

# International Workers' Organizer

International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction  
Collective for the Refoundation of the Fourth International  
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## South Africa

*With general strikes and fighting in the streets...*

# The working class confronts the ANC, agent of imperialism, AngloAmerican and Lonmin



**Enough with Ramaphosa and the ANC! Out with imperialism!**

**South Africa will be socialist or a Wall Street colony**

The metalworkers union NUMSA has set up the "Socialist Revolutionary Workers' Party" (SRWP)

**The working class seeks a way to class independence!**

## May 8<sup>th</sup>, elections in South Africa

Workers should vote workers!

Enough with governments representatives of a handful of black millionaires, partners of banks and transnational companies, which rule subjugating a sea of black slaves!

*SRWP's electoral campaign post*

SRWP @SRWPSouthAfrica · 29 mar.  
VOTE SRWP 8 MAY 2019 ELECTIONS. Forward to socialism forward! All power to the working class!

@Numsa\_Media  
@SAFTU\_media

**VOTE SRWP 8 MAY 2019 ELECTIONS**

"The Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party that we are launching is a vanguard Party: a MARXIST LENINIST PARTY of the WORKING CLASS whose vision is SOCIALISM. We are struggling for a CLASSLESS society. With a working class that is ORGANISED and UNITED, we cannot be defeated! We have no confusion in our ranks. The struggle we are in is about overthrowing the capitalist system and replacing it with SOCIALISM."

IRVIN JIM

**EQUALITY WORK LAND EQUALITY WORK LAND**

We reproduce the statement made by the leadership of NUMSA in their new year's message to the metalworkers in South Africa

January 1st 2018

## NUMSA New Year Statement:

# A clarion call to build a Revolutionary Workers Party!

Comrades 2017 was a year where the global crisis of capitalism deepened. Just like the 2008 global financial crisis, capitalism demonstrated once more that it has failed humanity and has no solutions for problems that are confronting society. Therefore the future is socialism and the struggle in 2018 is to build a revolutionary mass vanguard party led by professional revolutionaries.

**The working class has no reason to celebrate the leadership changes in the ANC.**

The recent leadership changes that have resulted in the Deputy President of the country Cyril Ramaphosa ascending to the presidency of the ANC is not a reason to celebrate, particularly for the working class. NUMSA refused to endorse one faction of the ANC over another. We have always known that regardless of who emerged the winner, the governing party will continue to pursue backward, right wing, neo-liberal macro-economic policies which are hurtful to the working class and the poor.

For the last two decades, the ANC government has waged an all-out assault on the African working class in order to defend White Monopoly Capital. The ANC has faithfully implemented the National Party's neo-liberal capitalist economic policies, starting with the Growth Employment and Redistribution policy (GEAR) and now the National Development Plan (NDP), both of which are the DA's economic policies in disguise, in order to please international rating agencies. These policies have resulted in massive job losses and long-



NUMSA workers protest against the very low minimum wage of 20 rands an hour

term mass unemployment. They have created a society of extreme inequality. The majority suffer as they did under Apartheid, living crammed together with cockroaches and rats in townships and shacks, without sanitation, water and electricity.

NUMSA shares SAFTU's view that "Cyril Ramaphosa is a deeply compromised capitalist billionaire, with hands stained with the blood of the 34 victims of Marikana who were shot in cold blood by the state to shield White Monopoly capital in general and Lonmin in particular". Furthermore, it is naïve to believe that the cronyism and corruption which is a hallmark of the ANC will disappear. The very same people who stood by quietly whilst the state was actively looted by various factions of capital including the Gupta and the Rupert families are the ones who make up the top leadership structures of the ANC, and this includes Ramaphosa himself. They cannot extricate themselves from the corrupt tendencies of the party. Furthermore the ANC has been enabled in its corruption by the leadership of the South

African Communist Party (SACP) and trade union federation COSATU who actively continue to mislead members of the working class into supporting their worst butchers, for their own selfish narrow political agenda.

It is for this reason that as the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) we are calling on all those who genuinely see themselves as Communist to swell the ranks of the Workers Party we are crystallizing. If you have no New Year's resolution for 2018, we are sponsoring this one. Be part of the revolutionary forces working with NUMSA, the biggest trade union in South Africa, and one of the largest worker-controlled unions in Africa. We call on you to help us build a Workers' Party which will fight in the interests of the working class and the poor. Its vision is subordinate to the working class and the poor of our country. The struggle for socialism is not an end in itself, it is a struggle for a communist classless society which Karl Marx correctly described as: "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs".

We are resolute, we want no confusion in our ranks. We are furthering the aims of the revolution and by this we mean we want a fundamental change. Forward with the class struggle in 2018! We will occupy the streets and fight for the following:

**1. NUMSA demands a living wage which will allow the African majority to live a life of dignity.** We reject the National Minimum Wage (NMW) of R20 per hour because it is not designed to abolish the Apartheid wage gap. NUMSA demands a *living wage*, not just a minimum wage. The miners of Marikana were murdered by the state for daring to demand a living wage of R12500 per month. The amount of R20 per hour which has been proposed by the state is an insult to their memory. Furthermore, R20 per hour does not even begin to bridge the wage gap between the African majority and the white minority which was caused by the dehumanizing system of Apartheid. StatsSA confirmed that white households which make up only 8 per cent of the population earn *five times more* than African households which make up more than 80 per cent of the population! Proving once more that the ANC has become nothing more than a defender of white wealth and privilege.

**2. NUMSA will defend the right to strike.** We reject the proposed changes to the Labour law which will tamper with our right to strike. This is nothing more than the ANC government's way of attacking our constitutional right to strike. We also reject the proposal which gives the Minister of the Labour Department the power to approach the Labour Court in order to suspend a lengthy strike. This takes away the right of ordinary workers to decide whether to continue or to end a strike. Ramaphosa is personally implicated in the mass murder of the miners of Marikana and therefore it should come as no surprise that he has been driving the process at NEDLAC to roll back on the rights which the working class fought and died for during Apartheid. Sadly the leadership of trade union federations COSATU, FEDUSA and NACTU are also complicit in selling out the working class as they have endorsed these outrageous pro-

posals which have been designed to undermine the power of ordinary workers.

**3. NUMSA demands the nationalization of the commanding heights of the economy and all minerals.** We reject the ANC's governments neo-liberal macro-economic policies (GEAR) and the (NDP). We demand that all our minerals must be benefited to diversify and drive a job led industrial strategy. The economy must be designed to benefit the majority, not just the wealthy elite.

**4. NUMSA demands that all State Owned Enterprises (SOE) boards must be removed and replaced by new board members with direct representation of labour, government, business, and civil society.** All procurement processes must champion localization and job creation.

**5. NUMSA will defend the rights of temporary and contract workers in court and in the streets.** In 2017 NUMSA won a Labour Appeals Court decision which re-enforced the rights of temporary workers. NUMSA took a case involving Assign Services a Labour Brokering company to the Labour Appeals Court (LAC). The LAC confirmed that contract workers automatically become full-time employees of the main employer after the three month period has lapsed. The Confederation of Associations in the Private Employment Sector (CAPES), representing labour brokers, is appealing this decision at the Constitutional court. They want the freedom to exploit workers through this form of modern-day slavery. As NUMSA we will fight them every step of the way in order to ensure that the rights of temporary workers everywhere are protected. We also demand a ban on labour brokers as it is pointless to allow the practice to continue especially in light of the recent court decision.

**The announcement by President Jacob Zuma on free higher education and training for poor and working-class undergraduate students is a positive development.** Students categorized as poor and working class, under the new definition, will have their education funded and sup-

ported by government grants, not loans. However, we wish to remind Zuma that genuine free education does not mean shifting state resources from other pressing social needs in order to offer grants to a portion of working class and poor students. The sustainability of free education will come from resources obtained by the state from a combination of massive nationalization as well as by imposing a hefty tax on the rich. It seems the state intends to cut social spending in order to fund this policy. We will reject any attempt to take resources away from the poor and the working class in order to fund free education.

**The resolution to expropriate land without compensation will have to be implemented with speed to fund free education.**

The ANC government will only be able to sustain this program if it implements the Freedom Charter in its entirety. The resolution to expropriate land without compensation which was adopted at the ANC's national conference last month will have to be implemented with speed if the governing party is to succeed in providing free higher education. Unfortunately, the ANC has a long history of failing to implement the resolutions adopted at its conferences. We remain highly skeptical until we see decisive action on the part of the governing party in this regard.

History teaches the working class one fundamental lesson: they shall always be victims of the elite class unless they learn to see the class interests behind all phrases, proclamations, and political processes. The struggle for freedom and equality for all South Africans is far from over. 2018 will be the year to remind the right wing ANC government that true power resides with the working class majority. It was the working class which destroyed the Apartheid government, and only the working class can free itself from the Capitalist chains of economic oppression.

**Aluta continua!  
The struggle continues!**

**ISSUED BY IRVIN JIM  
NUMSA GENERAL SECRETARY**

- \* The ANC of AngloAmerican's partner, the millionaire black bourgeoisie launches a fierce attack against the working class
- \* With the collaboration of COSATU trade union bureaucracy and the SACP, the ANC wants to make the workers pay for the crisis with the labour reform and giving all the wealth of the oppressed nation to imperialism

***In the face of hunger, the looting of minerals, water and land  
Before the direct attack to the workers' conquests***

*With general strikes and street fights...*

## **The South African working class confronts ANC and the regime of its executioners**

### **The leadership of the metal workers union (NUMSA) calls for the construction of a "Socialist Revolutionary Workers' Party"...**

a step forward to set up a new revolutionary leadership of the working class

Workers seek to break through to fight against their oppressors and expel from their ranks COSATU's treacherous trade union bureaucracy

**N**UMSA's leadership, in a new year's salutation of its general secretary Irvin Jin addressing the affiliated and the working class in general, called to build a "Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party". For this to happen, it proposed a course of action which included a denounce on Zuma (who was president back then) and on Ramaphosa (who at that time was preparing to be the future president and who later ended up taking up this place after ANC and the parliament removed Zuma after the fear of the ruling classes of a mass revolutionary uprising that overthrows him).

We are before a call of NUMSA which has enormous importance to the workers not only of South Africa; it is also one to be followed by all the class-conscious workers of the world. This call was made by this metal workers' union that confronted Zuma by fighting on the streets and refused to support the other bourgeois gang (led by Ramaphosa) with which the ANC tried to put an end to both its and the government's crises, after years of concentrating a fierce attack on the workers' movement and handing over the South African nation to imperialism. It is a union that broke away from COSATU (federation of trade unions). It has been fighting against ANC government and the infamous regime of reconciliation that saved the bourgeoisie and the South Africa semi-



colonial state when the revolutionary masses crushed Apartheid, so that it is the same dog but with a different collar of the transnational companies, which continues to oppress and plunder the entire nation.

As the workers can see, NUMA's denounces Ramaphosa (the new president) as a "capitalist multimillionaire committed to those whose hands are stained with the blood of the 34 miners of Marikana" killed by the state. This call is decidedly a brave cry of the working class because it not only takes as its task the struggle for "trial and punishment" of the killers of the 34 Marikana mine workers, but because it also denounces that the state and AngloAmerican were which killed them. And

it also raises as its own the fight flag of the Marikana miners for wages of 12,500 rands per month for the entire working class, a necessary demand that must converge with the struggle for the "sliding scale of wages and hours of work", with the reduction of the working day hours and one more shift in all factories for all the unemployed to enter work.

NUMSA puts as a motion a program for immediate action, which raises a list of demands for the working class that openly attacks the exploiters and their regime and government; defends the right to strike and attacks the labor reform that actually amounts to slavery for the South African working class, as is everywhere for the entire world working class. Capitalists come to impose a direct wage reduction and the declaration of the NUMSA calls to engage in battle against this attack.

Undoubtedly, the comrades propose a course of action that expresses the feeling and predisposition to fight of millions of workers in South Africa and throughout the region. NUMSA is fighting to obtain full rights to the temporary and contracted workers, not only through judicial presentations, but in the streets.

This call to put up a "Revolutionary Workers' Party" is a step forward, because it does not come from the blue, nor stays as empty words; on the contrary, it is a call from the workers' ranks to join the struggles with a list of demands to stop the attack of the capitalists and prepare a counter-offensive of the masses against it.

The revolutionary socialists cannot but make this proposal known to all the workers of the world. But it is also our obligation, based on the fact that we are united by this call of the workers of NUMSA to join in the struggle, to present our point of view, our program and our contributions to this appeal because the South African and international working class need this call **to be concreted in real life so a true instrument of revolutionary struggle of the workers of South Africa emerges, to advance along the road of socialist revolution, the only solution for the working class to solve all their needs and put an end to the imperialist looting.**

We will intervene in this debate because the internationalist socialists are part of the fight of the Marikana workers and their widows and their demand for justice. We intervene in this call because from black Africa, from Zimbabwe, we fight alongside the teachers, the railroad workers, the health workers and today also the Hwange miners, calling for the Marikana program of 12,500 rands and the fight against the union bureaucracies to be a combat of the entire working class of the region, who are punished, suffering and a thousand times enslaved by the white imperialist masters. We intervene in this debate with our contributions, to help this appeal to fulfill its objectives because **we actually believe that COSATU collaborationist Stalinist bureaucracy, which has sustained this infamous regime of the ANC of bourgeois**



Zuma with Ramaphosa

black millionaires stockpiling their fortunes amidst a sea of black slaves, has not done anything more than to guard the same imperialist interests that the white bourgeoisie and the Boer defended with Apartheid.

We also are to make this appeal known because –for sure, it is clear for the entire world working class that **with the treacherous leaderships that we have at our head, we can no longer fight. They divide our struggles; bleed them away leaving them isolated, while the bosses and their governments concentrate their forces to defeat them one by one.** They are paid with the coins thrown at them by the capitalists, the same coins that trickle down from the fortunes created through the super-exploitation of the working class; the paid bureaucrats sell the exploited just like Judas. This happens in South Africa, in Zimbabwe with the ZCTU, in Latin America with the "Bolivarian" trade union bureaucracies, servants of the native bourgeoisies, in USA with the AFL-CIO, as also happens in imperialist Europe, where most of the trade union centrals are controlled and manipulated fiercely, under control of the state, by the communist parties that yesterday handed over the USSR, China, Cuba, Vietnam and other former workers states to imperialism and today surrender each of the workers' conquests, creating the workers the worst conditions for their struggle. They preach class collaboration, as they have done in South Africa with that infamous government of subjugation of the workers to their executioners, while the capitalists have launched a brutal class war. For this the latter have been concerned not only about having more than enough police and other repressive forces and the sabers of their generals, opening real massacres as we see today in Syria, Palestine, Tunisia and the whole Maghreb and the Middle East; they have also coopted the unions to the bosses' state and corrupted their leaders, with the help of a "left" completely sold out –"Socialist" in the words and traitor in the facts-; with their laws they regulate those unions, corrupting them, and creating and recreating traitorous bureaucracies permanently.

**A revolutionary workers party is built through the struggle for the socialist revolution and fighting for it every day, fighting at every step to set up self-determination and self-organizing associations of the masses that coordinate their struggles and their demands; only then the working class will be able to get rid of the leaderships that betray them and to really set up the revolutionary leadership the workers deserve.**

Millions of unemployed and underemployed workers, immigrants, treated as outcasts by the bourgeois society are not organized in the trade union federations or the trade unions. Any serious struggle, like the one already being waged by the working class of South Africa, needs to organize the millions who enter the fight. It is about for the revolutionary unions to set up ad hoc organizations that fit best to the political struggle the masses have ahead, such as the factory committees, the unemployed committees, and committees of immigrants (who are attacked at every step by counter-revolutionary pogroms to tear down the workers' ranks).

Committees for water, for housing, of consumers against the high cost of living, are the organizations that the unions should call for to unite the vast majority of workers and poor people of South Africa.

At every step, as we saw in Marikana, the bourgeoisie organizes gangs to attack immigrants, and massacre workers

with their murderous police. The struggle to set up **strike pickets, which are the embryo of the workers' militia, is essential to carry out any serious struggle that minimally attacks the interests of the capitalists and the government and the infamous regime of the Anglo-American and the transnationals.**

The treacherous bureaucracy of COSATU was the one that repressed and sold out the Marikana miners. Any serious fight against the union bureaucracy will put the fight for the self-defense committees and **a real working-class militia** on the order of the day, **which will be strengthened by integrating the rank and file soldiers, the children of the people within the class and revolutionary unions.**

This is the task of a revolutionary party and a revolutionary leadership of the trade unions... **to organize and set up the armed dual-power organizations of the working class, uniting their ranks, conquering their majority. Because that day, which we must prepare hour by hour and minute by minute, will be the day of liberation, the day of the socialist revolution.**

That is why we consider the call of the NUMSA to be a step forward to set up a movement for the construction of a new revolutionary party so that the workers have at their head the leadership they need and deserve to succeed.

**To deepen the process of rupture of the working class with the ANC and the bourgeoisie, the NUMSA should call COSATU and all organizations that speak on behalf of the working class to break with the government and the bosses' politicians In order to get rid of the union bureaucracies...**

## **THE ONLY ROAD IS CONQUERING WORKER DEMOCRACY**

**OPEN THE WAY TO THOSE WHO FIGHT! GENERAL REVOLUTIONARY STRIKE!**

**DOWN WITH THE ANC GOVERNMENT AND THE REGIME OF THE CAPITALISTS AND THE IMPERIALIST TRANSNATIONALS**

The NUMSA, which has just called to build a Revolutionary Workers' Party, together with the SAFTU and other unions opposed to the government and the regime, has called to a general strike for next April 25 against the labor reform and the ruthless attack of the capitalists on the poor people. It now has in its hands the possibility of fighting to unite the working class, beginning by **calling all workers' organizations to break with the bourgeoisie and its politicians**, including in this call even COSATU, **to conquer the workers' political independence** and confront the Ramaphosa government, the regime of Reconciliation and its Anglo-American leaders and other imperialist butchers.

As expected, the bureaucracy will oppose to any worker's movement or action that breaks the limits and conservatism of the state-ized unions. But a courageous voice that summons the whole of the workers' base to

conquer their assemblies, defend them with pickets and vote in it to their most representative rotating delegates for the current political struggle that the workers' movement needs, would break all barriers erected by those bureaucrats sold to Capital that keep us in isolated struggles and partial economic demands, putting us on our knees before the Ministry of Labor or the justice of those at the top. As if each of our particular demands could be obtained without breaking with the employers' institutions, and without elevating them to a unified political struggle of the entire labor movement against the government of the ANC and the infamous regime that act in a centralized manner to defeat us sector by sector!

The COSATU bureaucracy can no longer speak on behalf of the working class. It only subordinates the working class to the bourgeoisie. The struggle to set up a revolutionary movement of the working class must wipe out the union bureaucracy, agent of the bourgeoisie.

**Down with the collaborationist bureaucracy! Out with the Ministry of Labor, the state, the employers and their politicians from our organizations! Out with the statutes and organic bodies of the bureaucracy and their state-ized unions! That the delegates go to collect the union**

**fees in the working places of factories and establishments! For recallable leaders and factory delegates, whose mandate could be terminated by the grassroots assembly, when it so decides! Let the leaders, once their term is over, return to work!**

## **WE MUST CONQUER THE ROAD TO THE REVOLUTIONARY GENERAL STRIKE!**

The NUMSA, which has enormous authority before the most courageous of the South African workers and youth vanguard, can become a lever for the workers to conquer **their organizations of direct democracy, self-determination and armament, for the mass political struggle** against the Black bourgeoisie and the imperialist plunderers who are the most important bourgeois fraction in every semicolonial country, since it handles the main springs of the economy and "national" politics.

The immediate task is no other than to set up a **congress of employed and unemployed workers, of militant students, to vote a unified plan of struggle and to conquer the general strike, which puts the fall of the government and the dismantling of the political and military apparatus of this infamous regime of transnationals and imperialist bankers on the order of the day.**

Participation in this congress of the committees of the unemployed, immigrants and those who fight for water for the people, becomes decisive to raise a unified list of demands of the working class and the exploited.

It is urgent to unite the forces of all those who fight, because it is already clear that to get the slightest of demands, the government of Ramaphosa and the ANC must be ousted. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to organize a great fight so that the workers can once and for all put a foot in the chest to the capitalists and transnationals and make them kneel and not vice versa any more

**Out with Ramaphosa! Down with the regime of Reconciliation!**

**For a unified set of demands of all the exploited!**

**Down with the labor reform! For a wage of 12,500 Rands as demanded by Marikana miners!  
Reduction of the working day! Decent work for all! Free water for all the poor people!  
Expropriation of the AngloAmerican, the transnationals and the bankers without compensation!**



Demonstration on Pretoria's streets

**NATIONAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEE!  
SELF-DEFENCE COMMITTEE! GENERAL STRIKE!**

**Those on the top come for all**

**WE HAVE TO GO FOR ALL OF THEM!  
CAPITALISTS SHOULD PAY FOR THE CRISIS!**

The militant workers' vanguard, which seeks to re-group its forces under a revolutionary program, is fighting today in a South Africa convulsed by **the crisis of the BRICS** (those countries that the imperialist media presented to the world as the new "emerging markets" that would counteract the effects of the crack of the world economy), which forces the bourgeoisie, **as decided at the 2017 G20 meeting in Hamburg, to deepen its brutal attack on the working class and the great exploited masses**, taking away their conquests, freezing the wages, leaving public services such as health and education in ruins, with disinvestment in the mining sector, imposing a regime of labor exploitation that makes workers work in sub-human conditions, equal to or worse than in the nineteenth century, where we cannot even have water due to the privatization offensive on this and other natural resources.

This recipe for labor flexibility is the same applied by Hollande, and today deepened by Macron to get the 36 hours workweek out of the French working class, and the one Temer imposed in Brazil by decree. It is one of the plans of the transnationals and the world oligarchy to make the workers pay for the former two's crisis, their theft from the people and their plundering the world.

The world working class has not surrendered. Today a general strike takes place in France, reminiscent of the combats of the 1968 "French May", where workers and students took the streets in barricade combats against the French imperialist republic and its hunger plans.

The workers of Spain, the USA, Germany, France... do not even allow imperialism to promote large-scale counter-revolutionary adventures in the semicolonial world. So Imperialism has sent, as in Syria, Putin and Al Assad to do the dirty work, as Zionism does by crushing the Palestinian nation.

The world capitalist system, in its crisis, plunges millions of the exploited in the world into catastrophe. This system, today bankrupt, will not fall by itself. You have to throw it away. The exploiters come for everything. The world working class fights, but it is time for our struggles to have a general staff that tells the workers that the victory will only come if we go for all of them. Because the exploiters will only grant even the least of the conquests if they foresee losing everything they have. We, workers already know that every conquest we have achieved - such as an increase in wages or better working conditions - we lose at every step if we do not fight to defeat the enemy class.

The class war is here. The trade war between the imperialist powers and the looting of the semi-colonial world by them includes, as a premise, that they have

already begun a speed race to see which one defeats its own working class first and thus is given a free hand for their adventures as "world conquerors".

But bankrupt capitalism is sustained because it buys a minority composed of labor bureaucrats and aristocrats in all the countries, who act as a real police within the unions and the organizations of struggle of the masses. The treacherous trade union bureaucracy of COSATU is of the same ilk of and as treacherous and surrenderer as the union bureaucracy of the rest of the world.

This is the advantage the exploiters enjoy. The union leaderships and bureaucracies disorganize and surrender from the inside all the struggles of the workers.

In South Africa, the working class engaged in a battle against this plan. In October of 2017 the workers went to the General Strike trying to sweep away the hated Zuma government and all the institutions of the Reconciliation regime. But this struggle was diverted by the COSATU to a march of pressure on the parliament to sack the president. The parliament ignored this "request" from COSATU, whose only interest was to prevent the masses with their independent actions from overthrowing the government and opening the way with their battles towards the workers' and socialist revolution. At that time the NUMSA, unfortunately, did not call **the workers' rank and file to conquer assemblies in all the factories and other workplaces and vote a national struggle committee that organizes the fight because for the workers to defeat the government with their struggle. So NUMSA stayed thus powerless to dispute the leadership of the workers movement to the COSATU bureaucracy. This is a lesson we must draw in order to strengthen our struggle for the general strike on April 25th.**

## NUMSA leadership has said a great truth: RAMAPHOSA IS A MURDERER

Months later, when 2018 has already started, before the hatred that continued to grow in the ranks of the exploited, Zuma was led to resign by his peers and instead the office was assumed by his then Vice President, Ramaphosa. Thus imperialism and the black bourgeoisie tried to patch up the regime of Reconciliation to advance their plans of hunger, misery and super exploitation. Irvin Jim (general secretary of NUMSA who called for a Revolutionary Workers Party) said that *"NUMSA shares SAFTU's view that Cyril Ramaphosa is a deeply compro-*

*mised capitalist multimillionaire, with his hands stained with the blood of the 34 victims of Marikana who were shot in cold blood by the state to shield White Monopoly capital in general and Lonmin in particular."* Then, the revolutionary socialists add to this, we have to prepare the working class so that they can defeat him in a revolutionary way with their organizations and actions of struggle.

The general strike called for April 25 is a great step forward in that sense, which is why, in addition to the call for

all workers' organizations to break with the bourgeoisie and constitute a **Committee of National Struggle**, it is necessary for the NUMSA to include in its call the imperative need that workers and exploited have to fight to put an end to the government of Ramaphosa in order to get their demands... a government that was voted for by no one but that puppet parliament where they conspire at the back and against the poor people and all the laws against the workers are voted, previously agreed in the embassies of the dominant powers between the CEOs of the Anglo-American and other imperialist gangs, and their smaller partners of the local bourgeoisie.



Marikana's miners pay tribute to their 34 fallen comrades

## FOR A PROGRAM OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTION TO UNIFY THE WORKERS' RANKS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE SOUTHERN AFRICA

Against the power of those at the top, the power of the exploited must be upheld. The demands that unify us are those that are heard in the clamor of each demonstration: **Down with the labor reform! Free water for all the poor people! 12,500 Rands of minimum living wage, moving according to the escalation of inflation! Jobs for all the unemployed! Enough of temporary workers! Equal pay for equal work! Everybody must have a stable job with the wage of the collective agreement! Open the accounting books of all companies! For the workers' control of the mining industry, with workers' board of state owned companies, in mining and all the key branches of the economy!**

To conquer bread, work, wages, land, housing, cheap loans for the ruined middle classes: **Out with imperialism! Not a single rand to the IMF! Expropriation without compensation of the transnationals, the Anglo-American, the mines, the land and the banks and place them under workers' control! Single state bank under workers' con-**

**trol; foreign trade monopoly! There is the money to grant cheap loans to the small merchants and ruined peasants! There is the money for public, free and high quality education and health! There's the money to build houses and a public works plan! Debt condonation for the poor!**

Only the working class expropriating imperialism and the new black bourgeoisie can guarantee an emergency workers' plan and thus take the masses out of their suffering. To do so, they must arm themselves, set up the Workers' and People's Councils, the committees of ordinary soldiers, the workers' and popular militias, to expropriate the bourgeoisie and destroy their power. **Out with Ramaphosa and the ANC! Down with the regime of Reconciliation! Down with the officer caste of the Pretoria army! Out with the imperialist pirates from South Africa! Government of the workers and popular organizations based on the self-determination and armament bodies of the masses in struggle! For a Workers' and Socialist Black Republic!**

## A REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY IN SOUTH AFRICA NEEDS A PROGRAM TO FIGHT FOR THE VICTORY OF THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

*Two possible alternatives: Either a party that submits itself to the capitalist gangs and ends up being a new fraud for the exploited who face the Reconciliation regime and the ANC government and its chiefs, the Anglo-American, IMF and other imperialist pirates.*

*Or a Party that calls on the workers' organizations to break with the bourgeoisie, and the working class to set up the self-determination and direct democracy bodies to defeat the labor reform, expropriate imperialism and the black bourgeoisie and conquer the land, the water and national independence for all.*

There can be no room for misunderstandings. Mandela and the ANC's "Freedom Charter" was no more than a deception by which the black bourgeoisie submitted the working class. This question is decisive because it has to

do with the strategy, the program, the struggle of the working class and the construction of its revolutionary party.

We insist, there can be no ambiguities or half-measures.

tures, let alone when the capitalists have waged a brutal war against the workers. They should be told the truth. What democracy did Mandela and the ANC and the union leaders who betrayed one by one the struggles for the liberation of black Africa are speaking about? "Pure democracy", in general, does not exist. It is a deception. Democracy is always a class democracy.

As Lenin said, *"Unless you want to mock common sense and history, of course you cannot talk about 'pure democracy' as there are different classes; you can only talk about class democracy (...) 'Pure democracy' is a lie of a liberal who dupes the workers. History knows the bourgeois democracy, which comes after feudalism, and the proletarian democracy that replaces the bourgeois democracy (...) The bourgeois democracy, which constitutes a great historical progress compared to the Middle Ages, always remains - and it cannot be otherwise under capitalism- narrow, amputated, false, hypocritical, a paradise for the rich and a trap and deception for the exploited, for the poor."*

For this reason, we consider it a totally mistaken and confusing formulation made by the NUMSA comrades when they state: **"The ANC government will only be able to sustain this program if it implements the Freedom Charter in its entirety. The resolution to expropriate land without compensation which was adopted at the ANC's national conference last month will have to be implemented with speed..."** "...Unfortunately, the ANC has a long history of fail to implement the resolutions adopted at its conferences. **We remain highly skeptical until we see decisive action on the part of the governing party in this regard.**"

Because it is not about maintaining the same program as the ANC. Stalinism, Mandela and the black bourgeoisie did not betray the "Freedom Charter" but instead ruled with it, enriched themselves with it and strengthened the submission of our nation to imperialism with double and triple

chains.

**What revolutionaries cannot do is to betray socialism, that is, the government of the working class and their allies: the rural and city workers and poor, which constitute 90% of the nation.**

In the new party that the NUMSA is calling for, the defense of the Freedom Charter will be simply the bridge through which the Communist Party traitors -who want to wash their dirty clothes from selling out the workers and their allies- will enter the new revolutionary party; through that bridge there will also enter the pseudo socialists, the "anticapitalists" in word and servants of the bourgeoisie in the facts; both of whom will make the bourgeoisie enter to subjugate the workers.

When the ship sinks, those who sailed yesterday seek to get off quickly and, behind the scenes and behind of the working-class fighters, what they are trying to do is a new ANC that saves the businesses of the bourgeoisie when they collapse before the eyes of the workers of the world.

We insist. Those who call to set up a Revolutionary Party, cannot reiterate the formulas of **"The Freedom Charter"** (adopted at the People's Congress, Kliptown, June 26, 1955), which states that "all men and women will have the right to vote and stand as candidates for all bodies that make laws; All persons shall have the right to participate in the administration of the country; The rights of the people will be the same, regardless of their race, color or sex; All the organs of the minority, advisory councils, councils and authorities will be replaced by democratic self-government bodies." Actually, the only freedom that the workers in the republic have from the Freedom Charter is the freedom to die of hunger. It is in those "democratic organs of self-government" that the new black bourgeoisie regrouped their forces to plunder business and to starve the people.

What the Freedom Charter says is a lie. It is a deception. No serious worker with a class conscience can believe it. The "rights of the people" are not the same for all, neither in South Africa nor in the world. The workers, the slaves, the unemployed, the immigrants do not have the same rights as the bourgeois and rich of this country. They do not have the same rights as the managers of the transnationals, the corrupt politicians and the white generals of Pretoria under the orders of the Pentagon and Wall Street.

The revolutionary socialists affirm



Mugabe (former president of Zimbabwe) and Zuma (former president of South Africa)

that when the black bourgeoisie had the first opportunity to govern, usurping the power that was given to it by the working class whose vanguard was at the heart of the struggle against Apartheid -as the NUMSA comrades say very correctly-, they agreed with imperialism on the new ways of plundering the nation and exploiting workers. The reason is **the black bourgeoisie knows very well that their class interests are contrary to the interests of the proletariat; that is why Stalinism was responsible for making the workers movement swallow the lie that there could be a nation with "equal rights" without defeating imperialism and its junior partners of the native bourgeoisie by the way of revolution.**

The autochthonous bourgeoisie -as demonstrated by Mandela- is incapable of confronting imperialism, because it has one and a thousand ties that bind it to the imperialist bourgeoisie in all the businesses of plundering and looting the nation. The local bourgeois are "brave" when repressing the workers, but totally cowardly when it comes to even imagining having to fight in a struggle against imperialism; because they know that for this they must mobilize the masses, which in the dynamics of the struggle will not only attack the imperialists' private property and ex-

propriate them, but will do so against the whole of the capitalists, including the perverse and black bourgeoisie. What Stalinism and the reformist left propose is an alliance of the working class with the bourgeoisie, which means that workers give in to their demands and stop fighting against the bosses. The workers fight for the worker and popular alliance, where the proletariat rises as the leader of the oppressed nation, gaining that place through the street combat against the bourgeoisie.

The labor movement has nothing that ties it to imperialism or its servants of the South African bourgeoisie; it only has chains to break. **This is the reason why the working and popular masses of South Africa need as their leadership one that calls them to set up their self-determination, armament and direct democracy bodies to conquer their political independence and do not leave stone on stone of the bourgeois power, its state and band of armed men; so conquering power for the exploited, to solve the pending tasks that the bourgeois democracy of semi-colonial South Africa could not and will not solve: expelling and expropriating imperialism, achieving national independence and recovering the land for the poor people. This is the path to take firm steps for the workers' and socialist revolution.**

## **WE MUST BREAK WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH HAS BETRAYED ALL OF OUR STRUGGLES; IT IS THE UNDERTAKER OF THE WORKERS' STATES AND THE SUPPORTERS OF AL ASSAD AND PUTIN IN THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE SYRIAN PEOPLE**

In other of his sentences, Irvin Jim states the following: "... Furthermore, the ANC has been enabled in its corruption by **the leadership of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the trade union federation COSATU who actively continue to mislead members of the working class into supporting their worst butchers, for their own selfish narrow political agenda.**" Starting from this point of coincidence, then, the revolutionary socialists affirm that it is necessary to call the whole of the working class, and the COSATU base in particular, to break with Stalinism and the Communist Party; what would lead the workers to sweep away the ANC and its government, since the PC and the bureaucracy are part of it. Because we are not facing "*selfish narrow politics*" -a question in which we differ with the comrades of NUMSA-, but the main counterrevolutionary leadership together with the social democracy. It is a traitor of the WORLD working class; for the Communist Parties are the surrenderers of the greatest conquests of the international proletariat, such as the USSR and the working states of Eastern Europe. They are who handed over China as a sweat-shop of millions of workers for the sake of the export of the imperialist transnationals. They are the ones who have given Cuba to Obama and the US establishment who today



Ramaphosa with Raul Castro

with Trump can see the star spangled banner flag fluttering in Havana. They are the ones that have supported all the regimes and governments of the black bourgeoisies that expropriated the anti-colonial struggle from us; **THEY ARE THE ONES THAT WITH THE PKK BROKE THE MILITARY FRONT OF THE SYRIAN MASSES AND SUPPORTED THE SYRIAN GENOCIDE perpetrated by Al Assad and Putin, on behalf of the USA and other ruling powers.**

## THE EMERGENCE OF THE "NEW LEFT" IN SOUTH AFRICA MUST BE PREVENTED!

We know that currents that speak of the "New Left" such as the ISO, the SWP, and other minority groups, have written their positions relying on the program of "The Freedom Charter", which is no other than the same that they raise under the nickname of "Real Democracy" on which Stalinists, renegades of Trotskyism and various Social Democrats ally themselves in the same spaces with supposedly "progressive" bourgeois. Their program tells the workers that *"by fighting for more democracy we can conquer our demands"*, while it has already been historically demonstrated that even to reach the elementary democratic demands of any semi-colony, as it is to break the political, economic and military agreements with imperialism, to conquer national independence and land for the poor people, it is necessary for the working class to impose its own power with the method of the workers' and socialist revolution. **These parties, whose referents are the Syriza in Greece (today ruling party) and the Podemos in the Spanish State have become, when not the direct applicators of imperialism and bankers' plans, a new obstacle that the proletariat and the exploited must overcome to have prospects of success.**

Against the postulates of the New Left and its vile deceptions of the workers' and youth's vanguard, the revolutionary socialists affirm that the question of power, of



Tsipras of Syriza (Greece) and Iglesias of Podemos (Spanish State)

insurrection and revolution on the part of the working class leading all the exploited in South Africa, is a fundamental point in any program of a "Revolutionary Workers Party". Without considering this objective there will be no "Revolutionary Workers Party", because it will not be anti-imperialist or anti-capitalist, it will be a party that prepares for times of peace and elections and not for the class war that the bourgeoisie and its agents have declared to the workers' movement and the exploited.

## OPEN THE WAY TO MILITANT INTERNATIONALISM!

**The workers' movement in South Africa must be re-founded on the basis of resuming the proletarian internationalism that the Stalinists undertook to destroy by supporting sectors of the bourgeoisie or recycling themselves as a new bourgeoisie.** Recovering militant internationalism must be a question of life and death for the working class in any part of the world. The bourgeoisie could prevent the triumph of the revolution in the Maghreb and the Middle East, and today it comes for everything in South Africa. No doubt that if they finish crushing the heroic Syrian revolution, we will get worse and worse in Africa, Europe, the United States and the rest of the world.

The working class must recover its militant internationalism to face the class war that the bourgeoisie has declared. We workers do not have a fatherland, only chains to be broken; we face the same enemies on both sides of the border. The Black workers are treated like second-hand workers, because in the same places that we were treated as slaves centuries ago, today we continue to do the worst jobs with the lowest salaries and terrible working conditions. That is why our strength is not tied to

any Black bourgeois, but to the world working class, starting with our class brothers from the United States and Europe who in France face the labor reform in the streets. The revolution of the Black exploited is attempting to break through, with the workers and exploited of the United States that fight against the murders by the police, yesterday under Obama and today under Trump, with the Black Lives Matter movement, the movement for a minimum wage of \$ 15 an hour; with the Black organizations that fight to free themselves as a nation, and with the Black workers exploited in imperialist Europe.

In South Africa, Zimbabwe, the Congo, etc., the working class of southern Africa is standing up, facing imperialism and the governments of the "liberation movements" that gave up the anti-colonial struggle to become minor partners and employees of transnational imperialist corporations. It is urgent to centralize the forces of the rebellion of the Black working class throughout the south of the continent: **For a congress of workers' organizations from all over Southern Africa! To break with imperialism, to over-**

**throw the Black bourgeoisie, recover the land and national independence and to make emerge the true Black, workers' and socialist republics of Southern Africa.**

The forces for this have already emerged; they are in the streets, in the mines, in the countryside, in those who fight for water, and especially in the dock workers of South Africa, who against the direction of COSATU refused to embark cargo for the Zionist state of Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian masses and their struggle. There, deep within the working class is the true tradition of the struggle against Apartheid, that regime of opprobrium that supported the Zionist state of Israel.

**To take steps towards the unity and internationalist coordination of the working class, from the NUMSA it is necessary to call CONLUTAS and the Trade Union Network with 80 unions from dozens of countries to carry out coordinated actions in support of the Syrian masses, who suffer from brutal genocide on the part of Assad and Putin, under the command of Trump and other imperialist murderers. It is not possible that representatives of dozens of unions meet and do not call at the same time in different parts of the planet for an international plan of struggle to confront the imperialist pirates, the native bourgeois and the traitorous bureaucrats who tie our hands country by country and prevent us from fighting to defeat the capitalists. The example to follow is the strike of the stevedores of the Spanish State that beat the bosses with the help of the coordinated struggle of the workers of all the European ports in their support. Or that of the thousands of young people and workers from Libya, Tunisia and all the Maghreb and Middle East who left their countries to go and fight with the Syrian people against the genocidal tyrant and the imperialist octopi.**

From the FLTI that is fighting together with the Syrian, the Maghreb and the Middle East masses; the workers of Latin America, the Pacific Rim, Europe and South Africa, we want to make the NUMSA workers receive our contribution to the debate established around their appeal to the construction of a "Revolutionary Workers Party". Well, we want to make known among the fierce South African working class and against "The Freedom Charter" and its policy of class collaboration, the program of Trotskyism -the revolutionary Marxism of our time that many pseudo leftists have long since abandoned to become



Syria devastated

nurses of capitalism-. In its "Permanent Revolution" theory/program Trotskyism affirms that, *"With respect to the countries of delayed bourgeois development, and in particular the colonial and semicolonial ones, the theory of permanent revolution means that the integral and effective resolution of their democratic aims and their national emancipation can only be conceived through the dictatorship of the proletariat, where the latter is wielding power as the leader of the oppressed nation and, above all, of its peasant masses."*

*The agrarian problem, and with it the national problem, assign to the peasants, who constitute the overwhelming majority of the population of the backward countries, an exceptional position in the democratic revolution. Without the alliance of the proletariat with the peasants, the objectives of the democratic revolution not only cannot be realized, but even be seriously posed. However, the alliance of these two classes is only feasible by fighting irreconcilably against the influence of the liberal-national bourgeoisie".*

This is the party that the South African working class and the entire region need to succeed. A revolutionary internationalist party that will emerge as a product of the struggle of the workers of the world to re-found **the Fourth International, the world party of THE WORKERS' AND SOCIALIST REVOLUTION.**

**COLLECTIVE FOR THE REFOUNDATION OF THE  
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL – FLTI**

**WORKERS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (WIL),  
OF ZIMBABWE**

September 6, 2018

On the struggle to set up a Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party in Zimbabwe and the entire Southern Africa

## Letter from the Workers International League (WIL) of Zimbabwe to the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA)

To the comrades, militant workers of NUMSA

Comrades, we are the WIL – Workers International League of Zimbabwe, members of the FLTI (International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction). By this channel, we wanted to get in touch with you, since we have re-published the statement that comrade Irvin Jim made on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, calling the South African workers to build a Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party for the workers of Zimbabwe and from different parts of the world. This motion proposed on that statement was reaffirmed and deepened in your statement for May Day, the International Day of Struggle of the World Working Class, made in the heat of the general strike that NUMSA and SAFTU led against the government of the ANC, Ramaphosa and the class-collaborationist bureaucrats from COSATU, which guarantees businesses to Angloamerican and other imperialist pirates.

Your appeal has also been translated, by our international current, into Spanish and French, and it was published in English in our International Workers Organizer dated June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (which is attached to this note). We did so, because, on our part, we consider that your motion to set up a Revolutionary Workers' Party is a step forward in the struggle for the political independence of the workers and a milestone in the fight for social-



Demonstration of metalworkers in South Africa

ism. Also, we did so because this motion was made from the very heart of the most courageous of the South African working class. This, in itself, deserves to be debated by all the workers of Southern Africa and the world.

We, the WIL of Zimbabwe, made a political contribution to your motion to build a Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party, which we also send you attached to this note, to put it to discussion, as a point of view to strengthen the struggle for the workers of South Africa and of the entire Southern Africa to have a Revolutionary Workers Party at our head in order to defeat the capitalists. We consider that the debate between the workers' currents within the militant trade unions has a decisive importance, since without the workers' democracy the best strategy of struggle against the bourgeoisie, its political parties, its governments, its repressive forces, its murderous states and against its agents within the working class, cannot be reached.

In our country and in yours, the workers have been waging great battles against the governments of the capitalists. In Zimbabwe, with struggles on the streets and strikes we have been confronting the Mugabe dictatorship and then the military coup that "deposed" him to prevent us - the workers and the exploited - to take over the government and open our way to the worker and socialist revolution. Moreover, as our battles against the military junta were growing, the junta and all the bourgeois parties, starting with Zanu-PF and the MDC, imposed an electoral trap to save and legitimate the military regime allied with the imperialist parasites that plunder our nation and starve our people.

Unfortunately the trade union federations like ZCTU and the parties that claim to be "socialists" like ISO have called the workers to vote for the bourgeois MDC, a direct agent of Anglo-Yankee imperialism which, if it had won the elections, it would have imposed the same plans announced today by the current president

Mnangagwa, emerged from the scandalous electoral fraud.

With this note we sent our statements on the elections and our polemics against the currents that told the workers that against the dictatorship of the military and the Zanu-PF had to support the other hangman of the workers, which is the MDC, a true "wolf in sheep's clothing". The MDC told the workers, deceiving them, that they "could make Zimbabwe ungovernable" but that "they were not going to call to boycott the electoral fraud of the dictatorship because it would mean boycotting themselves, because they would win the elections". In Zimbabwe, we were prevented from facing and defeating electoral fraud. The result is that it legitimized the bourgeois regime, that de Zanu-PF stays on the government and allowed the army to have legality to besiege the streets and assassinate those who face them, as happened on the first post-election day where 6 workers were shot and exploited who were demonstrating peacefully against the electoral fraud.

Following the struggle of our brothers in South Africa, we have appreciated how workers have been confronting Zuma and then his heir Ramaphosa, who took office in supported by COSATU and the CP -all in the ANC government coalition- to prevent us - the workers - from defeating them with our struggles and strikes.

But in South Africa, unlike Zimbabwe, an alternative emerged to combat the attempt of the class-collaborationist leaders to subject the workers to the bourgeoisie, in this case, to Ramaphosa. In that trap they placed us, the Zimbabwean workers. And the sad thing of the case is that the ones who have done it are currents that call themselves socialists and leaders of the unions. It is clear that in our country we must conquer class independence and make thunder the revolutionary cry of the workers for socialism against the capitalists and imperialism that represses, massacres and oppresses us day by day.



NUMSA protest: "Reclaim COSATU for Workers' Unity"

Comrades, every year, from here, we travel on August 16 to bring our solidarity to our Marikana brothers. This year we went and we told our friends and comrades there the alternative that you were carrying out throughout South Africa. Is that this alternative needs to be adopted by the workers in the Marikana mines, because the fight against the murderer Ramaphosa cannot be carried forward with the leaders who like Malema seek alliances with the political party of the Boer bourgeoisie. Those will not hesitate in crushing the workers (when they did it for dozens of years) equal or worse than the ANC did with our 34 martyrs.

We are willing, comrades, to make known and promote your motion to set up a Revolutionary Socialist Workers' Party among the workers of Zimbabwe and our entire continent. We have already done this in all the factories and establishments and organizations of workers and exploited where we are focused and fighting day by day. We did it in the Hwange mine strike, where we fought to set up a strike fund with the miners' women. We also promote it with the street vendors and fight for the payment of the compensation to the textile workers fired from Kadoma, among others.

Our proposal is that it is the rank and file workers of the unions that votes to set up this socialist and revolutionary party also in Zimbabwe. We want this proposal to be made by the ZCTU so that it definitively breaks with the Zanu-PF and with

the MDC, who at one time or another have maintained in real "social pacts" of class collaboration with the governments of the day. The struggle in Zimbabwe for the overthrow of the military dictatorship and its puppet government is the only way to advance in expelling imperialism and the big capitalists associated with it from our nation. It is about uniting our forces to self-organize and face the brutal repression to which we are subjected. Worker self-defense becomes a necessity so that the working class of Zimbabwe and of all of Southern Africa will not have new martyrs like the 34 comrades who were brutally murdered in Marikana or those who were murdered in the streets of Harare.

Comrades, we are convinced that "THE LIBERATION OF THE WORKERS WILL BE A WORK OF THE WORKERS THEMSELVES". Because workers only have irreconcilable interests with the employers and their institutions; that is why we can only have good results if we conquer our political independence and face the capitalists, leading and directing an alliance of classes among the workers and poor peasants (including the ruined middle classes) to advance in deepening the struggle against imperialism, the white masters and their friends of the black bourgeoisie. The way is to fight for the workers' and socialist revolution as the way to get even the smallest demand; since the rotten capitalist system can no longer feed its slaves, who only suffer unprecedented suffering, martyrdom and massacres.



The militant workers of NUMSA have risen up against the government of the ANC and the murderer Ramaphosa, just as they have broken away from the class-collaborationist organizations that, by their leadership, have taken the workers to the feet of this government of the transnational companies. This is the alternative and the path that the workers in Zimbabwe and throughout the continent must take. Because the struggle against the bourgeois governments is an international struggle, since their leaders are the Anglo-American and their defenses are the military bases and the armies like that of Pretoria, which without hesitation will intervene to save the bourgeoisie in any nation where the workers defeated the capitalist governments. The task of the struggle for socialism is the only one that will free us black workers, a thousand times enslaved not only in the African continent but in the whole slave route. Yesterday they took us to the cotton fields of the USA and today they take us like animals to die in the Mediterranean trying to get a life in the Europe of the powerful. It is time to end the slavery of the black worker. And that will only be achieved by the victory of socialism in all of South Africa and by resounding its combats throughout the world. Only in this way can we conquer the Socialist United States of South Africa, to free our nation from the imperialist yoke. In the European working class and in the black movement of the United States we have our great allies in the bowels of the great world powers.

The objective of this letter is for you to know us, comrades, and to know the value we give to the struggle that you are caring on and that we believe should be taken by the labor movement of the entire region.

It is time for proletarian internationalism. We are aware of the solidarity of the South African workers' organizations with the Palestinian people, who are suffering from true Apartheid by the Zionist occupier. We call to fight together with our



April 25th: general strike in South Africa called by SAFTU

brothers who die in North Africa towards Europe, leaving their life in the Mediterranean sea or waiting for being imprisoned in the concentration camps of European governments.

In Southern Africa the workers are suffering in their own flesh the defeat of the revolutionary struggle of the masses of the Maghreb and the Middle East that at the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 stood up against the autocracies partners of the imperialist plunderers.

The internationalist workers understand that the bourgeoisies in Africa and other parts of the world are advancing against their own exploited, before every bomb that Assad and Putin throw in Syria, on behalf of the US and the ruling powers, who have in common their ruthless hatred of the workers and the people who, with total justice, revolted for bread, freedom, work and dignity. In this sense, as a step forward in the internationalist struggle of the workers and exploited against the capitalist bourgeois and murderers, we want to invite you to join forces in the action that hundreds of organizations are promoting in several cities in Europe, such as Madrid, Barcelona, Brussels, Berlin, Turin, Vienna and Geneva, dozens of cities in Turkey and more dozens of cities in Syria, such as Idlib, Atareb, Has, Al Bab, and in America in Toronto in Canada and

Buenos Aires in Argentina, for this September 8<sup>th</sup> for the freedom of all Syrian political prisoners and against the genocide that is underway against that heroic people.

We are at disposition of any struggle that helps the workers to unite their ranks and break with the bosses and to promote any step forward that guides the working class along the path of its independence for the struggle against the capitalists for the workers' and socialist revolution.

We hope to deepen this path of unity and internationalist struggle of the workers and exploited together with you. For the working class to live, imperialism must die!

Chimurenga!  
Let's fight together!

Long live the militant internationalism of the working class!  
Long live the struggle for socialism!

Fraternal greetings

**WIL – WORKERS INTERNATIONAL  
LEAGUE**

*continued from backpage*

We reproduce the statement of the pre-launch conference of the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP)

December 15th, 2018

## Pre-Launch Congress Declaration 14 - 15 December 2018

**W**e the 1,100 delegates, drawn from all the 9 Provinces of South Africa, gathered at the historic Pre-Launch Conference of the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party;

Noting that the history of all hitherto existing society has been a history of class struggles;

Recognising that we live in the epoch of imperialism and the decay and last days of the world capitalist system;

Fully aware that the South African capitalist system and state was imposed from without and continues to be sustained by imperialism;

Conscious of our historic and current experience of the brutal and totalizing nature of colonialism and how Black people in general and Africans in particular have historically been dispossessed, oppressed, dominated and racially marginalized by white supremacy in South Africa;

Learning from the experience of all former imperialist colonies and our post 1994 experience that it is impossible to resolve the national, gender, race and class question in South Africa and the rest of the post colonial world without simultaneously defeating capitalism and imperialism and establishing socialism;

We, the Socialist Revolutionary



Workers Party, at this our Pre –Launch Conference, do declare that we commit ourselves to the struggle to establish a Socialist South Africa, Socialist Africa and Socialist World, as a prelude to advancing to a truly free and classless society: to a Communist South Africa, Africa and Communist World!

In order to properly prepare for our launch Congress, do declare and resolve as follows:

### **1. On Conference and the Interim National Core**

We applaud the Interim National Leadership and its Interim National Working Committee for a job well done in hosting this Conference. We urge them to learn lessons from Conference and ensure that our launch Congress will be a great improvement on this Pre–Launch Conference.

All the documents in Conference, especially the inputs and presentations must

be made available to all the structures of our Party.

### **2. On outputs from the Conference Commissions**

The outputs from all the Commissions must be used in the production of documents for our launch Congress so that all our members in the structures of our Party have the opportunity to shape the kind of party we want – a genuine democratic Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party.

### **3. On preparations towards the Launch Congress of our Part**

We have resolved to hold our historic launch Congress on the 22nd to the 24th of March, 2019. The venue will be determined by our Interim National Leadership.

Relevant commissions must be established to facilitate work towards the Congress including on the following:

a. Production of content documents, to be circulated throughout the party in good time, before the Congress, for our members and structures to engage them.

b. A credentials commission.

c. An admin and logistics commission to work with the Secretariat of the Party.

d. Elections commission to facilitate elections throughout the Party.

#### 4. On Party Building and Member Development Programme

The Interim National Leadership to immediately produce a nationwide Party Building and Membership Development Programme, to ensure that the quality of delegates to our Launch Congress will be good.

#### 5. On the 2019 National Elections in South Africa

The Interim National Leadership to create a 2019 Elections Commission to organize and manage the SRWP work on the elections. This must include:

a. Our attitude to Elections.

b. Code of conduct for the Party in Elections

c. Code of conduct for our candidates

d. Contracts between our candidates and the Party

We depart from our Pre-Launch Conference determined not to fail the workers of the world in our struggle for a Socialist South Africa, Africa and Socialist World.

**ISSUED BY:  
IRVIN JIM,  
SRWP NATIONAL CONVENER**

*continued from backpage*

### Letter of the WIL to the SRWP pre-launch conference

servants of the bourgeoisie, who subordinate us to our executioners, are the same ones in every country. It is about to unite the ranks of the working class to fight against imperialism and the capitalists. For us, it is also about the experience to set up a Revolutionary Workers Party.

It is clear that the method to conquer this party is the broadest workers democracy, the same one we strive for in our unions, to be able to fight. We think it must be expressed in an opened debate among the militant forces of the working class to conquer a program that set us free from the governments and regimes of the capitalists and advance to the victory of the socialist revolution.

We are thus sending you our political contribution to your program and we hope it can get to be known by all the delegates that will attend to that meeting. We look forward to receiving your opinions and criticisms on these contributions.

Also, we hope we can meet, learn from your experience and we are willing to receive your resolutions and to make your debates and calls for struggle known in the entire African continent and internationally.

Comrades, we intervene in this Pre-Launch with our contributions, to help this appeal to fulfill its objectives because we actually believe that COSATU collaborationist Stalinist bureaucracy, which has supported this infamous regime of the ANC of bourgeois black millionaires stockpiling their fortunes amidst a sea of black slaves, has not done anything but to guard the same imperialist interests that the white bourgeoisie and the Boer defended with Apartheid.

We also are to make this appeal known because—for sure, it is clear for

the entire world working class that with the treacherous leaderships that we have, we can no longer fight. They divide our struggles; bleed them away leaving them isolated, while the bosses and their governments concentrate their forces to defeat them one by one. They are paid with the coins thrown at them by the capitalists, coins that trickle down from the fortunes created through the super-exploitation of the working class; the paid bureaucrats sell the exploited. This happens there in South Africa, in Zimbabwe with the ZCTU, in Latin America with the "Bolivarian" trade union bureaucracies, servants of the native bourgeoisies, in USA with the AFL-CIO, as also happens in the imperialist Europe, where most of the trade union federations are controlled and manipulated fiercely, under control of the state, by the Communist Parties that yesterday handed over the USSR, China, Cuba, Vietnam and other former workers states to imperialism and today surrender each of the workers' conquests, creating the workers the worst conditions for their struggle. They preach class collaboration, as they have done in South Africa with that infamous government of subjugation of the workers to their executioners, while the capitalists have launched a brutal class war.

Comrades, today we see the struggle of the Yellow Vests in France. In their fights of barricades, confronting French imperialism and the government of the bankers of Macron, they have overcome in the streets the official trade union bureaucracies that have been yielding all the working class gains, such as the 35 working hours a week and the working conditions, while they have allowed the theft to the retired. The workers said "enough!". They overran the official trade unions and set up the barricades, with which they fight against the pow-

erful of the world. There's the spark and fire to burn not only Europe but also our continent. The French imperialism, together with the US and other imperialist powers, controls Maghreb and Middle East and the Sub-Saharan Africa, while the US-UK companies plunder our minerals, oil and all our natural resources.

The fight for our demands today is also defined in the barricades of Paris. It is a single fight. There are conditions to re-group the ranks of the world working class.

A revolutionary workers' party is built through the struggle for the socialist revolution and fighting for it every day, fighting at every step to set up self-determination and self-organizing associations of the masses that coordinate their struggles and their demands; only then the working class will be able to get rid of the leaderships that betray them and to really put in place the revolutionary leadership the workers deserve.

Millions of unemployed and underemployed workers, immigrants, treated as outcasts by the bourgeois society are not organized in the trade union centres or the trade unions. Any serious struggle, like the one you already waged by the working class of South Africa, needs to organize the millions who enter the fight. The task is for the revolutionary unions to set up ad hoc organizations that are best adapted for the political struggle the masses have ahead (as the French working class), such as the factory committees, the unemployed committees, and committees of immigrants (who are attacked at every step by counter-revolutionary pogroms to tear down the workers' ranks).

Committees for water, for housing, of consumers against the high cost of living, are the organizations that the unions should call for to unite the vast majority of workers and poor people of South Africa.

At every step, as we saw in Marikana, the bourgeoisie organizes gangs to attack immigrants, and mas-



sacre workers with their murderous police. The struggle to set up strike pickets, which are the embryo of the workers' militia, is essential to carry out any serious struggle that minimally attacks the interests of the capitalists and the government and the infamous regime of the AngloAmerican and the transnationals.

The treacherous bureaucracy of COSATU was the one that repressed and sold out the Marikana miners. Any serious fight against the union bureaucracy will put the fight for the self-defences committees and a real working-class militia at the order of the day, which will be strengthened by integrating the rank and file soldiers, the children of the people.

This is the task of a revolutionary party and a revolutionary leadership of the trade unions to organize and set up the armed dual-power organizations of the working class, uniting their ranks, conquering their majority. Because that day, which we must prepare hour by hour and minute by minute, will be the day of liberation, the day of the socialist revolution.

That is why we consider the call of the SRWP is a step forward to set up a movement for the construction of a new revolutionary party so that the workers have at their head the leadership they need and deserve to succeed.

The Pre-Launch came at a time when we are remembering December 12, the day of freedom to the political prisoners of the world.

As Workers International League of Zimbabwe we stand together with the condemned workers, relatives and friends of Las Heras. As we say this December they are not alone. From Zimbabwe, South Africa and the entire Southern Africa to Argentina condemned workers of Las Heras, their families and friends, we send a warm hug to all workers and students of the country and the world who are fighting for acquittal. On this day, We demand justice for the 34 miners of Marikana. We fight for the freedom of the prisoners of the Syrian revolution, 40,000 of them were slaughtered in the jails of the fascist Al Assad. The fight for the freedom of all the political prisoners (like the Palestinians in the prisons of the Zionist occupier, the Basque in the jails of the regime of the Borbon in the Spanish State, the rebel youth of Greece, Mumia Abu Jamal in USA and all the political prisoners of the world) will be centralized during this entire week.

Attached to this note, we are sending you the call of the oil workers of Las Heras, Argentina, convicted to life in prison.

Socialist revolutionary greetings,

**WIL ZIMBABWE**

Huge layers of the working class and militant unions break from the Stalinist bureaucracy of COSATU and confront the ANC government, servant of Anglo American

A huge step forward of the South African workers

December 2018

## The pre-launch conference of the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP) promoted by the metalworkers union NUMSA was held



The working class looks for a way forward to re-take the banners of the socialist revolution and proletarian internationalism

While the reformist left affirms that the fight is only to “broaden” the bourgeois democracy, which is the fiercest capital dictatorship that enslaves the working class, the South African workers say:

**“it is impossible to resolve the national, gender, race and class question in South Africa and the rest of the post colonial world without simultaneously defeating capitalism and imperialism and establishing socialism”**



*Continues on page 17*

December 13th, 2018

### Letter of the Workers International League (WIL) of Zimbabwe to the SRWP pre-launch conference

#### Dear SRWP Committee

We write this letter to tell you that we have failed to attend the first Pre-Launch of the South Africa Revolutionary Workers Party. This is because of the limited time we had to prepare our trip due to the short notice. We look forward to get to know your resolutions, debate them and to be able to meet soon, to organize a joint struggle.

Comrades, we salute your Pre-Launch of the SRWP from the Workers International League of Zimbabwe. We are part of a fraction of internationalist socialists of revolutionary workers of the world, the FLTI

/ Committee for the Re-foundation of the Fourth International.

From Zimbabwe, we have participated and stood together with the fight of the Marikana workers and their widows and their demand for justice. We intervened together with you because from black Africa, from Zimbabwe, we fight alongside the teachers, the railroads, the health workers, Hwange miners, Vendors, calling for the Marikana program of R12,500 and the fight against the union bureaucracies to be a combat of the entire working class of the region, who are punished, suffering and a thousand times enslaved by the white imperialist masters.

We, WIL of Zimbabwe, together

with our international current, made your call to build up the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party known to thousands of workers and revolutionary youth around the world.

We also made a political contribution to your motion of building up the SRWP. We are also sending it attached to this note, to put it forward for the discussion, as a point of view to strengthen the struggle of the workers of South Africa and the entire Southern Africa. We believe it is time that the workers movement in our continent and internationally recovers its internationalist character. The reformist leaderships,

*continues on page 18*