

BULLETIN

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Day of Action against Golden Dawn



January 19, 2013: Hundreds demonstrated outside the Greek embassy in London to support a Day of Action in Greece against the activities of the fascist Golden Dawn. The Day of Action was supported in many parts of Europe and in cities in the US. See inside pages 4 and 5 on opposing fascism in Europe

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Copper miners fight on for pensions

28 January 2013.

To: The UNITE Union, London and Eastern Region

Dear comrades,

RE: report on January march

The former TCL workers again express our deepest gratitude for the solidarity from our brothers and sisters in the UNITE union.

We wish to notify you that our members from the regions arrived in Windhoek on 20 January. We marched this past Friday, 25 January. The police is again looking for trouble and used laws of the old South Africa to try and block us from to march from 500m of the courts. We marched from 20m from the High Court to the Police headquarters to deliver our objection that they are not arresting the liquidators of our pension fund. We returned to the KUDU 20m from the High Court.

We heard that the judges at the High Court had an emergency meeting and the high ranking officers tried to threaten us with the old laws. We

are facing problems from the police every time now.

We request our friends worldwide and in Namibia to raise their voices against this Government who is attacking our freedom of movement and our right to protest. They have your governments as friends and we have you as friends and comrades. Please let them know that you are supporting us to fight for our rights to free movement and protest, and our right not to be robbed of our property.

We ask this as we are marching with the housing group on 8 February and we foresee problems again with the police. While we are not scared of them, we want them to know that we also have solidarity support.

Thanking you.

Didhard Mparo

Chairman of the TCL Workers Committee

Homeowners defy legal chicanery

“HOW HOUSES ARE LOST ILLEGALLY THROUGH ROBBER BANKS AND ROGUE LEGAL FIRMS”

Text of a leaflet issued by Namibia Home Owners Association (HOA), P.O. Box 3349 Windhoek Tel: 061-260647 Cell: 0813755143 fax: 088641065 homeowners49@ymail.com

“On 2 February, last Saturday, home owners compiled the following conclusions and resolutions of the widespread loss of homes caused by the Municipality, the National Housing Enterprise (NHE), the banks, retail firms and service businesses.

The problem started on a large scale with the council housing alienation scheme in 1986, which allowed occupiers to purchase council houses. The Municipalities added false life and disability insurances to the debts which resulted from the home purchases. When home owners died the surviving spouse or children had to continue the payment as there was no insurance offsets of the debt. It was only discovered by the HOA in 2009 that the above life and disability insurance had no underwriter, did not exist, and was just clear street

mugging and robbery. Even upon this discovery the Municipality did not repay the complainant the illegal payments she was compelled to make for more than 5 years.

An accompanying problem was that the Municipalities worked in cahoots with rogue legal firms such as Etzhold-Duvenage to raid water, electricity, and rates and taxes accounts of home occupiers by adding illegal amounts. When an occupier fell in arrears with their accounts, the Municipality would cut off water and electricity. But, they would hand the case to the robber legal firm who would add to say NAD 1000 in arrears a further NAD 7000 for fraudulent legal fees and ‘interest’. (The amounts are only for illustration). Having been caught in a massively increased debt, the

rogue firm gets a default judgment and sells the home. The occupier is thus punished thrice: first his water and electricity is cut; he is taken to court where he is fined and he has to pay a firm which has nothing to do with the matter an amount many times more than his original debt. This is illegal.

This method of robbery was taken over by the banks who subject the account to theft by both the bank and the rogue legal firms: the bank would add insurance and other secret illegal amounts to the loan account; the robber legal firm would add massive illegal amounts to the account arbitrarily under the title 'legal fees'. Many a home owner is caught in a debt trap from which he cannot escape and he loses his home. The life insurance turns out to be a fiction only its payment is real.

Debts arising from retail businesses and services take the same road: For example, the bank impounds a car; sells it for a small amount (normally the bank officials and the buyers connive amongst themselves); the balance often larger than the original price of the car (item) remains payable by the victim, the robber firm having added huge legal fees and interest; his house is impounded and sold; the balance remains payable by him.

The courts play a central role in the loss of homes and the robbery by banks and legal firms: Judges act in open bias to the banks and legal firms and are themselves beneficiaries of the illegal sale

of homes; they have been board members (often chairman of the banks), but they sit on home cases.

They make a mockery of the hearings, openly violate statutes and pervert normal principles: the court stands in and conducts cases on behalf of the banks; judges who had previously acted as counsel for the banks would sit as judge; they arrogantly dismiss any objection; and they deny home owners the right to be heard.

The banks with the assistance of the registrar and the deputy sheriff are turning to violence and illegal evictions without an order of court. The court is creating a situation of lawlessness and chaos instead of maintaining so-called law and order.

Resolutions taken at the meeting:

- * The HOA is building a national mass movement against the banks and robber legal firms;
- * Home owners are organising to resist illegal evictions and defend themselves;
- * The HOA is commissioning an international inquiry into home loans and judicial involvement therein.
- * The HOA is organising workers defence militias against illegal home evictions.
- * The HOA is demanding that the courts stop home losses through judicial corruption and collusion with banks. Stop illegal evictions!!! “

Homeowners' petition “stopped in its tracks”

Namibian High Court Registrar Elsie Schickerling invoked the Apartheid-era “Demonstrations In Or Near Court Buildings Prohibition Act” to block a demonstration by the Homeowners' Association earlier this month.

Association members and supporters planned to present a petition to the High Court against the eviction of poor households and the forced sale of their properties.

However, *The Namibian* newspaper (11 February 2013) reported that “The HOA group of demonstrators were stopped at the corner of Independence Avenue and Hosea Kutako Drive,

some kilometres away from the High and Supreme courts.”

One elderly demonstrator, Isak Goa-Goseb, told the newspaper: “This government knows what we were fighting for [referring to the pre-independence liberation struggle] but now it is worse than the apartheid regime. Today we have to fight the same battles as we had before independence. Who is the owner of this country?”

Despite the police action, the HOA “vowed to take action every week, opening water taps cut off by the municipality, or physically stopping evictions from homes, even if they get jailed.”

European Anti-Fascist Manifesto

Sixty eight years after the end of World War Two and the defeat of Fascism and Nazism we are witnessing almost everywhere in Europe the rise of the extreme right. But, and this is an even more distressing phenomenon, we see the emergence and growth to the right of this extreme right, of plainly neo-Nazi forces which, in some cases (Greece, Hungary ...) are putting down roots in society, building popular, radical, racist, ultra-violent, and pogromist mass movements. Their declared objective is to destroy all working-class trade-union, political and cultural organizations, to crush any citizens' resistance, to deny the right to difference and to exterminate – even physically - those who are “different” and those who are most vulnerable.

As in the 1920s and 1930s, the ultimate cause of this extreme right and neo-fascist threat is the deep economic, social, political and even moral crisis of capitalism which, with the debt crisis as a pretext, is leading to an unprecedented attack on the standard of living, the freedoms and rights of workers. The extreme right and most of all, the neo-Nazi and neo-fascist forces are exploiting the fears and disquiet of the well-off over the risk of a social explosion, the radicalization of middle classes who have been destroyed by the crisis and sweeping austerity measures, and the despair of marginalized and impoverished unemployed people. These forces are growing everywhere in Europe. They are gaining mass influence in the poorer layers of society turning the fear and despair systematically against traditional and newer scapegoats (immigrants, Muslims, Jews, LGBT, disabled people ...) as well as against left wing organizations and trade unions.

The influence and radicalism of this extreme right is not the same throughout Europe. However, the general implementation of sweeping austerity measures is already making the rise of the extreme right an almost general phenomenon. The conclusion is clear: The fact that the spontaneous rise of the extreme right and the emergence of an ultra-violent mass neofascism is no longer an exception in Europe now requires the

antifascists of this continent to confront this problem in its real dimensions, that is - as a problem of European dimensions!

However, saying all that is not enough if we do not stress that the fight against the extreme right and neo-Nazism is extremely urgent. In fact, the neo-fascist threat in many European countries is already so direct and immediate it has transformed the antifascist struggle into the highest priority battle of life and death, in which the left and the workers' organizations, freedom and democratic rights, solidarity and tolerance and the right to difference are all at stake. Stating that we are engaged in a race against racist barbarism and neo-fascism corresponds to a reality verified every day in the streets of our European cities ...

Given the depth of the crisis and the enormous social damage it brings, the intense political polarization, the determination and aggressiveness of ruling classes, the historic importance of what is at stake in the current confrontation and the extent of the rise of the extreme right, it is clear that the antifascist struggle constitutes a strategic choice requiring an organizational plan and a long term political and militant investment. Therefore, antifascist struggle has to be closely linked to the everyday struggle against the austerity measures and the capitalist system which generates them.

To be effective and meet the expectations of the population, antifascist struggle has to be unitary, democratic and be conducted by the popular masses themselves. To this end, citizens have to organize their antifascist struggle and their self-defense themselves. At the same time, and in order to be effective, this struggle must be global, confronting everywhere the extreme right and neofascism, the poison of racism and xenophobia, chauvinism and militarism, the cult of blind violence and the denial of the gas chambers and Auschwitz itself. In short, to be effective long term, the antifascist fight has to propose in its actions an alternative vision of society, diametrically opposite to the one proposed by the extreme right. That is a society founded on solidarity, tolerance and fraternity, the rejection of machismo, of

women's oppression and the respect for the right to difference, internationalism, the scrupulous protection of the environment, the defense of democratic and humanistic values.

This European antifascist movement has to be the heir of the great antifascist traditions of our continent! To that end it should lay the foundations of a social movement with stable structures and everyday activities, penetrating the whole society, organizing antifascist citizens in networks according to their profession, residence and sensibility, carrying out the fight in all fields of human activities and assuming completely the task of – even the physical -- protection of the most vulnerable citizens, immigrants, Roma, national, black and ethnic minorities, Muslim, Jewish and LGBT people, of all those who are systematically victims of State racism and the fascist mob.

Golden Dawn in the light of Italian fascism

Several public postings (on the ESSF [*Europe Solidaire Sans Frontière*] website) about the activities of Golden Dawn cry out for a serious answer. In fact what we are dealing with, really and truly, is typical fascism which shares common features with all such undertakings.

Deliberate provocations in front of television cameras and direct actions against certain sectors of the populations started with Seselj in Serbia, who got elected into parliament in a by-election with the complicity of the "socialist" Milosevic. The wars which followed allowed him and other criminals to test out the fascist method on a large scale and with complete impunity on the Croatian and Bosnian population. But they did not have time to go on to the next stage: justifying Hitler, swastikas, anti-semitic songs ... For a long time after the war the swastika was the prerogative of fascist groups in the north, in Germany or Norway, but it has recently started to appear in Greece, Serbia or Russia (even though these countries paid a high price in their war of liberation against Hitler) and each time under the black cloak of the Orthodox Church.

Now Golden Dawn has established its presence on the street: 7% of the vote, 18 MPs, 12% in the opinion polls at the moment; in short, they have the wind in their sails. The pauperisation of Greece is proceeding rapidly. But, instinctively, fascism knows that the legal route is no guarantee

It is because the need for antifascist mobilization on a European scale is becoming day by day increasingly urgent that we, the signatories of this manifesto, are calling for the establishment of a mass unitary, democratic European Antifascist Movement, able to confront and defeat the brown plague which is raising its head on our continent. We will do our utmost to have the founding congress of this urgently needed European Antifascist Movement, in Athens by next May 2013 and intend that it will be combined with a big European antifascist demonstration in the streets of the Greek capital.

This time, history must not be repeated!
NO PASARAN!

Yorgos Mitralias – Michael Lowy

of victory, you have to take over the street, terrorise the population, act with carefully-calibrated violence. You have to take the initiative politically, win dominion over the growing mass of lumpen elements who are only waiting for a "guide and saviour". Who they target is not important: if it's not Jews, then there are foreigners, migrants. What matters is to get on the pitch, test public opinion, forge a tool, an iron bar, so that tomorrow you can smash the spine of the old enemy, the working class.

Several characteristic features which crop up include "bottle" -- initiative, calculated violence, mobility ... anything rather than waiting around passively -- and links to state patronage, of which the police, the army, the judiciary and the church are merely expressions. And they enjoy almost total immunity within a bourgeois state! They have a tactic of harassment and targeted killings which they can inflict rapidly by motorcycle. While the government discusses, they act. In their own way they have understood that Greek democracy, corrupt as it has been, has no future. If they do go into parliament, it is not with any illusion about winning a majority one day, but to burn it down. They understand, better than the left, that the country's bankruptcy cannot be solved by negotiation, and they are getting ready to sort it out their own way. Whether they are tomorrow in the shadow of the colonels, or the colonels are in

their shadow, they don't really care. They need to get ahead of the "reds". They are not wasting a single day!

And Syriza? They came within an ace of winning the election. When will they get another chance, and can they hold out that long? Will they be able to put the question of power squarely? For now, are they able to combine the ballot box with an energetic riposte to the fascists on the street?

We find very instructive testimony from Angelo Tasca, a former Communist turned Socialist, in his historic book (recently re-published under his pseudonym A. Rossi), *The Rise of Italian Fascism 1918-1922*, (volume 6 of Routledge Library Editions: Responding to Fascism). Nearly a century later, his testimony is disconcerting: how were a few small groups of determined *scadristi* able to defeat a massive but irresolute workers' movement? Trotsky mentioned this example more than once in order to persuade his young supporters not to rely on bourgeois legality to fight fascism, but to establish workers' self-defence groups based on the method of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth".

Modern Greece does not yet immediately face a general fascist offensive, but only its birth. The fascist offensive in Italy followed the defeat of the great strike in Turin in 1920. The Greek working class has suffered blows, but has not yet had a decisive defeat. But there will be no victory without remembering previous, costly, defeats. You cannot depend upon capitalist democracy at bay, with its one-eyed legality, to stand up to Golden Dawn. That is a job for the workers' movement, using its own methods.

Radoslav Pavlovic, 13 November 2012.

(Comrade Pavlovic's description is echoed almost word for word in this report in *The Independent* newspaper 2 February 2013: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/greeces-neofascists-are-on-the-rise-and-now-theyre-going-into-schools-how-golden-dawn-is-nurturing-the-next-generation-8477997.html>

(A. Rossi: *The Rise of Italian Fascism: 1918-1922* (Routledge Library Editions: Responding to Fascism, Volume 6) ISBN-10: 0415580145 and ISBN-13: 978-0415580144

UK

Call for a People's Assembly

The People's Assembly Against Austerity was launched with a letter to the Guardian newspaper by the initial signatories below. Another major national trade union, UNISON, has subsequently joined the call, as have many personalities and groups across the workers' movement. The People's Assembly is scheduled to meet on Saturday 22 June 2013 at Central Hall, Westminster. Requests for delegate credentials are already streaming in. Unite the Union is organising a national march from the North east which should arrive in London on 22 June also. It should be a very significant day and a real step forward in organising working-class resistance to the bourgeoisie's attack on social gains.

The call

This is a call to all those millions of people in Britain who face an impoverished and uncertain year as their wages, jobs, conditions and welfare provision come under renewed attack by the government.

With some 80% of austerity measures still to come, and with the government lengthening the time they expect cuts to last, we are calling a People's Assembly Against Austerity to bring together campaigns against cuts and privatisation with trade unionists in a movement for social justice. We aim to develop a strategy for resistance to mobilise millions of people against the Con Dem government.

The assembly will provide a national forum for anti-austerity views which, while increasingly popular, are barely represented in parliament. A People's Assembly can play a key role in ensuring that this uncaring government faces a movement of opposition broad enough and powerful enough to generate successful co-ordinated action, including strike action. The assembly will be ready to support co-ordinated industrial action and national demonstrations against austerity, if possible synchronising with mobilisations across Europe. The

People's Assembly Against Austerity will meet at Central Hall, Westminster, on 22 June.

Tony Benn President, Coalition of Resistance

Len McCluskey General secretary, Unite the Union

Mark Serwotka General secretary, PCS (Civil Service union)

Christine Blower General secretary, NUT (Teachers' union)

Michelle Stanistreet General secretary, NUJ (Journalists' union)

Manuel Cortez General secretary, TSSA (Railway Clerical Staff union)

Billy Hayes General secretary, CWU (Postal Workers' union)

Bob Crow General secretary, RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport)

Mick Whelan General secretary, Aslef (Train drivers' union)

Kevin Courtney Deputy general secretary, NUT

Paul Mackney Former general secretary Natfhe (now UCU) (College and University Lecturer's union)

Vicky Baars NUS union development (Students' union)

Kevin Donnelly Trade Union Council JCC (Local and Regional Trade Union Councils)

Left Unity website established

Europe is plunging deeper and deeper into crisis. Its governments are continuing with their failed austerity policies which are destroying the social and economic gains working people have made over many decades.

The economic crisis has increasingly become a social and political crisis as people face poverty, hunger and even death, as a result of the catastrophic and government-imposed failure of health systems and social services.

However the people of Europe are fighting back. On November 14th millions took to the streets to oppose these policies and throughout southern Europe there were general strikes. The task of the hour is to give adequate political expression to this new movement.

In Greece, France, Germany and elsewhere, new political formations have emerged, drawing together a range of left forces, challenging the capitulation of social democracy to neo-liberalism. Here in Britain, a successful response to the rightwards move of Labour has not yet taken place, yet we have equal need of a new political formation which rejects austerity and war, advocates a greater democratisation of our society and institutions, and poses a new way of organising everyday life.

The need for cooperation amongst those forces which seek to bring change to our society is vital, to enable us to overcome the obstacles of the first-past-the-post electoral system. The need for unity is paramount as attacks on the living and working conditions of ordinary people intensify,

and the very fabric of our welfare state is being destroyed. We need to open a dialogue of the left, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that we do not remain outside of these developments.

A coalition for change is necessary. We call on all those willing to tread this path to support this Appeal, so that this essential discussion can begin.

The task is urgent and the time short. (Available on <http://leftunity.org>)

Workers International greets Left Unity site

The establishment of Left Unity website is a great step forward. Working people urgently need a voice that asserts their needs and is neither a narrow sect nor kowtows to the establishment. Let's hope it will become a real resource for everybody who wants to strengthen and unite every struggle to defend state education, the NHS, council housing and the rights of tenants, sickness and disability benefits, pensions, unemployments benefits, council services and all the rights of working people.

Ten things to do:

1. Help working people to unite and organise their opposition to cuts and austerity into a powerful mass movement
2. Explain how the crisis is a result of capitalism
3. Explain the centrality of class struggle and exploitation
4. Bring political and anti-cuts activists together nationally and in every locality

5. Organise with others a united campaign against austerity in Europe
6. Publicise the struggle day by day on the website
7. Publicise and popularise socialist ideas: public ownership, public provision of education, health and housing. Preserve the lessons and experiences of the past in the struggle for the future
8. Provide a real democratic voice for working people
9. Oppose the powerful capitalist interests which really rule this country
10. Stand candidates in local and national elections to give working people a voice

Six things not to do:

1. Put your “own” party’s interests before the interests of the working class
2. Assume that your party by definition represents the interests of working people
3. Gag political discussion within your party
4. Stop political differences within the party from being discussed in public
5. Stand outside of the struggles of working people for their interests
6. Provoke premature or unnecessary splits over differences

Bob Archer

France:

Workers’ International French supporters launch broadsheet

Activists of the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International living in France have started to produce a monthly broadsheet “Lutte de Classes” (“Class Struggle”). The main article in the first issue explains the choice of title:

Why we chose this title

We owe it to the workers and working people in general who read our news-sheet to explain why we have chosen this particular title. Class struggle is an idea and a practice which have been disparaged, attacked and even put to ridicule by capital and its servants and repudiated, abandoned and scorned by most of its more accommodating opponents. We think that the only way to explain our choice is to present the situation we are in and the challenges it poses.

Those who own wealth and enjoy the resources it offers have always denied that there is a class struggle. They have been – and are still – helped in this not only by those who directly guard their power but also by an overwhelming and varied mass of preachers. They sing the same old song in different keys, manipulating all their kept newspapers and TV channels, but also, books, plays and films. And this penetrates even into schools and churches.

For the last thirty years or so they have sung the same tune, but even louder. It started

when capital decided to use every trick in the book to beef up its profits. The more it tried to squeeze profits out of working people, the more it attacked their rights, the louder it proclaimed that we are all in it together. And – obviously – the more it condemned the very idea of a class struggle.

Its huge army of acolytes even tried to junk the idea of this struggle as a load of old-fashioned rubbish. And this soporific lullaby has helped them to start systematically demolishing a whole range of social gains working people have achieved. The methodical erosion of rights at work and social security, the whole “social wage”, has been a real class struggle, accompanied by all the ballyhoo about the end of class struggle.

In reality, for long decades they have waged an incessant, consistent, centralised struggle, often camouflaged and insidious, against workers and their rights, cheating and lulling and disarming them with this fairly story about a harmonious society based on brotherly love.

In the years since the onset of the crisis, all working people have felt the many difficulties they face in life more and more sharply, making their lives more and more brutally difficult each day. Their wages are shrinking rapidly and command less and less in the market-place, in the shops and everywhere. They are visibly diminishing while

prices go up. On top of that, they face the obscenely high and rising cost of rents, transport and services – all aspects of human existence. Instead of being excited by the hope of a better life, people are anxious about the growing threat of unemployment.

Those who have already lost their jobs know the double loss of a wage and of hope. The numbers are going up by the day. They are thrown onto the street, outcast like the lepers of old. High-minded souls stigmatise them with the cowardly and humiliating term: “social exclusion”, a whole programme which makes the catastrophe sound somehow inevitable and throws a handy life-line to capital.

Most vulnerable of all are young people, because it hits them before they have gathered



Disabled workers (above) oppose the closure of the Remploy site in Barking, East London. Photo courtesy of <http://www.dpac.uk.net>

any resources or experience to fall back on. They are deprived of hope, dreams and ambition, which is the wealth all young people have.

Unemployment does more massive damage to their ranks than elsewhere. Those in education preparing for life see the poverty rising around them and the doors closing in front of them. A whole generation sees a shadow fall across its future.

At the same time you can see bosses increasing their profits even when they are driving their businesses into bankruptcy. The rich get richer, getting away with astronomical sums while the proletarians are made into paupers. Even the

high-minded lament the growing inequality. The chorus about the end of the class struggle is all the answer we get ... It's not just that capital exploits us and takes away our rights, but they and their servants think we are stupid!

And it's the same in every country, especially in our old Europe. The millions at the bottom of society are in the same position everywhere.

Where there is an obvious difference between them, it arises from the general level of the country they are living in. The particular situation in each of them makes a difference. But they are everywhere subjected to the same system of control and exploitation and suffer the same scourges that arise from it. That is what binds them solidly together, for all the differences, because although it has a thousand faces, poverty is common to all. They suffer the blows of the same capital whether they are in France inside the Eurozone or Britain outside it, in impoverished Spain or Greece or wealthy Sweden or Germany.

Especially since the onset of crisis, capital at bay has stepped up the ferocity of the class struggle and redoubled its attacks. Workers and all working people are hit by the renewed attacks in every country, helped and even orchestrated by the political powers that be. They have stirred up a whole general offensive against all the gains, advantages and benefits – and rights – that European workers have clawed from them in the course of long, historical struggles.

European capital and its governments have left the dirty work of attacking these rights to their “European” puppets. They hide behind these often nameless and unelected marionettes without merit and without responsibility hiding away in Brussels and Frankfurt who plan and organise this offensive. Factory closures, wage cuts for those still in work, drastic cuts in some benefits and the removal of others, closure of everything from hospitals to post offices and the waves of attacks on pensions, social security and rights at work that are already battered – all this is offered as the “solution” to the crisis. This enormous lie joins the other one that presents this calvary as if it was the road to European unification. Who can believe these colossal deceptions which a rabble of lickspittles try to make us swallow?

Look at Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Spain and Italy, severely and viciously ravaged by these

violent exactions. These countries are subjected to the pitiless dictatorship of finance capital, whose colonial governors have taken direct control of their lives. Flourishing only a short time ago, these countries today resemble a desolate battlefield. Ruined, devastated, despoiled, they evoke memories of colonies pillaged by that same capital.

Who are they trying to kid that this destruction means salvation from the crisis? Or that the road to a better Europe lies through these ruins?

But watch out! These countries show all the others in a Europe -- united in the poverty that moribund capital is busily putting into place -- what their future will be. For all their perfidious promises and the naïve faith people put in them, it will give no quarter because it cannot!

This system of exploitation and oppression is running out of road. For all the bragging of its paid mouthpieces, its profits are falling and weakening. Not, indeed in quantity, which is rising by the day. But their real share is falling, the part that is squeezed out of workers' labour, the only thing which, hogged by capital, breathes life into its system, allowing it continuous development and unlimited expansion. That is what has definitively come to an end.

This is the truth that is expressed in the overall devastation of industry. It is no coincidence that for the last thirty years capital has been trying to restore and re-inflate its lost commercial and industrial profits through all kinds of subtle subterfuges and disastrous tricks on the part of finance. And when -- as expected -- the whole of this immense speculative machine smashed to pieces against the wall of reality, the crisis laid bare the complete bankruptcy of the whole system.

But again watch out! Despite its total bankruptcy and in spite of its obvious inability to get out of the blind alley it is in, the capitalist system will never collapse on its own. Faced with the collapse revealed by the crisis, it immediately reacted by intensifying its class struggle against working people.

Faced with the loss of its historic profits, knocked back by international competition, left destitute by its financial adventures, European capital has reacted violently. That is why it has turned its regular attacks against the advantages, benefits, gains and rights workers have achieved



Workers at the Vio.Me factory in Greece have occupied the plant and resumed production under workers control

into a veritable general and aggressive offensive. That is also why it can neither stop, postpone nor abandon its offensive.

See how, with the support of all those who profit from the system, capital and its propagandists and politicians have changed the very language. What they call "reforms" are nothing but the destruction of previous reforms because the survival of the system of exploitation cannot tolerate these previous, progressive reforms. Social measures favourable to working people therefore appear to be completely incompatible with the system itself. Its official agents and the countless profiteers prove that clearly every day. In deeds, as in words. They openly and cynically say that we have "lived beyond our means". To put it another way, regular work for all, a decent wage, dignity in retirement, a free health system and rights and equality at work are actually beyond the means -- of capitalism. At the same time the same system guarantees that the rich shall become even richer on the backs of people who are getting poorer and poorer.

This, in broad outline, is the present and recent past of the more than a century long struggle waged by the capitalist class against workers and all working people. It is high time that the latter react in their masses in consciousness of these attacks, changing and developing their resistance and natural and spontaneous defence movements into a well-thought-out, organised and vigorous class struggle. For our part, we at *Lutte de Classes* will continue to develop this struggle, clarifying it further and helping to shed light on all aspects of it.

Balazs Nagy, January 2013