

# International WORKERS' ORGANISER

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*The documents presented here (articles, campaigns and resolutions) have been adopted by the Foundation Congress of the ILTF. They concentrate the Trotskyist policy on a key event of the world situation: Obama's arrival to presidency and the re-legitimization of the ruling power –USA-general staff. This event tests the policy and the programme of the revolutionaries. Plundering, wars and imperialist counter-revolution are disguising as Obama. All the misleaders led by the World Social Forum are subordinating the working class to the US imperialism policy of New Deal and Fascism. While the world working class is paying the consequences of this policy, the internationalist revolutionaries are fighting for the uprising of the US working class –the strongest battalion of the world proletariat- in the very heart of the imperialist beast, to lead a necessary international workers counter-offensive.*

## “International Workers’ Organizer”

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- Humanists for Revolutionary Socialism, of USA

## ON UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# THE CAPITALIST PIRATES ARE DISGUIISING AS OBAMA



## HEART OF THE BEAST

Resolution on the USA  
of the Foundation Congress of the ILTF. July 2009.

*Workers of General Motors,  
occupy and take control of your workplace!*



**Call of the ILTF**

**WE ARE ALL MUMIA**



# THE CAPITALIST PIRATES ARE DISGUISED AS OBAMA

*This article was originally signed by the International Coordination and Action Secretariat of the FLT and published in "Democracia Obrera" # 32, publication of the LOI (CI) of Argentina in November, 2008. And it was approved and adopted as official position by the Foundation Congress of the ILTF in July, 2009.*

## THE CRISIS OF THE WORLD CAPITALIST SYSTEM

The crisis of the imperialist capitalist world economy has become global. The recession with price inflation and loss of jobs is already here. Billions of dollars evaporate as banks and share markets collapse. The failures of banks and investment funds are merely the symptom of a bankrupt system. All the fictitious capital represented by shares, futures, currency in circulation in the computers of the bourgeois state, banks, investment funds, corporations, amounts to fourteen trillion dollars that has no value. US dollars are not backed up by real commodities or assets; they are backed by the U.S. state treasury and the military. Real value can only be produced by human labour, the labour of the productive working class. The capitalist crisis appears in order to destroy the productive forces and wealth so that the profit rate can be restored. \$4 trillion dollars over five years spent on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as the profits of the US military-industrial monopolies. \$140 billion dollars for Exxon –not counting the other imperialist oil or the vultures of Halliburton, Cheney Co – thanks to the "war for oil"!

The masses of the world are already paying for the crisis, through the actions of the reformers. In the U.S., the working class was betrayed by the union bureaucracy of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win and suffers losses to their wages, pensions and many other past gains won by workers. The mass anti-imperialist struggle that arose in the streets against the war, and for immigrant rights, was diverted into votes for Obama and the Democratic Party by the reformist left which sows illusions that there is a "democratic" and "pacifist" imperialism. In Europe the union bureaucracies betray the working class with social pacts.



*The two faces of the "Republicrats": Obama and Bush*

In Latin America, it is the phony "Bolivarian revolution" that has diverted and contained the revolutionary and anti-imperialist struggles that have arisen in the new century. The reformists have not yet managed to extinguish the fire of revolution and wars against imperialism, as in Bolivia, Colombia or the Middle East. But they seek to contain them in anti-imperialist and counterrevolutionary "united fronts" such as Chavez and Morales in Latin America, or the Islamic Hamas and Hezbollah in the Middle East.

The crisis reveals that the capitalist imperialist system is rotten and bankrupt before the eyes of billions of exploited around the globe. The system that oppresses the masses has lost all legitimacy in the eyes of millions of wage slaves. The government of the murderer Bush and the "Republicrat" regime and the imperialist powers in Europe and Japan that are fighting the war in Afghanistan and all imperialist monopolies profiting from the war, appear before the masses as what they truly are: genocidal murderers of more than one million Iraqis, more than half a million Afghans, 10s of thousands of Palestinians, and the jailers of thousands of political prisoners around the globe.

The veil had been torn away, showing that the world is dominated by the US, European and Japanese imperialists, claiming to be "democrats" but in essence capitalist dictators like Hitler. All of them deserve a Nuremberg to condemn them for genocide!

The apologists of capitalism had promoted years of economic expansion, with several "centres of production" working together in a "harmonious" global economy. When the crisis erupted, the parasitic capitalists were totally unprepared. Bewildered, the bourgeois cried "everyone for himself". This only served to deepen their unmasking before the working class. The masses of the world can see that today, without any veils to hide behind, "the king is naked". The declining imperialist system only survives by exploiting the masses and threatening the entire human civilization. Today, it is clearer than ever, that for the exploited and oppressed peoples of the world to live, the capitalist system must die.

The US imperialists support the election of Obama to try to hide the hideous face of a rotten capitalist system of capitalism from the masses of the world. Its purpose is to put a new black face on the rotten corpse to re-legitimize

US "democracy" in the eyes of the U.S. and world working masses. So, get ready for new wars and counter-offensives against the masses by the imperialist parasites, led by their new fresh black-faced Obama.

### **THE VICTORY OF OBAMA IS A FRAUD AGAINST THE U.S. WORKING MASSES**

The result of the US election on November 4 put the seal on the ruling class expropriation of the anti-imperialist struggle of the U.S. working class. This was achieved through the "democratic" imposition of a fraud against the masses. The election of Obama is a trap for all the exploited of the world. We no longer see the real face of the warmongering imperialist capitalism facing a major crisis. Instead we see Obama who holds out to the masses the promise of "change" and "we can".

In this way US imperialism tries to make the working class believe that the imperialist butchers can be "good" and that this rotten capitalist system can be "cleaned up". It is like the mass murderer turning up to the funeral of his victims dressed as a choir boy! Obama, with a new government, is sweet talking the U.S. working class' out of its crisis of confidence in capitalism – damping down the fires of an growing consciousness that Wall St exists only by exploiting Main St and sending its sons and daughters to die in imperialist wars. But there is no such thing as "clean", "peaceful" and "democratic" capitalism.

The war launched by the Bush administration and the oil cartel after the Twin Towers in 9-11-2001, was supported and sustained by both Republicans and Democrats. Together they voted for Bush's budget and war to destroy Afghanistan and Iraq and spark genocide in those two nations. Together they voted for the "Patriot Act" which marked a fierce attack on democratic freedoms of workers within the United States and outside the U.S. Together they voted for the tough anti-immigration laws. Then, recently, both voted to make the working class pay for the bailout of the major banks and financial institutions with nearly a trillion dollars. Thus they both collaborated in a massive attack on the US working class, cutting its living standards and removing its most basic democratic freedoms.

The Bush government backed by "republicrats" had the objective of occu-

pying Afghanistan, Iraq, then Iran, Russia and attack North Korea.

### **THE "REPUBLICRAT" WARS FOR OIL HAVE FAILED TO SMASH THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST RESISTANCE**

The reason why US imperialism needs a fresh black face to sell itself as peace-loving and democratic is that it has failed to win its genocidal wars for oil in the Middle East. The invasions and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq have failed to overcome the indomitable strength of Afghan and Iraqi resistance, and the heroic resistance of Palestinians of South Lebanon that humiliated and defeated the genocidal Zionist army of Israel backed by imperialism. This opened the danger of a Vietnam-type scenario developing which might arouse a strong anti-war movement in the US proletariat.

The failure of these costly wars was blamed on the Bush administration. To divert the awakening anti-war consciousness of the American working class a new face for US imperialism was needed. After 40 years of the black bourgeoisie expropriating the struggles of the masses of exploited blacks, U.S. imperialism brings one of their representatives to re-legitimate Yankee regime in the eyes of the American masses and to clean the blood on its hands. The objective was to stop the awakening of US working class from transforming in a revolutionary mass irruption.

Today the most politically advanced section of the US working class is made up of super-exploited immigrant workers of Latin American origin. In the 1960s and 1970s the vanguard was made up of the black labour movement. But US imperialism is very capable of dividing and ruling. While the vast majority of African-Americans were condemned to wage slavery, unemployment and poverty, a small minority were co-opted as a privileged black bourgeoisie. No doubt today US imperialism is busy co-opting a small segment of Latinos as a new bourgeoisie to play the same role of containing the masses. Meanwhile Obama's victory serves this purpose as is clear from the fact that while more than 90% of blacks voted for him, a big majority of Latinos also voted for him.

Obama is the mask of "democracy", "civil rights" and "solidarity with the

poor and minorities" in the United States. Behind this mask US imperialism will launch a fierce offensive against the masses and exploited peoples of the world to make us pay for the bankruptcy of the capitalist imperialist system. Using this democratic front, US imperialism will make alliances with the "progressive" national bourgeoisies to win advantages against its imperialist rivals at the expense of the poor masses as in Bolivia and the Middle East. Like its "democratic" mask at home, these alliances with "progressive" national leaders are temporary masks designed to contain the masses so that US imperialism can and its allies can prepare their counter-offensive.

### **OBAMA TRIES TO DEFEND US WORLD DOMINANCE FACING THE GLOBAL CRISIS**

Unlike Bush whose regime has lost its legitimacy before US and world workers, Obama has the prestige and authority to defend and extend US dominance over its rivals and the world working class. The imperialist bourgeoisies are in a panic facing the crisis and the crisis of legitimacy of the capitalist system. Bush, whose genocidal regime is exposed before the masses, says "we must save the system". Sarkozy, representative of one of the most reactionary bourgeoisies in history, says: "we must rebuild a new form of capitalism" to stop a "revolution on a global scale." Immediately, he was applauded and congratulated by Chavez and other "Bolivarian" parrots, who are working with Sarkozy as junior partners in the business of looting Latin America. In this way the "democratic" imperialists try to make the masses believe that the problem is "neo-liberalism" and not the rotten imperialist capitalist system. So, against "neo-liberalism", "comrade" Sarkozy and the "Bolivarians" want to build "another capitalism", to "renew", "re-found" etc., capitalism based on state management of the market, and at the same time to "re-found on new bases" the IMF, the G-7, the G-8, the G-20, the World Bank, etc.

Of course this is a deception of the workers. The imperialist states are not "refounding" capitalism when they "nationalize" bankrupt banks and businesses. This is nothing more than the old scam of nationalizing the losses of finance capital paid for by the masses, while at the same time guaranteeing

that the monopolies and parasites continue to expropriate the labour of the working masses –socialism for the bosses, capitalism for the workers.

### **TO COVER THEIR BANKRUPTCY AND REACTIONARY ATTACKS ALL THE IMPERIALIST LEADERS DRESS UP LIKE OBAMA**

In order for US imperialism to remain the dominant power it has to use Obama's victory to try to re-legitimize not only itself, but also the capitalist system as a whole before the masses of the world. Obama thus gives a veneer of legitimacy to all the imperialist states and their client states. The leaders of those countries that supported Bush lost the support of their people. Today they rush to be photographed hugging the "African American", "democratic" and "pacifist" Obama to regain popular legitimacy. All of the reactionary leaders including Sarkozy, Putin, Castro, Chavez, Morales, Kirchner, Ahmadinejad, Nasrallah etc., have greeted the victory of Obama and offered him their support, helping to strengthen the illusions of the masses of the world in their executioners.

Thus, the election of Obama is a temporary victory for imperialism all over the world. In presenting Obama as a "democratic" imperialist all the imperialist leaders can hide behind the wave of 'pacifist' and 'democratic' illusions generated by Obama. Obama's black face is intended to make the US working class accept increasing exploitation, massive layoffs, wage cuts and attacks on historic gains, and a brutal clamp-down on migrant workers. But this is not enough to rescue US imperialism; it must impose the same brutal attacks on the masses of the whole world. The US is ready to prepare new wars, new counter-revolutionary strikes against the world masses and oppressed people and more brutal disputes with its European and Japanese imperialist rivals.

Yet Obama must first and foremost legitimate US imperialism. Because to retain its political dominance US imperialism must make the exploited pay the costs of the global crisis of capitalism. And to do that it is necessary to increase their offensive against its imperialist rivals, in particular against France, to make its rivals shift the cost of the crisis on to their own workers. In this way Obama will attempt to revive US nationalism to unite the workers and the

imperialist bourgeoisie against the workers of the other imperialist and semi-colonial countries, so that the nation is united in new trade wars and new wars of occupation.

And last but not least, to rebuild its legitimacy with the masses in the US and around the world, it is necessary for US imperialism to guarantee the world financial system against the most serious crisis since the 1930s. The parasites of the world Finance capital see USA as the safer shelter. Obama will take the world stage with a world "New Deal" in which US finance capital will use the US state institutions to stabilize the global economy and retain its dominant imperialist rule. So today in the midst of the crisis, it is even clearer than in the previous short growth cycle, that far from being in "decline" or "losing its hegemony," the United States remains the dominant imperial power.

### **THE MASSES AROUND THE WORLD ARE ALREADY PAYING FOR THE CRISIS**

The masses of the world are already paying the crisis as the US and EU goes into a deep recession with 100s of thousands of jobs lost, homes foreclosed and pensions wiped out. 1 in 10 persons in the US is on food stamps. In these countries we can not rule out that deep recession will be combined with price inflation (stagflation) produced by the printing of tens of billions of dollars to pay for the imperialist state bailouts of finance capital. But in the semi-colonial nations, it is almost certain that looming recession will cause massive galloping inflation. In countries like Chile that is absolutely dependent on oil imports, or Venezuela, which imports most of the food it consumes, this will cause rapid cost of living increases.

For sure, imperialism can only solve its crisis in its own interests by stepping up the levels of plunder and looting of the resources and cheap labour of the semi-colonial and colonial nations. Now that U.S. and the imperialist powers are in a recession, the demand for gas, oil, minerals, and agricultural commodities is drastically reduced. Thus, in just a few weeks and months, the prices of these raw materials have almost halved. Oil decreased from US\$140 to US\$70 a barrel; soybeans fell from about US\$700 per ton last March, to around US\$300 today. The collapse of mineral prices has hit Bolivia, Peru, causing a big drop in

mining production, and hence loss of jobs and wages, and fuelling the revolutionary unrest of the masses. In Argentina, the capitalists have already launched a brutal attack on workers to save their falling profits by massive sackings and suspensions in industry, and by the devaluation of the peso and the resulting price inflation that is destroying workers living standards.

### **THE "BOLIVARIANS" MAKE THE WORKERS KNEEL BEFORE "DEMOCRATIC" IMPERIALISM**

The balance of power between the imperialist powers has been thrown into disarray by the global crisis. It is proved there is an overabundance of imperialist powers. Each imperialist power wants to solve its crisis by making its rivals pay for it. Disputes over control of markets, spheres of influence, and the sources of cheap raw materials and slave labour are intensifying. Under these conditions, Latin America is no longer exclusively a "backyard" of US imperialism. French, German, Spanish and Japanese imperialism, along with their national bourgeois junior partners, compete with the US and one another to extend their spheres of interest in the subcontinent.

They can do this only because the imperialists and their national bourgeois allies in Latin America have been supported by the actions of the treacherous reformist leaders grouped together in the World Social Forum who have suppressed the anti-imperialist and revolutionary struggles of the masses of the continent and contained them by means of popular front regimes. These reformist leaders have acted to subordinate the working classes and poor farmers to the "democratic" imperialists and the "Bolivarian" bourgeoisie. Thus, the reformist leaders subordinated the revolutionary upsurge of 2003-2005 in Bolivia to the government of Morales who then used the army to kill members of the miners' vanguard and enter into a series of pacts with the fascists of the landowning and mine-owning bourgeoisie.

In Venezuela the anti-imperialist struggle of the working class has been co-opted by Chavez government which enters into agreements with imperialism over the shares of the oil revenue. Argentine strangled the revolution of 2001, subordinating the working class to Kirchner, supported by Fidel Castro, Chavez and all those in the World Social Forum. In the US, as we said above, the

process of subordination to US imperialism is that of the "democratic" Obama, Clinton and company.

**ON THE US ELECTIONS THE CYNICISM OF THE REFORMISTS AND RENEGADES OF TROTSKYISM IS MORE THAN CLEAR. YESTERDAY, THEY DIVERTED THE STRUGGLE OF US WORKING CLASS INTO VOTES FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ITS "PACIFIST" WAVE, THEN, THESE REFORMISTS KEPT SAYING THAT THE VICTORY OF THE DEMOCRATS IN THE ELECTIONS OF 2006 WAS "THE EXPRESSION OF THE US CLASS STRUGGLE" WHEN IN REALITY IT WAS A VICTORY FOR THE RULING CLASS. THE RESULTS ARE CLEAR: OBAMA'S VICTORY HAS CO-OPTED THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE US WORKING CLASS.**

The reformist left welcomes Obama's victory as a "progressive" step in the struggle of workers and exploited Americans. But it's a stab in the back against the proletariat. The anti-war pickets, the May Day strikes for migrant workers, the strike against the war by the ILWU, the mass mobilizations to end the war in Iraq, all of this self-action by the working class has not been sold out to a black faced bourgeois politician!

Today, internationally, the renegades of Trotskyism, joining the chorus of Chavez, Fidel Castro, Morales, Mandela etc "salute the American people" that according to them, brought the "defeat for Bush and the neo-conservatives of the Republican Party." Thus, in sowing illusions in "democratic" imperialism, they prevent the revolutionary uprisings of the Latin American masses joining forces with the struggle of US workers against the war and for the rights of immigrant workers who are a real bond of flesh and blood that can unite into a single battalion the workers of North, Central and South America. These counter-revolutionary treacherous Trotskyists are providing the left leg of the popular fronts that sacrifices the mass struggles in Bolivia and Colombia, and prepares the ultimate betrayal in Latin America, the capitalist restoration in Cuba.

#### **THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF THE MASSES BEGINS THE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE**

Despite the electoral victory of Obama to re-legitimate US imperialism,



*Protest in Wall Street*

this does not decide anything. The bourgeoisie have not yet translated their electoral victory into a defeat of workers in the streets or the workplaces. The struggle against the bosses' offensive will not be decided in the polls but in the struggles in defense of jobs, wages and workers rights.

Disarmed and with their hands tied by the treacherous leaders of the popular front, the masses of the world have begun a resistance to the attacks which have already created the first pre-revolutionary situations. Thus, we saw uprisings for bread in Burma, Georgia, Pakistan, Haiti, and so on. Since then there has been the huge general strike in Belgium, the strike of German metalworkers for wages and the mobilizations of millions of workers and students in Italy against the imperialist government of Berlusconi. Now in Greece a revolutionary situation opens with mobilizations, occupations, sackings of police stations and generalized strikes. Who can doubt that there, in the hands and the working classes of the imperialist countries, is the key to a success of the revolutionary upheavals in the semi-colonial world!

Thus the working class of the European powers must unite their ranks with their class brothers and sisters of the former state workers from Eastern Europe. The workers of the former USSR oppressed by French and German imperialism, or by the Russian bourgeoisie itself allied to France and Germany, need to raise among their own demands the return to the dictator-

ship of the proletariat of the October Revolution of 1917.

Meanwhile in Peru working masses have started an uprising of street mobilizations, semi-insurrections, and clashes against the police and the army in Moquegua, Tacna, Cajamarca and Moyabamba, to bring down the pro-imperialist "Fujimorista" regime and government of Alan García. Here is the renewal of the struggle to reopen the road to the Latin American revolution, temporarily suppressed in Bolivia, Venezuela and other countries by the "Bolivarian revolution"!

For all of the proletarian uprisings that are now breaking out, the first and most urgent task is to break with the bourgeoisie, in other words, end subservience to the "democratic" imperialists like Obama, and with their servants, the "Bolivarian" bourgeoisie and its treacherous left wing of fake Trotskyists who have become reformists.

The FLT fights for an international conference to unite the healthy forces of Trotskyism and revolutionary workers groups. To do this, we have advanced 23 programmatic points to sum up the revolutionary tasks facing the world crisis and the offensive against the working masses that spells out the clear differences between revolutionaries, centrists and reformists. This would be a new Zimmerwald that will bring together the forces necessary to build again the party of World Socialist Revolution on the program and legacy of the founding program of the Fourth International of 1938.

# HEART OF THE BEAST

## Resolution on the USA

Approved in the Foundation Congress of the ILTF. July 2009.

**1.** In response to the structural crisis of capitalism of the '70s the US deepened its world wide policy of imperialist dominance to make the world economy its own domestic market. The free trade agreements consolidated this division of labor opening a world of maquiladoras to the trans-nationals of the first world. Production flew to the source of cheap labor like birds on their winter migration south. The chauvinist trade unionists of North America refused to fight for the demand: "Same work same contract on both sides of the boarder". Offering nothing to link the struggle of the super exploited of the south to the soon to be unemployed of the north the mis-leaders were reduced to hand wringing whines of dissatisfaction but did nothing to launch international class struggle for a workers economy.

**2.** The resultant deindustrialization of the north and the rise of the unregulated, non-unionized, maquiladora sector spread around the globe in search of places where the trans-nationals could ignore the environmental consequences of their production and smash the workers with the utmost brutality when they tried to organize. The consequence was a glut of consumer goods, produced by the latest technologically and a super exploited labor force, making their way back to the shelves of Wal-Mart. The newly emerging consumer society was based on a working class destined to work in low paying service sector jobs filling the lowest two economic quintiles and an over consumptive top three quintiles of the population made up of the labor aristocracy, a professional managerial "middle class" layer and the top 5% which gathered to itself the riches of the world's new order as their frenzied "coupon clipping" followed one economic bubble after another as they sucked fictitious capital out of the market into their personal savings.



**3.** As wages were driven down, the workers found themselves working longer hours, sending more members of the family into the workforce, youth living a home or returning home rather than setting out on their own and the elderly being driven into the homes of their adult children. Savings diminished from an all time high of 20% to a negative 5% as usury in the form of credit cards, check cashing services, and adjustable rate mortgages offered workers a way to float their families economies. The consequences of globalization and the bubbles of fictitious capital began to explode in the dot-bomb collapse but for big capital the collapse was only a temporary setback as the war economy and the housing bubble which followed were their next source of surplus value appropriation.

**4.** The military drive into Iraq, Afghanistan and now Pakistan, the proxy war between Georgia and Russia were the consolidation of the acquisition of control over vast oil and gas

resources. The US military action had the intention and result of driving out other imperialists and independent powers which had contracts for Iraqi oil as well as consolidating its military bases throughout the Asian subcontinent to further encircle and contain China and Russia as well as open these vast sources of cheap labor to Wall Street's minions.

**5.** In a heroic resistance to the forces of imperialism thousands of Iraq died in the battle to save Fallujah showing the US that the masses of Iraq would not stand by idly and allow their country to be overrun. Heroic fighters from around Africa and Asia flocked to the battle fields of Iraq and Afghanistan to stop imperialism in its tracks. Tens of thousand were killed and captured many rot in Guantanamo and other secret CIA prisons around the world. We say free all prisoners of the anti-imperialist war drive! Close Guantanamo and all the secret prisons! The only criminals in this war are those who sat and sit in the White House, the Pentagon, at Langley and on the board of directors of the war profiteers in the armaments, mercenary and oil industries! Convene an international workers tribunal to try these war criminals before the world! No faith in the Hague or the World Court only an international workers tribunal can honestly expose the crime of these imperialist butchers!

**6.** But the US working class was slow at getting the message and never launched an anti-war movement equivalent in depth and breath to the anti-war movement of the Viet Nam period. The Maoists from the earliest days raised the Slogan "Drive out the Bush Regime" the soft left had their equivalently treacherous demand "Anyone but Bush", combined with the mis-leadership of the fake Trotskyists who con-



tained the anti war movement with their pacifist slogan of “Support our troops bring them home” the movement never sustained its early massive outpouring of millions around the world in February of 2003. Rather the movement was quickly deflated into the Kerry campaign of 2004, the congressional campaign in 2006 and the Obama campaign of 2007/2008. The pacifist masses closed up the anti-war offices and hit the phone banks for the Democrats. The consequence of limiting the principled “Out Now” slogan to its pacifist content and not turning it into a defeatist demand by demanding the defeat of US military forces in the battlefields of Asia prevented the American working class from launching a conscious anti-imperialist struggle which could link the workers of the world against the imperial war drive.

**7.** The Anti-War actions at the Oakland docks where the police fired upon youth and trade unionists with non lethal weaponry showed the brutality of the State against workers at home. This attack on anti-war workers advanced the militancy of the workers movement and the ILWU responded by holding a one day strike on the Docks to stop the war drive. The militancy of the ILWU local 10 is an inspiration to anti-imperialist workers around the world. As the anti-war movement lagged, choked by the illusion that Democrats elected to a majority in Congress would end the war, the grieving mother, Cindy Sheehan, stood up for all the victims of the war by camping outside Bushes Crawford Texas Ranch. Her campaign re-invigorated and consolidated the majority sentiment against the war. But this sentiment was quickly defused as the “Anyone But Bush” mentality overtook the populous sickened by the war and corralled the energy into the Obama mania. The pacifists and anti-war movement again closed up shop and hit the phone banks and door to door massive campaign for Obama. None of them would dare answer the question “Who will Obama Bomb-ah?” And now we know he is bombing civilians in Pakistan, Afghanistan as his CIA and State Department allow with a nod and a wink the smashing of the working class in Honduras with death squads (trained at the school of the assassins Ft. Benning, Georgia).

**8.** The centralized continental policy from La Habana has provisory taken the American working class struggle against the war on Iraq and for the immigrant and black proletariat rights out of the scene. With the counter-revolutionary international policy of the restorator Castroite bureaucracy –which is about class collaboration and “Bolivarian revolution”, with all the fake Trotskyists subordinated to it- they have expropriated and strangled the anti-imperialist and revolutionary struggle of the Latinamerican exploited masses, which threatened to synchronize with the ones of the workers in the heart of the imperialist beast. Simultaneously, in the USA, the authority of the Cuban workers state in the most exploited layers of the working class was put at the service of strengthening subordinating the working class to the Democratic Party and Obama by the Castroism. The living example of this international policy is the Latin American and Caribbean Workers Gathering (ELAC) where –from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego- the renegades of Trotskyism have ensured tying the hands of the vanguard of the Oakland Dock Workers and stopping their heroic fight against the US imperialist butchers from within, throughout its leadership, all made by the “left” bureaucracy of Latin America.

That’s how that ominous policy –that some months ago has found resistance in the fights of the working class

in the Antilles and today in Peru and Honduras- has cleared the way to accelerate the advanced process of the capitalist restoration in Cuba, which the forces of the counter-revolution want to finish with the “democratic” mask of Obama.

**9.** Wall Street’s drive to lower the cost of labor in the United States to a point where profitability is again possible for production at “home” is again changing the world division of labor. The drive to turn the US into an exporting nation and to open markets abroad can not be accomplished without driving down wages, benefits, social programs, and the other benefits the US workers have become accustomed to since the end of WW2. This is resulting on attacks on the American workers. Official figures show 9.5% have been unemployed, 45 million are without healthcare or retirement pensions, two million fill the prisons, and 1.6 million are homeless or in shelters or tent encampments. The sacking of millions of workers in the last two years and the cutting of labor hours and wages has resulted in a reverse sliding scale. Shorter work hours for less pay, is the method being forced on workers in the private and public sector alike.

**10.** But the workers are starting to fight back. It is no coincidence that the Republic Window and Door workers of Chicago occupied their fac-



*Tijuana: wall of shame in the US border with Mexico*

tory in December at the same time that the Guadeloupe and Martinique workers commenced their general strikes. It is no surprise that the most exploited sector of the working class, the Latino immigrants held two one day strikes for immigrant rights on May Day in 2007 and 2008. Across the nation small battles are erupting in factories big and small to stop the drive against workers living and working conditions. State workers in California have finally said enough is enough when the governor imposed a third furlough Day. The bureaucratic SEIU leadership has been pressured by Rank and File sentiment to take a strike vote this week among its 95,000 members. Schools are laying off teachers by the thousands the education system is collapsing classrooms are being over crowded and higher education is becoming less accessible. Public transport workers, Park rangers, home care workers who care for the elderly; poison control workers and those who care for underinsured youth are being given pink slips (being sacked).

**11.** Workers are just starting to wake up after a long sleep. After being separated from the militant history of the Teamster's rebellion in 1934 in Minneapolis, the general strike of San Francisco 1936 and Oakland in 1946, the factory occupations that led to the building of the CIO in the thirties are all experiences that today's workers need to draw upon and will have to experience in their own actions if they are to turn the crisis back on the bosses and emerge victorious.

**12.** The American workers have the key to solve the burden of exploitation of the masses of the world. They have been blocked from their historic task by the division of the American workers from the workers of the world by the Stalinist deal with imperialism at Yalta and Potsdam. Again in the late 1980's the restoration of capitalism in the former workers states drove a wedge between the American working class and the struggle for socialist revolution. The ruling class must be made to pay for the crisis. The American workers must take to themselves the task of the expropriation of all financial capital, the banks and major industry. In every struggle of the masses the fight for Socialist Revolution must be put on the agenda. Standing in the way of these essential tasks of the

workers movement are all shades of trade union bureaucrats renegades of Trotskyism, entrenched Stalinists and social democrats Castroists, World Social Forum adherents as well as a labor aristocracy materially tied to imperialism who perpetuate illusions in Obama. To break these chains workers need to form up factory committees extending and generalized across the country and then to link them with committees of the unemployed. Workers must not wait for the bureaucracy to begin the task of organizing the unorganized. This task is intrinsically linked with the demand for an end to unemployment. Workers need to initiate the Million man marches across the nation demanding a sliding scale of hours to share the available work through the implementation of 30 hours work for 40 hours pay and a sliding scale of wages tied to the rate of inflation.

**13.** In the fight for socialism the FLTI and revolutionary workers in the United States call for massive coordinated labor actions up to and including extended general strikes of public and private workers to stop wage cuts, for full employment, universal and free health care, universal and free education, an end to homelessness, hunger and fear of destitution. Only a workers government can deliver these demands. To build the solidarity needed to unit the workers in their struggle for a workers government we call for Free Mumia Abu Jamal, Leonard Peltier, all the ICE prisoners, the prisoners at Guantanamo and the secret prisons. Free all political prisoners. Class justice for the murder of Oscar Grant and all other victims of state brutality! Destroy the prison and war economy! For the military defeat of all US military forces abroad and the closing of all US military bases around the world. Unconditional dismantling of the US nuclear arsenal! Destroy all US military satellites! Expose the two faces of the Republicrat Bush/Obama regime wielding diplomacy and reactionary coups, fascism and Bonapartism as its tools of world subjugation. Stop all funding to the butcher Zionist state which sustains itself on the blood of the Palestinian people! Finish the Civil War restitution for 250 years of slavery! Honor Native Peoples land and rights. Support self-determination for the colonies of Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam and all occupied territories to the native peoples. To accomplish the objectively

necessary socialist revolution in the United States today workers need a revolutionary party build on the method and program Trotsky developed for the SWP and the world party of Socialist Revolution as developed in the Transitional Program of 1938.

**14.** The historical events that are coming, as a result of the economic conditions, will provoke exceptional crisis in the reformist apparatus around the world, mostly in USA. Thus, seeing the end of the process of capitalist restoration in Cuba, new splits in the American reformist left are being prepared, since they've used the authority of the Cuban state to betray over and over. Particularly, new splits in the renegades of Trotskyism are being prepared since for decades they have presented Castro –and all the Castroite bureaucracy– as “anti-imperialistic” icons of the world revolution.

This is why the ILTF Trotskyists raise the program for a political revolution in Cuba, for a victorious Latin American revolution against the “Bolivarian Revolution” and its counter-revolutionary pacts, and for the US working class uprising to defend the last gains of the revolution and defeat the capitalist restoration. This program is also the one that prepare us to decisively intervene in the upcoming splits of the revealed Castroists –US fake Trotskyists–. Those traitors won't be able to explain why “the big revolutionary” Castro, with the giving away of the workers state, became in bourgeois.

The program raised by the revolutionaries must be that of the political revolution in Cuba, which defeats the restorator bureaucracy, and impose the true workers' democracy, that of the armed workers, peasants and red soldiers councils; the only government able to transform Cuba in a bastion of the fight for the world revolution.

This program must be flesh and blood of the heart of the American proletarian vanguard –of the Oakland dock workers, of the immigrant working class and the black proletariat– by aiding their class brothers from Cuba, fighting against their own imperialist bourgeoisie led by the butcher Obama with the war cry: “Down the Obama-Castro pact which restores capitalism in Cuba!” •



*This statement was approved by the Foundation Congress of the ILTF, July 2009*

# Workers of General Motors, occupy and take control of your workplace!

The dismantling of the American auto industry, the US government's bailout of a bankrupt GM, and the deal being cut with the UAW to savage a diminished workforce, if carried out according to Obama's plan, will be a historic defeat for the working class, with far-reaching consequences. The UAW leadership, which long ago abandoned class struggle methods for classic business unionism, knows it can save its bureaucracy's privileged position, which enjoys all the perks of Stalinist-era commissars, by selling out the membership, cutting the workers' pay and benefits, and accepting mass lay offs. Meanwhile, there is not even a glimmer on the horizon of the new industrial jobs desperately needed to build the "green economy."

The American auto worker's pay and benefit package (known as the "gold standard for labor") was won by hard-fought battles on the picket lines, backed by heroic acts of solidarity on the part of tens of thousands of union members, together with their families and communities. Victory could not have been achieved without efforts such as the six-week factory occupations at the Flint Chevrolet and Fisher Body plants in 1937, and the "Battle of the Overpass" at the Ford Motor Company's Rouge Complex later that same year. Those historic battles ended in victories for the entire working class, as other industrial and manufacturing workers set their sights on, and fought for, equivalent benefit packages to those won at the "Big Three." American workers became accustomed to the promise and expectation of vacation pay, lifelong medical benefits, pensions, and a "decent" paycheck. The working class became redefined, in the public discourse and in workers' own consciousness, as a new "middle class." Ironically, in part because of their own past victories, workers no longer identified themselves as a class condemned to sell their labor power to the owner of the means of production. The Marxist concept of class, defined by relation-



*GM workers on strike*

ship to the means of production, had been displaced in workers' minds by a concept of class defined by income level. Meanwhile, a witch-hunt was loosed upon the left within the unions, resulting in the displacement of left-leaning organizers by "loyal" careerists, and even criminals, as union officers. Workers had little natural sympathy for the majority Stalinist left that was still trying to peddle the class peace they had sold the UAW in wartime, so no one noticed the "speedup" at first—or so the story goes. Consequently, business unionism displaced militant trade unionism, and "labor relations" became both an academic discipline and a profession committed to binding labor to capital. The end result was a commitment to capitalism, on the part of the rising cadre of business union bureaucrats, that labor had stopped playing hardball. The crimes of the turncoat labor parasite caste against workers here at home are outweighed only by their role in tying the subjective allegiance of American workers to the overseas exploits, wars, and military interventions of imperialism. These

labor fakers traded on the workers of the world for their bowl of porridge. ***We must demand and fight for a democratic rank and file leadership, with wages and benefits capped at the level of the best paid workers in the union!*** Busily selling the "middle class" hype to their members, these labor "leaders" never seriously challenged the Taft-Hartley Act (which, among many other anti-labor provisions, prevents unions from launching sympathy strikes). Our dues and energy should have been used not only to force the repeal of Taft-Hartley, but also to organize the unorganized, educate our membership, build strike funds, and launch a fighting Workers' Party. Instead, for decades the unions' parasitic rulers wasted our dues dollars and volunteered our energy electing Democratic Party "friends of labor," who can't ever deliver anything of real value to working people (e.g., the ERA, single-payer health care, EFCA, etc.), and who have promoted—and billed us for—every imperialist military action in our history. Meanwhile, generations of labor leaders became accustomed to living

the good life along with their corporate counterparts. Now, today, when labor needs to recapture its militant traditions and to fight like hell, *the UAW leadership is giving it all away without a shot being fired.* General Motors has announced it is firing another 29,000 American UAW members. Workers fear for their pensions; they see their neighborhoods abandoned to foreclosures; schools and the social safety net are being destroyed. And what do the “friends of labor” in the White House and Congress have to offer these and the other millions of unemployed? Despite the fact that between them, the UAW and the US government will own a large share of “New GM,” neither the union nor the federal government will be making any use of the leverage this could give them over the company’s future plans.

Revolutionary Marxists do not advocate the nationalization of industries under the control of pro-capitalist governments, rather than under the direct control of the working class. But workers should be told the truth: that the Obama administration, despite its ostensible commitment to the environment and to creating badly-needed “green economy” jobs for US workers, has bent over backwards to avoid even the slightest appearance of nationalizing the company for the benefit of society as a whole. Instead of taking an active role in setting a new direction for New GM, the Obama administration has made it clear that all will remain business as usual. The government will assume the risk, but retain no decision-making power; the workers will make the lion’s share of the sacrifices; and any eventual profit will go straight into the pockets of management and the shareholders.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration boasts in its Fact Sheet on the GM deal that “[t]he UAW has made important concessions on compensation and retiree health care. . . . In virtually every respect, the concessions that the UAW agreed to are more aggressive than what the Bush Administration originally demanded in its loan agreement with GM.” Among other things, the \$20 billion that GM owes the UAW for retiree pensions and benefits will not be paid. Instead, the existing pension and benefit trust will be replaced by a new trust that will be given a bunch of currently worthless stock in New GM. This places the UAW in a total conflict of

interest with its own members. If the value of New GM stock does not go up, the stock owned by the pension trust will continue to be worthless, and UAW retirees will lose their benefits. But in order for the stock value to rise, New GM will have to make as much profit as possible—on the backs of current UAW members! That is, the UAW’s bureaucracy, as one of the owners of New GM, has a direct interest in increasing the exploitation of the union’s members in order to raise the value of the pension trust’s stock!

To make matters worse, even though the trust will own 17.5% of New GM, it will only have the right to select one independent director, and will have none of the other normal shareholder rights. In other words, instead of taking advantage of its position as one of GM’s major creditors to demand that New GM remake itself into a source of green economy jobs, the UAW has given up any claim to having a say in the company’s future that is proportionate to the trust’s ownership. Meanwhile, the only “green economy jobs” measure to which GM has agreed is the token concession that it will use *one* idled plant in the US to build a new small car model. This will increase GM’s domestic production by a measly four percent points.

## WHO STANDS TO GAIN?

GM’s secured lenders, who stand to benefit from the bankruptcy deal,



include Citibank and JP Morgan Chase. These and the other organs of global finance capital have historically exploited and oppressed our brothers and sisters in Africa, Latin America and Asia even more than they have US workers.

Consider all those cell phones, iPods, laptops, and other high-tech toys. Much of the metal for their components came from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). JP Morgan Chase, through its major share in Anglo American Mining has been extracting these metals from the DRC in competition with other banks. The result has been an ongoing war in the DRC since 1996 which has killed over 4 million people.

And working people should never forget that it was Citibank which financed the 1973 overthrow of the democratically elected government in Chile. In the course of that coup, Pinochet and his goons herded thousands into stadiums and executed them.

Obama talks about “change” and a “new beginning,” but what we see is the final nail being placed in the coffin of the “gold standard of labor” by the unholy alliance of Obama, the UAW leadership, and representatives of big finance capital like JP Morgan Chase and Citibank.

## STAGNATION OF THE US ECONOMY AND FALLING PROFITS

For the past 20 years, the rate of inflation may have been kept nominally low, but in real terms, workers’ wages have fallen. In the struggle to maintain and keep their families afloat, workers resorted to taking loans against their homes, and got into hock up to their ears to credit card companies at usurious rates of interest. What did the banks do with the surplus cash they extracted from workers as interest? Unless it was invested, this capital would have had no value. The banks found these usurious loans and the “financial instruments” that were derived from them more profitable than actual productive investment, thus they offered more and more loans. After the market crash in 2000, the banks were forced to lend at cheaper rates. To make the same profits their shareholders had become accustomed to, they had to issue more loans. A saturation point was finally reached where workers could not afford any more

loans, and started to drown under this excessive debt. At the same time, unsecured speculative lending and recklessly risky investments in derivatives left banks wildly overleveraged.

Now the US, European, and Japanese governments are bailing out the banks to the tune of trillions of dollars. But this means nothing in the context of a stagnant world economy. In order to extract more profit from the working class, we see the beginning of inter-imperialist rivalry that threatens to explode on an international scale as the race for raw materials and cheap labor pits the imperialists against each other. The massive displacement of manufacturing facilities into China and third world countries, to exploit the lower wages there and reap the benefit of the consequent higher rate of profit, has cut like a scythe through the gains of working class in the rest of the world. The crisis of the banks and the overall economy is so great that mass unemployment, which has risen to 9% in the US even by official estimates (meaning the real rate is closer to 16%), has not been enough to “stop the bleeding” and increase profits. These western finance capitalists running the US government, who have not hesitated to resort to wars, coups d’état, and punishing workers abroad, are now turning their guns on the American worker, stealing from our pensions, depriving us of medical care, and shredding the safety net for the poor and indigent. *What can workers do?* The Chapter 11 bankruptcy of GM has just been declared; there is still time to intervene!

\* We call on workers to **organize factory committees** to coordinate an **immediate occupation of all GM plants** and dealerships! Tear up the six-year no-strike pledge!

\* We can have no faith in the sell-out leadership of the UAW; only a revitalized democratic rank and file movement can lead us out of the crisis! An emergency delegated conference of representatives of factory committees must be convened to **elect an entirely new union leadership**.

\* Working class communities around the factories should be mobilized to **defend the occupations**; workers will need to prepare for self-defense against the reaction of the state!



The demand that will mobilize the rest of the working class to take solidarity actions must show the way out of the economic crisis. Therefore we must demand: **Nationalize GM under workers’ control and without compensation! Open the books** to give workers full access to all financial information about their company! Workers must take control of all “bailout” funds used to shore up the company. **Not a single worker should be laid off.** All work should be shared among all those who can work, without loss of pay.

But we need **workers’ control** to make this happen. It is only under workers’ control that the **auto plants can be transformed and retooled** to manufacture the infrastructure for green power (e.g., wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles) and clean and ubiquitous public transport (e.g., electric bullet trains and light rail systems). The workers could hire any specialists, such as engineers and designers, that they deem necessary to assist the transition.

Occupations of auto factories aimed at implementing these demands will inspire the entire working class to follow suit, and will be a beacon to the workers of the world, even in China. The international economic crisis is propelling the working class around the world, in countries like France, Greece, and Peru, into massive struggles. If the UAW rank-and-file undertakes mass actions like sit-ins; if they fight for workers’ control and confront the state and its forces of repression as they did in the 1930s, this will provide inspira-

tion for every worker in the world, particularly the many workers in the semi-colonies who produce parts for GM. Nothing could be more inspiring than seeing a key sector of the workers in the belly of the beast take the lead in the struggle to smash US imperialism. Around the world, every workplace needs to set up factory committees, and these committees need to be united with delegate council meetings in each industrial area, right up to national and ultimately international level. Such structures would be the precursor to the launching of a **fighting workers’ party in the US** that unites workers across nations, one that sees the struggles of the workers around the world as their own. This is a scenario out of which the Fourth International can be reborn, and all the power of JP Morgan Chase and Citibank be shown for naught, to be as fictitious as the capital their paper accounting purports to represent. The capitalist class long ago ceased to be progressive. Only the working class has a material interest in rational planning for progressive growth of the productive forces. Capitalist anarchy is all that stands in the way. The time has come for the US working class to put its stamp on events and take a lead in the international struggle against capitalism. In this struggle, the FLTI will be your ally.

### International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction

Integrated by

- Workers International Vanguard League, of South Africa
  - Partido Obrero Internacionalista (Internationalist Workers Party) of Chile
  - Liga Trotskista Internacionalista (Internationalist Trotskyist League) of Peru
  - Liga Obrera Internacionalista - Democracia Obrera (Internationalist Workers League - Workers Democracy) of Argentina
- Núcleo Revolucionario Internacionalista (Internationalist Revolutionary Nucleus), of Argentina
  - Fracao Trotskista (Trotskyist Fraction) of Brazil
  - Communist Workers Group of New Zealand
  - Liga Trotskista Internacionalista (Internationalist Trotskyist League) of Bolivia
- Humanists for Revolutionary Socialism, of USA

Call of the ILTF for an international campaign

# We are all Mumia

## Brother and Sister Workers,

It is with great concern that the working class militants of the world have watched the case of former Black Panther and MOVE activist Mumia Abu Jamal. We recognize his life long dedication to the struggle of the oppressed the poor and the exploited. Across the world in the working class communities, barrios and ghettos his name is known. It is with great sadness that we see the movement for his freedom stagnating as it has depended for years on the non existent justice from the bosses' court system. We recognize that the ruling class will never free our brother in chains. Only heroic actions such as the strike of the Oakland Dock workers who carried on a one day general strike can free our brother.

## Why do the capitalist courts keep Mumia in jail despite his innocence?

The policy of depending on lawyers in the courts to free Mumia was defective from the start. In fact for many years it acted to keep the working class off the streets and placed our struggle in the hands of the bosses' courts.

The domination of the parasites on Wall street is maintained through violence against the working class in the world; in the rest of the world it is maintained through the over 120 military bases, while in the United states it is maintained by the police. When one of the police is killed, Wall Street draws the line and unites around its agent. But when a young brother like Oscar Grant is shot in the back while restrained it is only the outcry and uprising in the streets by indignant youth that forces prosecution of the racist cops.

Protection of the bosses system of super-exploitation, is the centre of all their actions. Just as the great wealth of the United States was built on the labour of the enslaved African people today it is supplemented supplement by the exploitation of immigrant labour. In this period of world domination of the banks on Wall Street, their democratic mask falls. Their greed for coltan in the DRC has been behind the

war there where over 4 million people have died; their control of over 80% of the arable land in the world is what is behind the high food prices that starve billions of people (the capitalists know that we can do without most things but we must eat); when they dismiss millions of immigrants and put over 4000 in jail, it is part of their social control, so that their profits can rise, and yes, these same capitalists dismiss millions of workers in the USA and around the world, steal the pension funds of the GM workers, with the active support of the Obama regime. They claim democracy but keep hundreds without trial in Guantanamo Bay; they claim democracy but have their bloody hands supporting the Micheletti regime in the coup in Honduras. The fight to free Mumia is the same fight of all the working class in the world against their capitalist system.

We call on workers in the United States to down tools in coordinated strike action to Free Mumia Now! We call on the ILWU Local 10 and the Immigrant workers who initiated the May Day million man marches in 2007 and 2008 to forge joint action to: Free the 4000 immigrants in the US jails! Free the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay! Free all political prisoners in the belly of the beast and around the world! Down with the coup in Honduras! Forward to a government of workers and poor peasants in Honduras! Stop the mass dismissals across the United States! Occupy GM and other workplaces threatened with closures! Down with the bureaucracies of the ALF-CIO and Change to Win who refuse to use proletarian methods of struggle to free our imprisoned brother and sisters and who channel workers energy into the bosses twin party's of exploitation, the Republicrats.

## Only mass workers strike action can save this son of Africa and hero of the world working class.

Gathered in Buenos Aires revolutionary workers from Bolivia's Mines, Chile's mills, Argentina's factories, South Africa transportation sector, Brazils factories, from as far away as New Zealand and Oakland in the USA affirm our commit-



Mumia Abu Jamal

ment to advocate for and build strike action to free our brother. We condemn the NAACP for hosting US Attorney General Eric Holder at the July 15<sup>th</sup> (check date) meeting in NYC and call on all militant workers around the world to demand FREE MUMIA NOW. NO FAITH IN THE BOSSES COURTS.

Forward to the reconstitution of the revolutionary workers party forged by Trotsky and Cannon in the United States as part of the fight for rebuilding the world party of the socialist revolution over the base of the program and legacy of the 1938 Foundation Congress of the Fourth International!

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