

**International  
Workers' Organizer**

International Trotskyist Leninist Fraction  
Collective for the Refoundation of the Fourth International  
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**Zimbabwe**

The ZANU PF, supported by the military, endures in power

*The MDC and the union bureaucracy want to give “democratic” legitimacy to a fierce counterrevolutionary dictatorship*

# Out with the military dictatorship!



Mnangagwa and the officers' caste



General strike on January 14th

# Expel imperialism and break with the IMF!

For decent wages and work, for bread and national independence...  
We need to re-take the path of the revolutionary struggles of January 14<sup>th</sup>

**Rank and file delegates' Congress of the entire workers movement and the exploited!**

**Revolutionary general strike until Mnangagwa falls!**

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/ December 2017 on the military coup in Zimbabwe

# Zimbabwe

November 30th, 2017

NEITHER MUGABE NOR MNANGAGWA NOR THE GENERALS THAT STAGED THE COUP D'ÉTAT!  
THEY ARE ALL SERVANTS OF IMPERIALISM AND ENSLAVERS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE!

## LET THE EXPLOITED ZIMBABWE RISE

Let's call right now a congress of workers and students organizations to prepare the struggle! Workers and rank and file soldiers committees to defend ourselves from the coup d'état members! Dissolve the officers caste of the army!

For the people to have bread, work and freedom...

Break with imperialism! Disregard the foreign debt!

Expropriate the properties and land that belongs to the black bourgeoisie and the transnational companies!

**For a revolutionary workers and peasants government!**

**A**fter 37 years under the rule of Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe has a new president: Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took office after the coup made by the army generals, a parliamentary impeachment and finally Mugabe's resignation. Let's remember the 75-year-old former spy chief is a Zanu-PF leader (Mugabe's party) and he was Zimbabwe's vice president during the recently deposed government.

Mnangagwa has become the third president of Zimbabwe since the country gained independence in 1980. He took oath in front of 70,000 people in Harare's main sports stadium. In his speech, he praised Mugabe as a hero of the anti-colonial resistance, when for 37 years Mugabe just plunged the impoverished masses of the farms and the cities into misery and starvation, tying the country



The army on the streets of Zimbabwe

with double chains to imperialism as it has a 9 billion dollars foreign debt (while the GDP is 16 billion dollars) used only to enrich the pockets of the black bourgeoisie. 37 years in which the so-called "hero" imposed by blood and fire under-human living conditions for the masses, turning Zimbabwe into one of the poorest countries of the world, with an obsolete industry and with one of the

best arable lands of the world that is not producing. Furthermore, he put a huge army of reserve at the service of Anglo American and the big transnational companies, which lowered the wages of all the workers of the Black Africa.

This accumulation mode of Zimbabwe, based in the plunder of gold, diamonds and lithium and on a slave labour force for the entire Southern Africa, has ended. The wealthy land of Zimbabwe, in the hands of a black oligarchy that expropriated the anticolonial struggle, such as Mugabe and his gang, is nowadays without any production, without watering system, without fertilizing and without investments in technology. A bunch of parasites destroyed the land and now lives as millionaires as the old British colonialists and white slavers.

Now the IMF and transnational companies, the big creditors and the owners of the plundered Zimbabwe, who has now the economy in bankruptcy, want to get all the wealth of the nation for nothing.

The coup of the direct agents of imperialism has assured that they will guarantee to give back the land that was expropriated in the anticolonial fight in late 70's. It is the movie played backwards. This is how the native bourgeoisie ends, as junior partner of imperialism, giving back the land to the plunderers of the nation.

That is why in his speech Mnangagwa affirmed that he will *"pay the foreign and domestic debts"*. He also assured that his government *"will compensate those farmers whose land was taken in a legal manner"*, which means that a broke Zimbabwe will pay the white farmers and transnational companies with the same lands they lost in the anti-colonial war of liberation.

Mnangagwa continued saying "Our economic policy will be based on agriculture" and to promote it, he "welcomes mutually beneficial partnerships with our investors", i.e. joint ventures (mixed companies between the state and foreign capitals) so that Cargill, Monsanto and the big cereal companies take the land. In short, the black bourgeoisie will manage and the white and imperialism will get the farming income (including the derivatives emerging from it such as machinery, seeds and fertilizing) while the prices of commodities are still rising in the world market.

At the same time, Mnangagwa said "AU is our natural home we will play our role fully". This means that now Zimbabwe will open the path for "relaxation of export procedures, and establishment of special economic zones to be accelerated", i.e. **free tax areas** for imperialist investors, with a totally enslaved labour force. Thus Mnangagwa offers the transnational companies the chance to relocate their companies or part of their production in Zimbabwe, to take advantage of the slave labour reser-



Mnangagwa next to Mugabe

voir force, as workers are getting paid less than a dollar a day for the tasks they do in infernal working conditions. They want to turn Zimbabwe into the new "Bangladesh" in Southern Africa.

The true plan of imperialism is making Zimbabwe a maquila (sweat shop) country, thus plunging the wages of the workers around the region, particularly in South Africa. Today, this is done by taking there slave labour force from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, that they do the worst and less paid jobs.

Now imperialism wants more. It wants more free trade areas for its transnational companies, to install them as sweat shops in Zimbabwe.

Ultimately, if the workers of South Africa fight to topple president Zuma and for a 12500 rand wage for all (as Marikana miners demanded) and they rise against the bureaucracy of the unions, imperialism wants to respond to this offensive by relocating part of its production in Zimbabwe. It is a matter of life or death for the working class of South Africa and the entire region to defeat this government of the pact between Mnangagwa, the coup member generals and MDC, agent of imperialism. To conquer the unity of the workers for the struggle against imperialism and its lackeys from Southern Africa is an urgent need. Otherwise, slavery will increase as well as plundering and barbarism on the exploited of the region.

### **Coup d'état in Zimbabwe: a true plot against the masses made by imperialism, transnational companies, Mugabe's generals, Zanu-PF and MDC**

What rushed the IMF to make this change in the commands in Zimbabwe, with a coup by the army's officers, supported by Zanu-PF and MDC? The fear that Mugabe may have the same fate of the dictators and autocrats of Maghreb and Middle East. That is to say, they wanted to prevent the Zimbabwean masses, after years of huge waves of struggle of workers, peasants, vendors who hat-

ed the murderous starvation regime so much, ended up defeating Mugabe with revolutionary actions. It would have been the power of the exploited and it would have questioned not only the IMF desires for a new economic plan but also the crumbs that today the black bourgeoisie receives as enslaver and junior partners of the imperialist pirates. They wanted to reassure the continuity of the dictatorial regime of Mugabe (who is 93 years old!) to a successor, saving him from the masses that over the last years have staged national struggles, strikes, picket lines, strikes by sector, fighting on the streets...

On the other hand, with the coup d'état in Zimbabwe and Mnangagwa taking office, they intended to stop the expansive waves caused by the general strike in South Africa against Zuma's government, which shows that the governments that expropriated the revolutionary struggles in Southern Africa for liberation have entered in crisis.

They want to make us believe that the officers by this coup d'état have put an end to Mugabe's dictatorship, since there will be a democratic opening calling for elections in 2018. Meanwhile with Mnangagwa they will establish a "national unity" government between Zanu-PF and MDC, which only prepares (with all the announced measures) bigger sufferings and torment for the people.

As for everything we exposed here, it is evident we are before a "resignation" that was agreed with the coup members, which is the same officers caste that supported Mugabe's dictatorship for 37 years. This shows that the true "power" in Zimbabwe is the officers caste of the army, which yesterday supported Mugabe against the people and now it is doing the same with Mnangagwa to safeguard the power and the interests of the bourgeoisie as a whole, staring for the imperialist gang. The trap ahead for the masses must be revealed. There is nothing to celebrate. After Mugabe's fall they prepare bigger torments against the poor in Zimbabwe. WE CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN.

How can this working class and poor of Zimbabwe, which has fought against Mugabe for years, couldn't take advantage the crisis of those on top in its favour, intervening as the leader of the oppressed classes of the nation, opening the road with the beginning of the revolution in the struggle for power and the solution of all its problems? The answer is simple. The unions and reformist left currents subordinated the energies and forces of the workers to MDC policy and to Mugabe's "opposition" inside Zanu-PF.

The task was to coordinate the struggles, set up dual power organs and fight for a workers program for a way out of the crisis, against the coup and the trap for the change in commands that imperialism and the black bourgeoisie made by conspiring behind the back of the workers. Instead, unfortunately, ISO kept the left wing of the workers movement entertained in impotent meetings, preventing them to encourage the exploited to take to the

streets taking the solution of their problems in their own hands.

## **MDC, an imposture and a fraud to the most elementary democratic struggle for overthrowing the military regime in Zimbabwe**

OUT WITH MNANGAGWA, THE OFFICERS CASTE, THE JUDGES AND THE WHOLE ZANU-PF MUGABE REGIME!

RECOVER THE LAND AND BREAK WITH IMPERIALISM

FREE SOVEREIGN NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY!

Today, as Mnangagwa is settling as new government, the unions and the reformist left are joining the MDC voice in demanding elections with a new electoral law. This is a scam. They only want to put some "democratic" make up to this ferocious dictatorship of the generals. Furthermore, they want to be managers -as MDC was in 2008- of the business deals of imperialism and the coup member gangs in Zimbabwe.

Even from the point of view of the democratic liberties what MDC proposes is an imposture and a deception on the exploited, who do not stand Mugabe police regime anymore neither the brutal repression that every worker fight for the most minimum demands has to deal with. MDC asks the officers caste to hold elections, thus guaranteeing for it to manage all the state institution.

In this deception on the masses, MDC is joined by the bureaucracies of the unions and the ISO, which has renegaded from socialism long time ago. While the political crisis in Zimbabwe was being developed, ISO paid tribute to 100 years of Russian revolution in conferences where it guised as "rrred" only to end up at the feet of this pseudo-democratic mass policy deception.

Imperialism needs the most totalitarian government at hand to plunder the nation. But it also needs these pseudodemocratic counterrevolutionary agents to deceive the people- The revolutionary socialists claim that only the working class, by fighting and demonstrating, is the only one that can guarantee the democratic freedoms that these ferocious Zimbabwean dictatorship cannot give the people, yesterday with Mugabe and today with Mnangagwa.

There are no democratic freedoms, not even free elections, if all the assets of the officers members of coup d'état are not expropriated. There is not a single chance of marching to a free sovereign constituent assembly if the repressive forces and the judge caste (under the rule of the imperialist master and the murderous officers of Zimbabwean army) are not dissolved.

The MDC and its partners from ISO are a huge lie and a scam to the fight for democratic freedoms to overthrow the dictatorship in Zimbabwe. A free and sovereign con-

stituent assembly will only be established on the basis of the ruin and the overthrow of all the institutions of this infamous regime.

Together with these elementary democratic measures, a constituent national assembly should be guaranteed to break with imperialism and disregard the foreign debt (which contracted the black oligarchy); and to return the lands that it expropriated during the anti-colonial revolution to the people; to be able to eat.

To this task, only the working class in arms will guarantee it, disarming these counterrevolutionary officers and upholding the power of the workers, the rank and file soldiers, the poor peasants.

The banners of the struggle for extreme democratic freedoms, along with the struggle for land and national independence, rely only on the hands of the working class and its allies.

Only a provisional workers' and peasants' government can guarantee the struggle against imperialism and a free and sovereign constituent assembly that, over the ruin of the Mugabe regime, imposes a single chamber with one representative per 10,000 inhabitants, removable by their constituents at any time, and that collect the salary of a worker. If they do not collect their wages, then the representatives will not do it either.

It is time to regroup the working class and its allies independently of their executioners and oppressors, whether they come with uniforms of generals or with the lie of pseudodemocrats that uphold their bayonets against the people. Only the working class of Zimbabwe, united to the working class of all South Africa, is the one that can guarantee the bread, the land, the national independence and even the struggle for the most extreme democratic liberties.

The task of the moment is demanding the unions and all the organizations that speak on behalf of the working class to break with the bourgeoisie. We must expel from our ranks the union bureaucrats who collaborated for years with Mugabe's dictatorship and today they continue to do so with the coup leaders. And we must separate from our ranks those who want to submit to the pseudo-democratic guardians of the plundering of the nation, like the MDC.

The bourgeoisie prevented the mass irruption, but the masses have not been defeated. The solution for the black workers movement is not with the black bourgeoisie. The allies of the workers and exploited in Zimbabwe are not the MDC or Zanu-PF, but the workers of South Africa, the immigrant workers in Europe, the black workers in USA and Brazil, those who feel hatred as seeing class siblings sold as slaves in Libya by the Qadafyist bourgeoisie.

We have to put those forces in movement, in Zimba-



Assembly during the strike of Marikana (2012)

bwe and in the whole Southern Africa. For that reason, we have to call NUMSA, the workers of Marikana and all the workers organizations in Southern Africa to organize a unified fight against imperialism and its lackey governments.

IMPERIALISM AND THE CAPITALISTS ARE BURDENING THEIR CRISIS ON THE MASSES

THE CATASTROPHE IS ALREADY HERE: WE NEED TO CONFRONT IT!

**For a workers and popular economic plan!**

**Let the crisis be paid by those on the top: the capitalists and the generals agents of imperialism!**

**Only a provisional revolutionary government of workers and poor peasants can get Zimbabwe out of barbarism**

It is urgent to take immediate measures to put an end to the misery of the exploited. In the poorest country in the world, with a life expectancy of no more than 50 years, with the highest infant mortality rate in Africa, Zimbabwe shows the workers and oppressed peoples of the world that the level of barbarism that capitalists parasites and the global regime of imperialist plunder can impose on the exploited.

The most immediate task in Zimbabwe is finish organizing a real revolutionary offensive, this time expelling and expropriating not only imperialism but also the black bourgeoisie, which for decades sold out the anti-colonialist struggle of the masses of Africa and Zim-

babwe. They call themselves “war veterans” when today they manage wealth and fortunes equivalent to or greater than those of the whites who plundered Rhodesia until the end of the 70’s.

Preparing, organizing and advancing towards the socialist revolution, together with the working class of all Africa and international is the task of the moment. There is no other way out. Otherwise, imperialism will answer with a double looting of Zimbabwe in all the nations of South Africa.

The catastrophe is here. It has hit the workers of Zimbabwe, South Africa and the entire region. The imperialist transnational companies steal all our wealth. The time has come for the international unity of the working class. Expropriating those from above and organizing the rebellion of the slaves is the task of the moment!

The gold, diamonds, lithium and all the huge wealth of Zimbabwe cannot be taken by imperialism! We must expropriate without compensation of all the mines and deposits and put them to produce under workers’ control!

In order to eat, conquer decent health and housing, we must break with imperialism and disregard the fraudulent external debt contracted by the oligarchy of Zimbabwe with the IMF, behind the backs of the people!

We must re-nationalize the land without any payment, and put it to produce under workers’ organizations control, the poor peasants and popular organizations!

The banks must be expropriated without compensation! For a single state bank that grants cheap credits to the ruined small producers! Minimum salary of 12,500 rand, as the Marikana workers put forward in their struggle! Decent work assured for all, distributing working hours in all available hands!

**For a public works plan under the control of workers’ organizations!**

With the recovery of the land and the rupture with the IMF and the expropriation of the banks, it would be possible to guide the surplus of the national wealth to conquer a public works plan, beginning with the construction of houses, roads, hospitals, schools, guarantee that the workers and the poor people eat.

The working class must erupt with its own program to provide a way out for the exploited and for the capitalists to pay for their bad businesses deals. The land in the hands of the working class and the exploited, under production in collective farms, would guarantee cheap quality food for all Zimbabweans and for our class brothers and sisters of Southern Africa. Such a struggle will awaken solidarity from millions of workers around the region and will weld an unbreakable unity that would get us closer to victory in our struggle. For this, the workers organizations must break with the boss parties... with Zanu-PF and MDC. They fight for their business deals, we workers fight for bread and freedom. Open the road for the working class and the exploited of Zimbabwe!

***For committees of workers, poor peasants, vendors, students and rank and file soldiers!  
Set up the power of those from below, the broad majority of the subjugated nation, to disarm the bourgeoisie!***

To take a first step forward, we need to conquer rank and file assemblies in all remaining factories, mines and workplaces! It is necessary to set up a coordination organ of all the workers in struggle, of the unemployed workers, militant youth, poor peasants, the vendors, civil servants and municipality workers and students to fight together!

Enough of collaborationist union bureaucracies! For a revolutionary leadership of the unions!

We need to set up self-defence committees and the workers’ militias to impose a **revolutionary General Strike** that will shake Zimbabwe from its foundations and put the fall of the infamous regime on top of the agenda!

The struggle of Zimbabwe is part of the struggle of our class siblings from all over South Africa. Outwith Mugabe and Mnangagwa! Out with Zuma! Enough of governments of the imperialist transnational companies!

For a South African congress of workers’ organizations, to break with the bourgeoisie and fight to expel imperialism!

We have to fight like in Marikana, with strikes, pickets, and with the method of workers’ democracy!

Standing with our colour class siblings all over the planet! Black lives matter... in Zimbabwe, in South Africa, and in the US, Brazil, Libya!

We are not indifferent to the genocide of our Syrian class siblings! Let’s not allow the massacre to continue in Syria! Let’s fight against the dog Bashar and the murderer Putin, who do imperialism’s dirty work!

Expel Mugabe, Mnangagwa, the bourgeois politicians and all the corrupt generals, agents of the imperialist powers that have ruled Zimbabwe for years! Enough with governments of representatives of black millionaires partners of the banks and the TNCs that rule in a sea of black slaves. For a government of the workers and the poor people!

For a provisional revolutionary government of workers, poor peasants, students and ruined middle sectors, supported on rank and file soldier’s committees, self defense committees and workers militias! The liberation of the workers will be done by the workers themselves!

For the workers to live, imperialism must die! Zimbabwe will be socialist or Wall Street colony! Open the road for the tormented Africa! For the Federation of Black Republic in Southern Africa!

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

We reproduce an article of POI-CI from Chile in polemics with LIT-CI on the military coup in Zimbabwe

## Zimbabwe

December 1st, 2017

*WHILE CONSIDERING THAT IN ZIMBABWE THE ARMY STAGED A COUP D'ÉTAT...*

### THE LIT-CI DEMANDS “ELECTIONS” AND “DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES” TO A BONAPARTIST REGIME, SUPERVISED BY THE CASTE OF ARMY OFFICERS, SERVANT OF ANGLO AMERICAN AND IMPERIALISM

Under the title of “Zimbabwe: Out with Mugabe; out with the military!”, on 20/11 the LIT-CI has published a statement with its position on the current events that are happening in a vertiginous way in Zimbabwe.

In this article the LIT-CI denounces that the “November 15, the Army of Zimbabwe staged a coup d'état” and states that “the political regime in Zimbabwe is a dictatorship of the ZANU-PF army-party, corrupt and bloodthirsty, at the service of maintaining the privileges of a black bourgeoisie (which was consolidated after the independence) and ensuring the handing over of national wealth (gold, diamonds, platinum) to imperialism”. Then they state that: “It is a dictatorship that keeps exercising a brutal repression in a country with 90% unemployment” and that “Mugabe governs with an iron hand since 1980, with nothing to ‘envy’ dictators such as Assad,



Mnangagwa (president) and Chiwenga (chief of the armed forces)

Gaddafi, or Videla”. And they conclude: “None of this has changed -nor will it change- with the fall of Mugabe. What we are witnessing is a ‘palatial coup’ (...) Neither Mugabe nor those who intend to succeed can guarantee a program in favor of the exploited and oppressed classes, not even democratic freedoms so that the people can organize. (...) From them only more hunger, misery, unemployment, repression, and handing over of the country’s resources to imperialism can be expected”.

But in the face of this situation that they denounce, what course of action does LIT-CI propose to the working class and the exploited masses of Zimbabwe to do? “It is necessary to organize independently and open the way against all the capitalist and dictatorial factions. Out with Mugabe; Out with the military! Down with the military dictatorship in Zimbabwe! No trust in the military! Full democratic liberties for the workers and the people!”. And how is this conquered according to the

LIT-CI? With "Free elections now! For a free and sovereign Constituent Assembly!"

But what "free elections" can be held in Zimbabwe while the caste of army officers, which by imperialism command defined with a palatial blow which bourgeois gang governs and administers business to the transnationals and the bourgeoisie? What "free and sovereign Constituent Assembly" can be done without defeating the pro-imperialist regime, armored by the Armed Forces?

As we quote extensively, the LIT-CI itself denounces how crude the Bonapartist nature of the ruling institutions of the bourgeoisie and imperialism are in the poorest country in the world, and even so they argue that it is possible to conquer "full democratic liberties" for the masses in the framework of a regime that they themselves say is a "dictatorship"!

We are not going to develop here in the fact that for the LIT-CI there can be "democracy" and "freedom" for the exploited people of Zimbabwe without getting food, without breaking and expropriating imperialism and without recovering the land. That means the LIT-CI is enemy of proposing the resolution of the structural democratic tasks of every semicolonial country like Zimbabwe that are the liberation of imperialist oppression and solving the agrarian problem.

Today in Zimbabwe, the LIT-CI reaffirms its 180° position of fighting to set up soviets, workers and soldiers committees and militias. With their claim to "organize themselves independently and open the way against all the capitalist and dictatorial factions" they refuse to raise the armed self-organization organisms of the exploited masses of Zimbabwe, which expropriate the transnationals and the bourgeoisie and break all the pacts with imperialism. Clearly it does not raise a single programmatic point for socialist revolution.



But in this case, they are not even consistent formal democrats. If they were really for the "democracy against the coup", they would have called to defeat the officer caste and conquer the generalized armament of the people, with the slogan "a man, a rifle". The LIT-CI ends up proposing the "peaceful way to democracy" without destroying the caste of army officers, commanded by the Anglo American.

The real way out, even to defend the democratic freedoms of the workers, can only be given by the working class, the poor peasants, the combative students, the soldiers and the hungry people, sunk in the worst of the miseries by the capitalists; by their organizations and their methods of struggle, defeating the now government of Mnangagwa, demolishing the regime and destroying the bourgeois state of Zimbabwe and its caste of officers. The truth is that only a **workers' and peasants' government**, based on the armed organizations of direct democracy of the exploited classes, will be the only one that can guarantee a **truly democratic National Constituent Assembly**, because this will only be possible **over the ruins of the regime and the state of the killers and oppressors of the people**.

The LIT-CI, although it does not go so far as to claim that Mugabe was a "hero" of the national liberation of Zimbabwe, but denounces Mugabe and his regime as that of Assad or Khadafy, once again proposes an electoral bourgeois democratic way out and of Constituent Assembly, as they did in the face of the Maghreb and Middle East revolution in Egypt, Tunisia, etc., as the counterpart of supporting the bourgeois "opposition" as a necessary ally for the first stage of the "democratic revolution" as was in Syria with the FSA or in Libya with the CNT-CNG. Due to this strategy that they raise, the LIT-CI does not denounce the MDC -the opposition bourgeois party- which has supported the palatial coup of the caste of officers with the "condition" that they call for elections next year, in order to dress the military regime as "democratic". With its "struggle" for "elections now", the LIT-CI becomes a left-wing support of the policy of the MDC.

Thus, the LIT-CI ends up being one more variant of the policies of the "New Left" currents, which have constantly subjected the working class and the masses of Zimbabwe to the bourgeois regime.

**POI-CI FROM CHILE**

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# Zimbabwe

July 10th, 2018

## July 30th: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The military dictatorship, the capitalists and the IMF have two candidates: ZANU-PF and MDC

*Mugabe and MDC have already ruled together at the service of the bankers and transnational companies*

The class-collaborationist leaderships of the unions and ZCTU subordinate us to our executioners

## Down with the electoral deception!

**Let's break with the bourgeoisie and its parties!**

*To conquer bread, work, houses, land and freedom:*

**Let's build up the power of the exploited!**

**National Congress of the employed and unemployed workers  
to promote a struggle plan and the General Strike!**

**Down with the military dictatorship!  
Out with Mnangagwa!**

*On July 30th...*

**LET'S NOT VOTE**

**Out with IMF, the employer politicians and the  
trade union bureaucrats, traitors of the workers  
movement! Everyone out, no one left!**

**For a revolutionary workers  
and popular government!**

Based on the self-determination and direct  
democracy organs of the masses



Mnangagwa with the army

**Zimbabwe will be socialist or Wall Street colony**

**T**he workers of Zimbabwe have been staging great and hard struggles. We did so against Mugabe and his bloody dictatorship for more than three decades. We also did so when Mugabe's government entered in crisis in 2008-2009 and called their self-proclaimed "democratic" partners of MDC to save him from the hatred of the masses. The MDC has always been riding the

coat tails of the generals of the army. These "democrats" came to implement the same plan of starvation and misery against the workers, and the same sellout to imperialism that their boss Mugabe did. ZANU-PF and MDC are two legs of the IMF, of imperialism and the bosses that plunder Zimbabwe and starve the workers.

In the last years, Zimbabwe was filled with workers,

popular and students struggles. Hundreds of thousands strive to collect the wages in arrears. We fight because they do not even let us be vendors when we are unemployed, because we get evicted from the streets. We fight for a wage increase, as Hwange miners did, as well as the health workers, civil servants and railway workers, or for our job source to be reopened and collect our compensations as textile workers. The teachers and students fought in defense of education. There was no sector that did not stand against Mugabe's government and also against the military, which with Mnangagwa took office of the government. Now they call for elections to prevent that this huge hatred of the masses gets unified and coordinated in order to wipe out as a wave all the exploiters, plunderers and starvationists of the nations.

If today the military and the black bourgeoisie, junior partner of the imperialist pirates, can call to these fraudulent elections to cover up for the fierce dictatorship of the bosses, the military and IMF, is because the bureaucratic and collaborationist leaderships of the unions and ZCTU refused to organize and coordinate a great struggle to defeat them all on the streets. They refused to coordinate those in struggle. They divided all the struggles and entered in the electoral farce, against the interests, needs and struggle of the workers and the people in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, the MDC appears as "opposition" to the military junta, when the very day it took office, they went to beg for "free elections", far away from calling the workers and the people to rise against Mugabe and the military coup. The capitalists of MDC know that they need the coup generals of today because they will rely on them in case they win the elections, to repress the people and impose the IMF plans, as they did when they ruled.

**Down with the electoral trap of the government of the coup of Mnangagwa, the military dictatorship, ZANU-PF and MDC!**

**On July 30th, the workers do not vote ZANU-PF, MDC or the military of the coup  
We do not vote for capitalists; they are repressors and lackeys of imperialism**

Both MDC and ZANU-PF are agents of the multinational companies. Both of them want to form their government and pro-imperialist regime, supported by the army generals from the backstage, and legit-



Committee of women in the strike of Marikana miners

imize it by providing a "democratic" costume with the fraudulent elections called by the officers cast and the government of the coup of Mnangagwa. Their goal is to impose a more bonapartist regime, settled in the repressive forces of the bourgeois state. That is why, both MDC and ZANU-PF, who already ruled together in the past under former president Mugabe's supervision, will bring more repression, persecution and even worse living standards for the working class and the exploited masses.

We, internationalist revolutionary socialists of the Workers International League of Zimbabwe, declare that our country is now a military state, a slave labour force open air concentration camp and there are no democratic freedoms, not even free elections.

These elections are **a true scam against the workers**. They are not even democratic elections because it is impossible for the socialist and workers party to participate, due to the legal economic restrictions. Meanwhile, the leaderships of the unions that could do so, rising for a workers way out of the crisis of Zimbabwe, are kneeling down before the MDC and ZANU-PF, the parties of the bosses and their government. They are preparing a trap on the exploited. **No matter who wins, the attack on the workers will be deeper**. Because the bourgeoisie, the corrupt politicians of Zimbabwe, AngloAmerican and the transnational companies that plunder our nation and the rest of Africa are the ones who win with this elections.

They want to have a strong government, deceiving the people, because they need to double the attack on all our gains. They have to enslave us even more, in order to pay for the 9 billion dollars to the IMF of a fraudulent debt that the government, the bosses and the bankers stole and took abroad.

The workers of Zimbabwe cannot trust in the bosses' parties and we have to turn our backs on the electoral trap. We cannot wait a single day longer without doing it. We have to fight against this electoral fraud, where both parties that participate this elections are owned by

the imperialist bankers and the transnational companies. They are a lie and a deception.

The way forward is coordinating our struggles and advance to the General Strike. It is a path that the class collaborationist trade union leaders that agreed with the government and the bosses' parties closed to us.

## **NO MORE SUBJECTION OF THE EXPLOITED TO THE EXECUTIONERS OF THE PEOPLE!**

**Down with the military dictatorship!**

**May the unions and the worker and  
popular organizations break with the boss  
parties and their infamous regime**

*Let's set up a...*

**National Congress of employed and  
unemployed workers and of all the  
exploited, to vote and promote a  
struggle plan and the General Strike!**

This has to be voted by assemblies of the workers, the unions and all the exploited sectors of Zimbabwe. The working class did not vote that the leadership of ZCTU and the unions call to support ZANU-PF or MDC, as their leaders do. This is how the trade bureaucracy acts: yesterday, it turned its back on the workers struggles and today they embrace the capitalists, their politicians and parties.

We cannot let this pro-imperialist anti-worker regime to keep on strengthening and legitimizing with fraudulent elections and electoral traps where the working class is banned. Therefore, every organization that claim to defend and represent workers, like ZCTU, PTUZ or ISO, must break with the government of the coup and the parties of the bourgeoisie and call for a National Congress with delegates of employed and unemployed workers and the exploited, for the working class to prepare the best conditions to fight for bread, work and against imperialist plunder. **We need to conquer a revolutionary general strike to defeat this repressive government, their electoral trap and end with the imperialist plundering and that of the IMF on the nation!**

**Nobody who calls himself a socialist can spend another minute together with the executioners of the workers and the people.** Whoever wants to fight as in Marikana, to establish struggle organizations of direct democracy of the exploited, to get decent wages with decent work for all... **MUST BREAK WITH THE BOSS PARTIES RIGHT NOW.** There is no time to lose

**Imperialism and the capitalists are  
burdening their crisis on the masses**

**The catastrophe is here:  
we have to fight against it!**

**For a workers and popular economic plan!**

Zimbabwe is a true slave labour force reserve to be used in Southern Africa and in the rest of the continent. While the bourgeoisie does this electoral circus, the unemployment rate is at 90% and those who work, they do so in terrible conditions. There is no public health or education. Inflation has destroyed local currency some years ago and it turns the cost of living unbearable. This cannot had happened without the bureaucracy of the unions and ZCTU that divides and sells out the struggle of the workers and supports this infamous regime. Let's be clear: the ones who rule Zimbabwe is IMF are the imperialist bankers and a millionaire black bourgeoisie that kept the best lands and, associated to the US, wields the whip of slavery on the workers and the people. This is the so-called "democracy" that is falsely preached by MDC, the friend of imperialism and the transnational companies, the other enemies of the workers and the people. This is a democracy for the rich and the capitalists.

**The ones on the top come to get all that is ours!  
Those on the below, let's vote to go and get all of them!**

**Let the crisis be paid by the capitalists and imperialism!**

**Decent work for everybody! Reduce the labour  
shift for all the available hands get back to produce!  
Decent non fix wage of 1000 dollars!**

**There is enough money: it is being taken away by  
the IMF, the bankers and the bosses.**

**Out with the IMF! No pay the fraudulent foreign  
debt to the plunderers of the nation!**

Let's expropriate the transnational companies and the bankers without compensation and place under workers control!

Let's expropriate all the land of Zimbabwe without compensation and place under workers and poor peasants control!

Single state bank under workers control!

**Dissolve the repressive forces! Self-defence committees of the workers organizations and rank and file soldiers!**

**Neither coup generals nor ZANU-PF nor MDC,  
the parties of the capitalists!**

**For a revolutionary provisional government of  
workers and poor peasants!**

**Zimbabwe will be socialist or it will be a Wall  
Street and IMF colony!**

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

# Zimbabwe | On presidential elections

July 25th, 2018

Down with the electoral deception of the generals of the coup,  
the ZANU PF and the MDC (Movement for Democratic Change)!

*With lies and deceptions to the people,*

**MDC comes to save the regime of the military dictatorship,  
the ZANU PF and the business of the capitalists and the IMF  
from the hatred of the insurgent masses**

*The collaborationist union bureaucracy of the ZCTU, after agreeing with Mugabe, today carry on  
its shoulders the fraud and the electoral deception calling to vote for the MDC*

*From London, the SWP, the "socialists" of the Queen, the followers of Corbyn, the Labour Party  
of the Anglo American Corporation and the imperialist pirates, also gave the order:*

**THE ISO (International Socialist Organization) CALLS TO VOTE FOR THE MDC, THE  
CONFIDENCE PARTY OF THE ENGLISH CROWN IN ZIMBABWE...**

## **MDC:**

√ *In 2008 it ruled together with Mugabe and the  
repressive armed forces*

√ *Yesterday it supported the coup of the army  
officers against Mugabe to prevent the masses from  
defeating him with the general strike*

√ *Today, with the fraudulent elections, it wants to  
prevent millions of exploited from breaking with  
the ZANU PF, from sweeping away the coup -  
plotter military officers, Mnangagwa's Government,  
advancing in their struggle to attack the interests of  
imperialism and the capitalists*



MDC's electoral propaganda

## **ON JULY 30 WE ARE NOT VOTING Workers do not vote for any of our executioners!**

*Let's vote to prepare and organize the  
revolutionary general strike to defeat the hunger  
and exploiters of the people and workers!*

Down with the military dictatorship!  
Neither ZANU PF nor MDC!

We must break with the IMF and expropriate the  
expropriating capitalists of the people!

Disarm of the coup member generals! Workers,  
Poor Peasants and Soldiers Committees!  
Provisional Revolutionary Government of  
Workers and Poor Peasants, supported by  
the masses in struggle!

**ZIMBABWE WILL BE SOCIALIST OR  
A WALL STREET COLONY**

**Statement of the International Workers' League of Zimbabwe on the electoral deception and the opportunism of the so-called socialists and the ZCTU bureaucracy that subject the working class to the parties and military officers of imperialism**

**Zimbabwe Elections:  
A scandalous fraud**

**With deceit and pseudo-democratic lies, the MDC comes to save the businesses of imperialism, the military coup and ZANU PF from the hatred of the masses**

The old saying goes that “the proof is in th pudding”, and at the recent press conference of Chamisa, the MDC candidate for president, the proofs were more than enough. *“We have the power and the ability to stop an election and make the country ungovernable.” “We will not boycott the elections, because we cannot boycott our victory.”* These phrases demonstrate MDC’s role in the current situation of the class struggle in Zimbabwe and its central performance as a savior of the bourgeois regime hated by the masses, of which the MDC is part along with the military coup and ZANU PF at the service of the imperialist gangs that plunder the nation.

Zimbabwe during 2017 was the ground of great workers, students and different struggles of the exploited, whose actions, such as strikes, demonstrations and street struggles, clashed with the ZANU PF’s dictatorial regime and threatened to defeat the Mugabe government. The constant onslaught of the exploited unleashed a deep political crisis in the ruling classes. The government of Mugabe, hung by a thread, was about to fall to the masses. From the army officers, supported by a major fraction of the ruling ZANU PF

and the “opposition” MDC supported a military coup that put Mnangagwa (also ZANU PF and candidate for president in the next elections) in the government.

The exploited working masses soon returned to clash with the new Government and its cabinet of Army officers. Huge street struggles of miners, workers, the unemployed, students, nurses and doctors like strikes, work stoppages, mobilizations, occupations and pickets in the mines, put the workers back in the position of overthrowing the military dictatorship and the puppet Government with their fight in the streets. **It was the MDC and the trade union centrals, like the ZCTU, who in a real political front** demanded general elections to get the masses out of the way of the struggle. The Government and the military cabinet called for elections next July 30. The MDC just weeks ago said it would “fight” against Zimbabwe Electoral Council fraud and threatened to “boycott the elections” if necessary. These were just words in the wind to better deceive the workers. However, this demagogic pose used in the electoral campaign had to be erased immediately. It is that nothing could stoke the fire in the masses that had managed to be momentarily anesthetized by the MDC, the ZCTU bureaucracy and the rest of trade unions, and the left cover



Protests in Zimbabwe

of the ISO, to endanger the plans of imperialism and the bourgeoisie.

According to the aforementioned statements, Chamisa makes it clear that there were conditions on the exploited masses to fight to make the country ungovernable for imperialism and the bourgeoisie and that the MDC is in charge of taking the masses to the electoral trap to avoid that they carry out a real boycott by organizing a revolutionary general strike that would hit again the broken regime and put the working class at the height of the seizure of power In summary: yesterday saving ZANU PF from falling with workers’ and popular mobilizations; and today through a real electoral trap, saving the military dictatorship and the illegitimate government of Mnangagwa, the MDC prepares to be the party that restores the battered bourgeois state and defends the Government, supported by the officers caste of the coup - plotting Army, the capitalists business, the IMF and the imperialist bandits, over the ruin of the people and the plundering of the oppressed nation.



## **The ISO calls to vote for the MDC, the trustworthy party of the English crown in Zimbabwe**

From London the SWP, those friends with Corbyn and English Labor Party, gave the order to the Zimbabwe ISO leadership to call to vote for the MDC, the reliable party for the imperialist interests of the English crown. The leaders of the ISO have denounced that the MDC comes to continue the plans of imperialism in the country, but they still **call to vote for it**, but... “without opening illusions” and “covering the nose”. This means that they have subordinated to the bourgeoisie to support the interests of England. And the pretext used for such a stab in the back of workers’ struggle, is that the MDC “will bring more democracy, then the working class can have better conditions for their struggle, as for example, it happens in South Africa”. This is a real scam to the workers and the people, a true betrayal of the struggle for Socialism

Now then, how did the MDC support the coup plotters who dethroned Mugabe, those same coup leaders who governed and still govern alongside ZANU PF (and who also did it with the MDC when it was part of the Coalition Government in 2008)? Will ZANU PF bring the “democracy” that the ISO leadership yearns? If this bourgeois party is not even able to propose a trial to punish all the officers, commanders and generals who were part of the Mugabe dictatorship that imposed 90% of chronic unemployment in the ranks of the exploited, hunger and widespread misery. He tied to Zimbabwe with triple chains to the plunder of the IMF with 9,000 million dollars of fraudulent external debt that will make the people pay with more suffering than those

already suffered in hell they are living in the present!

For that reason, against what the SWP says from England and the Zimbabwean ISO, we revalidate what we wrote in our statement published on the 10th of July: *“We, the revolutionary socialists affirm that the democratic freedoms, humiliated at every step by the governments of the capitalists and imperialism, they conquer and defend themselves with the methods of the working class struggle: the strikes, the pickets, the general strike, the fighting in the streets and the revolution itself. We affirm that the bourgeois “democrats” of the MDC and the dictatorship come out of the same cesspool that is this capitalist system with its hunger and slavery bosses and imperialism looting the oppressed peoples.*

*That is why ISO lies. And we have to tell the workers the truth: as we said, if the MDC wins the elections it will govern supported by this Military Junta and the repressive forces, as Mugabe did for decades, because he must implement his plans of attack to the workers and the sell out of the nation to imperialism. It has nothing different to offer. Hiding this means subjecting the working class to imperialism and the bourgeoisie disguised as ‘democratic’.* “

The MDC supported by the bureaucracy of the ZTUC and other trade union, comes with sweet phrases to numb the masses, take away their confidence in their own strength, strike hard the left and combative wing of the working class of Zimbabwe. So, they give time to the pro-coup officers of the Army to recover themselves from the damage suffered by the onslaught of the workers and the poor people, to give a blood bath when the imperialist bosses think it is necessary. The ISO, and the trade union bureaucracy of the ZCTU, has set up a real class collaboration front with the pro-imperialist bourgeoisie of

the MDC. That was the old policy of Stalinism, which in the anti-colonial struggle of Zimbabwe and all black Africa. They handed over the Government to the black bourgeoisie, as it did with Mugabe... and now the ISO does it with the MDC, as it did in 2008. They are neither socialists nor revolutionaries. They are the successors of Stalinism in the workers’ movement. The struggle for national independence, even the most minimal and elementary democratic freedoms, it means to defeat the military dictatorship; when there are enough conditions to boycott these fraudulent elections. Liberties have been won by the workers in the streets, in their strikes, pickets, fighting committees. Neither the Zanu PF nor the military dictatorship gave it to them, let alone the MDC.

Through this call to vote for the MDC, **the ISO has not only broken with the struggle for socialism, but also will be responsible for MDC’s policy against the great masses of the country if it manages to stay with the government.**

## **The honest militants of the ISO must disobey their leaders and call the workers not to support the MDC or any of their executioners**

The honest militants of the ISO should disobey their leaders. The workers do not vote for any of the candidate parties of the imperialist bourgeoisie. We do not do it for the ZANU PF nor for its partners of the MDC, which will be the worst of all the executioners, because in the name of “freedom” and “democracy” will be responsible for sending the generals to slaughter workers when the interests of the capitalists be at risk. This has already happened in Egypt, where the “demo-

cratic” bourgeoisie of the “April 6” Movement, which the ISO supported, was the one that handed over the power to the “democratic generals” of Al Sisi that rule to blood and fire his dictatorship, with thousands of political prisoners and popular fighters killed.

There were more than enough forces to organize the boycott for the elections, candidate Chamisa’s declarations confirm it. If the ZTUC and the trade unions had broken with the MDC and called to boycott the elections with the methods of struggle of the working class, conquering the organs of masses political struggle and the general strike, the road would have been opened. The workers and exploited would have imposed their own power, which is the only way to achieve the most minimal democratic conquests defeating the military dictatorship. The road was to impose the rupture of the workers’ organizations with the ZANU PF and the MDC and the imperialism that leads them all.

That is why, from the WIL-FLTI, we call the workers not to vote and to set up a Struggle Committee to face the electoral trap and the Government that would emerge from it. The working class must turn its back on these elections, since they come to cover with a democratic mantle the dictatorship that has been governing Zimbabwe for years.

We call all the socialist militants

to ignore any policy that places our class down of its knees before the executioners. We call on all workers to ignore the support of union leaders to the MDC. Because it is the MDC that comes with sweet words to disarm our struggle to apply the worst plans, even worse than the military dictatorship and Mugabe.

### **For a National Congress of employed and unemployed workers and all the exploited to promote a struggle plan and the General Strike!**

We cannot let this pro-imperialist anti-worker regime to keep on reinforcing itself and gaining legitimacy with fraudulent elections and electoral traps, where the working class is banned. That is why, all the organizations that claim to defend and represent the workers, such as ZCTU, PTUZ or ISO must break with the parties of the bourgeoisie and call for a big National Congress of employed and unemployed workers and the exploited for the working class to prepare the best conditions to fight for bread, job and against the imperialist plundering.

**We need to conquer a revolutionary general strike to defeat this repressive government, the electoral trap and put an end to**

### **the plundering to the nation made by imperialism and the IMF!**

We are before an iron alternative: either ISO’s proposal of being with the bourgeoisie of Zimbabwe; or being with the working class of Southern Africa for the general strike against the lackey governments of imperialism, that treat the black workers worse than the white masters did with their slaves centuries ago.

**The strength of the working class to get “democratic freedoms” is not supporting the MDC but in the unity with the working class of the entire Southern Africa.** In South Africa, the workers are getting ready to once again confront the ANC government. From Zimbabwe not only we should follow this path but also we need to unite our forces with our class siblings in the entire south of the continent. In unity and in internationalist fight, there is the strength to defeat our oppressor governments and free our nations from the imperialist yoke. Nobody who claims to be socialist can stay for a minute longer with the executioners of the workers and the people. The one who wants to fight as in Marikana, the one who wants to establish struggle organizations with direct democracy of the exploited, the one that wants to get decent wages with decent work for everybody... **MUST BREAK RIGHT NOW WITH THE BOSS PARTIES.** There is no time to lose!

**Only a revolutionary provisional government of workers and poor peasants, based in the self-defense committees and disarming the murderous dictatorship of the military lackeys of imperialism, will be able to conquer national independence and the broadest democratic freedoms for all the oppressed sectors of the nation.**



Mnangagwa with Lagarde of IMF

ISO lies: It says “democracy” and the democratic freedoms were gained with the government of the ANC in South Africa

## **Lies! The democratic gains were conquered with the slave masses of Apartheid fighting on the streets, overthrowing that opprobrium regime**

ISO lies: The ANC and the black bourgeoisie only expropriated that struggle, guaranteed the business deals of imperialism and let all the enslavers and repressors of the workers and poor peasants free in South Africa

ISO lies: The “democracy” given by the ANC is to send the police at the service of Anglo American to massacre the workers and miners as in Marikana

ISO lies. They have become an appendix of the Stalinist parties that sold out the anti-imperialist struggle of the working class in the entire tormented Africa. Imperialism and its agents and junior partners in the plundering of the people they oppress do not spread around democracy or freedom but starvation and repression. The monopolies need to have at hand the most totalitarian government they can. The democratic freedoms have been conquered by the masses with their struggle and blood. It is proved that a new millionaire black bourgeoisie manages, whip in hand, the same interests of Anglo American that yesterday were managed by the Boer and the white gangs of Apartheid.

In moments when the South African working class breaks with the bureaucracy of COSATU and confronts the ANC and the infamous regime of reconciliation with Apartheid with demonstrations and general strikes; ISO tells the workers of Zimbabwe that with the ANC government “democratic freedoms” were gained such as, for example, workers can have their own parties. This is a total lie.

The “socialists” of the Queen of England and their branches in Zimbabwe and the entire Southern Africa must stop lying now! In South Africa it was not the party of Mandela or the Communist party the ones that defeated Apartheid and opened democratic freedoms. It was the workers and millions of black exploited that fought and defeated Apartheid. On the contrary to what ISO says, Mandela and the national reconciliation regime put a limit on the freedoms conquered by the workers with thousands of martyrs and prisoners in their hundreds of fights. The “freedom” of the ANC was for the transnational companies to keep on plundering South Africa, for COSATU to state-ize the unions and subjugate the working class to support the armed forces of Pretoria and the white generals caste of the Apartheid armed forces to defend the interests of Anglo American.

The working class exercised its democracy and freedom in its struggles against Zuma’s government, who

was forced to resign from the very ranks of the ANC so Ramaphosa takes office and the workers do not overthrow him with their general strikes. Any similar scenario with Zimbabwe is not a coincidence. In South Africa, the government of Ramaphosa, who was not elected by anyone, called for elections in 2019. This is a deception to ease the workers and prepare a bloodbath against its most militant ranks. Because the ANC “democracy” is the regime of the massacre of Marikana workers, the massacre of Zimbabwean workers throughout pogroms organized by the government and the armed forces against the immigrants.

The more Stalinism subjugated the working class and the ANC and Zuma’s government, the more democratic freedoms were lost. This is the tragedy of the working class; it has the chance of seizing power at hand, and it ends up giving it to its own executioners, due to the action of the leadership.

The cunning and militant South African working class has risen and it fights and defends its rights to strike, wages, working conditions, decent jobs for the unemployed. They regroup their ranks and push to coordinate the struggle throughout the unions and union federations (as seen in the recent workers summit called by SAFTU and NUMSA) and preparing for the next few weeks a 3 day general strike against the ANC and the government agent of the transnational companies. **The struggle in the streets, breaking with the class-collaborationist bureaucracy, the picket lines and the general strike is the way forward for all the workers and exploited of South Africa!**

For a long time now, ISO in Zimbabwe, in South Africa, in London and New York fights for a “real democracy” but for the bourgeoisie and imperialism that exploits the workers and plunders the subjugated people. They are socialists in words and tied to the apron-strings of the bourgeoisie and imperialism in the facts.

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# Zimbabwe

July 30th, 2018

*On a scandalous statement of ISO leadership and their call to fight for democracy together with MDC, one of the fundamental supports of the military government and its electoral fraud*

## Down with the infamous regime of the military dictatorship and its two parties ZANU-PF and MDC!

For a provisional revolutionary workers and peasants government!

The democratic freedoms are defended with the method of the class struggle and the proletarian revolution.

### Free and sovereign Constituent Assembly!

ISO, which claims to be "socialist", calls to "defend democracy and to fight against the dictatorship" together with MDC. But MDC accepts, promotes and supports the elections called by the military junta. IT DOES NOT CALL TO DEFEAT THE DICTATORSHIP. It just wants to improve the work of its electoral board, as if it could be such thing as a free election with the repressor military there, who have ruled Zimbabwe with Mugabe for decades defending their business deals and those of the transnational companies.

MDC just wants to put pressure on the dictatorship to have more spaces in the regime for their capitalists and business deals and call for demonstrations of their followers, which is a way of performing electoral campaign to get more votes, disguised as "democrats".

MDC, if it wins this elections, will rule based on the military junta just as they did together with Mugabe. They will settle their government on the Armed Forces. And they will implement the plans of imperialism of paying the fraudulent foreign debt



2017: coup d'état in Zimbabwe

to IMF. Recovering the land for it to go to the hands of the workers and popular organizations, for the people to eat, is not in MDC's programs or plans.

Anyone who claims fighting for democratic freedoms, for free and truly democratic elections, and not calling the working class to unite their ranks, to expell the trade union bureaucrats, accomplices and servants of the military dictatorship, the transnational companies and the bosses, is not really fighting for more democracy but for more subjugation of the

workers to this anti-democratic trap of fraudulent elections, guaranteed by the military dictatorship, this time, sweetened by MDC and their lying chatterbox politicians, as well as by those who claim to be "socialist" but end up subordinating the working class to its executioners.

The military dictatorship has to parties: ZANU-PF and another one that disguises it as "democratic" which is MDC, in order to continue deceiving and attacking the people.

The last call of ISO to "fight" to-

gether with MDC for “free and fair elections” without denouncing that this is impossible without defeating the dictatorship means that the dictatorship has two parties and an appendix which has grown out of MDC: ISO, a left supporter.

ISO and its leaders talk about the experience of Egypt, where they supported April 6th movement, a party of capitalists that asked the military to fight together for “more democracy”. This deception ended up with the “democrats” of April 6th movement taking a ferocious military dictatorship to power in the year 2013, crushing with blood and fire the revolution that had started in Tahrir Square in 2011. After such a sellout in this country, today ISO regrets “not doing the same we did in Egypt”. These “socialists”, became into vulgar opportunists, also need to be exposed. They did not learn anything from the tragedies that they have caused to the workers movement internationally. What they are saying in Zimbabwe today is the same they said in Egypt, but camouflaged. They think that MDC, that is to say “the democrats”, can “democratize” the military junta, imposing “free elections”. This is equivalent to the intent of turning a lion into vegetarian, when the need is to hunt the lion down, encage it or kill it... The institutions of this military dictatorship, even the electoral board and the treacherous elections, cannot be democratized. Every serious democratic struggle must have as a central point, as a minimum immediate task, the overthrowing of the dictatorship.

We insist, MDC does not call to make any action to defeat the military dictatorship. It just wants to give a “democratic” varnish to these fraudulent elections to deceive the people better. ISO, supporting MDC, even renegades from the most minimum ele-

mentary democratic demands to fight for free elections. For example, the workers and socialist parties cannot run for elections because the requisites can only be met by the parties of the rich and millionaire from Zimbabwe. There is no media, whether radio or television, at disposition of the socialist parties or the workers organizations in this electoral fraud. This electoral fraud is organized by the military dictatorship and imperialism ends up upholding ISO in order to subordinate the working class to MDC. We are before a true class collaboration policy.

We, revolutionary socialist, affirm that the democratic freedoms, which are at each step overrun by the capitalists and imperialism, are conquered and defended with the working class struggle methods: strikes, picket lines, general strikes, fighting in the streets and revolution itself. We affirm that the bourgeois “democrats” of MDC and the dictatorship come out of the same sewer that this capitalist system with their starvationist enslaver bosses, and imperialism plundering the subjugated people. That is why ISO lies. We have to tell workers the truth. As we said, if MDC wins the elections, it will ruled relying on the military junta and the repressive forces, just as Mugabe did for decades, because they have to implement the same plans of attack on the workers and of selling out the nation to imperialism. It has nothing different to offer. Hiding this means subordinating the working class to imperialism and to the bourgeoisie disguised as “democratic”.

The socialists will not hesitate for a second in promoting this or that concrete point in action with any current, even a bourgeois one, that wants to fight for democratic freedoms or to confront even in one point the plundering of a nation by imperialism. We

insist, MDC does not say or do any of this. It just calls to perfect and MAKE THE ELECTORAL FRAUD MORE BELIEVABLE. Otherwise they would call for a generalized struggle of the people to overthrow the military dictatorship and the electoral fraud. This is the most minimum democratic demand that is posed in Zimbabwe today. Everything else is to put the masses in the swamp of this electoral trap of the dictatorship.

**To fight for democratic freedoms in Zimbabwe is fighting for the defeat of the dictatorship to impose a free sovereign Constituent Assembly.**

This will actually mean fighting for formal democracy all the way, for a broad and generous democracy, which can only be conquered with the working class defeating the dictatorship, armed and with a provisional revolutionary government of workers and poor peasants. Everything else is a vile lie.

The “democrats” are no longer democrats because, to fight for democracy all along the line, they would have to mobilize and arm the workers to defeat the repressive state forces and their murderer generals. For a long time now the capitalists and their parties are more afraid of mobilizing and arming the masses than of the military dictatorship and imperialism, of which **they are partners in every business deal. The bosses know very well that with the working class on the streets, with their struggle methods, with the picket lines and general strike (as it happens in our black class brothers and sisters struggle in Haiti) there will not be a trace of military dictatorship, neither their partners, the capitalists of MDC.**

ISO retakes the old Stalinist policy. It says that they will conquer broad democratic freedoms in an alliance with the “democrats” who all

these years have supported the murderous military, the repressive forces and ruled with them for imperialism against the people.

**The socialists fight for a workers and peasants Republic** and we affirm that it will be more democratic than even the most democratic of the bourgeois republics, because it will be the government of the broad majority of the nation that will rise against a handful of parasites that exploits it. We think that with it, recovering the big mines, factories, banks and the land from the hands of the capitalist parasites and imperialism, the people can eat and live decently.

**We fight for the victory of socialism in Zimbabwe, in the entire Southern Africa and internationally.** In this world, pounded by the brutality of the capitalist crash and the war of the imperialist gangs for the wealth and the plundering of the planet, the working class cannot raise its living standards without overthrowing the capitalist system. It does and cannot do in USA, in the imperialist Europe, in the semi-colonial world, let alone in one of the poorest and most plundered countries of the world as Zimbabwe and other countries in the tormented Africa.

**We fight for a provisional revolutionary government of workers and poor peasants, supported in the self-organized armed masses.** Imperialism is reaction all along the line. The transnational companies and IMF seek to have the most dictatorial government they can have to impose their plans of starvation and plundering the nation. In this elections, with their parties, they just want to disguise as "democratic" a military dictatorship, where they settled their true power.

That is why we socialists affirm that only a revolutionary provisional government of workers and poor peasants is the one that can even

guarantee a democracy up to the end and the freedom that the exploited desire so much to fight for their rights and demands and to end with this ferocious military dictatorship. This cannot be done by ZANU-PF or those swindlers of MDC.

We affirm that **only by disarming the coup generals and their murderer police, dissolving the judge caste and expelling imperialism, a National Constituent Assembly, truly free and sovereign can be imposed,** which imposes the no payment of the foreign debt to the IMF and recovers the land for the poor peasants and the workers for the people to eat.

This free sovereign National Constituent Assembly can only be democratic of the working class and the mobilized armed people put an end to all the repressive forces of the bourgeois state.

This National Constituent Assembly can only be truly free and sovereign if it puts an end on this infamous regime of the generals lackeys of imperialism and imposes a single chamber, with representatives elected 1 every 20,000 inhabitants, recallable at any moment by their voters, that receive no more of an average workers wage and concentrates the executive, legislative and judicial power.

MDC, those lackeys of imperialism, pseudo-democratic servants of the coup generals and swindlers of the exploited, will not be the ones that can guarantee the democratic freedoms up to the end for the workers and the people in Zimbabwe. Only a provisional revolutionary government, with the people in arms, can conquer bread, work, land, na-



tional independence and freedom. On July 30th, let's not go to vote. The ones on the top come to get everything that is ours! Those on the below, let's vote to go against all of them!

Enough of deceiving the people! There is only one socialism and it is that of the victory of the workers and soldiers councils, the victory of the socialist revolution. Socialism does not kneel before the oppressors and exploiters of the workers and does not call to trust on "good", "progressive" or "democratic" bosses.

The MDC bosses are partners of the bosses of ZANU-PF and the military in thousands of business deals in Zimbabwe. They come to rule for them and for that reason they need to deceive the people. The socialists cannot be for it. ISO militants cannot let their leadership put them at the feet of MDC that does not fight for bread, work, dignity or against imperialism, and not even for democracy and freedom consequently.

Enough is enough! Down with the military dictatorship! Out with Mnangagwa!

National Congress of delegates of the employed and unemployed workers, of poor peasants and students! Let's unite those in struggle! Let's prepare a revolutionary general strike for everyone to get out and no one remain!•

## Zimbabwe

August 18th, 2018

# SCANDOLOUS AND BLOODY ELECTORAL FRAUD

The leaders of ZCTU and ISO called to vote for MDC and they legitimized the dictatorial regime, servant of the IMF and the imperialist pirates

**DOWN THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP!**  
**Out the government of Mnangagwa and ZANU PF!**

*Let the ZCTU, workers' organizations and those who call themselves "socialists" like ISO break with MDC and the bourgeoisie and call a national congress of workers, students and poor peasants immediately!*

### PLAN OF STRUGGLE AND GENERAL REVOLUTIONARY STRIKE!

Let's set up self-defence committees  
and workers' and peasants' militia!

For rank and file soldiers committees!

For a provisional revolutionary government of poor  
workers and peasants, based on the struggling masses!



On July 30th presidential and legislative elections were held in Zimbabwe. As we, the internationalist revolutionary socialists of WIL, have been denouncing, these elections, supported by the participation of MDC, legitimized a military dictatorship -that governs with its caste of officers in the shadows of ZANU PF- with a scandalous fraud.

The corrupt Electoral Council of Zimbabwe (ZEC) in its swindle to the people, stated that "Crocodile" Mnangagwa (ZANU PF) "won" with 2,460,463 votes while the MDC candidate, lawyer Chamisa got 2,147,463. At the legislative level -again according to the fraudulent numbers of the Electoral Council- ZANU PF reached 140 parliamentary seats, while its opponent the MDC obtained 68.

As we have been saying on previous statements, this scandalous fraud could not have been carried out without

the full participation of the MDC (the main opposition party, which already governed a coalition with ZANU PF in 2008) in it.

The MDC announced in its campaign that "*if there is fraud there is a boycott*", since they did not give it the voter rolls or the printed ballots in a timely manner. However, sniffing that this demagogic game incited the exploited to set fire to the rage of mass struggle against the government and regime, candidate Chamisa, after stating that his party (MDC) "*could make the country ungovernable*", called to participate in the elections affirming "*we cannot boycott our own triumph*". But by participating in the elections, what he did was "*boycott his own triumph*" and legitimized the dictatorship of the military and ZANU PF. **The fact is that the MDC, like any bourgeois faction, fears more the mobilized masses fighting in the streets than the dictatorship that defends the interests of the bourgeoisie as a whole (including those of the MDC).**

There were conditions for the boycott of the electoral trap and to develop and extend the mass struggle for the revolutionary overthrow of the military dictatorship. This was proven by the huge battles of workers and exploited from different sectors, such as teachers, doctors and nurses, street vendors, who clashed in the streets with the government of Mnangagwa and the coup army.

**The bourgeoisie knew that a mass struggle in Zimbabwe could sweep away not only ZANU PF bourgeoisie, the murderous army and imperialism, but also the very same MDC bourgeoisie and its properties. That is why the MDC, which weeks before the elections based its campaign on the slogan “fraud or boycott”, called to order and pulled out the masses of the struggle in the streets who had been involved in heavy fighting against the military dictatorship and the pro-imperialist government of Mnangagwa. And it created false illusions that putting a ballot in the ballot box could overthrow the dictatorship and conquer the long-awaited “democracy”.**

In short, without the “sweet phrases” of MDC, which acted as an anesthetic to numb the masses and subject them to the electoral trap, the fraud would not have been carried forward. The role of MDC was to legitimize the elections, by participating, and thus saving the military dictatorship, ZANU PF and the business of the capitalists and the IMF that comes to collect the 9,000 million dollars of fraudulent foreign debt and deepen the famine and misery of millions of rural and urban poor who survive today in Zimbabwe.

But the MDC was not alone when subjecting the masses to the electoral trap. He had the help of **ZCTU bureaucracy and the leaders of ISO, who instead of coordinating the dozens of workers and popular struggles that fought against the infamous dictatorship, campaigned for MDC; they called to vote for it telling workers that they would bring “democracy”.** But the MDC only brought, once again, the perpetuity of the dic-

tatorship of the coup militants and ZANU PF in power. So ZCTU bureaucracy and the leadership of ISO, **endorsing, legitimizing and being part of the fraud**, allowed the MDC to make the country governable in favor of the military dictatorship and the ZANU PF who had been totally in crisis and cornered by the rebellious masses that fought against hunger, unemployment and repression and threatened to sweep away this infamous regime that governs the service of the imperialist pirates.

That is why Mnangagwa, recovering the “governability” granted by MDC in complicity with ZCTU and ISO, can announce now to the bourgeois media (in his new role as president) the *“end of two measures: the law of “indigenization”, which forced foreign companies to transfer at least 51% of their capital to local black investors; and the embargo of farms belonging to white businessmen”.* **This was the electoral trap and the subsequent fraud in the elections, to ensure a new handing over of Zimbabwe to the plundering of imperialist pirates and white masters who from the hand of the rich black bourgeoisie are left with all the riches of our soils and deepen the slavery of our people.**

## **After the electoral trap and fraud: a bloodbath of the military against the people**

After the results that ZEC made public, layers of the exploited who hate ZANU PF and the coup army and sectors of supporters of MDC, marched through the streets of the main cities of the country. But in Harare the army stationed in the street opened fire on the demonstrators, killing 6 protesters, 3 in the streets and 3 finally died in hospital. Today the military is, as in a state of siege, patrolling the streets.

MDC uses these demonstrations to negotiate its place in the current regime and the new government. It does not care about the blood of the exploited. Unfortunately, the leaders of the trade union and the workers and popular organizations, before the brutal attack of the army against the democratic freedoms, call to be “*calm*” and to “*preserve life*”, to “*not go out into the streets until the situation return to normal.*” When the bullets of the executioners of the people and the impacts against the bodies of the exploited are heard, it is time to call the masses to set up the Self-Defence Committees and workers and popular militias, get the weapons, to dissolve the police, and to call the rank and file soldiers to break with the army officers caste and set up their own committees to join the people with their



Mnangagwa's electoral campaign

arms. The pacifism of the collaborationist leaderships with the bourgeoisie is paid dearly by the poor, who are shedding their blood in the land of Zimbabwe.

## **To denounce election rigging the electoral scam in the "Constitutional Court" of ZANU PF and the military:**

### **A new step of the MDC in the legitimization of the regime of fraud and the military dictatorship**

**MDC endorsed the fraud scheme with the electoral trap, and keeps doing it so,** even though it complains, while allowing groups of the people -including their own supporters- unarmed and defenseless to clash in public demonstrations with the army, fully armed and who do not hesitate to shoot. Now, after not having signed in ZEC the conformity of the electoral result, they say that they **will appeal to the Constitutional Court that is also directed by ZANU PF and the army.**

This is an unusual cynicism, is a new deception to the workers and the people by this party that applauded and supported the coup of the military against Mugabe and told the people that "the dictatorship could give free and democratic elections." So MDC seeks to give a twist to the legitimacy of electoral fraud and prevent workers and the exploited from uniting, put up their bodies fit for political struggle and taking to the streets, leaving the army, sweeping the dictatorship and opening the road to the workers' and socialist revolution to recover the land, break with the IMF and conquer true national independence.

## **The bureaucracy of ZCTU and ISO leaders called to vote the MDC and ended up legitimizing the electoral trap and fraud**

ZCTU's leaders, workers' organizations and ISO said that MDC would conquer "*more democracy and spaces for the advancement of the working class*", and they refused to coordinate different struggles and called to vote for this bourgeois party. Thus they prevented **the working class from the fights of the miners, the state workers, the teachers and nurses, the students and the street workers, regroup their forces in a Congress of the lower ones and with strikes, pickets and general strike: boycott of the electoral trap and a leap in the struggle to win over the poor peasants and to rise as the leader of the oppressed nation, crush the caste of coup officers, overthrow the pro-imperialist dictatorial regime and raise power of the exploited.**

Let's tell the truth, these leaders -supporting the bourgeois MDC- stole the victory to the workers and the people; and they have saved -for the moment- a bourgeoisie in crisis besieged by the masses who fought for bread, work, land, dignity and freedom.

**The struggle to sweep the dictatorship and conquer the most basic democratic demands must be in the safe hands of the working class and the exploited.**

As we have already stated in previously, **we reaffirm that the democratic freedoms, subjugated at every step by the governments of the capitalists and imperialism, are conquered and defended with the methods of the working class struggle: the strikes, the pickets, the general strike, fighting in the streets and revolution itself. We affirm that bourgeois "democrats" of the MDC and the dictatorship come out of the same**

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**International  
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cesspool called capitalist system with its hunger and slavery bosses and imperialism looting the oppressed peoples.

Bread, freedom and national independence are conquered with the working class leading all the exploited and oppressed sectors of Zimbabwe. Only the working class breaking with the bosses and their parties can guarantee national independence and the most elementary democratic freedoms for the people.

We insist, the Socialists would not hesitate a second to fight this or that specific point in action with any current, including bourgeois, who want to fight for democratic freedoms or face even at a point to the plundering of the nation by imperialism. But none of this did -or does- MDC that yesterday only called for perfecting and **MAKING MORE BELIEVABLE THE ELECTORAL FRAUD**, looking for the legitimacy of the constitutional court. If MDC wanted it could have called for a generalized struggle of the people to defeat the military dictatorship and the electoral fraud. This is the most minimal and democratic struggle that is being held today in Zimbabwe. **But all MDC does is to put the masses on their knees before the regime of the dictatorship and appropriate the struggle for the most elementary democratic demands.**

**THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE:  
the working class must break out  
with its own methods of struggle  
against the military dictatorship and  
the infamous regime...**

**ZCTU, the workers' organizations  
and those who call themselves  
"socialist" like the ISO, must break  
with MDC and the bourgeoisie,  
and now a national congress  
of workers, students and poor  
peasants call right!**

The working class must break into this political crisis independently. The struggle against the dictatorship is once again in the hands of the workers, that we cannot allow this pro-imperialist and anti-worker regime to continue to be strengthened and legitimized by fraudulent elections. That is why **all organizations that claim to defend and represent workers as ZCTU, PTUZ or ISO must break with the parties of the bourgeoisie** and must convene a large National Congress with delegates of employed and unemployed workers and the exploited sectors of the people so that the working class can prepare the best conditions to fight for bread, work and against imperialist looting. **We need to conquer a**



August 1<sup>st</sup>: Bloody crackdown in Harare after the electoral fraud

**revolutionary general strike to defeat this repressive government, its electoral trap and end the plundering of imperialism and the IMF of the nation!**

*To defeat the murderous military dictatorship, electoral fraud and the IMF that supports it...*

**General revolutionary strike!**

*We must stop the massacre that began and has already claimed the lives of 6 exploited*

**Self-defence committees and worker and popular militia! Dissolution of the police! By rank and file soldiers committees!**

**Down with the military dictatorship and its corrupt electoral board! Out with IMF and transnationals! They are the fraud!**

**Provisional revolutionary government of the trade union and the poor peasants!**

Free and sovereign national assembly of Zimbabwe without corrupt judges, without murderous police and without coup generals all agents of the transnationals, IMF and capitalists!

The fight against imperialism, Anglo-American and transnationals belongs to the working class and the poor peasants of all Southern Africa!

**For a Bantu Republic, working and socialist!**

**WIL FROM ZIMBABWE**

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## Zimbabwe

August 18th, 2018

The policy of "Real Democracy" in Southern Africa

ISO, like the trade union bureaucracy of ZCTU,  
submitted the working class to one of its executioners:

**They called to vote for MDC and legitimized the electoral  
fraud and the dictatorial regime of Zimbabwe**

ISO in its post-election result balancesheet (published on 08/05) only deepens the evidence, shamelessly, of its open support to capitalists of Zimbabwe (starting with the imperialist pirates who are the most important fraction in every semicolonial country), by supporting the bourgeoisie of MDC and kneeling before the infamous regime of the military dictatorship and ZANU PF, legitimized and sustained by MDC supporting the electoral fraud with the full collaboration of these wrongly called "socialists".

ISO wanted to show this policy of submission of the proletariat to the bourgeoisie as an alleged struggle for "democracy". This was a complete deception, since MDC said that it had enough strength to "make the country ungovernable", i.e. to overthrow the military dictatorship. On the contrary, what MDC did, supported by ISO, was making the country "governable" again for the military dictatorship and ZANU PF, which were beginning to be cornered by enormous mass battles in the last couple of months; struggles that trade union leaders left isolated. This shows that calling to vote



Chamisa, MDC's presidential candidate

for the "democratic" MDC, a direct agent of imperialism, for the sake of "fighting for democracy" was nothing but a detour so that, through the electoral trap, the military dictatorship and ZANU PF return to legitimize and save the pro-imperialist regime of Zimbabwe. This is what happens when those who call themselves "socialists" call to vote for bourgeois parties like the MDC.

By supporting MDC, -a party agent of imperialism, IMF, the transnationals that plunder Zimbabwe and supporter of the military dictatorship- ISO broke with

the most elementary class principles, and also with revolutionary Marxism, with which this current had broken many years ago. The policy of supporting the "democratic" bourgeoisie to fight for "democracy" is the same stale and false Stalinist theory of "two-stage revolution", which forced the proletariat to stop fighting for its own interests and to submit to the bourgeoisie to, in this case, in a first stage achieve the full functioning of bourgeois democracy, and once this goal has been achieved, to begin, in a second stage, the struggle for socialism. This is how Stalinism prevented the working class

in a thousand and one battles from achieving victory through the revolutionary struggle for the overthrow of bourgeois governments and regimes.

The working class of Zimbabwe has already achieved democratic conquests with its mobilization and struggle, and not by the divine grace of any party that, like MDC, boasted that it did not boycott the elections because it meant boycotting itself, since, they affirmed, "our triumph is secured". ISO proved to be the "socialists" of the Queen of England, which covered up MDC, the party of British Petroleum and Anglo-American to cheat and deceive the people.

The revolutionary socialists, the Trotskyists, intransigent enemies of capital and their representatives, fight under revolutionary banners. Fighting for them, we know that here or there we can wrest certain conquests from capitalists. They are not willing to yield even the slightest demand unless they see they can lose everything. Therefore, we affirm, as Trotsky did in the lessons of the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s: *"Always and everywhere, where the revolutionary workers are not strong enough to end the bourgeois regime, they have to defend even bourgeois democracy itself, against fascism, but, above all, they have to defend their own positions within bourgeois democracy."*

*However, the workers do not defend bourgeois democracy with the methods of bourgeois democracy (popular front, electoral blocks, government coalitions, etc.), but with their own methods: that is, with the methods of the revolutionary class struggle."* ("Against the defeatism in Spain", September 14, 1937 - Leon Trotsky).

From England, British SWP, ISO's mother party, gave the order to support MDC, the party of the transnationals and bankers of London. They work with the Labour Party of the Queen of Eng-

land in a common front. The same Labour Party, for decades, ruled England defending the interests of imperialism in all its colonies. Same old story... the order came from London.

There is no justification -or there cannot be- for calling workers to vote for their executioners. What happened here then? The workers of Zimbabwe must know the truth: what prompted ISO to promote this policy are the interests of a social-chauvinist current like British SWP. The order from London was to support MDC, a bourgeois party which defends the profits of England in Southern Africa. And the reason for this is because politics and the world economy today are marked by a fierce trade war, and each imperialist power -England in this case- moves its agents according to its needs, as we have just seen in Zimbabwe.

**The ISO and how to "justify" the unjustifiable, to deepen the submission of the combative vanguard to the "democratic" bourgeoisie that legitimizes the dictatorship of the military and ZANU PF**

ISO not only called to vote for MDC, that is to say for the bourgeoisie, but on its post-electoral balancesheet ensures that the elections have been beneficial for the exploited and that they have been a problem for the bourgeois regime. Saying this after the elections, with workers bleeding in the streets of Harare, is of an unbounded cynicism. ZANU PF remains in power. The military dictatorship has its power untouched. Meanwhile, MDC conquered parliamentarians to support, from the parliament, the government. ISO can no longer deceive anyone, not even its own members, who can-

not defend the indefensible, as it is to subject the working class to its executioner, the bourgeoisie.

ISO, in its electoral balance, then says: *"we promote the participation of the capitalist opposition led by Chamisa and MDC. We support MDC marches for free and fair elections and we call for a vote against Edgar Mnangagwa and Zanu PF and a tactical, critical but unconditional vote for Chamisa, "since" Mnangagwa-Chiwenga represented a deadly killing machine, proven in time, from the military junta that would lead to a ruthless neoliberal dictatorship."*

Some lines below it states what the reader should observe carefully. Without blushing, ISO states: *"The MDC, on the other hand, was ideologically the same (as the ZANU PF NdeR), it also supports a great neoliberal offensive against the workers, the peasants and the poor. But a state of MDC would be weaker."*

That is to say that according to the ISO "MDC supports a great neoliberal offensive" and affirms that "it would be weaker!". But if MDC wins the elections it would be a million times stronger to implement the "neoliberal offensive", and its aim is not disarming the murderous officer caste of the military dictatorship.

We are before a great lie, that is, a true fallacy: there is no country in the world -and mainly in the colonies and semi-colonies- where neoliberal offensives of the IMF (which has lent U\$ 9 billion from the nation) are made peacefully. And if the MDC had won, it would have done just what ZANU PF does today: killing the people with the army. **Enough with showing the executioners of the people as allies!**

The Socialists of the Queen of England cannot hide that they have a spurious and dirty agreement, ordered from London, with the bourgeois gang of MDC, agent of English imperialism.

But here the absurdities do not

end to justify the unjustifiable. In other paragraphs, ISO leaders state that *"an MDC government would also be the most effective way to expose the anti-worker, anti-peasant and anti-poor character of MDC and to end the false illusions that workers and young people have in that capitalist party."* They lie. ISO was the one who created illusions among workers calling to vote to MDC even knowing its "character". In addition, the workers did not need to make an experience with the executioner MDC to learn about their reactionary role, since they suffered it when this party governed with Mugabe and ZANU PF in 2008. In the history of the class struggle, we have heard everything, but something as sinister as what ISO affirms here is very difficult to find! It would be like telling a person that "to know how to torture a torturer you should let somebody torture you". **Only people who broke with socialism and moved to the bourgeoisie field are able to lead the working class to support one or the other of their executioners, knowing that both with MDC or ZANU PF, people would bleed, suffer hunger, misery, death and looting. ISO should stop calling itself a socialist!**

### **Out of the hands of ISO and its falsifications from Lenin and Marxism**

In an attempt to counteract the unmasking that we Trotskyists have been doing against the hard-working workers vanguard about the nefarious and treacherous policy of this current led the SWP from England, ISO defending its policy of support for the "democratic" bourgeoisie, pretends to call us "Ultra leftists", who fight for the political independence of the workers and for the regroupment of the forces of the exploited to **organize the boycott with the**

**revolutionary general strike to the electoral trap and the regime of the dictatorship, ZANU PF and MDC.** As we can see, even the bourgeoisie recognizes that there were enough conditions for a boycott of these fraudulent elections. The leadership of ZCTU had it within reach and could impose it in the only possible way, with the general strike and the methods of struggle of the working class.

To try to escape from the trap they imposed on the masses along with MDC and ZCTU bureaucracy, ISO quotes Lenin's work: "Ultra Leftism, the Communist Childhood Illness", falsifying it and taking away all its revolutionary content. Zimbabwean workers should know that the discussion that Lenin made in this work was against those who refused to allow the revolutionary party to use the electoral and parliamentary tribune (a question denied in Zimbabwe where the working class is banned without being able to participate with their own organizations), to promote the revolutionary mobilization of the great masses against the bourgeois order. **Lenin -against what ISO wants to invent- would have never thought for a second call to support a bourgeois party like the Russian Kadet Party of those times; as today ISO does calling to vote for the bourgeois of MDC.**

Could ISO leadership tell when, whether in the Duma of the Tsar or in the soviets of '17, the Bolsheviks called to vote for the Kadet Party? If there is anything that distinguishes Bolshevism, it was its intransigent struggle to separate the working class from the Kadet Party, that is, the liberal bourgeois gang associated with the Tsar. Not to mention the fight to expel the Kadet Party from the provisional government in the February and October 1917 revolution, while the Mensheviks -that is, the social-imperialists- supported it to govern, just like ISO today. What was the

excuse of these traitors? The same one as the ISO: march with the Kadet Party to "conquer democracy"... when the masses had already conquered it in the streets and in the struggle, setting up the Soviets.

The same thing happened in 1905, a year of revolutionary struggle of the working class against Tsarism. Then, the Bolsheviks, who many times called to participate in Tsar's Duma to fight to separate workers from bourgeois influence of the Kadet Party (MDC), called for the boycott of the elections. The crisis of tsarism was already open. The Tsar was trying to get legitimized with parliamentary elections. The Kadet Party participated. Workers boiled with hatred against Tsarism. This is what Lenin affirmed on the elections to the Duma in full revolutionary boom: *"The revolutionary social democracy of Russia understood very well the true character of this concession, of this gift of a phantom Constitution made in August of 1905. Therefore it immediately launched the slogans of Down with the Advisory Duma! Boycott to the Duma! Down with the tsarist government! Let's keep the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the government! It is not the Tsar, but a revolutionary provisional government who must call the first genuinely popular representative institution of Russia!"* ("Report on the Revolution of 1905", January 22, 1917 - Lenin).

Precisely this is the policy that refused to support ISO of Zimbabwe and the one that we, the Trotskyists of WIL, drive: boycott the elections, where the Kadet Party (MDC) tries to legitimize the Tsar (military dictatorship), at a time when the working class tends to generalize a masses uprising to overthrow it.

In order to be clear, this happens in Zimbabwe, where the dictatorship moves the elections for fear that the masses will sweep it away with their combats and the

general strike. To do this, it calls MDC, ZCTU bureaucracy and ISO to endorse this attempt to divert the revolutionary mass struggle to a real trap.

We will continue to unmask ISO so that there is not a single worker deceived by this current sustaining the bourgeoisie, enemy of Marxism and proletarian revolution.

In other paragraphs of its electoral balancesheet, and after the military junta came out to defend the fraud with the army by shooting 6 exploited, this current says: *"But the brutal murders have also exposed the board. It is a naked killing machine. Any illusion that they are friends with the people after November coup has disappeared. Young people, workers, vendors and even the middle classes are full of anger. It's like after the Bloody Sunday massacres in Russia in 1905, where the Tsar's forces killed 2,000 demonstrators. The former priest Gapon –supporter of the Tsar- then exclaimed: "Russia does not have a Czar but a dictator". The Russian Revolution of 1905 began."*

First, workers have been full of anger for a long time, as it was proven by the hard struggles of different sectors of the working class, students and poor people. This anger, which in its interior carried the flame of the revolutionary struggle, as we saw, was intended to be shut down by ISO

when it called to vote for MDC, at the time that the conditions were right to, around the fight against the electoral trap, centralize the dispersed combats and put an end to the dictatorship of the army with the methods of struggle of the proletariat, which was the only way to conquer democratic liberties for the exploited.

But the analogy posed by ISO leadership with the experience of 1905 is typical of a charlatan who does not even know how to lie seriously. The 1905 uprising of the workers of St. Petersburg, led by priest Gapon, by the character of their struggle, by the class that carried it forward (the working class) and by the objective it had (to conquer the bread) was the first step of the beginning of a socialist revolution, which led the masses to set up the soviets, that is, a commune-type organism. Very quickly the demagoguery of priest Gapon, who requested bread to "father Tsar", was left behind. The priests, crucifixes were left behind, and a great revolution of workers and soldiers began. Just when this process opens, the Bolsheviks propose a boycott of the Duma elections. The boycott was a slogan that made it easier for the masses to fight for the overthrow of the Tsar.

ISO did the opposite in Zimbabwe. It did not help the masses or break with the Kadet Party or with

priest Gapon, but subjected them to these to support the Tsar. The truth is that the "enlightened" socialist teachers of such a low level already seem despotic repeating vulgarities of the history of Marxism. Nor do they know the historical events as they developed. The intelligence of the advanced workers of Zimbabwe, let alone the socialist rank and file members of ISO, cannot be offended in this way.

### **Marxist strategy: defend democracy with the working class' revolutionary struggle methods**

ISO lies. It was posed as never before in the history of Zimbabwe, by the fearsome workers' combativeness, the unemployed workers and students, the fight for the boycott of the electoral trap and the beginning of the revolution as a starting point to conquer the minimum democratic demands that the dictatorship has been denying the people for decades. ISO once used Trotskyism to pose as a socialist. But the workers of Zimbabwe need to know that their policy is based on the perverse lessons and pseudo-theories of Stalinism.

For Trotskyism and revolutionary Marxism, the fundamental democratic tasks in semi-colonial or colonial countries are the same resolved by the bourgeois revolutions of 1700 and 1800, that is, agrarian reform and national independence, in this case, breaking with the imperialism. It draws attention when ISO talks about "democracy" that never refers to the structural democratic demands that are set out to be solved in countries subject to imperialism. As the theory of permanent revolution proposes, these democratic tasks, in the epoch of decay of the capitalist system, that is, in its imperialist phase, can only be solved integrally and effectively by the



Thousands in the streets of Zimbabwe

alliance of workers and poor peasants, who by seizing power and breaking with the bourgeoisie will lead them to victory by combining them inevitably with socialist tasks. The native bourgeoisies have long been more afraid of the mobilized and armed proletariat than of imperialism, of which they are junior partners. That is what the policy of ISO is about, to associate with the junior partners of imperialism in the plundering of oppressed peoples.

But even to fight for bourgeois formal democratic tasks, ISO falsifies Marxism and applies a pro-bourgeois policy of class collaboration. Let's see how revolutionary Marxism deals with the fight for democratic freedoms when it is necessary to defend them so that the proletariat is in a better position to organize their struggle, or to face the bonapartist or semi-fascist attacks of the bourgeois regimes: *"Always and everywhere, where the revolutionary workers are not strong enough to end the bourgeois regime, they have to defend even bourgeois democracy itself, against fascism, but, above all, they have to defend their own positions within bourgeois democracy. However, the workers do not defend bourgeois democracy with the methods of bourgeois democracy (popular front, electoral blocks, government coalitions, etc.), but with their own methods: that is, with*

*the methods of the revolutionary class struggle.*" ("Against the defeatism in Spain", September 14, 1937 - Leon Trotsky).

**On the tactic of the boycott and the Marxist strategy of the struggle to make way for the revolution of the exploited masses against capitalists, their government, state and murderous regime**

When the ISO attacks internationalist revolutionary socialists for calling to defeat the electoral trap, it does so to defend its servility towards the "democratic" bourgeoisie. Because on elections, there are other possible policies of parliamentary intervention to, according to Lenin, develop the extra-parliamentary mass struggle. ISO did the opposite. It used its electoral intervention to call to support the bourgeoisie, and it was far from using it to prepare and organize the struggles of the working class and as we can see, it submitted it to the bourgeoisie.

But for Marxists there are other alternatives for intervention in electoral processes, when the masses are able to overcome these traps and deceptions, driven by their unseen sufferings and the loss of prestige of the institutions of domination, such as the boycott

of the elections.

As we saw, even MDC said that it had conditions to *"make the country ungovernable"*. Bourgeoisie itself said that there were enough conditions for the boycott of the elections, but as we saw, it was very careful not to do so, because it endangered the domination of imperialism and the entire bourgeoisie and its institutions in Zimbabwe.

Not only it exists the experience of the boycott of elections in tsarist Russia in 1905 by the Bolsheviks, but also an experience of this kind was raised by Trotskyism and the Fourth International at the beginning of the 1930s in republican Spain, when, after the electoral triumph of the republicans in the municipal elections, the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera calls to elections to Cortes (the parliament of the king). Let's see what the Trotskyists were saying at the time: *"The Communists quite evidently made a mistake in not taking the initiative in the boycott. Only the Communists, at the head of the revolutionary workers, could have given the boycott campaign a bold and militant character. The moods for boycott, nevertheless, are evidently very widespread in the opposition parties and are a reflection and a symptom of the profound ferment in the depths of the people. The latest telegrams seem to confirm the fact that the republicans and socialists have come out in favor of the boycott. If the Communists had subjected them to their whip in time, it would have been much more difficult for them to reject the boycott. In the meantime, Berenguer has bound himself and his government up very tightly with the elections of March 1. Had the boycott compelled Berenguer to make some retreat or another, it would have had gigantic consequences in the sense of raising time revolutionary consciousness of the masses, particularly if the leaders of this boycott tactic were the Communists"* ("Letters to Nin", February 5, 1931 - Leon Trotsky).



Demonstration of the ZCTU

As we can see, ISO was far from trying to hit the “democrats” and “republicans”, kneeled before them, and subjected the masses to the “Cortes” of the military dictatorship.

The struggle of WIL Trotskyists, not only hit the “democrats”, but also the leadership of ISO and ZCTU, which had to go out to answer us publicly. Regrettably, ISO was far from a revolutionary position, since, if it had had it, we could have hit together ZCTU leadership and open the way together to the general strike and the boycott of the elections.

On this experience, in another letter to Nin, Trotsky says: *“The political experience of the Berenguer period shows that the proletarian party must take a firm stand in favor of the boycott of the Admiral’s Cortes (Aznar TN). The socialists, the republicans, run the risk of abandoning the boycott positions that they currently occupy if they are not continuously flogged by the left (...) We should launch the slogan of the active boycott; this would mean that we not only refrain from taking part in the elections, but we also develop an aggressive offensive against the falsely constituent Courts through popular meetings, proclamations, demonstrations, denunciations of the candidates for the elections, etc. I believe that the tactic of active boycott would allow the creation of boycott workers’ committees that could be transformed into workers’ juntas at the opportune moment”* (“Letters to Nin”, February 15, 1931 - Leon Trotsky).

### **The refraction in Southern Africa of international politics of Syriza, PODEMOS and the New Left**

ISO expresses the positions that the New Left raises at the international level led by PODEMOS and Syriza. A New Left that comes to deceive the world’s workers at a

time when the old leadership of the exploited, such as the World Social Forum, is plunged into history by killing and massacring the workers, as in Bolivia, Venezuela, and Nicaragua and supporting the genocide in Syria.

As we have already said, **the New Left does nothing but raising the policy of Stalinism and its false theory of progressive bourgeois camps versus reactionary bourgeois camps** (the «democratic» against the «fascists», the «nationalists» against the «imperialists»), **used to subject the working class to the so-called «democratic» bourgeois fraction**, which in Africa gave birth to all the current regimes that emerged from the expropriation of the anti-colonial revolutionary struggles of the exploited. **Denying in this way the struggle for the political independence of the workers and the task of the proletarian revolution as a measure to reach the minimum demands of the masses.**

There are many examples. LIT and its group in Colombia called to vote for Petro: a delivery of the Colombian workers and peasant resistance supported by the businessmen of Antioquia, one of the bourgeois sectors linked to the strongest imperialism in Colombia. Or ISO party in England, British SWP, which calls to support Corbyn of the Labour Party, as its candidate. This party that has already ruled England and administered the business of the British imperialist transnationals, such as the AngloAmerican, which super-exploits, plunders and torments the workers of Southern Africa. Or as FIT does (PO, PTS and IS) in Argentina, where they are responsible for the diversion of the struggles of the working class and the exploited to a policy of pressure on the bourgeois parliament, where the “deputies of left” present bills agreed with bourgeois parties.

### **Workers and revolutionary students of Zimbabwe and Southern Africa: let’s fight together under the banner of recovering the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution**

That is why the WIL internationalist revolutionary socialists (adherents of the FLTI) declare before the masses a merciless political struggle to the New Left that wants to impose the program of Stalinism in support of “progressive bourgeois”, and we call the conscious workers to break with these currents that support bourgeois factions, and to embrace the struggle to recover the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution.

In the proletarian vanguard there are two clear trenches: on one hand the New Left and its Stalinist program of submission to different bourgeois fraction; and on the other hand there is the one of the Trotskyists, revolutionary workers and the militant youth that we fight under the theory-program of the Permanent Revolution of Leon Trotsky, which states: *“With regard to countries with a belated bourgeois development, especially the colonial and semi-colonial countries, the theory of the permanent revolution signifies that the complete and genuine solution of their tasks of achieving democracy and national emancipation is conceivable only through the dictatorship of the proletariat as the leader of the subjugated nation, above all of its peasant masses.”*

To move forward in this struggle, we call on the revolutionary workers of Zimbabwe to organize ourselves to win the leadership that our class deserves and needs in order to succeed.

Revolutionary workers of black Africa: let’s start our work!

**JULIÁN JUÁREZ, MEMBER OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
OF THE FLTI**

# Workers uprising in Zimbabwe

As the Yellow Vests in France...

January 14th, 2019

The workers and the poor took to the streets imposing a 3-day general strike against the rise in the prices of fuel, the increase in the costs of living and the plans of starvation and misery of the military dictatorship of Mnangagwa and ZANU-PF, under the IMF's commands.

The government responded with a brutal repression, imprisoning and persecuting house by house the workers fighters and leaders.

## Out with the military dictatorship! Revolutionary general strike until Mnangagwa falls!

**Z**imbabwe: from all major cities and towns on Monday engaged in a collective mass protest against the increased fuel price, collapsing economy and high cost of living.

In Harare protestors flooded the streets calling for the economy to be fixed.

In Bulawayo all roads leading to the Central Business District were closed with commuter Omnibuses parked. Any car that carried people was stopped by protestors and drivers beaten. School children were turned on their way to school and told to go back home.

The masses demand: "No to fuel price hikes!" "No to exploitive taxes!" "No to corruption!" and "Unity in the struggle!"

We call for a general strike until Mnangagwa falls, to set up self-defence committees, for the rank and file soldiers to set up their committees and disobey the generals and not to repress the people. We call for a congress of all workers organizations now.



For a provisional revolutionary government of workers and poor peasants, based on the struggling masses!

WORKERS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (WIL) OF ZIMBABWE

January 16th, 2019

## The revolutionary general strike continues for the third day

The government launches a brutal repression and persecution on the workers organizations and vanguard fighters

**I**n Zimbabwe, the rebellion of the exploited has started. The government of Mnangagwa and the ZANU-PF has launched a brutal attack on the unions and the workers fighters to try to stop this huge mass offensive. There are 5 dead already, at the hands of the repression of the murderous police. The armed forces started to arrest and they seek house by house the activists and vanguard fighters that came out to the streets. The government has cut internet in the entire Zimbabwe.

From the Workers International League (WIL) we denounce that the government, as part of this attack, has been brutal with the socialist revolutionaries that were and are part of this mass struggle.

We call on all the unions and workers organizations in Southern Africa and the world to have solidarity actions with the workers and the people in Zimbabwe, against the repression of the government of Mnangagwa and the military dictatorship, servant of imperialism.

Out with the military dictatorship of Zimbabwe! Out with the IMF and its plan of starvation, hikes in fees, plunder and dismissals! For self-defence committees to defend ourselves from repression! The rank and file soldiers must not repress the people. For struggle committees of workers, peasants and soldiers!

The general strike until the government falls is underway!... now, let the revolt turn into revolution!

WIL

January 17th, 2019

## Stop police and military brutality in Zimbabwe!

Zimbabwean government has with immediate effect directed that civil servants be awarded a cushioning allowance of between 22.7 percent and 5 percent per month on a sliding scale between January and March. But the civil servants are refusing it, saying it is nothing. They want more than that, or to be paid in US dollars.

As it stands, Zimbabwe is under a silent state of emergency, and martial law is now in effect.

Today in Harare and some parts of the country, there was no public transport, only private cars, few shops opened but closed early. Schools are on shutdown since Monday.

The violent crackdown of workers by the military and police continues and

the subsequent shutting down of the internet. Police and soldiers are moving from house to house and assaulting people in their homes.

Let's set up self-defence committees and worker's and peasants militia! For rank and file soldiers committees! Long live the revolutionary general strike! For a provisional revolutionary government of workers and poor peasants, based on the struggling masses!

The liberation of the workers will be



the task of workers themselves!

Down with the military dictatorship!  
Out with the government of Mnangagwa and ZANU-PF!

WIL

January 22th, 2019

The military dictatorship continues to persecute the leaders of the workers organizations and activists

## Free all those imprisoned for fighting!

Nearly a week after a 3 day general strike, with fighting in the streets, where the masses faced the fuel price hike and the starvation misery plans of the IMF, the government of Mnangagwa of ZANU-PF continues with the brutal repression. Not only they sent the police to suppress the masses in the streets on the days of strike, leaving 5 dead. The army keeps raiding every house looking for the leaders and activists that were and are part of the fights against this government of the military dictatorship, servant of imperialism. They have detained the president and the secretary general of ZCTU trade union federation, the president of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union, comrade Masaraure, Civil Society Leaders and hundreds of so many activists and leaders of other workers organizations. Immediate and unconditional freedom to all of them now!

The country is militarized. In Zimbabwe a military dictatorship rules, which has now taken the army to the streets, to persecute the workers and popular fighters. You can be killed only for exercising your constitutional right to protest.

We, the internationalist socialist revolutionaries of the Workers International League of Zimbabwe, say that our country is a slave labour force open air concentration camp, totally militarized, where there is no democratic freedoms. This is Zimbabwe as an IMF colony, under the military dictatorship,

agent of imperialism and the transnational companies.

**Immediate unconditional release of all the leaders of the workers organizations that were arrested and those imprisoned for fighting!**

**Down with the military dictatorship! Out with the government of Mnangagwa and the ZANU-PF! Enough of governments of the imperialist transnational companies!**

Out with the IMF! Let's expropriate the transnationals and bankers without compensation and under workers' control!

**Let's set up self-defence committees and workers and peasants militias! Rank and file soldier committees to disregard the murderous officers! For committees of factory, of poor peasants, of rural workers, of unemployed and of vendors to be coordinated by town, city and region! Set up the power of those from the below, the broadest exploited majority of Zimbabwe! Revolutionary general strike until Mnangagwa falls! For a provisional revolutionary government of the workers and poor peasants, based on the struggling masses!**

The liberation of the workers will be the task of workers themselves!

WIL

## Idai cyclone

# NATURE MADE TORRENTIAL RAIN... BUT THE BOSS POLITICIANS AND THE BANKERS WHO PLUNDER THE NATION ARE RESPONSIBLE OF DEATHS AND DESTRUCTION

The province of Manicaland of which the city of Mutare is the provincial capital has been severely affected by cyclone Idai, which came from Mozambique, where left a thousand death and workers neighbourhoods flooded, with the workers losing their houses. Workers International League is greatly disturbed and concerned by the extent of the cyclone which in Zimbabwe also have left thousands homeless due to the hundreds of thousands of destroyed houses, dozens of dead and missing people. Nature made torrential rain... but the boss politicians and the bankers who plunder the nation are responsible for the deaths and destruction.

The capitalist parasites build royal buildings for them and the workers and people are under water!

However, hurt as we are, as WIL we feel it is a time to act in order to lessen the pain and burden of the affected.

The districts of Chimanimani, Chipinge, and Mutare have been the worst affected. However, Chimanimani has been bourn the worst brunt of the cyclone.

Chimanimani and Chipinge remain cut off and inaccessible by road as roads and bridges have been destroyed leaving people vulnerable and at the mercy of unrelenting cyclone.

Disaster management in Zimbabwe is in itself a disaster. Today we only see crocodile tears. Trial and punishment to all the politicians responsible of the death of the workers, students and the people. The people affected, the working class and all the exploited, must take in their hands the resolution of their problems. Supply Committees of public works under control of unions and labour organisations.

Out with the men of the boss political parties. From schools, with teachers and labour organizations, let's set up commissions to help the victims and organise a great struggle to conquer the basic demands of bread, jobs, decent education and the right not to die, or lose an entire working due to Cyclone Idai perfectly avoidable.

Diseases that can occur as a result of the cyclone are perfectly avoidable. Organisations of workers and victims must fight to set up first all private clinics, health insurance and public hospitals to unconditionally disposition and for free at the service of victims and the popular sectors ruined by Cyclone Idai. Medicine and free medical care and excellence for all!

They brought the army and police to rescue the people. They put the repressors of the people while they show crocodile tears. We are tired of these crocodile tears by ZANU-PF with its leader Munangagwa who chose to fly out of the country leaving people dying. What Mnangagwa government is doing is a siege against the masses,



if they revolt against such an unfair situation. Enough of these crocodile tears. We've lost 50 people in the Battlefield Mine Disaster. More than 88 lives now lost in the #CycloneIdai with hundreds reportedly missing. Sadly, the government was warned in advance but they ignored the call.

For an Emergency Workers Plan to organize and make effective the attention to all the affected and start a Public Works Plan to rebuild all the houses of the workers and the infrastructure destroyed by Idai!

Declare the State of Catastrophe and seize the banks to put them at disposition of this plan at the service of all the workers and the exploited affected by the cyclone!

Expropriation without compensation of the transnational companies that plunder Zimbabwe, to recover the wealth for the poor and place them under workers control! Do not pay the foreign debt, with which the IMF and the imperialist pirates plunge the country into misery! Those are the funds to rebuild houses, schools and hospitals that were destroyed.

We call for the unity of the working class and the exploited of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, which were also severely affected by the cyclone and left on their own by their imperialist-lackey government.

Let the crisis be paid by the capitalists, transnational companies and bankers.