
Sacco-Vanzetti:

Socialist Leader Makes Stirring Plea for Two Italian Labor Men

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On the 14th day of July [1922], the anniversary of the Fall of the Bastille, the cases of Sacco and Vanzetti will come up for hearing. On that day the trial judge will decide their fate by granting them a new trial or by sending them on their way to the electric chair.

It is tragedy indeed that is being enacted at Dedham and Charlestown, Massachusetts, where Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti pace their narrow prison cells awaiting execution for a crime of which they are as innocent as if they had never been born.

Nothing of a graver or more shocking nature, nothing more terrible and menacing, has ever come to pass in the labor movement of the United States.

For be it distinctly understood that these two men, our comrades and fellow workers, have been convicted and are about to be turned over to the executioner solely because of their sympathy for, their connection with, and their activities in behalf of the working class. The crime of murder charged against them is simply the pretext, the subterfuge, the miserable, lying excuse for murdering them.

The victims of the Haymarket at Chicago in 1887, not one of whom was guilty of any crime save that of standing staunchly and battling bravely for their enslaved fellow workers, were accused of murder as a pretext merely to justify their own murder under the capitalist law.

Tom Mooney and his associates were made to face the same false and infamous charge and for the same reason; and had it not been for the protest of the workers, which became so menacing, they would long ago have been murdered under the lynch law administered for

the benefit of the working class by the rotten courts and sanctioned by the craven executive of California [Gov. William Stephens].

The whole world knows that Tom Mooney was framed, that he was convicted upon the perjured testimony of degenerates hired for the purpose., and yet he and [Warren] Billings, equally innocent, are suffered by the working class, to their lasting shame, to rot away by inches in a capitalist black-hole. But the agitation for their release will never cease until they are free again to tell the world of the monstrous crime of capitalism, of which they were and are the victims.

These infamies are repeated with a vengeance in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti. They are of the breed that do and dare for their principles and scorn the weakness and poltroonery that make sycophants and slaves of men. And so they were marked for assassination by the class that live out of the sweat and blood of the toilers for whom Sacco and Vanzetti stood erect and defiant without a tremor of fear or shadow of compromise.

Charged with the atrocious crime of murder and robbery, the stage of the capitalist court was set not for their trial but for their conviction, and it speedily followed. It was a foregone conclusion. Perjured witnesses have since confessed their complicity in the dastardly conspiracy to murder innocent men as a means of discrediting and destroying organized labor, in which they had been active.

The case is clear as the light of day at noontime. A child not feeble-minded can see it at a glance.

The enormity of the crime is incredible; the tragedy of the spectacle beyond words.

Since the infamous conviction of these two comrades and brothers of ours positive evidence has been presented showing conclusively, first, that the testimony upon which they were convicted was given by a self-confessed perjurer; and, second, that they were identified by eyewitnesses as not being the bandits who committed the crime.

In the presence of these positive and ghastly facts, the duty of the labor movement, of the entire working class and of all people who reprobate the assassination of innocent men in the name of law and justice is clear and commanding.

These men must be saved from the electric chair!

This is the first clear call that comes to us, and to answer that call we must at once arouse the workers of the land and get into action all along the line.

The trial, the farcical, outrageous trial, which resulted in the criminal conviction of the innocent, must be denounced and repudiated in every paper and from every platform we can command.

Another trial will result in acquittal and vindication, and that must be our demand. And this demand must be made from coast to coast in the commanding voice of the people.

In every state and in every town and city the appeal must be made to the conscience of the people: "Sacco and Vanzetti are innocent men. They shall not be murdered!"

A defense committee should be organized at once in every industrial center and protest demonstrations held to swell the demand for justice for these outraged workingmen. Literature should be distributed, that the people may know the truth concerning the monstrous crime about to be consummated to glut the lust of the profiteering pirates, whose real purpose in killing Sacco and Vanzetti is to slaughter the labor movement and silence all opposition to their knavish schemes and their flint-hearted, pauperizing misrule.

Write at once to the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee, Box 37, Hanover Street Station, Boston, Mass., for printed matter and further information. This committee is authorized by and hold credentials from leading central bodies and other unions in the labor movement.

Funds are of the most vital importance, and prompt action is required in raising money for the defense all over the country.

Life, human life, the life that has been risked for us and for our children, is at stake. The delay of a day may be fatal. Act your part and act at once. Give as you can, and get others to do the same.

We can and must rescue these men from the electric chair, and I have sufficient faith in the workers to believe it will be done.

But it can only be done if the workers are awakened and the people roused, and I appeal to each and every one who is with us in this crusade to prevent the consummation of a crime that would be a deep and damning disgrace to our nation, and to restore our falsely accused and cruelly outraged brothers to liberty and to their rightful place among their fellow men.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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