245 deaths in police custody between January 1970 and June 30th 1979. Fourteen of these were on Merseyside but the Chief Constable has refused so far to give details. The number on Merseyside is among the highest in the country. (The committee felt it relevant to insert here that Merseyside is also a record breaker in the number of detentions under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, having no less than 25% of the total of 4,015 between 1974 and 1979)."

In calling for its conference in March 1980 and the need to strengthen the committee a report concluded, "We think this is all the more urgent as most trade unionists are worried at the role of the police in dealing with future resistance to the Tory Government attacks."

This a warning that should be heeded today. The trade unions and working class organisations need to stand with the youth and Black communities in exposing police harassment and racism. The working class cannot allow itself to be divided if it is to succeed in the fight against police harassment, and for the right to jobs for all. We must fight for the unity of all sections of the class to defend our communities and for an extension of decent public services for all. Trade unions need the communities and the communities need trade unions.

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

<http://internationalsocialistleague.org.uk>. Write to ISL c/o News from Nowhere, 96 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY

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