

# RED

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## Cops murder mine workers in South Africa.

It's known as the Marikana Massacre. On August 18, 34 striking platinum miners, employed by British multinational Lonmin were killed by armed police. 87 were injured. Autopsies show that the miners were shot in the back which indicates they were victims of outright murder. They were on strike for higher pay and better conditions. They are paid less than \$500 per month and work in hazardous conditions. Their cause is totally just.

Revolutionaries give them full support. 270 were charged under legislation dating from the apartheid era. The charges have now been dropped. President Jacob Zuma, under challenge as leader of the ANC, has ordered an enquiry but no charges against the police will be made until next year, if at all.

This bloody incident exposes the fact that whilst the reactionary degrading and humiliating superstructure of apartheid has gone, imperialist capitalism still rules in South Africa. Capitalist control is maintained by a reactionary state apparatus antagonistic to the working class. South Africa broke from apartheid. It could have broken from capitalism had there been the right leadership. The ANC bears direct responsibility in maintaining capitalism in South Africa. In fact they have made threatening "property rights" unconstitutional. The ANC are now part of the ruling class repressing and exploiting the Black South African proletariat. They are on the other side of the class line

Leaders of the ANC are making millions of Rand as members of the Board of Directors of mining companies. Meanwhile their workers, including ANC members are paid pittance. The ANC dominated union federation COSATU and its affiliate in the Mining industry NUM effective police the workers into accepting this poverty.

The ANC is a product of Stalinism. It was created by the South African Communist Party. Thanks to Stalinism, communists liquidated themselves into national liberation fronts, tailing the bourgeoisie and peasantry surrendering the leadership of the proletariat as well as the struggle for revolution. The ANC in South Africa was one of many such as the NLF of Vietnam. Nelson Mandela, well known figurehead of the struggle against apartheid was not a Stalinist but most of his ANC comrades were or are.

The SACP continue to play a treacherous role. They oppose the workers calling them "provocateurs" and calls for the arrest of strike leaders! They don't call for the arrest of murderous police!

Militant workers are well aware of their treachery. One trade union grouping, the WIVP calls for a general strike against the ANC as well as denouncing both the SACP and the popular front.

Trotskyists must educate the struggle showing workers that this can be done consistently through a revolutionary communist party.

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Revolutionary communists, of course, fully support the workers and their struggle. Being a platinum worker is hot, heavy and dangerous. As one worker pointed out: if one rock falls on you, you're dead. Yet they work for poverty and live in shacks. The militancy of these workers is to be applauded.

For revolutionary communists, being militant is not enough in itself. The revolution must be conscious. This consciousness is expressed through a revolutionary programme. Their struggle must be linked to a programme to overthrow the system. This calls for revolutionary leadership – a revolutionary communist party.

There is a strong movement for a general strike and this must be supported. But a general strike alone is not good enough! The cops and soldiers are armed. Well so must the workers! A general strike requires workers militia! But as well as that the workers must be armed with a programme which unites other proletarians such as small farmers and the unemployed behind the banner of revolution. As Trotsky pointed out the call for a general strike must be linked to education of the will of the proletariat from the defensive to the offensive. This must be done.

For ordinary South Africans, most of whom are Black, the situation in South Africa is one of dire poverty. The overall rate of unemployment is 35%. Amongst those under 35 it is a staggering 73%! The rate of unemployment is much higher for Black Africans as opposed to those who originated in Asia or Europe.

The revolutionary programme must address the issue of unemployment. A shorter working week with wage rises must be strongly advocated.

There also must be programmes for the land to win over small farmers. This includes the repudiation of all debt to bloodsucking banks. There must be a programme for women's rights including the socialization of child care and housework. The question of national minorities must be addressed. The working class must unite the proletariat and oppressed around the banner of socialist revolution.

For a revolutionary workers and small farmers government!

This murder of strikers is a massive problem for the ANC Government. After all this is reminiscent of what happened under apartheid. This could be the ANC's Sharpeville Justice Minister Jeff Radebe has demanded an explanation from the Prosecuting Authority Jacob Zuma has called for government intervention in the mining industry. Deputy President Kgalama Modanthe has warned "the distribution of wealth is unfair" and this is "the ingredient for revolution".

One person who is providing a left cover for the ANC is Julius Malema. He is making strong statements against Zuma. He demands his resignation and will not negotiate until this happens. But we want a more left sanitized ANC and not a political break. He will though, win support.

Many revisionists have had faith in the ANC. Of course this means the Stalinists. But it also includes many who claim to be Trotskyists. In Australia, the leaders of the Socialist Alliance, their breakaway the Revolutionary Socialist Party jumped on the ANC bandwagon. ANC betrayals have exposed not just the ANC but these revisionists.

Revolution is the only way out of poverty for the overwhelming majority of South Africans, employed and unemployed!

The ingredients for this are indeed present. There is a strong militant combative working class. They are highly educated in the traditions of communism. The SACP within the ANC taught them to identify with communism; the treachery of the ANC has encouraged them to break from class collaboration to the left.

Since the massacre, strikes have spread to the gold fields; police have raided hostels where miners live, looking for guns and other weapons. The armed forces are on full alert. This crisis has the potential to explode into a full-scale conflagration.

Revolutionaries must be there to give the movement the leadership and consciousness necessary to create a healthy workers state.

The question is revolutionary leadership. There is some Trotskyist tradition in South Africa. It is to be hoped that a revolutionary variant will emerge. This is a life and death issue for the workers of South Africa.

Form strike committees, rank and file organization on the shop floor!

Break from the party of class collaboration – the ANC and its handmaiden, the so-called Communist Party.

Forge a revolutionary communist party, part of a revolutionary communist international!

Occupy and expropriate factories! Extend and arm the struggle! Prepare for a general strike!

Expel the agents of ANC collaboration from the union movement!

Bring down the ANC government!

For a revolutionary workers and small farmers government!

Victory to the South African Revolution!

## **Refugees. Gillard brings back Howard's "Pacific solution".**

In order to get out of political problems in relation to refugees, Julia Gillard commissioned a committee led by Major General Angus Houston to make a report solving the refugee issue "in the national interest". Her she could be seen to be putting Australia before that of her party. She agreed to carry out their findings.

Angus Houston is a right winger as are the other two committee members Michael L'Estrange and Paris Aristotle. They believe in "border protection" not caring for refugees and they wrote their document from the interests of the Australian state, a racist state. . Of course it is no surprise what sort of report they put out before parliament – a thoroughly right wing anti refugee report. It is worse than the policies of the Howard Government

The recommendations of this report are, if anything, worse than the practice of the Howard government. As under Howard, refugees will once again be sent

to Nauru and Manus Island (Papua New Guinea). Both of these were hell holes when Refugees were forced to stay there during the Howard era. Refugees on Nauru went on hunger Strikes. On Manus Island they suffered from malaria and dengue fever.

They will be forced to stay there longer than they did. Like Howard, the Committee wants to oppose "queue jumping" and they will be forced to stay there as long as required so as to not obtain any "unfair advantage" over refugees in overseas camps. In other words they could be there for years.

They will not be allowed to participate in family reunion programmes. They will be deprived of rights to appeal against Australian government decisions.

The only progressive measure is that Australia will increase its humanitarian intake.

Refugees face hardship now. Being in an Australian detention centre is pretty rough, leading many to self harm and suicide. The Pacific solution will mean more hardship. For a start, Nauru and Manus Island are a long way from Tamil or Hazaran communities which exist in Australia. On Nauru and Manus Island there is less support. Of course on far away islands there will be less attention and therefore companies such as Serco will get away with more atrocities.

All this is done with the apparent agenda of “detering people smugglers” “breaking the people smugglers business model”. They are more concerned with this than human suffering. Refugees come here out of fear for their lives not because of dubious devious “people smugglers”.

Of course Gillard in accepting this Report has been forced to eat humble pie. In 2007 she assured us that “We have committed to ending the so-called Pacific Solution, we would not have offshore processing in Manus Island and Nauru” Gillard will no doubt claim that she is older and wiser. In reality her measures are an act of desperation. She has lost the political battle for red neck support to Tony Abbott.

Last election Abbott made massive inroads into Labor Party heartland as a hard-line man of real action. The action promised was to bring in the Navy to send the boats back. He didn't seem to care if “sending the boats back” meant sending refugees back to torture or death!. Labor was exposed as weak and impotent. Rudd had promised a ‘more humane approach’ yet the boats kept coming.

Labor's attempt to head off Abbott by abandoning any appearance of caring and countering with right wing policies of their own. This failed. Their proposed “East Timor solution” was rejected by the Timorese. Their proposed “Malaysian solution” was found to be illegal by the High court. The decision would also apply to Abbott solutions but Labor is in government and it is the onus on them. So Gillard was once again exposed as impotent.

It seemed that whenever that Gillard tried to be hard line, Abbott exposed her and pledged to do it better. She also approached them for bi-partisan agreement. This the Liberals rejected. After all they were

winning the debate! So her solution was to take the issue outside the political arena, That is why she appointed the three commissioners. Her ploy appears to have worked as now there is bi-partisan agreement.

The big losers are the Greens, and, of course, the refugees!

For revolutionary communists, the refugee question is a fundamental question in our fight for a class conscious working class. If workers are party to the ruling class agenda in regard to refugees, they join a ruling class campaign which attacks all workers, the public sector, the oppressed and unemployed.

It is our job to point this out to working class people, pointing out that by joining the attacks on refugees; **they are on the wrong side of the class line.** The refugee question is not merely about caring for victims of horrendous reactionary policies. It is about drawing class lines and fighting the system.

Revolutionary communists oppose all immigration controls. We think working people should have the right to live where we please. We think that those who come here should not have to live in prison camps. We do not care whether those coming by boat are “real refugees” or otherwise. Our way of “breaking the people smugglers business model” is for the government to fly them to Australia.

Of course, all this campaign against the ‘people smugglers’ is a dishonest backhanded attempt to attack the refugees. Attacking the refugees, poor long-suffering victims of brutal regimes is not a good look in “fair go” Australia. So instead you attack their means of getting here. The problem is that without so-called “people smugglers” many would be killed or tortured.

The refugee question is a major issue for the Australian working class.

Communist Left demands workers action to free refugees from detention in Australia!

Down with the Pacific Solution!

Smash all immigration controls!

# Greece. EU imperialists demand a six day working week!

Last July Greeks voted for a conservative government. The Conservatives of New Democracy and the social democrats of PASOK and the Eurocommunists of Democratic Left formed a coalition. Neither of these parties made any secret of their plans to accept the dictates of the European Union. It is well known that these dictates involve massive cutbacks and attacks on the public sector, jobs and wages and conditions in general. These are on top of serious cuts which have already been inflicted

There is now over thirty percent unemployment overall and fifty percent youth unemployment. In Greece the working poor are about half the working population. Homelessness virtually unknown in Greece five years ago is now a mass movement. Things are desperate. There is a massive shortage of drugs in hospitals including basic items such as bandages. Yet under EU cuts, things will get much worse.

The coalition government has begun a privatization programme. The government owned gambling monopoly OPAP is first cab off the rank.

But the IMF wants tougher measures. They are cynical about proposed mergers of government departments. They wonder what these will achieve if there are no layoffs.

They are a bit unhappy with the process. PASOK and the Eurocommunists are asking Samaras to go a bit easier on the poorest paid.

They also want workers to work a longer working week. They want a six day working week. They

also want a longer working day. Statistics show that Greek workers, at the moment, work longer than any other workers in the Eurozone. There has been suggestions that if Greece does not introduce this measure than they won't approve a third bailout.

This will receive an angry response from ordinary Greek workers. It will mean serious hardship. We think this anger is fully justified. We urge consistent strike action to oppose the introduction of all cuts.

In fact we support a political programme of action to bring down the government. Working people in Greece or anywhere were not responsible for the Global Financial Crisis which caused this massive crisis for Greece. Nor were they responsible for the corruption and tax evasion in Greece itself. Yet they are forced to pay disproportionately.

The working class of Greece is angry. This is shown by their strong support for radical left party SYRIZA whose reputation is stronger than its programme. SYRIZA is Greece's second largest party in terms of electoral support. They are similar to Australia's Socialist Alliance. These revisionists want to kid people that Greece can both stay in the EU and at the same time not suffer from spending cuts. This is a pipe dream. There must be a total break from the bloodsuckers European Union. Nevertheless, support for SYRIZA shows a clear radicalization of Greek working people.

It is important workers break from SYRIZA as well as PASOK and forge a revolutionary communist party.

# Queensland Campbell Newman wields the axe. 20,000 public servants threatened.

Campbell Newman of the Liberal National Party was elected with the biggest majority in Australia's electoral history. He just promised efficient government. He successfully persuaded voters who normally vote Labor that they would have nothing to fear. He definitely denied any plans to slash public sector jobs, especially not those in the front line.

However, reality has hit home. Queensland is a mining state and should be benefiting from the mining boom. It isn't because it is also a low tax state meaning that governments have been slack in extracting money from the multinationals and other rich people. Basically the government has not been collecting enough revenue in order to fund operations such as transport, health and education. Newman brought in hard economist Peter Costello and what he recommended was mass sackings.

Newman has since reduced the number to be retrenched to 15,000 but this still is massive. Townsville hospital has recently sacked 130 including 45 equivalent nursing roles due to Budget cuts..

Well unions are indeed angry. Unions Queensland held a mass rally over 10,000 in Brisbane. They included nurses, teacher, firemen and blue collar workers. Union officials claim that this rally gave a clear message to the Premier to "stop the slash and burn and stand up for the rights of workers." They warned that the cuts will not only affect current Queenslanders but future generations as well.

One problem with the campaign is the bureaucrats overall slogan which is "Save Queensland".

Basically they are appealing to state chauvinism. Queensland state chauvinism is if anything worse than Australian chauvinism.

Campbell Newman has another way of making money. He has chosen to increase mining royalties. We have no objections to him doing this. We have no sympathies for these bloodsucking bastards. In fact they should be expropriated! Newman only wants to raise a bit of extra money.

Of course, the mining companies are crying poor. They are threatening to close pits and lay-off workers. They behaved just as they did when Rudd introduced the mining tax. Newman points out that they are responsible for their inefficiency and they shouldn't scapegoat the government. No doubt Tony Abbott is a bit embarrassed as he now can't place the full blame for job losses on Gillard Labor. Newman has made miners less enthusiastic about the Liberal Party. We will see how all this plays out.

If there are mass sackings in the mining industry, workers must be prepared to fight back. This means factory committees and job occupations.

Communist Left supports a political and industrial campaign to bring down the Newman Government. Not one workers should be allowed out the gate! We have no faith in the current leadership of the workers movement. The bureaucrats must be removed!

In Queensland, the essential ingredient missing is a revolutionary communist party.

# Sydney. Violent attacks against Moslem demonstrators.

It has sparked militant protests around the world. A film attacking the prophet Mohammed has led to outrage and anger amongst mainly fundamentalist Moslems. Extremely embarrassed are the Moslem Brotherhood who now rule Egypt. They want a reasonably friendly relationship with America but this is difficult if demonstrators attack the US Embassy.

Well the demonstrations have come to Sydney and NSW Police were well and truly prepared. There was plenty of press reportage about this violent demo. But what is not reported is that most of the violence came from the gang in blue. According to a non-Moslem witness, a member of Socialist Alternative. One “demonstrator was pinned to the ground and attacked by a police dog. Any dealt with anyone showing any support by spraying them, In fact the police pepper sprayed the crowd, regularly.

Yes the demonstrators fought back and we support their right to do so. They were totally outgunned by the police force.

Communists are atheists and no fan of the prophet Mohammed. We oppose any measure to ban the film. Anyone offended simply needed go and see it. We strongly oppose placards which call for anyone who offends the prophet to be beheaded. But we also defend the right to demonstrate. Moslems have a right to express their views. They should have the right to demonstrate in peace.

Moslem youth in Sydney get persistently harassed by racists and by police. They are disproportionately unemployed. Only Aboriginal people are treated worse. No wonder they are angry. They live in a country which gives them nothing.

In many countries extremist Moslems have filled the vacuum left by the degeneration of communism.

This demo and its violence, real and alleged, has massive political implications. Of course the extreme racist right feel vindicated. At the “failure of multiculturalism”. They want to go further. There are even suggestions that Moslems should be

banned from migrating to Australia. Some even supported the police violence arguing that it should have gone even further. This will no doubt become a rallying issue for the extreme right.

It will also be used to rationalize the current and further attacks on the rights of refugees.

Bob Carr is playing diplomat. He is basically telling people that basically Muslem people are good, except for a few extremists. The Muslem community is “opposing the violence” basically out of damage control to protect their good name. We say: the police are more responsible for the violence than militant Islamists. We defend those being hunted down by police in the aftermath of this demo.

Communists must fight this racist offensive. We must urge the right for anyone to enter Australia, irrespective of their religion. We must defend, unconditionally the right of anyone to practice their religion with dignity. We must do this whilst making it clear that we are not Moslems and religion is the opiate of the masses.

We must organize workers to defend Muslims against racist police attacks and fight the fascists physically.

For the next demo, we propose the organization of workers defense.

# Barak Obama. Why he is winning.

In many ways, Barak Obama has been a failure. Gone are the days when he said "yes we can". All his high spending has led to not many jobs. Unemployment is over eight percent and doesn't look like going down. He admits that he is a failure on immigration issues. The US economy is not doing too well. All this would normally lead to defeat. His opposition, the Republicans, though, are bankrupt. Obama will be re-elected courtesy of the Republicans failings rather than due to his own successes.

Recently Australian treasurer Wayne Swan controversially stated that the Republicans had been taken over by political basket cases. He was referring to the Tea Party. Well the Tea Party haven't quite taken over but they are influential. With the economic crisis hitting, the government needs more money. Sections of the capitalist class and middle class don't want to pay tax and would be quite happy if poor people went without medical treatment. They are Republicans, of course, but they find their party a bit too wet for their liking. So they have manoeuvred in a very clever factional way. So we have the Tea Party.

The ruling class know better. They know that Tea Party policies would lead to economic and social disaster. Businesses need government money. Smashing social services would lead to poverty. Poverty could lead to uprisings, which if conscious could lead to revolution. The whole system might collapse. It may not be politically correct Adam Smith or Ayn Rand but the rulers know what is necessary for the systems survival and dumping taxes would be disastrous.

Mitt Romney is sort of a compromise candidate. He is a Republican machine man. Arrogant and aloof, he is indeed out of touch and being exposed as incompetent. His gaffe accusing forty percent of the population as being effectively dole bludgers and therefore in the camp of Obama shows this. He even offended his own Republicans who know better. It is just the gaffe that Obama needed.

The Republicans accuse Obama as being a socialist. Indeed he's not. There is nothing socialist about giving money to multinationals to maintain their stability. He does believe in a degree of welfare, unemployment and health benefits, and progressive taxation. But we're certain he will abandon these principles when placed under serious economic and political pressure. He believes in the market economy.

He is the polite face of US imperialism. He is absolutely and categorically behind the state of Israel. He is not as zealously Zionist as many. When Israel wants to invade Iran, he cautions them to negotiate first and only invade as a last resort.

In Honduras, the US has imposed a military dictatorship over the people.

The ruling class realise that in world affairs, a more pragmatic approach is required. As opposed to the gung-ho approach of George Bush. But make no mistake. Obama will in no way weaken America's imperialists.

Obama's policies must be opposed. We are not interested in a nicer version of capitalist oppression and imperialism. Obama will chain us to the system and make us pay. We need to smash the system. We think Obama will win and it will be business as usual.

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