

SocialistVoice[★]

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Stop Tory & Labour Cuts!

All-out on strike May 10!

Labour, Tory and Liberal Democrat - the message is clear, "rob from the people and give to the rich and powerful." The impact of cuts is hitting us all: our children, our pensioners, our jobs, nothing is spared. We have to unite our struggles and re-invigorate the anger that was displayed on November 30 and that has resurged pushing Unite and PCS to call further strikes: 90 per cent of these union members have rejected the government's "final offer". We must fully support these workers and RMT members in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary who will also be out on strike on May 10. This is a call for workers and communities to come out and reject this wholesale robbery of our essential public services.

The sycophantic support for the Labour party by union leaderships has betrayed

the struggle to defeat the government cuts. The interests of workers, communities and young people have been abandoned. This is why the Labour vote was destroyed in Bradford with a 37 per cent swing to George Galloway who obtained more votes than all the other candidates put together.

The closed signs now appearing outside the libraries, "no books today!" part-time services are a graphic symbol of what is happening to all services, hospitals and schools will follow. People are suffering now, however the cuts so far only account for 10 per cent of what's to come.

The attacks on welfare are deepening, the social fund is to be abolished and handed over to local authorities with
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BEATING THE
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LIFE OF THE IWL-LIT

Learn more about the life of the parties of the International Workers League, of which the ISL is a part of.

Socialist students defeat reactionary list in Brazil

In Brazil, the socialist unity list defeated reactionaries by a landslide in the election for the University of São Paulo's students' guild. After a polarised campaign the left wing 'Não Vou me Adaptar' list united socialists and independents from the University of São Paulo students movement, and they won a major victory against the right wing backed list 'Reação'. The election had an historic turnout of more than 13,000 students, and the 'Não vou me adaptar' list received 53 per cent of the votes, more than twice the votes received by the pro-dean reactionaries.

This is a turning point for the struggle at the University of São Paulo where the Dean, Grandino Rodas, has been making attacks against the largest public university of South America, and using the police force against the organised student and worker movements. It shows that with the unity of those who struggle, under a principled program, students and workers can defeat the right. The International Socialist League congratulates the students of the 'Não Vou me Adaptar' list, which includes our comrades from the PSTU (Brazilian section of the International Workers' League). We hope that this model of unity in fighting shows the way forward for the students' movement in this decisive moment that the world is passing through.

Support the ISL

Support the ISL by buying one of our T-shirts, and help us in our struggle for a revolutionary party in Britain.

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In Costa Rica, a new Workers' Party

Costa Rica's MAS (Movement Towards Socialism), official section of the IWL in that country, is preparing to make a great step forward in May 1.

After seven years of existence, taking an important role in the class struggle and defending internationalist socialism, they are preparing to found a new Party. The PT (Workers' Party) is created to answer a historical need of Costa Rica's

working class: to have an independent, revolutionary workers' party. It has members from at least three other left-wing groups who have joined the PT in order to defend their country against imperialism and struggle for a workers government, the only alternative to ever-increasing exploitation and crisis.

The ISL salutes the effort of our comrades. The founding of the Partido de los Trabajadores will strengthen the struggle for a socialist revolution not only in Costa Rica, but in the whole world.

MMP factory - the fight goes on!



MMP WORKERS CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE: ON FEBRUARY 10 MMP SACKED 49 WORKERS AND SINCE THEN THE WORKERS HAVE BEEN ON THE PICKET LINE, OCCUPIED THE FACTORY, TRAVELLED TO GERMANY AND CALLED FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. THE STRIKERS ARE ALSO TARGETING THE CUSTOMERS OF MMP SUCH AS JOHN LEWIS AND KELLOGG. MAYR-MELNHOF PACKAGING IS EUROPE'S LEADING FOLDING CARTON SPECIALIST. IN 2010 MMP HAD SALES OF OVER A MILLION EUROS AND HAS 32 FACTORIES IN OVER 15 COUNTRIES. VISIT THE PICKET AT MAYR-MELNHOF PACKAGING, SEND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO THE LOCKED OUT MEMBERS BY EMAILING MAYRSMFRSHYPEOPLE@GMAIL.COM OR MMPcanPayWontPay@UNITETHETHEUNION.ORG.

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Against Tory & Labour Cuts: All-out strike action on May 10!

(continued from the first page)

no ringfencing for those in need and Department of Works and Pensions staff are to be cut by 25 per cent. As jobs across all services are being cut unemployed people are being forced to work for no pay, and workfare schemes have been adopted by big companies like Tesco and many more.

Britain is trying to prevent a deepening of its crisis by helping the EU put the burden of the world crisis that is centred in Europe onto countries such as Ireland, Greece and Portugal and by exploiting other countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The devastation of countries through wars, occupation and assisting multi-nationals to rob what they can, is part of the strategy to prevent Britain from plunging into the abyss.

The other part of this strategy is to deepen the social war against the 99 per cent of the population. In this the Labour Party is no different to the government. Labour know that the anger of workers is building daily and will sweep away the old relationships just as happened in the Bradford by-election. Labour has not opposed the cuts, Labour councils are slashing services and jobs and trying to privatise what is left. They are supporting this government who pander to the rich elites and betraying the people

they claim to represent.

Furthermore Labour supports the attacks by the European Union which put the burden on countries like Greece. However as these countries are pushed further down Britain will also go deeper into the vortex of the crisis.

The public debt was not created by the unemployed, immigrants, or public services, the public debt was created in order to save the British banks from collapse. Since the onset of the crisis in 2008 banks continue to support wars and are enslaving people in the interests of the multi-nationals.

Military aggression abroad and social war at home is the order of the day to save their system, a system in its 'death agony'. This is what is behind the suffering of the masses. The European Manifesto of the IWL says,

*"The public debt crisis has thus become the great excuse for states to wage the social war and finance capital's favoured way to reappropriate wealth at the expense of the massive impoverishment of the peoples. It is at the same time the weapon with which the countries in the [European] periphery submit to the central European capitalists and especially to German capitalism."*¹

This crisis will continue and future generations will be worse off than the



RMT mobilizes against the privatization of the European rail system in Brussels on March 28.

previous. Many will face poverty and fewer rights while the one per cent will grow ever richer. Few disagree that this is the purpose of the austerity programmes across the whole of Europe.

The struggles in Britain and across Europe need to become one fight. This is beginning, for example in Brussels there was a 500 strong lobby against the EU plans to privatise all European rail. Siptu, Ireland, the RMT, Aslef and Unite from Britain and other unions from France, Spain and Hungary came together uniting in struggle against European capital.

It can be done, now we must link general strikes, occupations and demonstrations into one movement, one European working class against the European Union of capital.

¹ - For the full text of the Manifesto of the European Coordination of the IWL check <http://goo.gl/b0OqI>

Question of time or Capitulation?

A letter by an activist asks:

Have the trade-union leaders "forgot" to go on strike or are there other reasons behind their silence?

LARRY BOWLES, Unite shop-steward at the Broadgreen Hospital - Liverpool

Picture the scene, twelve thousand trade unionists marching through Liverpool. Pickets on the gates at hospitals, schools, public buildings and colleges, some standing outside for nine hours. The adrenalin was pumping and the comrades were up for a fight.

It is a fight against some of the most savage cuts trade unionists had ever seen under a "Condem" government. The Health and Social Care Bill, pensions, privatisations etc etc. The trade unions had a mandate to strike after a massive campaign to get the "yes vote". The unions has six months to stage strikes and unrest before they had to re-ballot therefore they could have called strikes within seven days.

After that great day in November people asked me time and again, "When's the next strike Larry?" Good question I replied, maybe two weeks, maybe sooner, as time went on the less people asked. Eventually people stopped asking questions, it had all gone quiet. It seems that the generals had got their army into position on the front line and then went for a cup of tea and 'forgot' to come back.

In March 2012 we have had another ballot about the "Heads of Agreement" the government 'offer' which should have been rejected straight away. The fire has gone out of our comrades but minority groups are still fighting with rallies and lobbies. As I write this the Health and Social Welfare bill has been passed. No leaders of the trade unions have been seen

in the main stream media, this could be a ploy by the right wing media or the union leaders have capitulated under this government. If this is the case the question must be asked, who will now lead the working class in this social war.

Now in April the Unite leadership has been pushed into calling a strike for May 10. We need Unison to join us and we call on our fellow union activists, we need all the unions to support strike action on May 10.

Let's get that fire back into our members. Let's get the support from the patients and users of the hospitals.

All out on May 10!

Electricians beating the employers

Building rank and file leadership - Socialist Voice interview Mick Dooley

Mick is a bricklayer who was a union official who was sacked after he ran for the leadership of what he felt was an inadequate corrupted union. The first person ever to be expelled from the union! He was Blacklisted by the police and the building employers to stop him organising. He has been involved in many strikes, occupations, legal battles and prison and proudly holds the European record for Tower Crane occupations, seven days!

SOCIALIST VOICE WHAT DID THE ELECTRICIANS WIN AND WHAT WERE THEIR METHODS OF STRUGGLE?

Mick Dooley - The electricians won two things by stopping multinational companies attack their terms and conditions. The first, they beat off the attacks on their wages and conditions, their wages could have been reduced by 30 per cent in the long term, and there would have been an immediate loss of travelling allowances, reduction in holidays and sickness benefit, reduction of apprentices and more use of casual agency labour.

The second victory was that they developed a nation wide rank and file group of electricians and wrestled control of their destiny from official trade union leaders. They developed a sense of independence whilst working with the officials but not under their control.

The electricians won a victory for the whole trade union movement and built the confidence in self-organisation of working people. They won comradeship, confidence, class consciousness, experience in struggle and pride in themselves and their class. They understand now that the hegemony of the boss is not absolute, they can win and they can fight back. That is their victory.

WHAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN NEXT?

MD - This is a hard question for me to answer, as I am not a member of the electricians union. However I think two things are likely to happen, first a set of demands will be established which will become the clarion call for the electrical industry to organise around. One major demand is the abolition of agency labour because casual labour is used to undermine terms and conditions.

The official trade union has paid



MICK DOOLEY addresses an electricians' picket line at one of the Olympic's building sites

officials to organise around these demands, while the rank and file has become part of a group called The Combine, which operates within the union. Any failure in these groups will lead to a further development of loose rank and file activity which could develop with hard work and the dedication of their elected leadership, a strong militant base that could be reestablished among electricians in the construction industry. Further victories could encourage other groups of construction workers, assisted by the electricians, to come forward. The construction industry workers could begin to get organised as an effective group of trade unionists. Workers would have a real stake in the economy, which drives construction. All this depends on immediate rank and file activity and establishing a lasting foundation on which to build.

The second scenario is that inactivity on the front line may cause the unity so far achieved developed to crumble. However unless this is developed with full time assistance, the likelihood of widening the core of the rank and file will be reduced.

The essential core demands are a manageable instantly recognisable list of demands, which workers can conceptualise. An established, working and national rank and file group who direct the full time officials, supported by official resources will be the key to future success. Education courses in politics and economics should be developed and encouraged as well

as regular communication bulletins, free forums and constant attacks on employers when and where necessary.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT'S FIGHT FOR PUBLIC SERVICES CAN LEARN FROM THIS VICTORY?

MD - The lessons learnt are that the private sector employers are weaker than the public sector or municipal or nationalised industrial sectors. The public sector workers are perceived as fighting for self-interest. The official trade unions see the public sector workers as easier to recruit and pay contributions than private sector workers. However the question is fighting for public sector services, not public sector workers.

The public sector services are either cut back or privatised and reduced with the aim of increasing profit for the private companies. When services are cut back this is a reason to demand higher wages to pay for the same service on the 'open' market. For example dental treatment, prescription charges and higher and further education fees. This can be used as a weapon to demand higher wages at the economic point where conflict becomes inevitable and some thing must give. Higher wages are needed to pay for the prescriptions, dental treatment and education for your children. So what is needed is the reinstatement of public service provision.

When services are privatised and cut, we have learnt from the electrician's dispute, that private capital cannot cope with a sustained attack and adverse interference to their business, which

is designed solely to maximise profit. Tight profit margins to obtain contracts from the public sector do not allow for trade union militancy. In short a sustained attack on a specific target that is politically driven is likely to succeed, if undertaken with a developed rank and file organisation.

Anti trade union laws and public order legislation were broken in the electricians dispute with few arrests and little interference from the state. Civil disobedience, when carefully controlled and advertised can encourage greater participation in the fight back. This point needs a longer treatise however the kernel of the lesson is that powerful multi national companies and the state can be defeated because of the inherent weakness in the system of privatisation and finance capital.

DO YOU THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO LINK UNIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN A JOINT FIGHT?

It is a number one priority. Recently the electricians assisted young people by demonstrating outside shops that were employing youngsters on the governments' workfare scheme. The tactics were similar to how the electricians mobilised their support: 'mob up' outside the shop and cause as much lawful aggravation as possible to the employers and alert the local community that it is their kids who will be forced into slave-labour. This had some spectacular results, including the immediate withdrawal from the scheme by a number of stores.

I can speak in depth from the position of construction workers. It is in my opinion essential for communities to develop a construction workers union. Construction workers on contemporary building projects are not there long enough to be developed in the traditional manner of organised labour. Therefore new methods are needed, such as internet forums which provide a means



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS burning employers' contracts against the attack on national agreements

of communication to alert people to what is happening locally and to build sectorial interest in construction.

Another example is using a high street shop that is run by trade unions as a community resource. Hubs can be set up in areas where there are traditions of trade union support and membership, or, in areas of Conservative control where neo-liberal local economics are advocated. When a construction union can be seen in the forefront of fighting for a local library or play ground, construction workers in that area will see that a construction union exists that is open to them, their families and the whole community. They see the relevance of the union for them and for working people.

It may be difficult for unions to link the fight in the workplace and bring the community on board. Traditionally unions have been seen as self interest groups and have operated in this tradition.

Many years ago I was attempting to organise unemployed workers with the help of the Transport & General Workers Union and a local official told me that it was the Transport Workers Union

not the Unemployed Transport Workers union. Another argument when fighting for disabled people rights was "why should members money be spent on non members?"

When a union is declining they may want to hold on to their own finances. However this decline will not be halted unless we find alternatives to the traditional methods of growth. This is why investment should be made building community links.

Each union could look at how they can develop links in the communities that they operate in. Trade unionists need to work out how their union can be visible in the community and develop a strategy of community involvement.

This is not about public sympathy it is about union solidarity, respecting picket lines, the public taking a side, supporters getting involved as well as trade union members such as: family days on the picket lines and closing down bailiff offices.

If a union is active with a high profile in the community making demands then there will be greater participation and more victories for the working class.

Unity with Scottish struggle!



SCOTS on strike to save their pensions!

We should link May 10 with the strike actions in Scotland, where strikes against pension attacks have been happening. These actions took place some Scottish councils such as Aberdeen and Edinburgh have been forced stop the privatisation of services such finance, human resources, customer care, ICT and benefits because

of strong opposition.

Only public quality services which are also directly accountable to local people can deliver a sustainable service. Taxes should go directly to services, to the people who deliver them and the people who rely on them, rather than to profits and shareholders.

Labour is under threat everywhere

MARTIN RALPH ISL

Many who are facing cuts in Labour controlled city councils are asking why are they making these cuts. Labour's reply is to ask those who work in or use the services they are cutting to suggest other areas that should be cut.

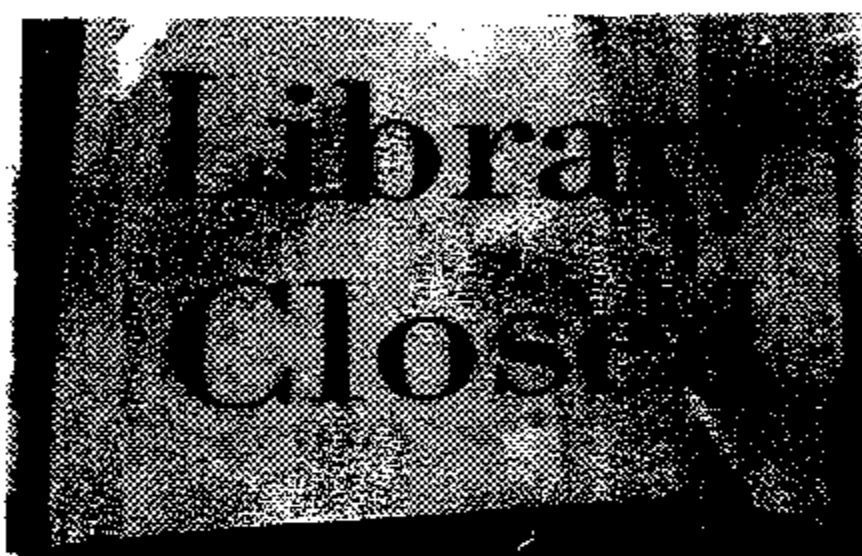
What cowards they are! Determined to obey the government, some Labour councils are cutting more than 50 per cent of the budget over five years. This means closing libraries, cutting 53% funding for Children's Centres; cutting women's refuge services; cutting adult social care services; cutting Youth Centres; ending free school milk for 5-7 year olds. The list goes on and on, devastating lives and communities - it is a scandal.

An Audit Commission report 'Tough Times' confirms that the government is imposing the greatest cuts on the most deprived Councils highlighting that this is social war against the working class.

The International Socialist League is standing in the local elections as part of the Trade Union and Socialist Coalition. The main points of the programme are: to

oppose all cuts to council jobs, services, pay and conditions; no privatisation of council jobs and services, or transferring council services to 'social enterprises'; End tuition fees! Bring back EMA! Equality for all. No to racism; Oppose war and unemployment.; Emergency investment plan from the central government; Mobilise a mass campaign to defeat the cuts.

BRADFORD



CLOSURES at libraries are part of the series of attacks against public services

Bradford George Galloway won by more than 10,000 votes, Bradford is a traditional 'safe' working class Labour city, it was one of the 'birth' places of the Labour Party. But they were wiped out in this elections. This is a microcosm of many working communities in Britain, as Galloway



THE ISL is supporting TUSC in these elections

said there is 'a tidal wave of alienation in the country, and not just in Bradford'. The programme of George Galloway was against the cuts, for central government investment and against the war in Afghanistan. Galloway's victory shook the Labour party - this was the youth, unemployed, workers and communities beginning to fight back against the cuts.

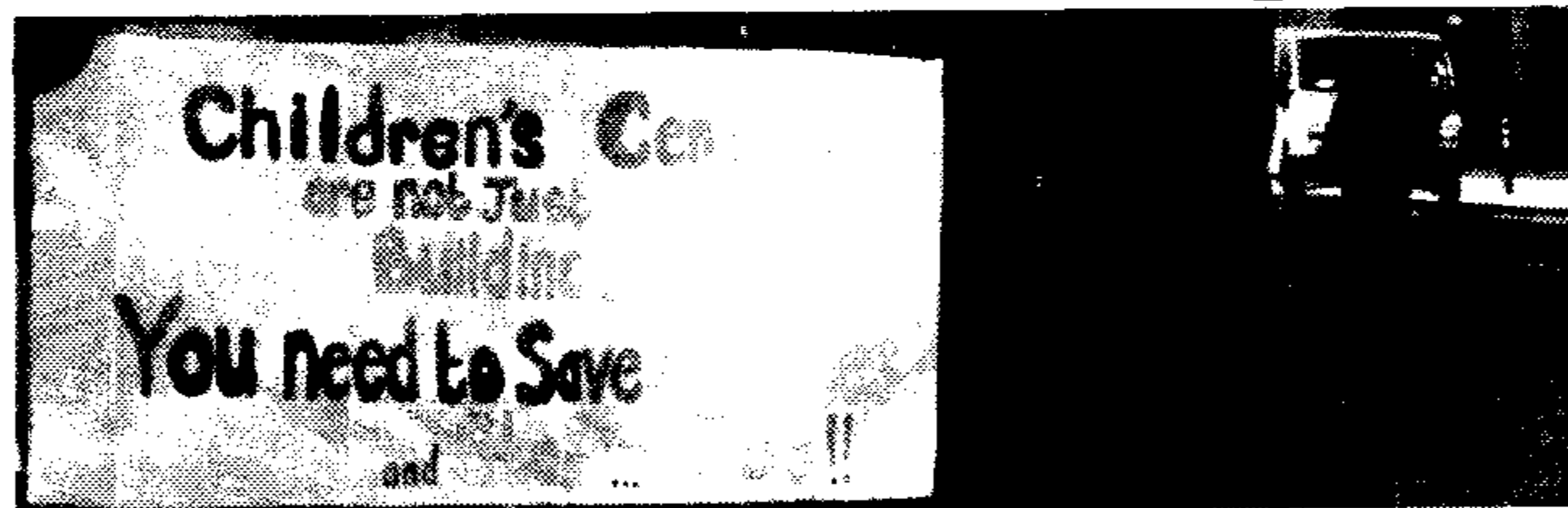
In all areas both white and black, men and women, young and old - their message was clear to Labour and others "you do not represent us". However, it is clear the Labour Party has no intention of changing their policies or learning lessons, they continue to support cuts and oppose strikes.

Defend Sure Start centres in Liverpool!

MARGARET McADAM ISL

Mothers campaigning to save the children's Sure Start centres were not impressed with the one hour 'consultation' held to decide the future provision for their children. Organised by the Liverpool City Council, whose representative spoke for 30 minutes to explain what the audience already knew, children services were being cut. This sham of a 'consultation' gave parents just 30 minutes to express their opposition to these cuts and was an insult.

Two Labour Councillors, Peter Brennan Peter and Gary Miller, attended and said that they fully supported this centre. However they avoided explaining why they voted the cuts in the first place, why they said nothing to defend children's services in election material, and why they have failed to campaign against



these cuts. These were empty words of 'support' by members of the Labour Party who are making plans on how to implement millions of cuts.

The campaign's immediate demand is for an extension of the 'consultation' period beyond May 10 and to organise a public meeting locally to help build a city wide united campaign wide with all 26 affected centres and gain support from unions.

THE ORGANISATION

The local authority has put forward a proposal to streamline Liverpool's 26 children's centres into 10 main sites. For example Stoneycroft Sure Start Centre and Anfield are to become 'satellite' centres with Tuebrook as the main 'hub'. Similar plans are in line for the other 26 centres. This will result in a massive reduction in essential classes and services, many will be forced to travel long distances. Jobs will go as 3 centres will share one manager putting staff, centres and services under strain and have a serious impact on the quality of the centres.

Last year 4 children's centres were saved from closure following a vigorous campaign by parents.

Join the campaign, sign the petition and save Sure Start.

GET INVOLVED!

This campaign is supported by Liverpool Against the Cuts, Liverpool TUC, Unite CASA Community branch.

Contact your local Sure Start Centre and offer your support. Write to your local MP and to your local councillors.

Facebook and epetition on <http://www.facebook.com/StoneycroftNeedsYou> and <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/childrencentreslcc> which now has over 1,800 signatures.

No platform for fascists in London and Liverpool!!

Stop fascism on the streets!

Ken Livingstone, Labour's candidate for mayor of London, correctly refused to appear in the BBC's mayoral debate in protest at the inclusion of the fascist British National Party on the programme. Just a week earlier successful actions, led by Liverpool Guild of Students, supported by Liverpool UCU and anti-fascist groups made the Vice-Chancellor reluctantly call off a mayoral debate. The debate was planned to take place on the university campus and included three fascist parties - the BNP, ED and NF.

LIVERPOOL GUILD OF STUDENTS

"As part of the Mayoral election debate, candidates from the BNP and National Front have been invited to speak at the Sherrington Building, Ashton Street, Liverpool University.

The Guild will not be complicit in giving a voice to the hate-speech of the fascist organisations that are running in the election. We do not want give any legitimacy to them and open up any potential for them to build their membership and we are thus protesting their presence.

Our members have made it clear to us that they wish their Guild to campaign against fascism in all its forms. They have adopted anti fascist and anti racist policies and wish to see a campus free from hate speech and safe for all."

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY UCU BRANCH

"The UCU Liverpool University Branch fully supports the action taken by the officers of the Guild of Students to ensure that fascist politicians representing the BNP, the National Front and the English Democrats are given no platform in the University. The branch believes that politicians that use anti-democratic methods should not be allowed to abuse the democratic process. We will support any further student actions to prevent fascists from having a public platform, and will do all we can to encourage our members to join the students in their efforts to cut off the oxygen of publicity from politicians who spread bigotry and hatred."



LIVERPOOL TUC RE-AFFIRM NO PLATFORM

As students, anti-fascist groups and trade unionists mobilised to stop the fascists, a day before the event the Vice Chancellor called the meeting off. This has led to a questioning of the principle of No Platform with fascists by some in the Socialist Party, who proposed, through their union positions a motion to the Liverpool TUC that included:

"If a policy of never appearing on a platform is adopted, the appearance of one of these reptiles at a widely reported



media event could effectively silence the voice of the Labour Movement and prevent us from maximising our anti-fascist message.

"Therefore, where we are unable to prevent them from entering a public discussion, our spokesperson should use that event to give maximum publicity for our opposition to the poisonous programme of these repellent organisations."

However the ISL believe they should look back at the history of how to defeat fascists in particular Trotsky's "What it is and How to Fight it".

Following the event Liverpool TUC re-affirmed its policy of No Platform with an overwhelming majority.

From the archives, a section of a book worth reading on this issue.

SHOULD FASCISTS BE ALLOWED THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH?

March 3, 1939, Socialist Appeal, newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party, US section of the Fourth International

WHAT THE PROBLEM REALLY INVOLVES

The question of "democratic rights for the Nazis" cannot be resolved on the basis of liberal phrasemongers. All such a discussion can produce is a bewildering tangle of words and abstractions. At a more decisive stage, as all recent experience has proved, it produces a first class disaster not only for the working class but also for the professional liberals and democrats themselves.

How many of them, indeed, are there in the concentration camps, in prison and in exile who are continuing the thoroughly futile and abstract discussion over whether or not the Fascist gangsters should be granted the "democratic rights of free speech and assembly"!

And what is most decisive—this is the point which leads us directly to a solution of the problem that seems to agitate so many people—is the fact that in Italy, in Germany, in Austria, in Czechoslovakia, in Spain, the democrats were so concerned with preserving the "rights" of the Fascists that they concentrated all their attacks and repressive measures upon those workers and those labour organizations which sought to conduct a militant struggle against the Fascists and for the preservation and extension of their truly democratic rights and institutions.

It is when the bourgeois "democrats" like Giolitti in Italy and Bruening in Germany, had done all in their power to smash the most progressive and active sections of the working class—as LaGuardia and his police tried to do on a smaller scale in New York last week—that the Fascists concluded successfully their march to totalitarian power. Whoever forgets this important lesson from abroad, is a fool. Whoever tries to keep others ignorant of this lesson, is a rogue.

Recommended reading - "Fascism: What It Is and How To Fight It". Leon Trotsky

For workers' independence and to defeat the crisis! All to the CSP CONLUTAS Congress!

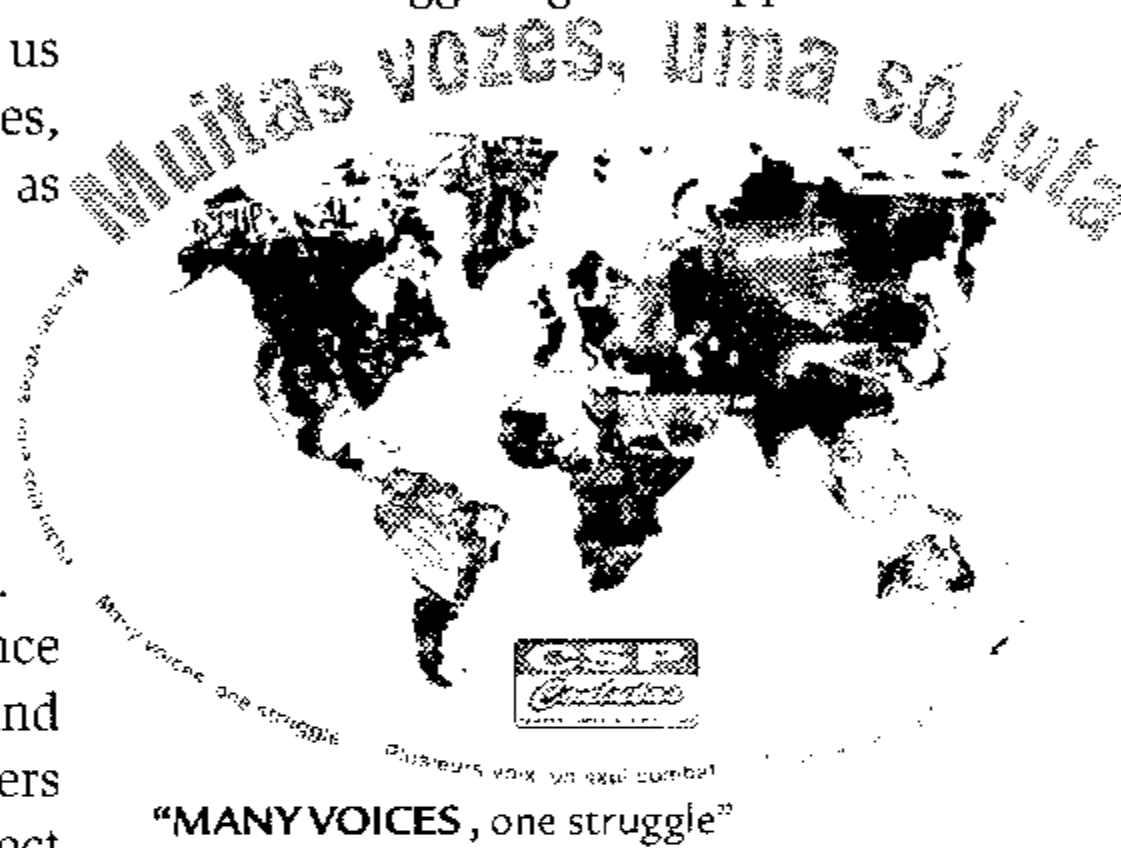
At the end of April 2012 the first Congress of CSP Conlutas (Popular and trade-union central - Conlutas/Brazil) will take place in Brazil in the city of Sumaré (close to São Paulo).

The international capitalist crisis more than ever poses the need for international solidarity between workers, the oppressed and exploited peoples. Imperialism and its governments are trying to make us pay for their crisis with our jobs, wages, pension funds and social rights such as health, education, housing and so on.

CSP CONLUTAS is attempting to build an organization that brings together labour unions, popular movements, the youth and those who struggle against oppression in Brazil. Their aims are: for the independence of workers against governments and bosses, for workers' democracy, workers and social movement struggle and direct action, anti-imperialist struggle and struggle against exploitation and all kinds of gender, race or homophobic oppression. They organize on the belief that it is impossible to find a way out of the crisis through pacts and agreements with the multinationals, banks and their governments. They aim to make CSP

Conlutas a place for an united front of the exploited and oppressed in order to rebuild the unity of the exploited.

In this congress there will be delegates elected by trade-unions, popular movements, youth and movements against oppression. CSP CONLUTAS defends the idea of an unified entity of all who struggle against oppression and



"MANY VOICES, one struggle"

exploitation, operating under worker's democracy. The congress will discuss many aspects of the struggle against Capital and how to build unity in this struggle in a democratic manner.

An expression of their insertion in the struggles and of the idea they defend of bringing popular movements to the

CSP CONLUTAS central federation is that delegates from the Pinheirinho occupation will be present. This occupation was cowardly repressed by the state government of São Paulo because of their struggle for the right to housing. There will be delegates from many other movements and unions as well.

The Congress will take place between the April, 27-30 in the city of Sumaré (about 80km from the city of São Paulo). After the end of the congress on the May 1st there will be a May Day march in São Paulo, and on May 2nd and 3rd, an International Meeting with all international delegations present at the congress. This International Meeting is being convened by the CSP-CONLUTAS, the Union Sindical Solidaire from France, and by other organizations who were also at the Solidaires Congress in June 2011 in France.

The ISL will be present, with two delegates, as well as five other comrades from Britain.

Many voices, one struggle! Let us organize our struggles internationally to fight against the capitalist crisis and its attacks!

Why go to this congress?

by Mick Dooley

"I would never miss the opportunity of meeting serious political people and serious trade unionists especially other construction workers. I hope to learn from them, to see their mistakes and to share my experiences and knowledge. To let people know that they are not on their own, to let other trade unionists know that we are just like them, to let other workers know that we have no conflict of interest and that there is no need for wars.

To meet people that we would not meet under circumstances other than war. I would never have visited Brazil just to look at a beach or a hill, and Brazilian workers would never normally come to England to meet me. In that sense it is immensely important that working class people meet and share experiences, just like the bosses do. I am looking forward to meeting the Brazilian trade unionists and international delegates and show them that we are just like them with the same interests, joys and failings as human beings.

I hope to gain an understanding of trade union organisation in Brazil, to meet workers in their own back yard and discuss strategies and methods of fighting which can help in future struggles."

Who is going?

Mick Dooley was a bricklayer and union official until he got sacked by a corrupt union leadership. Helped organize the electricians' strike.

Luke Durigan, from the University College London Students Union Education and Campaigns Office, and Union of Students Higher Education Committee.

Pete March is a member of the RMT National Executive, officially representing the RMT.

Maev McDaid is president of the Liverpool Guild of Students.

Margaret McAdam, member of the Unite CASA Community Branch.

Martin Ralph, delegate from UCU branch University of Liverpool and Liverpool TUC.

Glenroy Watson, delegate from RMT London underground branch.



INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' LEAGUE

New IWL-FI web pages commemorate 30 years since the foundation of the IWL-FI in 1982. The site will remain online during 2012 and includes historic



THE IWL'S section in Portugal taking part in the struggle to defend the Portuguese 1974 revolution against the right-wing coup

documents concerning the foundation of the IWL and its sections, its development and the main discussions developed internally or with other trends of the world left especially the Trotskyist tendencies. Videos and photo galleries will be shown as well as events promoted by the IWL sections during 2012.

The web pages will follow the sequence of the events in the sections and the commemorations of diverse historic

events. There is a brief history of the IWL-FI that includes the "Foundation Theses" and a video in which Eduardo Barragan, leader of the Argentine PSTU and former member of the International

Executive Committee of the IWL-FI, explains how the International was founded.

Utilising the great event that Ruptura/FER (our section in Portugal) organised in the break from the Left Block in March 2012 we are showing the history of our Portuguese section from the vortex of the 1974 'Carnation' Revolution until the formation of an independent party the MAS.

In April the 60th anniversary of the 1952 Bolivian revolution will be celebrated and this will be a good opportunity to revive the great discussions that developed in the IV International in relation to this revolution.

We shall also discuss revolutionary morals, oppression of women, imperialism and nationalism, workers' states, revolution and restoration, popular front and important issues. We

shall also show how the IWL sections in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Spain and Central America were built.

This is the way we hope to help in



NOW AND THEN, the IWL is together with the youth and working class in the struggles

the education of new generations of Trotskyist militants and proletarian activists in this crucial moment when, more than ever, a world revolutionary leadership is so necessary. The IWL-FI adopted the slogan "For socialism and for the revolutionary International" for our commemoration which also means for the reconstruction of the IV International and for the socialist revolution.

Readers are invited to visit our webpage litci.org/especial/index.php/english

You are invited to participate through the year with us in the commemoration of the 30 years of the IWL-FI.



IWL-FI

International Workers League
Fourth International

VISIT THE WEBPAGE OF THE 30 YEARS OF THE IWL
www.litci.org/especial/index.php/english for more
on our history, polemics.

We also suggest the following articles:
"Obama - Always at the service of the rich" by
Workers's Voice - USA: <http://goo.gl/ytixW>

"In face of the expropriation of 51% of Repsol" by
PSTU(ar): <http://goo.gl/R6lXD>

"Chinese model beleaguered by the crisis and the
proletarian ascent", by the IWL: <http://goo.gl/ISVSy>

OUR INTERNATIONAL:

Countries where we have a section marked in red.

For more info on our parties check <http://www.litci.org/en/>





Greece: Workers facing the abyss

An eyewitness account

JOÃO SIMÕES, ISL militant

A serious outbreak of malaria, and a sudden and uncontrolled increase in HIV infections, due to a health system in collapse. Rural children passing out during classes due to malnutrition, and classes suspended in winter months because no adequate heating can be provided. An official rate of unemployment that is over 21 per cent (over 50 per cent for the youth). This may sound like a description from the 19th century, or a third-world country, but this is taking place in the European Union, in the cradle of "western civilization". This is the situation in Greece today.

These problems are not a legacy of pre-European Union times. They are the fruits of 31 years membership of the EU, and 11 years of being in the eurozone and following the economic policies of the European central bank.



POVERTY on the rise in Athens after savage cuts

WHY HAS GREEK ECONOMY SUNK?

There seems to be a common sense idea in Britain that this crisis was caused by Greek carelessness. Even in countries that were already hit hard by crisis and austerity plans, such as Portugal, people say, "this is happening because Greeks are lazy", don't pay taxes, or pay little when compared to other EU countries. This is promoted by the media, and repeats what was said by the technocrats in the Troika (the European Commission, Central European Bank and the IMF) and their puppet-statesmen.

For Y. T., a young Greek working in tourism, this argument makes no sense.

"Of course we are reluctant to pay our taxes. We already earn little because of recent cuts in wages" (wages went down 22 per cent in general and 32 per cent for those who are 25 or younger). "And what's more important, we never saw this money being used in our favour. We have to pay for our own health, because the public health system was never any good... the same with public education, where we have to pay for private complementary classes in order to have a chance of getting into the university. In Athens we have a small, expensive subway system to handle more than 4 million people. I lived in Berlin for some time, and I wonder how the Germans would feel about paying their taxes if they had just three subway lines". It is worth noting that the German capital has about the same population as Athens but nine subway lines. Taxes are on the rise for workers and small business-owners but all revenue incomes from ships and shipping (one of the few important industries left in Greece) are exempt from taxes.

The catastrophic Greek situation cannot be blamed on cultural issues. Its roots go deep into the European crisis.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS
BEHIND THE GREEK CRISIS?

When Greece joined the eurozone, in 2002, in spite of a sudden rise in the cost of living, the economy grew - from 2002 to 2010, according to the World Bank, Greek GDP increased 51 per cent. But GDP is calculated through a formula that adds private consumption, capital investments (both internal and external), government spending, and the commercial balance, that is, the sum of all net exports minus the imports. Government and private spending was encouraged by easy loans provided by French, German and Swiss banks, creating an illusion of growth.

While the Greek economy seemed to expand, the commercial deficit went from \$17.8

billion in 2001 to more than \$39 billion in 2011, with obvious benefits for Germany and France, as they accounted for more than 25 per cent of Greek imports. Germany pays interest rates of around 1.3 per cent on a 3-years loan, while the 'cheap' loans now offered to Greece by the European Bank are around 5 per cent and were previously far more expensive. So with the EU and the single currency Germany and France could invest their capital with high interest rates, and this money would quickly return to them through the uneven commercial balance of Greece. This contributes to the continuing German 'miracle'. While Greece's GDP went down sharply in the last years the German economy still grows, and its unemployment rate is still stable.

Cheap products from the central European countries, produced with better machinery, led Greece to double its imports while specializing in 'services' - like tourism. This made the country dependent on the rest of the EU and its economic fluctuations to provide for the living needs of the population.

All this fragility has now surfaced. With the crisis and the risk of a default, the real masters of the European "Union" want to make sure the government can keep paying its public debt, out of which great profits have been made. Their recipe is



PROTESTORS at Syntagma Square, on February 12

simple: force Greece to privatise what is left of its public services and attack workers' rights. This would keep Greece's tax revenues flowing into German and French coffers, while allowing foreign companies operating there to extract even higher margins of profit. Youth despair, mass poverty, and suicides are the result of this 'rescue plan'.

PARLIAMENT IN CRISIS

Greek workers are bravely resisting the attacks and refusing to see their lives destroyed by austerity plans. Since 2010 the country has had a series of general strikes with mass participation. The most radicalised mobilizations such as those on February 12th, have been organized independently from the trade-union bureaucracies. They have been led by a strong movement of workplace committees and neighbourhood assemblies. They arose from the need to organize and defend from police attacks, spread information about fascist bands, root out provocateurs in their ranks and organize barricades. The Communist Party and trade-union bureaucrats abandoned this movement in all but words.

Their struggle has taken more spontaneous forms, too. Recently a retired man committed suicide in Syntagma square in front of Parliament. This created a wave of sympathy and outrage in Athens. He left a letter which stated that he'd rather take his life before he "would have to resort to rooting through the garbage" for food, because of pension cuts. His assassination by a government who annihilates all hopes of old and young to please its Troika masters, brought about a wave of protests and clashes with the police, further discrediting the 'national unity' government.

This pressure has led to many splits in the main political parties of Greece, such as PASOK and New Democracy, as many politicians who backed the cuts try to dissociate themselves from their consequences. There has also been a rise

in the left-wing vote. According to polls, the left-wing and extreme left groups may obtain almost 40 per cent of the popular vote. PASOK, who previously held 43 per cent of the legislative votes, is expected to have no more than 11 per cent in the elections, the same as the Greek Communist Party.

Many in the left believe a 'progressive government' might come as a result of the elections – one that would go against austerity but not advance with other measures such as the non-payment of the public debt, the departure from the EU and the eurozone, and the nationalization of the banks. However, such a government would be untenable. The Greek debt is unpayable, and the only way to postpone its explosion is with more loans. These can only be obtained by convincing Germany and France that the next Greek government will continue imposing austerity.

There are only two paths to choose from: radically reorganizing the economy, breaking off from the eurozone and mustering the social strength of the Greek and European workers, or accepting the plundering of Greece by austerity in the name of the profits of a few.

A WAY OUT OF THE TRAP

The Greek people have been the victims of a giant scam perpetrated by the central European countries, with full compliance from Greek bankers, big business-owners and politicians.

The "siren's song" of the single market and single currency have led the Greek economy towards sharp reefs and the few who profited from this crisis in Greece are jumping overboard with all the money they made during the 'years of prosperity'. It is up to the Greek working class, the only one seriously interested in saving the country, to take the steering wheel of the nation and institute a real rescue plan of the workers and Greek economy.

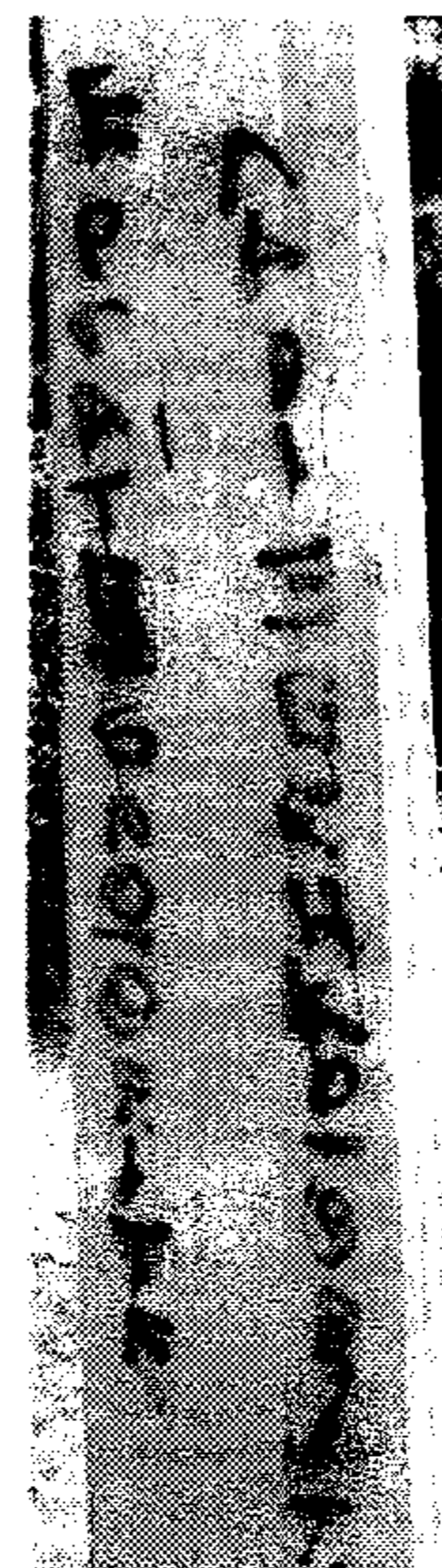
Workers in Greece and across Europe must unite to stop the cuts. These cuts make the workers pay for a crisis that

is not of their making. This will mean the obliteration of Greece's remaining productive sectors and its political and social submission, with catastrophic costs to the people. Only the unity of the European working-class can defeat the austerity measures

To restore its economy and create jobs, **Greece must urgently leave the eurozone and the EU.** With the overpriced euro suffocating Greek exports and production, and with the uneven

competition from France and Germany due to the free trade area, any efforts to restart the productive sector will fail.

It is also necessary to **immediately stop paying the debt to the bankers,** both foreign and national. This 'debt' was forced by the Troika and the government upon unsuspecting Greeks against their will. And most of it has already been paid by years of overpriced interest rates. As of 2010, Greece paid an annual 5 per cent of its GDP in interest rates alone.



THE WRITING ON THE WALL: "Workers, unite!"

To prevent those bankers from fleeing the country with their stolen wealth, **the banks must be nationalized under workers' control,** using this money to restart the Greek economy, providing badly-needed jobs and rebuilding the country's health and education services, as well as transport and energy infrastructure.

Remaining in the EU will only mean that it will be easier for the Troika to disrupt any attempt at solving Greece's structural economic problems and to suppress workers fighting against austerity. If this ship is not to sink, the Greek people must immediately remove the pirates that are leading it to the abyss, and change its course immediately towards a socialist economy. In this struggle, they can count with the solidarity and help of the working-class revolutionaries around the world, in the fight against this common enemy of the workers, the EU.



NO PLANS FOR TODAY: The Communist Party of Greece (KKE) talks of socialism, but don't use their forces to advance the struggles

The MAS - a new party to fight austerity

ANDRÉ ALMEIDA, ISL militant from Portugal

At a rally held on Saturday March 10 in the Worker's Voice hall in Lisbon over 300 people participated in the foundation of the Alternative Socialist Movement (MAS).

"In spite of all the criticism we pose to the Left Block, we have not been misled as to who the enemy of the workers is: the government and the Troika [IMF, European Central Bank and European Commission]. Our long-standing proposal is for a left alliance of Communist Party, the left Block, socialists against austerity, independents and now, the MAS is for a broad joint struggle against the Troika and the PSD/CDS government", said Gil Garcia, leader of the MAS.

Representatives were trade union activists, students and popular movement activists who participated. Various parties of the International Workers' League (IWL-FI), the International organisation of which MAS, like the ISL, is a part of, also participated.

Ruptura/FER held a founding Congress of the MAS earlier in day, it had been part of the Left Block since its foundation in 1999 and, shortly before the event, they made their disaffiliation public by means of a manifesto supported by 217 signatures. Now they are aiming to obtain 7,500 signatures in order to legalise their party in Portugal.

What follows is a brief interview with MAS on their programme.

WHY DID RUPTURA/FER
LEAVE THE LEFT BLOCK (LB)?

Gil Garcia: The Block came as a breath of fresh air and with great promises. It was a party with anti-capitalist grassroots that was brave enough to say what nobody else dared to say. Because the expectation was so great, it soon turned into tremendous disappointment. The party even defended the presidential candidature of Manuel Alegre, who was supported by José Sócrates [Socialist Party, similar to British Labour Party], during the latest presidential elections. Gone was the courage to defend positions nobody would defend. As for the problem of the debt, the LB defends the same thing as the present-day Socialist Party defends: renegotiation of the debt. Little was left of the irreverence. Today LB is rather an institutional party. So it was time for us to retrieve some of our old

irreverence and political courage. This is what MAS will now do.



WHY CREATE A NEW PARTY?

G.G. Unlike what many people believe to be true, there are not many parties in Portugal. What certainly does not exist is a determined kind of party, a left party willing to take up the battle for a new April 25 [Portuguese revolution of 1974] who will engrave the need for a social and political revolution in its programme to definitely alter the type of unfair society that is increasingly. The Communist Party (CP) is still attached to dictatorships, as in China and North Korea. And the CP and the LB share the orientation on the debt issue: they stand for the renegotiation of terms of instalments and interests. This means they stand for paying it. I see these two parties as very comfortable acting as the eternal parliamentary "well mannered" opposition, living off State grants for parties. We need an alternative.

WHAT IS THE MAS PROGRAMME?

GG: The programme of the new party responds to the social war waged by the Passos Coelho and Paulo Portas [Prime Minister and foreign-affairs minister respectively] rightist administration. Repudiation of austerity is the touchstone of the entire programme but, in order to reject austerity it is necessary to challenge the joint power of the right by means of joint power of the left. The first measure if we are to get the country out of the crisis must be to suspend the payment of the debt. Without these resources of thousand of millions of Euros that go out every day the pockets of those who work (99% of the population) that are used directly for the payment of the debt of the millionaire owners of finances and to the French and German banks, there will be no way to generate jobs in Portugal and to put an end to cuts in wages and retirement funds.

HOW WILL MAS ACT IN
THE TRADE UNION STRUGGLE?

João Pascoal: There are two central

elements that differentiate our action. The first one is class independence. UGT [one of Portugal's major labour unions] has just signed a shameful agreement of social compromise and so revealed that they are in the service of the employers and not of the workers. But CGTP [the other major union], who walked out of the negotiations, is also bent on giving a privileged status to talks with employers and not to a clear and consistent defence of workers. As an example, we see the position taken by the FENPROF [national union of teachers] during the struggle of the teachers in 2008, when a memorandum of understanding was signed with the minister of education accepting what was a historic retreat for these professionals. Furthermore, many of their trade unions refuse to defend workers who are not affiliated, which proves that they are more interested in their trade unions than in defending workers.

WHAT ARE THE INTERNATIONAL LINKS OF MAS?

Sofia Rajado: We are living in an increasingly globalised world. Workers and young people can find no solution to their problems within the limited national scope. The ruling class is organised internationally in such institutions as World Bank, NATO and UN. We believe that workers and young people should also be organised internationally and so be able to face the social war that the rich are waging against the vast majority of the population. Demonstrations of solidarity with Arab revolutions or the existence of a international day of struggle, such as the 15th October, are expressions of this need and the first steps in that direction. That is why the MAS is also international.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STRUGGLE OF
WOMEN AND OTHER OPPRESSED SECTORS?

SR: We know that capitalism uses differences of gender, skin colour, sexual orientation or nationality in order to further the exploitation of workers. Oppressed sectors are affected most brutally by the consequences of the economic crisis, such as unemployment and poverty. We also know that oppression divides and weakens workers in their battle against the employers and governments. The MAS stands against any kind of oppression and is overtly engaged in the struggles of immigrants, women, Blacks and homosexuals who stand up for their rights.



Australia: Opening the door to the Tories

DEREK MORTIMER, journalist and writer

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has decisively beaten a leadership challenge from Kevin Rudd, the man she had removed as prime minister in June 2010.

Rudd was foreign minister in Gillard's government but resigned on 22 February, arguing that Gillard could not lead the Labor Party to victory in the 2013 election and that he would "restore business confidence". A caucus meeting five days later supported Gillard 71-31 after Rudd was attacked for micro-managing his government and humiliating colleagues.

Rudd's dramatic overnight removal in 2010 was not explained at the time and in the election two months later the ALP and the Tory coalition each won 72 seats, following a series of damaging leaks against Gillard. Gillard now leads a minority government, propped up by independent and Green MPs.

The public and bitter leadership battle doesn't change the fact that Gillard and Rudd have no significant policy differences and are fervently pro-US and pro-Israel. However, the union movement backed Gillard in the light of Rudd's attempt to create a US-style primary system and to minimise union influence in the ALP, a position that is supported by big business and the mass media.

Rudd came to power in 2007 on the back of a mass campaign of opposition to the draconian anti-union Workchoices laws of the Liberal (Tory) Howard government. This was so successful that to this day the Tories have had to rule out bringing in similar measures.

The Rudd and Gillard governments have squandered this legacy. They kept the reactionary Australian Building and Construction Commission, bought in by the Howard government to dramatically undermine building workers' rights, for nearly five years. And they made one concession after another to big business, with Gillard watering down a proposed super profits mining tax after the mining companies launched a media campaign against the government.

Due largely to mineral exports to China

the Australian economy was able to survive the worst aspects of the world economic slump. However, the Rudd and Gillard governments have presided over the increasing casualisation of the workforce so that 40 per cent of all workers are now paid casual rates or are on independent contracts.

Now the Gillard government has pledged to bring the budget back to surplus by 2013, a policy that can only be implemented by a series of savage cuts in the forthcoming May budget.

Gillard and Rudd share equal blame for opening the door to the reactionary Tories, who are climate change sceptics, anti-union, and whose approach to asylum seekers is to "turn the boats back".

NURSES ON STRIKE



Nurses in the state of Victoria are waging a determined campaign of four-hour rolling stoppages against a wage cap, reduction in nurse-to-patient ratios and other attacks on conditions proposed by the state Liberal (Tory) government of Ted Baillieu.

The battle has gone on for three months and nurses have defied an order to return to work by Fair Work Australia.

Nurses were forced into arbitration by the Federal Workplace Relations Minister, Bill Shorten, former union bureaucrat.

The militancy of rank and file nurses is not matched by their leaders. Instead of linking up the struggles with public service workers in other states in a fight to defend rights they are trying to bridle it.

Victorian Health Minister, David Davis claimed in Parliament that, "It is guerrilla-type action designed to hurt patients,

designed to harm people, designed to make vulnerable people suffer."

Lisa Fitzpatrick, Victorian secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation, responded by saying, "We are trying to contain this dispute, we are trying to stop it from being a statewide strike."

ATTACKS ON UNIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES
Unions in New South Wales will face fines of up to \$220,000 under new laws proposed by another Liberal National Coalition (Tory) government led by Premier Barry O'Farrell.

The drastic changes will see fines up to \$110,000 on day one of a strike in defiance of the Industrial Relations Commission.

This is an elevenfold increase on the existing \$10,000. The new penalty for a repeat offence rises to \$220,000.

The proposal was sneaked into Parliament at the height of the Federal Labor government leadership battle at the end of February.

O'Farrell told state Parliament, "It is time to update them [penalties] so that unions will think twice before undertaking unauthorised industrial action."

"We're not going to stand by and let unions call wildcat strikes in defiance of the industrial commission, and create havoc and turmoil for commuters, taxpayers and other people across this state."

The move comes on top of a 2.5 per cent wage freeze on public servants, slashing of jobs and privatisation. These attacks on workers were met last year with strikes and demonstrations by nurses, teachers and police.

The move has been supported by among others, the Australian Medical Association, which said it will free doctors-in-training from the monopoly of the Health Services Union.

The extreme rightwing Coalition was elected in March last year in a swing of almost 15 per cent by an electorate sickened by a Labor government that was equally rightwing, corrupt and incompetent.

A Kurdish massacre finds no justice in Turkey

CANAN SAGAR - E.
CAGIN ERDINC - DEVRIMCI BDT TURKEY

On December 28 2011 near the village of Roboski, in the Uludere district of Sirnak province at around 9.20pm four Turkish F-16 fighter jets bombed a group of young Kurdish villagers transporting cheap fuel into Turkey from Iraq, 34 members of the group including 17 children were killed.

On April 12, it was reported that "Residents of Roboski village in eastern Turkey are still waiting for the government to name and try those in the army responsible for an air strike that killed 34 Kurdish villagers on the border with Iraqi Kurdistan last December." <http://www.ekurd.net>.

The Turkish army initially said the raid was a success and claimed that they had killed fighters from the Kurdistan Workers' party (PKK) – a group that has waged an armed rebellion against the state since 1984.

Aslan Encu, who was killed in the massacre, was smuggling to support his brother who had previously lost his leg in a minefield and was in need of prosthetic limb. Aslan was also a student trying to pay for his education from income made by smuggling. They all needed money to live.

Unfortunately in Turkey being born in the Kurdish area means being seen as a potential terrorist and this is the reason why most people would not question why these youngsters were smugglers. Smuggling was never going to make them rich as they were only earning 30 Turkish Lira's a day, that is £13!

The Turkish media kept the massacre secret from public for 24 hours! The ambulances heading towards Uludere were stopped by soldiers in Sirnak and they did give permission to travel until later and they reached the people at 8am. The villagers are asking, 'who authorised stopping the ambulances?' They want answers! But the authorities do not answer!

A ruling party spokesman Huseyin Celik was the first government body to speak on television, he said that the people killed were not terrorists, they were smugglers. Furthermore, some of the dead were children of village guards and Veterans.



BODIES of civilians killed on December 30 by a turkish air raid

Celik continued it was 'an error, defect or deficient and any wrong should not be covered over.' But he also said that those who describe the incident as a massacre did not have good intentions!

Some people from the neighbouring villages said that the villagers were blocked by soldiers while trying to cross the border from northern Iraq and were bombed later. The mass media and main television bodies tried to show the massacre as an incident which occurred due to the PKK.

The Uludere mayor said, 'The state knew that these people were smuggling in the area. This is unacceptable. They were hit from the air.' Another Kurdish MP Demirtas said 'Today, Turkey has been divided'. The Prime Minister who is from the Islamist party AKP created a lot of problems in the last few years for the Kurdish People. The Kurdish MP's said that the AKP's solutions, bombings and oppression will not be tolerated any longer and a democratic response will be given. This massacre will not be forgotten!

The BDP (Peace, Democrat Party, known to support Kurdish people's rights) have organised and demonstrated against the massacre in many parts of Turkey. The government will not be able to cover up the massacre this time. The PKK leader and member Dr. Bahoz Erdal released a statement confirming that the region of Uludere is not used by the guerrillas as it is an area where hundreds of people travel

through with their mules and they will not build camps in such busy districts.

The US Ambassador in Ankara Francis Ricciardone said that 34 civilians killed in Roboski were not chosen as a target and continued, "The United States is not involved in target selection. We did not do anything in choosing Roboski as a target selection. We provide intelligence support against the PKK. But target setting is an issue related to Turkey completely." They just supply information, war planes and flightless drones!

BDP announced three days of mourning in the area and many nearby areas and provinces protested against the massacre. The government made no attempt to visit the area or attend the funeral. Although independent newspapers wrote articles in support of the Uludere villagers that were killed, the main media chose to listen to the government and concealed the incident.

RED, newspaper of the IWL section in Turkey, demands include the release of the recordings of all the conversations that took place on the day of the massacre between 18:30 - 21:30 with the village because the villagers told them 'We called the district governor and the commander. We said that these are our children, don't bomb them!'

The government and mass media clearly wanted to hide the governments' massacre of the Kurdish people. In fact, the poor in this country are always seen as guilty. If the dead are poor they must be guilty!

The Malvinas and the need for workers' unity against Imperialism

Joint Statement by the International Socialist League (ISL) and the United Socialist Workers Party (PSTU)

The British ISL and the Argentinian PSTU, members of the International Workers League, reject the militaristic provocations of the conservative English government against Argentina.

The Malvinas were taken over in the 19th century and maintained as an imperialist enclave and, since the 1982 war, as a major NATO base in the South Atlantic.

In the middle of the great crisis which has shaken European countries, Cameron's government has decided to reaffirm its colonialist tradition, strengthening its military position. Its aim is to allow oil exploration by English companies and their EU associates to strengthen the geopolitical control on a key area that provides access to the Antarctic, a source of unlimited geological and energy resources.

At the same time it is positioning itself within the European framework as an offensive imperialism ready to make the crisis fall on the oppressed peoples and on its own working class.

The aggression has been endorsed, actively or tacitly, by all the imperialist countries, especially the European. Through the 2009 Lisbon Treaty the EU recognised the "Falklands" as part of British territory.

We denounce the complicit silence of the leaders of the English Labour Party, who in the same way endorsed the treaties that supported Margaret Thatcher's "patriotism" in 1982. Her triumph in the war allowed her to win the later election.

At the same time we reject the argument of the "self-determination of the Kelper population", which is part of the colonial occupation in this enclave.

We call on workers and the people to show solidarity with the Argentinian cause by recognizing its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. We especially call on all worker and popular organisations in Europe to repudiate the Lisbon Treaty with regard to the Malvinas.

We demand that the Argentinian government abandon the path of negotiations and proceed to confront British economic interests in Argentina, stopping the repayment of the foreign debt and expropriating under workers' control the banks, the oil and other companies, and the large landholdings.

A COMMON HISTORY

In 1982, the WRP, the English organisation from which the ISL came, and the PST,



SINKING OF THE BELGRANO: Argentina's dictatorship did not carry out a consistent struggle against imperialism

predecessor of the old MAS and the current PSTU, were together for the military triumph of semicolonial Argentina against British imperialism.

The MAS "has unconditionally supported the struggles of the Irish people for self-determination and the British working class against its own imperialism". And "in the same way that WRP expresses its solidarity with the Argentinian working class and supports the MAS in its call for the expropriation of all British and North American companies in Argentina, without compensation and under workers'

(continued from page 20)

the task of defeating British Imperialism.

Unless they are forced by a determined struggle of the British working class in alliance with the workers of oppressed nations, a future labour Government will make no change in imperialist policy toward the Malvinas, Ireland or anywhere else. British workers must demand that a



OCCUPATION for a long time doesn't make it a right, just as UK's occupation of N. Ireland

future Labour government immediately hand back the Malvinas to Argentina.

We denounce the Alfonsín government of Argentina which is helping imperialist rule

control. It also supports the demand that the Malvinas Islands be immediately and unconditionally returned to Argentinian sovereignty".²

A COMMON PRESENT

We call for the immediate recognition of Argentinian sovereignty, the return of the English troops and the dismantling of the NATO military base at Mount Pleasant in the Solitude Island.

The ISL and the PSTU also state that only the working classes of Argentina and Britain can gain the defeat of British imperialism through their joint struggle. They must support the working classes and oppressed masses worldwide to develop international solidarity for the defeat of imperialism.

For this it is necessary to build a powerful unity and a tool. With this aim the ISL of Great Britain and the PSTU of Argentina fight for the reconstruction of the Fourth International as the world party of socialist revolution and are members of the International Workers League - Fourth International.

1 - Joint Statement of the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Movement To Socialism, 9 March 1987.

2 - Ibid.

over its own country by refusing to cancel the foreign debt and maintaining secret negotiations with Downing Street. This government protects the former military rulers of Argentina, murderers of the "disappeared", by granting them amnesty through passing "final point" legislation.

The working-class in Argentina and Britain and of every country must unite in international solidarity to defeat imperialism.

The central need of the working class in every country of the world is for an international, a world party, to coordinate and lead all of its struggles for the overturn of imperialism and to remove Labour and Stalinist bureaucracies. They need a powerful international association. For that reason MAS and the WRP share the central fight to reorganise the fourth International of the world party of socialist revolution.

Political Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party and National Committee of the MAS (Argentina)



Bill Hunter's Archives

British Imperialism out of the Malvinas!

WRP/BILL HUNTER - 1982

The following is a principled statement written by the British Workers Revolutionary Party and the Argentine MAS (Movement Towards Socialism) in 1987. British interests in the Malvinas continue to this day - they want to exploit that area's oil reserves to continue their robbery from the area. The International Socialist League wholly subscribes to the title and the content of the article written in 1987 - British Imperialism out of the Malvinas!

British Imperialism out of the Malvinas

A new chapter in the history of the attacks of British Imperialism against Argentina opened on 1 February 1987. The Thatcher government decided to extend its control over Argentinian waters. It is now enforcing a 'right' to dominate seas in a circle of 200 miles around the Malvinas Islands.

The Malvinas islands were stolen from Argentinian in the last century and have been maintained as an imperialist enclave through violence and murder. The islands were taken by an invasion of British troops and through the crushing of a revolt by the Argentinian inhabitants. Their leader, Gaucho Rivero, languished and died in a British jail.

Since then, Argentina has never given up its claim to the Malvinas islands. It has appealed to every international body. Arrogant, imperialist British governments have time and again refused to consider a demand which has always had enormous popular support in Argentina.

In the last decades, two groups of Argentinian civilians have peacefully occupied the islands and have been repressed by British troops and thrown out of their own country.

The decision of the British government to extend control over waters around Argentina has now been supported by American imperialism and by Japan, Taiwan, and Sweden. It has been supported by the 'socialist' government of Felipe Gonzalez in Spain.

Every member of the working class

movement should note well that the list of supporters of British imperialism includes none other than the 'communist', General Jaruzelski bureaucratic dictator of Poland.

But then, the Stalinist government of Poland is here continuing the support that it gave to the Thatcher government in its attempts to crush the British miners.

While miners were defending their union in the year-long strike, the Polish



POPULAR SUPPORT for the anti-imperialist war would be the downfall of the dictatorship

government, against the opposition of Polish miners in Solidarity, sent scab coal to Britain.

From blacklegging on British miners, the Polish Stalinist government progresses to blacklegging on the Argentinian population.

Meanwhile, Thatcher's government is spending £2 million a day to maintain its military forces in the Malvinas. At such cost to the British working men and women, in jobs and services, is the imperialist presence being maintained.

Through secret negotiations, all the countries now supporting Britain have received permits to fish in Argentinian waters. Further, the Reagan administration has requested military access to the Malvinas islands. There is no doubt Thatcher will grant it.

The British Workers Revolutionary Party (Workers Press) and the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) in Argentina denounce the new escalation of Thatcher's piracy.

We further denounce the conspicuous silence of the British Labour leaders. This is a continuation of their betrayal

of internationalist principles during the Malvinas war when they went along with the jingoism of Thatcher which, it must be said, enabled her to win the election which followed.

A military victory of Argentina over Britain in 1982 would have put the Tories in crisis and disarray. It would have meant a weakening of the grip of the imperialist government over the Irish peoples.

It would have meant a weakening of an anti-working class government in the face of the British working class and particularly in the face of the heroic miners' struggle of 1984-85.

In the 1982 war, both the WRP and the MAS stood on the side of semi-colonial Argentina against British imperialism. In the case of the WRP, this principled position was taken after an overturn of the first immediate position of the News Line editorial board, backed by G. Healy, then a leader of the WRP.

The News Line declared 'This is not our war' in the first few days, a neutralist position which was overturned in favour of a principled position against British imperialism and in support of Argentine sovereignty.

Today, our two organisations reaffirm our opposition against any and every claim of British Imperialism to rule over the Malvinas islands.

Both the MAS and the WRP extend sympathy to the relatives of British and Argentinian soldiers who died in the Malvinas. The responsibility for their deaths rests squarely on the shoulders the British imperialist government which provoked the war and its casualties.

The MAS has consistently supported the struggles of the Irish people for self-determination and supports all British working class struggles against British Imperialism. Likewise the WRP (Workers Press) expresses International solidarity with the working people of Argentina.

The WRP and the MAS jointly declare that only the working class of Argentina and of Britain can carry through to the end

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