

**WORKERS
REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY
(WRP)
FOR THE REBUILDING
OF
THE 4TH
INTERNATIONAL**

THE WORKER

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LONG LIVE THE SOUTH AFRICAN WORKING CLASS AS THEY PREPARE TO STORM THE HEAVENS



Internationalists at the Workers International Conference in London end March 2014 with Balazs Nagy, second row, second from the right.

BALAZS NAGY the leader of the **WORKERS INTERNATIONAL** for the Rebuilding of the Fourth International, a member of the 1956 Budapest Central Workers Council makes foundational Marxist comments on the position of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) taken at their December Congress. The NUMSA took the historically significant stance to break with the ANC and the SACP- that is - they broke with class collaboration and for an independent working class programme to smash capitalism. The stand of the NUMSA tends to restore the confidence of the working class internationally.

Balazs writes from France. We publish an extract from the paper, but we distribute the full text separately with this edition of the Worker

The social and political ferment currently convulsing South Africa has hard-

ly been mentioned in the French or any other media, which is no surprise actually. This evasive and rather suspect silence contrasts oddly and

ANOTHER ROUND OF ELECTION FRAUD PLANNED

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) purchased a corrupt electronic voting package. Universal Franchise—the right to vote—is destroyed

By Hewat Beukes

The WRP on 26 April 2014 wrote: “On 21 April 2014 we addressed an objection against the electronic voters registration system whose biometric fingerprint system enables duplication.

On 16 April the ECN wrote to the political parties, “The ECN already detected over 1000 duplication entries on the voters register ...” Administratively, the ECN would remove any duplicates before the final

register is made available while also doing certain general integrity checks and quality control.” At the end of 2013, the ECN responded to reservations on the package, saying that there was no possibility of duplication. Without blinking an eye the ECN tells us that it has purchased a corrupt system which allows for fraudulent registration.

We demand a response from the ECN and we call on political parties to join us in our

objection against this fraudulent registration process . There is no way in which our party will submit to a deliberately cooked process in which it is meaningless to participate. This is a denial of the right to vote, a process which begun in 1990 with the first election. This means that Namibians do not have the right to vote” The last election of 2009 was proof of massive rigging. **To p2**

FROM NOW ON WE SHOULD LOOK NOT EAST BUT SOUTH!

strikingly with the ardent, unprecedented enthusiasm these same media evinced during Nelson Mandela's elaborate funeral rites.

The media is there to stop workers from becoming conscious of the irresistible strength that lies in their international unity.

This colossal strength, whose development is as uneven as that of capitalism itself, is still deeply divided and fractured along national and regional lines. It is split and stunted even more by the crying lack of political organisation, a genuine, powerful International, on the part of this working class.

South Africa's biggest trade union takes some amazing decisions

In December 2013, the powerful South African engineering workers' union NUMSA (the biggest union in the country with more than 341 000 members) held a Special National Congress (SNC) attended by more than 1 000 delegates. After passionate debates it took a number of historic decisions. Then in the same spirit it resolved:

To reject the tripartite alliance between the governing party, the Stalinist "Communist" Party and the trade union confederation (ANC, SACP and Cosatu) as agencies of the bourgeoisie and its policies. "... the current leadership, the very same leadership that calls itself anti-imperialist, is in a lucrative alliance with international capital." ... Consequently the SNC decided to *suspend payment of financial contributions to the ANC*. ...

First and foremost, this class vigorously states that, faced with the bourgeoisie

What the historic rebirth of NUMSA means and what it teaches us

and its policy of enslaving working people, the only way forward is to commit firmly and openly to smashing capitalism and opening the road to socialism. ... This is where NUMSA has carried out a radical break. By taking up the resolute defence of the interests of the working class against ... class-collaboration, it

has necessarily chosen and politically committed the union to fight for the interests of the independent working class as a whole.

... the trade union leaderships have done and still do everything they can to divide up trade union activity and restrict it - at best - to the absolute minimum of defending their members' immediate interests.

This sclerosis has eaten its way so deeply into the unions that their leaders now constrict and limit their actions even further, not even fulfilling their basic responsibility to organise workers and defend their interests. ...

... In neighbouring Namibia, our comrades Erica and Hewat Beukes and their group have spent years organising a whole movement of impoverished and dispossessed working people for access to decent housing and against various abuses at the hands of their bosses and the state.

Over the last two years, these comrades have broadened out this activity to include the defence of miners and teachers robbed of their pensions by the mining trusts and state organs, and of the rights of various ethnic groups of farmers and agricultural workers. To organise and centralise them, they and their supporters and associates have established the "Workers' Advice Centre", whose activities and influence have become quite extensive. Rapid and brutal reaction from the Namibian bourgeoisie, its old colonial master South Africa, and its own repressive legal organs was not long in coming, especially once our comrades resolved to prepare to set up the Namibian workers' party very shortly. A raft of administrative hassles, legal threats and arbitrary measures, fines and charges and police summonses and harassment, cutting off water and electricity, warnings, intimidation and arbitrary accusations paralyse their work and disorganise and even put in question the very existence of the Workers' Advice Centre. But active and effective solidarity on the part of working people across the whole world provides precious support which,

even in modest forms, helps the Namibian comrades' efforts and forges and cements international unity of the working class and all working people.

The immense scope of this initiative by South African workers in NUMSA arises in an international atmosphere where sharpening class contradictions have already provoked a series of revolutionary explosions.

For a "South African" turn everywhere!

Since the Tunisian people unleashed their revolutionary march, spurred on by its working class and rapidly extended to Egypt and then more or less all Arab countries, the massive mobilisation of working people against the bourgeoisie and the intolerable measures they are taking has accelerated and taken on increasingly sharp and violent forms. The inevitable avalanche of the world revolution has started, even if its various manifestations have a spontaneous character which makes their rhythm somewhat jagged, and even though they dress up in the nationalist or religious garb of past dominant ideologies. "A spectre is haunting Europe" (or rather the world): "the spectre of communism".

The most obvious and natural thing to start with is to call on all trade union and political organisations anywhere which claim any attachment to the working class to publish the NUMSA resolutions and statement in full and organise a discussion about them as urgent, necessary tasks. That is an elementary duty, for if it is true that recent weather conditions have been somewhat out of kilter, it is no less true that to see the sun of workers' struggles rise, from now on we should look not East but - South!

From pg 1, Election : The fraud took bizarre forms when SWAPO itself presided over the court cases challenging the election results. This simply means that Universal Franchise in this country is non-existence and a farce. A costly farce for which Namibians pay themselves

Editorial

We last published *The Worker* the newsletter of the WRP in 1998. We resume its publication now again as a monthly out of necessity. *The Worker* was first published in 1987 as a Marxist paper despite the anti-communist Act of South Africa. In fact, the colonial regime tried to forcefully remove the paper from the streets, but due to popular resistance and our refusal to remove it, it became legal by default.

In the mid-nineties the WRP changed tactics and formed the Workers Advice Centre to assist workers at all levels in their struggles: labour disputes, land occupations, the housing issue, educational struggles, uniting national groups in their struggles for self-determination, evictions, pension fund theft, etc, etc.

During the past twenty years, we have literally exhausted the accumulation of empirical (factual) knowledge of this system and its workings. We had assisted and accompanied the working people of this country in their manifold struggles against the incredible greed and criminality of the capitalist ruling classes and their puppet regime. They experienced too the most crucial fact of all: the bourgeoisie are internationally connected and organised. South African and overseas capitalists are running the business here as they run them in South Africa and overseas too. They do not even pay tax here or register with the Namibian State.

At each stage we reminded these groups that we needed an independent political organisation with a definite programme to fight for political power as the capitalists (the bourgeoisie) will not and cannot solve their crimes against the working people. We stated to them, "the courts, the police, the army and the government belong to the capitalist, the streets belong to us."

We now have to present the people with the generalised conclusions of our factual experiences and findings. We must tell them, and show them, there is no way out. Cast away the self-fooling, organise and fight not only to survive from day to day, but to secure survival through the taking of political power. But, the organisation must be international. NUMSA has just provided the guarantee for such a possibility. Therefore, *The Worker* resumes its task. The editions following will traverse the experiences and lessons of the past 24 years. It will also try to clarify the history of the working people of this country, the bloody lessons they were taught by mixing workers' organization with populist fronts.

The Worker appears on 1st May 2014 on the 25th anniversary of formal declaration of the Workers Revolutionary Party as a section of the Workers International.

A Hellhole and Cesspool of "Moral and Cultural genocide" created in the South

Report by Jacobus Josob

During December 2012 I went down to the South to consult with the Southern Communities Allegiance on various issues inter alia the state of the south, the economic conditions and the outstanding issue on housing. This Allegiance was formed by landless and homeless communities in Keetmanshoop, Gibeon, Aroab, Tses, Karasburg, and Bethanie to fight for land and development of their respective communities.

Thirty (30) representatives attended and we discussed the following:

In April 2012 a group of 400 homeless families seized land. After a violent confrontation the Municipality allocated the land to the group.

In the meantime some of the members were relocated to a dreadful area far away from town centre. The hospital, clinic and businesses are far away and without proper transport. It is a nightmare to get help. The community were resettled close to the Army Barracks. Soldiers seized erven and are running Shebeens smuggling liquor and drugs. The Council ignores complaints against the soldiers.

The squatting and smuggling in these slum areas is part of the strategy of the Namibian Government to break down the southern communities completely. It is a cultural and moral attack on the Nama people and their descendants. Chief Fredericks of Bethanie has reported to Mr Niema Movassat the parliamentary representative of the Linke Partei in the German Bundestag that his people were subjected to cultural and moral genocide. These soldiers provide liquor and drugs to minor children and use the ensuing dependency to rape under-age girls. They spread HIV infection.

This president ignores all complaints directed to him.

In Karasburg it is the same situation.

The soldiers deserted their barracks and moved into the suburbs. They are earning income and due to the rampant poverty they are exploiting the situation and starting sexual relationships with young girls and school girls. They set up shebeens where alcohol and drugs are smuggled. In one incident a soldier assaulted a mother viciously when she came to bar him from further rape of her minor daughter.

The government is hell bent on destroying the southern communities in this way.

We also deliberated on the issue of big businesses operating in the south for not contributing to the development of the people of the south. The fishing companies are employing 99% of people from the North in order to qualify for fishing quotas. The De Beers Diamond Company was found to over exploiting its mining concession by a Judicial Inquiry in the colonial era (the Thirion Commission) and that the Country was defrauded with R5 billion at the time. This Government entered into an incestuous relationship with De Beers and formed a purportedly new company called Namdeb Corporation with 50% shareholding. The mineral rights of Rosh Pinah Zinc are owned by Aaron Mushimba the brother in law of the former President Samuel Nujoma. The Exclusive Prospective Licences are dished out to cronies with tribal and political connections. During her visit in November 2012 the UN Special Rapporteur made the following observation on the current situation in Namibia.

"More than two decades after independence, Namibian society is still beset by unacceptable levels of inequality along the lines of gender, race, region, ethnicity and class," today warned the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme pov-

Moral and Cultural Genocide in the South

erty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda, at the end of her first fact-finding mission* to Namibia.

“While I recognize the damaging legacy of colonialism, progress has not been forthcoming at the necessary pace,” Ms. Sepúlveda said, recalling that Namibia has enjoyed political stability and steady economic growth since independence, is rich in natural resources and has a GDP that classifies it as a middle-income country. While we strongly contest this as this country has sunk into absolute levels of theft and depravity by this regime, we concur that the resources are mismanaged.

“The fact that the country remains one of the most unequal in the world is a clear sign that the benefits of economic growth have not reached the poor,” The community’s standpoint is that they will not plead for land from the Council as they are entitled thereto. The Council in the meantime hinted that they will re-allocate the particular portion to a Swapo Councillor for a housing program. The community is adamant that this will lead to a serious confrontation should

this happen. The Nama Community therefore have further resolved as follows:

We intend to develop ourselves and our land that we live on in the Town of Keetmanshoop. We demand the channeling of the money from the Namibian Government directly to us to make the land fit for Human habitation.

We will take action on the abuse of the land and natural resources in the South to secure its use for our needs and purposes. We demand that the Namibian Government immediately ceases to provoke tribal reaction amongst the impoverished peoples of Namibia. We demand that the Namibian Government – in particular its President – immediately stop their deliberate corruption and moral destruction of the southern communities by sending in their soldiers to smuggle liquor, drugs, rape minor and school children and that these rogue agents of the Government be removed from the squatter camps and banished from the south.

We call upon the international workers’ and civil movements to urgently and strongly oppose the

continuing genocide against our people by the rape of young children and their infection with HIV by the Namibian Army, and the destruction of the southern communities by the smuggling of drugs and alcohol.

We demand from the German State the Bilateral Partner of this Government to make clear its position on the policy of rape of young children of the south by soldiers with impunity, their squatting amongst impoverished Namas, their spreading of HIV, their smuggling of drugs and alcohol.

We call on unions, civil organisations and the German NGO Alliance to support our demand for an urgent inquiry into the crimes against humanity in the south by the Namibian president and State.

We call on all to characterise the crimes in the south as the continuation of the Genocide.

The resolutions are being circulated throughout the south for signatures which will be submitted to the Namibian and German States, the local and international workers’ movements and unions, and civil organisations.

Marxist considerations on the crisis Part One

Balazs Nagy

Workers International

The Hungarian Marxist BALAZS NAGY explains the great economic crisis which erupted in 2007.

In doing so he traces the “development of the economic-political system as a whole.” He starts with “the efforts of classical socialist thinkers to understand imperialism as a stage of capitalism, then traces the persistent contradictions working in society and economy through the Twentieth Century.” which led to this explosion.

This book can be ordered at:
The Workers Advice Centre
4479 Dodge Avenue
Khomasdal
WINDHOEK
Cell: 081 2078969/081 3755 143
P.O. Box 3385, Windhoek
Email: jaco-
busjosob@gmail.com

Price: N\$200.00

Notice

The Workers International conducts reading classes on Marxism on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Topics include, The Communist Manifesto, Trotsky’s Transitional Programme, Permanent Revolution, Socialist historical topics of Southern Africa, NUMSA’s declaration. Contact, Mrs Erica Beukes, at 061-260647; 4479 Dodge Ave, Khomasdal. Fax: 088641065

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