

Australasian SPARTACIST



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50 cents

Break With Laborism! Build an Internationalist Revolutionary Workers Party! Down With Government and Bosses' Union Busting!

Full Citizenship Rights for All Immigrants! No Deportations!

While Australian capitalism celebrates a resources boom and massive profits, the working class and oppressed are being driven to the wall. Real wages are rapidly declining in the face of rising living costs. Under a concerted union-busting offensive, long-held working conditions are being slashed while thousands of permanent jobs have been replaced by casual and contract labour or simply destroyed. This has particularly impacted women, immigrants and youth, already disproportionately represented in the casual labour market. The government's sadistic "welfare-to-work reforms" aim to throw thousands off welfare, particularly the disabled and single mothers, while state Labor governments run down hospitals, schools and transport, further degrading the lives of working people. The deeply oppressed Aboriginal people face daily racist terror and increased state repression alongside grinding poverty and enforced marginalisation.

The marked rightward shift in Australia's political climate is paralleled in

capitalist countries across the globe. It is integrally linked to the restoration of capitalism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the early 1990s, which plunged the working people there into mass unemployment and social devastation. The counterrevolutionary destruction of the Soviet Union, encircled by hostile imperialism and betrayed from within by its Stalinist misrulers, removed the chief obstacle to unbridled imperialist pillage across the planet and has given rise to increased interimperialist rivalries, long held in check by anti-Soviet unity. Counterrevolution has unleashed a global offensive against workers and minorities as the capitalist rulers have sought to increase the rate of exploitation, drive down living standards and slash welfare, health and other social programs in order to gain an edge against their competitors.

The restoration of capitalism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was an historic defeat for the world's proletariat. It has led to a regression in political consciousness, albeit uneven, with few



Kerry Edwards

Perth, 29 August: Unionists rally in support of 107 CFMEU members threatened with fines for striking in defence of sacked union safety delegate. Drop the charges against the WA unionists!

workers today identifying their struggles with the fight for socialist revolution. The International Communist League fought for the unconditional military defence of these bureaucratically degenerated and deformed workers states against imperialist attack and internal counterrevolution, while fighting for workers political revolution to replace the parasitic Stalinist

bureaucracies with regimes based on workers democracy and revolutionary internationalism.

Contrary to the wishes of the bourgeois rulers as they ratchet up their attacks on workers today, class struggle cannot be legislated or repressed out of existence but is a product of class-divided societies. As

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Imperialists Threaten Sanctions After Nuclear Test

Defend North Korea!

The following is slightly adapted from an article first published in Workers Vanguard No. 878 (13 October), newspaper of the Spartacist League/U.S.

OCTOBER 10—North Korea declared on 9 October that it had successfully conducted an underground nuclear test, providing a significant deterrent against military aggression by U.S. imperialism and its allies. Predictably, the U.S. and Japan responded by whipping up hysteria over the North Korean "threat." Both the Australian government and the loyal Labor Party opposition rushed to denounce North Korea, demanding

tough sanctions. Washington called for UN sanctions against Pyongyang, ultimately backed up by the threat of military attack. These renewed threats underline the duty of revolutionaries to stand for the **unconditional military defence** of the North Korean deformed workers state against imperialism.

Despite the rule of a nationalist Stalinist bureaucracy, the overthrow of capitalism in North Korea—as in China, Cuba and Vietnam—was a historic defeat for imperialism and a victory for the working people of the world. Though the U.S. rulers howl menacingly over weapons of mass destruction in the hands of "rogue states," it

was the U.S. imperialists and their British and Australian allies, under the auspices of the UN, who devastated the Korean peninsula in the 1950-53 Korean War, killing more than three million people. The U.S. is the only power ever to use atomic weaponry, incinerating some 200,000 Japanese civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Had the Soviet Union not developed a nuclear arsenal capable of deterring U.S. imperialism, Korea, China and Vietnam might well today be irradiated rubble. The international working class must support the deformed workers states' possessing and testing nuclear weapons as a means of defence against

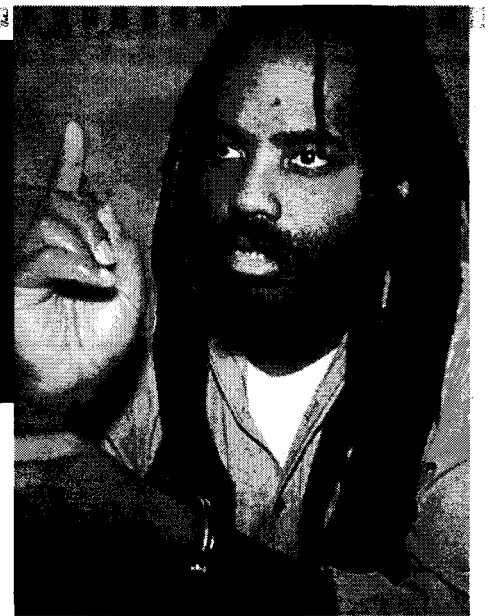
imperialist blackmail.

Criminally, the Chinese Stalinist regime joined the imperialist-led uproar. On 8 October, China joined imperialist Japan in a common declaration that such a test "cannot be tolerated." When North Korean officials informed their Chinese counterparts that the nuclear test was minutes away, Beijing rushed to give Washington the heads-up. Beijing has long sought to pressure Pyongyang to return to the "six-party talks," whose aim is to disarm North Korea.

The Stalinists' illusion that there can be "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism only undermines the defence of the deformed workers states, including China itself, which, after the destruction of the Soviet Union, is the imperialists' prime target in the drive to "roll back Communism." This underlines the necessity of proletarian political revolution to oust the nationalist Stalinist bureaucracies. **Beijing: Stop your craven appeasement of the imperialist drive against North Korea!** ■

Freedom Now for Mumia Abu-Jamal!

New Legal Papers Filed



Terry/Gamma-Liaison

The following 1 August statement by the Partisan Defense Committee in the U.S. is reprinted from Workers Vanguard (No. 874, 4 August), newspaper of the Spartacist League/U.S., section of the International Communist League.

The fight to free Mumia Abu-Jamal is at a critical juncture. A prize-winning journalist, former Black Panther Party spokesman, supporter of the MOVE organization and defiant opponent of racist state terror, Mumia was railroaded to death row in 1982 on false charges of killing Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. On July 20, Mumia filed his opening legal brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, which last December put his case on a "fast track" for decision.

The forces of the capitalist state have long been determined to carry out Mumia's legal lynching as a warning to those who challenge racist cop repression, to fighters against U.S. imperialist depredations, to workers who stand up for their rights on the picket lines. The Partisan Defense Committee—a legal and social defense organization associated with the Marxist Spartacist League—calls on all opponents of racist injustice, and in particular the labor movement, to mobilize for *freedom now* for Mumia!

Mumia's life is in grave danger. The court is expected to rule in a matter of months whether he will live, die or have further legal proceedings. Both Mumia and the prosecution are appealing a 2001 ruling by U.S. District Court judge

William Yohn, who overturned Mumia's death sentence but upheld every aspect of his frame-up conviction. The Third Circuit has refused to hear any evidence of Mumia's innocence and has only allowed him to challenge three of the more than two dozen constitutional violations in his case. For more than five years, state and federal courts have refused to hear the sworn confession of Arnold Beverly that he, not Mumia, shot and killed Daniel Faulkner. In an affidavit reprinted in the PDC pamphlet *The Fight to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal—Mumia Is Innocent!*, Beverly says that he was hired to kill Faulkner, who was reportedly interfering with prostitution, gambling, drugs and police pay-offs, and that "Jamal had nothing to do with the shooting."

The courts have suppressed the Beverly evidence because it demonstrates that the injustice done to Mumia was not the work of one rogue cop, prosecutor or judge but the workings of a "justice" system whose purpose is to repress the working class, minorities and the poor on behalf of the capitalist ruling class. The fight to free Mumia must be waged on the basis that he is an innocent man, the victim of a political and racist frame-up. The need to mobilize around this understanding is underscored by the fact that Beverly's confession and other proof of Mumia's innocence—including the suppression and coercion of eyewitnesses by police and prosecutors and their fabrication, some two months after his arrest, of a phony "confession" by Mumia—cannot even get a hearing in the capitalist courts.

The Beverly confession has been derided by liberals like the writer Dave Lindorff and all but ignored by reformist left organizations. Many liberals object to Mumia's treatment in the courts but see it as at most an "aberration" in an otherwise fair and just legal system, and they regard the idea that the cops would frame up an innocent man as absurd. But to see that such frame-ups are routine procedure requires looking no further than a special prosecutor's report released on July 19, which examines nearly 150 cases in which Chicago cops used electroshock, suffocation and torture to beat bogus confessions out of black "suspects." Although the Chicago report is mainly a

damage-control job, it nonetheless confirms that there was widespread torture and that police brass knew about it and gave a commendation to the cops who were doing it. It was well-documented at the time of Mumia's trial that the Philly police used similar methods.

Mumia's "frame-up" was not only racist—it was politically driven as well. The police and FBI had Mumia in their sights since his Black Panther youth and continued their vendetta as he became known as "the voice of the voiceless" for his searing commentaries on racism, poverty and repression—a role Mumia continues to play through his writings from death row.

The three issues covered in Mumia's new brief point to the racist and political bias that saturated his trial and appeals, proving that Mumia, like Dred Scott in 1857, has no rights that a court is bound to respect. One issue is the racist bias of the late hanging judge Albert Sabo, a member of the Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.) who presided over Mumia's 1982 trial and again at his post-conviction (PCRA) hearings in the 1990s. The court filings highlight a 2001 affidavit of court reporter Terri Maurer-Carter, who disclosed that at the time of the trial she overheard Sabo say, "I'm going to help them fry the n---r." During the 1995 PCRA hearings, Sabo routinely quashed Mumia's subpoenas, sustained prosecution objections and found all of Mumia's witnesses "incredible." Sabo jailed PDC attorney Rachel Wolkenstein, then a member of Mumia's legal team, and told another defense lawyer, "Counselor, justice is just an emotional feeling."

The brief also exposes the prosecutor's racist jury-rigging at the trial. Excluding black jurors was an official policy of the Philadelphia D.A.'s office, codified in a 1987 training video directing prosecutors to strike "blacks from the low-income areas" from juries because they have "a resentment for law enforcement." Statistical studies prove that this was the practice throughout the 1980s. Mumia's brief documents that for his trial "a black

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Unionists Demand Mumia's Freedom

The image shows two protest letters. The top one is from the National Council of Trade Unions (NCTU), dated 30 May 2006, addressed to the Law Offices of Robert R. Bryan. The bottom one is from the ILA 1526 Public Relations Committee, dated May 4, 2006, also addressed to the Law Offices of Robert R. Bryan. Both letters demand Mumia's freedom and criticize the legal system.

Protest letters in support of Mumia have been sent by unions representing hundreds of thousands of workers around the world, including South African National Council of Trade Unions and Victorian branch of Australian Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union, and by officials from such unions as the U.S. International Longshoremen's Association.

Australasian SPARTACIST

For a workers republic of Australia, part of a socialist Asia!

Marxist newspaper of the Central Committee of the Spartacist League of Australia, section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist).

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Spartacist

July 13: KfsV, PDC's fraternal organisation in Germany, during protest against visiting U.S. president George Bush. Banner reads "Mobilise the Power of the Working Class: Freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal, Now!"

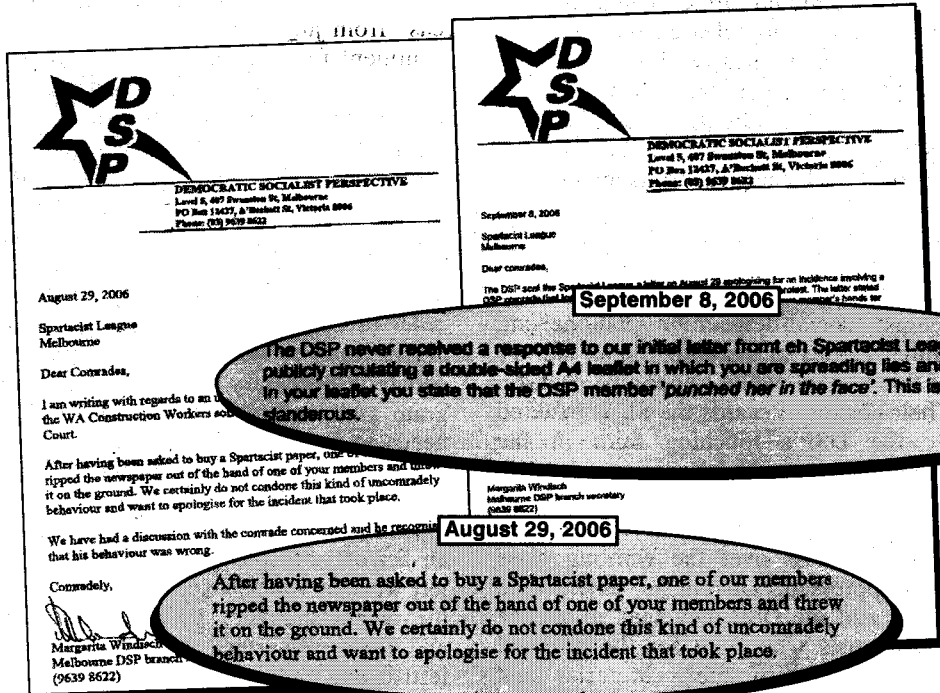
Condemn DSP Assault on Spartacist Woman Comrade

We Will Not Be Silenced!

OCTOBER 9—We reprint below a 5 September Spartacist League (SL) leaflet protesting the attack on one of our woman comrades by a male member of the Democratic Socialist Perspective (DSP) at a 29 August union rally in Melbourne. This leaflet has been distributed widely to unions, left, campus and other groups along with the statement of an independent witness and two letters received from the DSP following the attack. The statement of the witness expresses pure and justified outrage that the DSP member punched a woman—our comrade—on the jaw and noted that “a man resorting to violence on a woman is displaying an act of extreme weakness of character and cowardice.”

Feeling the heat of exposure, and with some of their members reportedly questioning their party's handling of this issue, the lying DSP leadership responded to our leaflet in a second letter of 8 September accusing us of slander! Never mind that our comrade and the witness had immediately protested the assault to other DSP members at the union rally. As an angry letter (reprinted page 4) to the DSP from a couple who had earlier bought a paper from our comrade sharply noted, “It is inconceivable that any honest organization or person would try to cover up any male punching a woman by saying that the victim in this case is lying.” In fact the DSP's response mirrors the “norm” in this brutal deeply misogynist society, where women are expected to accept lightly any violence perpetrated against them and suffer in silence.

The DSP's visceral hatred of our Marxist politics is revealed in a recent Internet posting by “glparramatta.” This “unofficial” and slimy cyber “polemic” written in the language of dyed-in-the-wool social-democratic anti-communism aims to justify in advance further attacks by describing us as a “mad-dog sect” and the attack on our woman comrade as “an understandable mistake”! By reference to a meeting on Vietnam, which the writer claims took place in 1985, the posting states that the DSP has a tradition of defending workers democracy. This and almost everything else in the posting is a crock. They can't even get the dates right.



DSP “apology” (left) written on day of attack disappears physical assault against SL woman comrade; feeling the heat of exposure, lying DSP leadership responds to our leaflet in a letter (right) accusing us of slander.

Witness Statement

31st August 2006.

To whom it may concern.

On 29th August, I had attended a workers' support rally which had just finished at the Law Centre square, crn. Williams and Latrobe Streets Melbourne. It was about 12.30 PM and I was mingling with the crowd when my attention was drawn to a lady who I later learned was Linda, and a young man conversing loudly to each other. It appeared they were selling some kind of newspapers, each different to the other. Suddenly the man s[t]ruck Linda on the jaw. Thinking they were friends rough housing, but also feeling he had struck her fairly hard, even in fun, I looked on as the man hastily walked away.

However, Linda, visibly upset and close to tears, chased him in apparent frustration, hitting him a couple of times on the shoulder and calling to him that he had no right to strike her. The man stopped, turned to Linda and denied hitting her. At this stage, realising the gravity of the situation, I intervened, stepping between them. The man turned and rapidly walked away into the crowd.

I tried to calm Linda who was in tears. She settled down to a degree and explained to me the lead up to the incident. I

agreed to be a witness if need be and gave her my phone number. We walked to a trestle manned by a group who the young man apparently represented where we both informed them of the unfortunate event. They appeared genuinely concerned and wanted to know who and where the chap was, but he was nowhere to be seen. Linda walked away in tears. They asked me, and I told them once more what I had seen and my concern at a bad divisive image it presented at such a rally, and my view that a man hitting a woman is a cowardly act under any circumstance. I was impressed with their sincere upset of our report and I told them I would be a witness if Linda was going to pursue it. The lass behind the trestle expressed her regret at the whole affair, saying they would try and find who was responsible.

I wish to state that I am not affiliated with any party, political or other wise. I have not previously met Linda or the young chap who struck her. I am giving this statement purely for my own ethical reasons, this being as previously stated, that a man resorting to violence on a woman is displaying an act of extreme weakness of character and cowardice.
Aussie (Austin) Sadler.

The meeting actually took place in 1983, not 1985 (and thus couldn't have been a meeting “around the theme of 10 years since the liberation of Saigon”). On 13 August 1983 (see our article “Big Lies and Strange Bedfellows,” *Australasian Spartacist* No. 104, Summer 1983/84) the Socialist Workers Party (SWP—predecessors to the DSP) called a “public” meeting at Sydney Trades Hall on Vietnam, put a line of stick-wielding thugs across the entrance of the building to physically enforce the exclusion of the SL, and then, when some of their goons got hurt, squealed that this justified the decision to not admit the Spartacists to the meeting in the first place!

In the same year the SWP dumped the “Trotskyist” label as they cheered on the CIA-backed, Catholic reactionary, counterrevolutionary Solidarność movement in Poland, and scandalously embraced the Croatian Movement for Statehood (HDP) who identified with the fascist Ustasha, bloody butchers of hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Gypsies and Croats in World War II. Just

eight years later the DSP, along with much of the rest of the left, lined up behind the Australian imperialists to cheer for capitalist counterrevolution in the Soviet Union.

Groveling before the Australian rulers has been a defining feature of the DSP and its predecessors for decades. They supported racist Australia's military mobilisations abroad under the guise of providing “humanitarian assistance” in Cambodia and Somalia and in 1999 they were in the vanguard of those demanding Australian imperialist troops to occupy tiny East Timor. Today the politically bankrupt, unstable and faction-riddled DSP leadership stand exposed in their abject social-chauvinist refusal to offer even paper opposition to the current military occupation of East Timor. Unable to defend their political positions they lash out with violence and big lies against the SL—the party which aggressively and from the outset has taken a principled stand against the depredations of Australian imperialism from Iraq to East Timor.

We want to thank the many individuals who have expressed to us their solidarity in the face of these attacks and encourage these brothers and sisters to directly inform the DSP that their violence, lies and slander are inexcusable and have no place in the workers movement. In defence of the rights of the whole workers movement we are continuing to solicit statements from unionists, leftists and others to condemn the DSP attack on our woman comrade.

Email protests to the Melbourne branch of the DSP at melbourne@dsp.org.au or write to PO Box 12427 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 8006; send protest emails to *Green Left Weekly* at glw@greenleft.org.au. Send copies to the SL (see contact details on page 9).

We have a long and proud history of defending the principle of workers democracy on behalf of ourselves as well as others. We will defend our comrades and our right to sell our press. We will continue to expose the DSP for its attempts at political censorship and the excuses it makes for the anti-woman and

anti-communist attacks of its supporters. Those who seek to use violence, slander and intimidation to silence revolutionary criticism must not be allowed to prevail. We will not be silenced!

On 29 August, at the Melbourne union rally in support of 107 Western Australian unionists facing draconian fines under Howard's vicious anti-union legislation, a male member of the Democratic Socialist Perspective (DSP) carried out a vicious physical assault against a long-time woman supporter of the Spartacist League (SL).

Our comrade had offered the DSP supporter a copy of *Australasian Spartacist*, which was headlined “Australian/UN Imperialist Troops/Cops Out of East Timor and Solomons Now!” He ripped the paper from her hand and threw it to the ground! Pushing the DSPer away, our supporter loudly protested this unprovoked attack and violent attempt at political censorship. Then, as she moved to pick up the paper, **he punched her in the face!** Momentarily stunned, our comrade managed to land a blow on the arm of the DSP assailant before the coward fled the scene. She began yelling loudly “I've been punched in the face,” alerting all those around to what had happened. One union supporter who witnessed the DSPer's assault accompanied her to the Socialist Alliance stall where she protested the outrageous attack to DSP members.

In fact the same day the DSP felt compelled to write a letter to the SL (reproduced below) [see graphic on left] apologising for the “unfortunate incident.” While the letter itself admits some responsibility, it **disappears the fact that their member punched our comrade in the face!** It seems the DSP cannot let it be known that they have a member who physically assaulted a woman—it would not go down well with their claims to be defenders of women's rights.

Acts of violence such as this attack have no place in the workers movement! Evidently some *Green Left Weekly* (GLW) salesmen/DSP members are willing to substitute the fist for the brain when

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Letters of Protest to DSP

The Spartacist League received copies of the following protest letters sent to the Democratic Socialist Perspective (DSP) and their Melbourne Branch Secretary, Margarita Windisch.

25 September 2006

Dear Comrades,

I am a veteran socialist who has been active in the workers movement for many decades both in Europe and here. Recently I read the material made available to the workers movement by the Spartacist League regarding particularly the assault on their comrade by one of your comrades at the demonstration on 29 August 2006.

I was reminded of an incident in 1983 when I was forcibly removed from a public meeting of your forebears in the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in 1983 because I was criticizing the SWP's alliance with the Croatian Movement for Statehood (HDP) who were followers of the fascist Ustasha. On that occasion Spartacist supporters came to my aid.

I am hereby expressing my gravest concern about the recent assaults by Green Left Weekly salesmen against Spartacist supporters. Please note that it is crucial that differences of opinion can be freely argued out within the workers movement without leftists being physically assaulted by other leftists.

Yours Sincerely,
Jacob Bilander

26 September 2006

Dear Margarita,

We are writing to you regarding one of your member's attack on a Spartacist woman at the WA Construction Workers rally on 29 August 2006. Both I and my partner severely condemn your member's attack and DSP's attempt to censor Spartacist League.

We probably had bought our paper from the Spartacist woman a short time

before your male member attacked her and punched her in the face. This is clearly an attempt to censor Spartacist League by one of your members. Had I been right at the incident I assure you I would have done all possible to defend the Spartacist woman against your member's vile attack on her and his cowardly attempt to censor Spartacist publications.

Your member punching the Spartacist woman in the face was not 'uncomradely behaviour' as you state, it was a vile male chauvinist cowardly act and regardless of if he was fully conscious of his act, his ripping up Spartacist paper was a clear action of censorship. He might be a backward element in your party but what he did is clearly reflecting the ruling class ideology. The Australian Government has legitimized suppression and censoring of dissent and somehow your member in question has internalized and found the right in himself to censor the fight for communism by Spartacist League. This can not be permitted within the workers movement!

In your letters to Spartacist League you try to bury up two very important facts. The fact that your male member's attack was a vile male chauvinist act and that his whole purpose was to censor Spartacist League. It is inconceivable that any honest organization or person would try to cover up any male punching a woman by saying that the victim in this case is lying. This is what you have done by saying that the 'punch is untrue and slanderous' and accusing Spartacist League for 'spreading lies' in your second letter to them. Your member's attack on Spartacist woman happened where there was hundreds of people and smack in the middle of a workers rally!!! You as the branch secretary represent DSP and your cover up of the punch and the attempt of censorship as just 'uncomradely' behaviour shows DSP has no problem with censorship of communist propaganda by violent means if necessary which is reflection of

the dominant ruling class ideology.

We have serious problems with anyone who attempts to censor communist propaganda, and let alone this being done within the working class. We will do all possible to make everyone we know aware of the incident and the details of it to prepare them to be ready for the defense of Spartacist League or any Left political group against censorship and any physical attack by DSP or anyone else in the future.

Yours faithfully,
David L & Fatos B

October 5, 2006

I would normally open an address with the term, Comrades. However, your actions in relation to the violent censorship and physical assault against a female of the Spartacist League, by a male from your organization, make that impossible for me.

You have demonstrated the validity of this conclusion and added proof, not only to this man's guilt but your own chauvinist political opportunism, by disgracefully attacking the victim. You paint her as a liar and the Spartacists, as having slandered you. But in order to do this, you have been forced to "disappear" the independent and otherwise neutral witness and Unionist, Austin Sadler. This should ring alarm bells throughout all workers organisations.

Your credibility and place as an organisation within this movement, is brought sharply into focus. Frighteningly, your actions greatly increase the risks of further violence against the SL and against all other working class organisations.

The "War on Terror", is in reality a war on dissent, minorities and the independent organisation of workers. Your actions and the politics they represent, open the door to agents and provocateurs, whose agendas are to spread suspicion, violence and fear. Thus destroying open political debate and achieving the "climate of

fear" and intimidation, that is required.

For the Communists of the Spartacist League, who have the politics and courage to refuse membership within the Australian deputy sheriff's loyal opposition, to be subjected to such acts of suppression and violence, by those who purport membership of the workers movement, is terrifying.

I would warn you, that reaction considers even yourselves as communists and therefore, supporters of terrorism and therefore ripe to be denied human rights and violently targeted. As reaction grows, that famously infamous old quote may find a slight variation.....first they came for the Moslems, then they came for the Communists, then for the Unionists, then they came for the D.S.P.

The removal from history of all "uncomfortable facts" and opposition is what reaction must have. The more the "left" plays the game by these rules, the more it digs not only its own grave but that of the working class.

The only tools we have to combat this are by opposing at every instance, all acts of censorship, exclusion and violence within the workers movement. We must encourage rigorous debate, champion the rights of women and minorities and must proceed from the indispensable position, that an injury to one is an injury to all. To touch one, is to touch all.

This when acted on, rather than just mouthed, is principled class politics. Hopefully your members will also find disgust in your actions and break towards genuine class politics and towards those who know it, as the only road forward.

Martin Neal
Union Delegate

P.S. I don't suppose there is any chance of this letter, or Mr Sadler's appearing in your press. I suspect you would prefer to continue disappearing all such uncomfortable facts and principles, but would be pleased to be proven wrong, I thus await your response.

DSP Attack...

(continued from page 3)

losing an argument. Just weeks earlier our comrade had had a sharp exchange with this individual over the DSP's refusal to oppose the current Australian military occupation of East Timor.

In 1999, in opposition to the bulk of the left who lined up behind the White Australia capitalist rulers, the Spartacist League campaigned in *word and deed* against Australian imperialist intervention and for independence for East Timor. Such implacable opposition to Australian imperialism flows from our revolutionary purpose of building an internationalist, proletarian party that can lead the working class to sweep away the racist Australian capitalist rulers through workers revolution. In contrast, the DSP led the social-chauvinist charge building marches openly demanding "Send Australian/UN Troops NOW"! Today, tailing nationalist bourgeois forces such as the Greens and pro-capitalist ALP leaders who are pushing for a greater role for bloody Australian imperialism in the region, the DSP refuse to oppose the occupation of East Timor by Australian military and cop forces.

Such social chauvinism is evidently providing a culture medium within and around the DSP for violent anti-woman and anti-communist creeps. At the Melbourne May Day rally earlier this year we

Sydney,
December 2001:
Spartacist League
intrinsigently
opposes
Australian
imperialist
military
intervention from
East Timor to
Afghanistan.



had to defend ourselves against an unhinged GLW salesman—known as "Alex"—who kicked over our literature table and attempted to bully a woman comrade. He has twice since threatened Spartacist salesmen, including screwing up the papers of a Spartacus Youth Club member at the 28 June mass union rally. "Alex" denounces our forthright defence of those, such as Melbourne schoolteacher Karen Ellis, who have been victimised under the reactionary age-of-consent laws. Like the cowardly assailant on 29 August, he also aggressively embraces the DSP's support to the Australian imperialist military invasion of East Timor.

We note that these attempts at violent political censorship of the SL are taking place at the same time the bourgeoisie is carrying out chilling state repression

against Muslims, leftists and unionists under the bogus "war on terror." More over these GLW goons reek of anti-communist social-democratic nationalism, which glories in the anti-woman bigotry of this remote, white imperialist enclave. Their hostility towards the SL is fostered by the DSP's touching faith in the capitalist state, which consists at its core of the military, police, courts and prisons, and exists to enforce the rule of the capitalist class over the working class and oppressed. Unable to defend the politics of the DSP they seek to silence communists who fight for the political independence of the proletariat and for class-struggle actions against the depredations of Australian imperialist oppression abroad and state repression at home.

We Trotskyists of the Spartacist League have a long and proud history as part of the working-class movement in this country and assert ourselves accordingly. In March 2004, mobilising support among trade unionists, we successfully defeated the attempt by the Victorian Trades Hall Council, reportedly acting at the behest of the Police Association, to ban our forum at Trades Hall in defence of the besieged Redfern Aborigines following the cop killing of Aboriginal youth TJ Hickey in Sydney. Reversing this ban was a small but important victory for all defenders of Aboriginal rights and for the entire left.

In the polemical traditions of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, we will continue to argue program and principle against pseudo-socialists like the DSP in order to openly and clearly expose and defeat their sellout politics. Political debate is necessary to clarify what program and leadership the working class needs to fight for its interests. For that purpose we will assert the rights of *any* tendency, including our own, against violence in the workers movement. Thus as an act of principle and a service to the left we will widely expose and condemn the recent thuggery by GLW salesmen and DSP supporters. We call on other leftists and trade unionists to do likewise.

We repeat: acts of violence such as those perpetrated by DSP members against political opponents on the left have no place in the workers movement! ■

AUSTRALASIAN SPARTACIST

Unions...

(continued from page 1)

long as capitalist exploitation exists, new struggles will break out. The question is how to win. The October 1917 Russian Revolution led by Lenin and Trotsky's Bolshevik Party was the greatest victory for the working people of the world. The young Soviet workers state was a beacon of liberation around the world. It is necessary today to forge revolutionary internationalist proletarian parties that fight for new October Revolutions to sweep away the brutal capitalist system.

"War on Terror" and War on the Unions

The imperialist governments around the world seized on the criminal 9/11 World Trade Center attack to legislate a raft of "anti-terror" laws, targeting immigrants for racist scapegoating and trampling on the democratic rights of all as they intensify state repression at home. Ultimately targeted are working-class organisations including the left, as the ruling class seeks to suppress resistance to its attacks on wages and conditions and silence opposition to their bloody colonial-style occupations such as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The "war on terror" has also been used to tighten the reactionary U.S./Australia alliance and strengthen the ability of the Australian military to uphold the predatory interests of Australian imperialism in the Asia-Pacific region, enforcing the plunder of resources and extraction of superprofits that Australian companies such as Woodside Petroleum and Leighton Holdings, for example, gouge from the East Timorese and Indonesian masses. Imperialist bullying and exploitation abroad results in terrible suffering of the neocolonial masses, while strengthening the ruling class in their attacks at home. **Down with the racist "war on terror" government repression! Australian imperialist troops and cops get out of East Timor, the Solomons, Iraq and Afghanistan!**

A key weapon in the bosses' offensive against the working class is the union-busting laws of the Howard Liberal/National government. The latest far-reaching laws outlaw almost all strikes and seek to entrench individual contracts (AWAs—Australian Workplace Agreements). They are consciously being used to purge union delegates from workplaces, with many militants—from Botany Cranes, to Boeing, to Toyota—victimised and targeted with the sack. Meanwhile workers around the country have been thrown out of work and rehired on AWAs under inferior conditions.

On top of the draconian "Work-Choices" legislation the government has introduced even more repressive laws that target unions in the construction industry. The capitalist rulers are keen to smash this highly unionised and historically militant sector of the working class and roll these laws out across all industries.

Howard's new building industry police force, the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) has been given wide-ranging ASIO-style powers allowing it to act against "unlawful" industrial action. Already they have forced at least 29 building workers to attend compulsory and secret interviews, with legal threats of six months' jail if they refuse to cooperate or subsequently talk about the interrogation. It is clear that the ruling class aims to treat union militants the same way they treat imprisoned refugees and framed-up alleged terrorists.

Among those currently targeted by the ABCC are 107 members of the Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union (CFMEU) in Western Australia (WA) who are being sued for striking in defence of their sacked union safety delegate earlier this year. They face substantial individual fines of up to \$28,600 each. In a separate case, 40 WA members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU), were sued by their employer, Total Corrosion Control (TCC), and face similar fines. While the court case was adjourned on 28 September pending the outcome of negotiations between the AMWU and TCC, the ABCC has threatened to intervene to ensure the workers are "penalised" (*West Australian*, 27 September).

Workers around the country have given generously to the fighting fund launched by the ACTU and CFMEU in support of the 107 CFMEU unionists. However the union leaders refuse to mobilise their membership in struggle to defend their

laws. **The attack on the CFMEU and AMWU workers is an attack on all! Drop the charges against the WA unionists! Down with the ABCC and all government and bosses' union busting! For a class-struggle fight to defeat Howard's war on the unions!**

There is no shortage of worker hostility to the government's attacks. Hundreds of thousands of workers have taken to the streets in mass protest on 28 June this year and twice before that. Many workers struck in defiance of the laws (and despite their union leaders not calling for a stop-work). Unleashing the immense social power of the multiracial working class could have turned, and still can turn, Howard's IR laws into worthless scraps of paper. The attacks are not irreversible. Hard-fought strikes backed up by solid picket lines and occupations are the weapons with which the working class can defend and extend its gains against the rapacious capitalist class.

Labour Lieutenants of Capital

However the union bureaucrats have kept a tight lid on protests, channelling workers' anger into the dead-end of support to the ALP in parliament and looking to the bosses' courts, particularly Arbitration and its Awards system. In pushing their nationalist campaign to convince "the community" that Howard's laws are "un-Australian" and "bad for business," the union tops also hope to convince sections of the capitalist class that it is in their interests to back the ALP and maintain the role of the capitalist Arbitration courts which have served the bosses well

November 2005: Man protests as federal police raid house in Revesby, south-western Sydney, as part of racist "anti-terror" raids.



Alan Pryke

union brothers instead pursuing a strategy of reliance on the courts. Rather than the straitjacket of playing by the bosses' rules, the best defence of workers is the widest possible class-struggle mobilisations. With the high demand on construction to service the resources boom in WA, workers employed in these industries are in a good position to wage a struggle against the bosses' union-busting offensive. Such a struggle would galvanise wider proletarian layers also confronting the government's vicious anti-worker

in constraining working-class struggles over the previous century.

Calls by union officials to restore Arbitration or appeals to the High Court are about preaching reliance on the capitalist state. The Arbitration system is no independent umpire but a mechanism for the bosses to keep the working class hogtied, allowing the capitalist state to regulate union struggles in every sphere, from wages and conditions to the conduct of strikes. Arbitration was built on a racist pact early last century between the Laborite bureaucracy and the capitalist rulers, institutionalising tariff-protected industries and a "whites only" labour force. The Arbitration courts also enshrined anti-woman chauvinism including the legal basis for unequal pay for women!

The capitalist state exists and is replenished to enforce the interests of the capitalist rulers *against* the interests of the working class. This state consists at its core of the army, courts, prisons and cops that today terrorise the population of Iraq, kill Aborigines, incarcerate refugees and attack unions. To further its own class interests, the working class must be mobilised in complete independence from the capitalist state and all bourgeois parties (including the Greens and Democrats). **No reliance on the bosses' courts! Bury Arbitration! State out of the affairs of the unions!**



V. Deni and M. Chremnykh
Soviet poster after 1917 Russian Revolution. Caption reads: "Comrade Lenin sweeps away the filth of the world."

The Laborite misleaders of the unions form a pro-capitalist bureaucratic caste, bought off by crumbs allowed to fall from the capitalist table laden with the enormous wealth extracted from Australian imperialist exploitation abroad. Under increased pressure from their working-class base, they are on occasions compelled to call strikes and other actions to defend workers against the capitalist rulers' attacks. Such was the case recently when maintenance workers organised in the electrical and manufacturing workers unions at the Toyota plant in Altona, Melbourne, successfully struck and picketed in defence of their victimised union delegate. On the whole however, the pro-capitalist union tops act to police the working class for the capitalist rulers. This was graphically illustrated with their participation in the government witchhunt against union militants who acted to defend Aborigines against a cop assault at the August 1996 mass workers demonstration which led to the spectacular storming of Parliament House in Canberra.

As Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky outlined in his 1940 article "Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay":

"The trade unions of our time can either serve as secondary instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of workers and for obstructing the revolution, or, on the contrary, the trade unions can become the instruments of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat."

Today the hidebound union leaders seek to lull workers with false assurances that Beazley's ALP will rip up the anti-union laws once in office. While the ALP, if elected, may tinker around the edges of the legislation, Beazley's boast to rip up the laws is pure theatre aimed at capitalising on a perceived vote winner at the next federal election. As soon as the bosses started making worried noises, ALP IR spokesman, Stephen Smith, was dispatched to assure them that nothing fundamentally would change.

The ALP is what Lenin called a *bourgeois workers party*: while having historic organic ties to the workers movement through the unions, its program and leadership are thoroughly pro-capitalist. The ALP upholds and defends the capitalist system and when in power, as it is in all states and territories today, administers that system for the bosses. In 2000, Victorian ALP premier Steve Bracks invoked emergency laws to break the Latrobe Valley power workers' strike threatening

continued on page 8

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What Is the Democratic Socialist Party?

What kind of "socialist" organisation...
• defends notorious Croatian Ustaša fascists, World War II butchers too bloody even for the Nazis;
• has the murder of the heroic Vietnamese Trotskyists who led the 1945 Saigon insurrection against French and British imperialism;
• supports reactionary, anti-woman "movements" from the "Iranian Revolution" of Ayatollah Khomeini to Polish Solidarnosc, counter-revolutionary instrument of the pope, the CIA and western bankers;
• upholds the feudal white racist Australian imperialist rulers as potential "friends" of the oppressed from Papua New Guinea to Iran Jews to East...

For Free Abortion on Demand, Including for Teens!

Coming of Age in the U.S.A.— Sex, Fear and Religious Reaction

The following article is reprinted from the Young Spartacus pages of Workers Vanguard (No. 877, 29 September), newspaper of the Spartacist League/U.S., section of the International Communist League.

As if going through adolescence weren't already difficult enough, the capitalist class and its state continue to make things worse by intervening in the most intimate and fraught part of coming of age: sex. From repressive legislation to "abstinence only" moralism masquerading as sex education, the church and the state seek to instill fear and loathing about sex in young people. Attacks on the rights of youth to engage in sex and to have access to contraception and abortion serve as a spearhead for broader anti-woman and anti-sex assaults.

In July, the U.S. Senate passed the Child Custody Protection Act. If it becomes law, a person who helps a minor escape parental notification laws by taking her across state lines to obtain an abortion will face federal charges for, according to George W. Bush, "jeopardiz[ing] the lives of young women" (*New York Times*, 26 July). The law would intensify the witchhunting climate and increase the powers of the state to go after young women and abortion providers, who already face anti-abortion harassment and murderous terror.

The Spartacist Youth Clubs oppose this law and all laws restricting abortion rights for women, including teenagers. As we wrote in "Defend Abortion Rights! Free Abortion on Demand!" (WV No. 750, 19 January 2001):

"Abortion is a politically explosive issue because it raises the question of the equality of women. This simple and safe medical procedure provides women with some control over whether or not to have children. For this reason it is viewed as a threat to the institution of the family which is a crucial prop for the system of capitalist exploitation."

In California, Proposition 85, an amended version of the Proposition 73 "squeal rule" law that was defeated at the polls last year, is on the ballot for November. It would mandate that parents be notified 48 hours in advance of a minor having an abortion. These squeal rules not only violate a young woman's privacy, but also give parents control over life-shaping decisions that young women should be allowed to make on their own. The SYCs uphold the right to abortion as a necessary measure for women's health and well-being. It is only by the twisted logic of the church and state that a teenager is better off being forced to have a baby.

A 7 May article in the *New York Times Magazine* by Russell Shorto called "Contra-Contraception" details the campaign against contraception not only by the Catholic church, but also increasing numbers of fundamentalist Protestants who have embraced the Vatican's view that both contraception and abortion are *verboten* because they prevent procre-

ation. As Marxists, we understand that both contraception *and* abortion are simply means of birth control, which should be made freely accessible through the fight for free, quality health care for all.

The morning-after pill (Plan B), highly effective in preventing pregnancy for up to 72 hours after unprotected sex, has been declared safe by scientists across the board. Yet its approval for over-the-counter sales by the Food and Drug Administration was blocked for *three years* under pressure from religious and political forces. Even now, women under 18, who have the hardest time getting contraception, will not be able to get the morning-after pill without a prescription!

The Holy Trinity: Family, Church and State

The very important development of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which would protect women from a virus

source of the oppression of women and youth. The institution of the family arose with the advent of private property as a mechanism for transmitting wealth to "legitimate" offspring through inheritance. Guaranteeing the paternity of the heir required that the *woman*, not the man, be chaste before marriage and monogamous during it. The oppression of women is rooted in this social subordination, which is also expressed in the foisting of the burden of child-rearing and housework onto women in individual family units.

The institution of the family also serves as the bedrock of social conservatism, which the bourgeoisie uses to instill obedience to authority. This is why it is upheld as the norm even for the working class, which has little or no

lar TV shows, hit songs, novels, movies and Web sites, not to mention the fact that prostitution is a thriving business. In a very insightful chapter of the book *Why Is Sex Fun? The Evolution of Human Sexuality*, Jared Diamond (author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*) uses a comparison between humans and other animals to make the point that sex among humans has a social purpose other than procreation. As opposed to most other group-living mammals who engage in sex *only* during the females' blatantly advertised period of ovulation:

"In fact, we humans are the ones whose scarcely detectable ovulations make us members of a small minority in the animal world...."

"We're also bizarre in our nearly continuous practice of sex, a behavior that is a direct consequence of our concealed ovulations. Most other animal species confine sex to a brief estrous period around the advertised time of ovulation."

What people choose to do for fun with their own bodies, with or without the aim of procreation, should be no business of the capitalist state. As we say in the Programmatic Statement of the Spartacist League/U.S.: "We oppose all laws which enable the bourgeois state to regulate the consensual sexual activity of youth and to exercise social control under the guise of 'protecting children'." The SYCs take no position on what age a person should or should not have sex. We are opposed to arbitrary "age of consent" laws, which conflate *consensual* sex with violent crimes. We advocate the concept of *effective consent*, which means that as long as both parties consent to the act, nobody, least of all the state, has any right to tell them they can't do it.

That "age of consent" laws are used to punish youth, and not to protect children, is shown graphically by the case of Matthew Koso, who was sentenced earlier this year to 18 to 30 months in prison by a Nebraska judge for "first-degree sexual assault." His crime? Koso, who is now 23, began having sex with his then 13-year-old girlfriend when he was 21. After she became pregnant, they were married with the consent of her mother under Kansas law. This made no difference to the judge who complained about "the repetition of offenses" because Koso was breaking the law by sleeping with his wife! Now he sits in prison while she is left to care for their baby. *Free Matthew Koso!*

It is not only the sex police that make life miserable for youth, but also the "guardians" of moral order who denounce homosexuality because it strays from the bourgeois model of "one man on one woman for life." As shown in a recent survey by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, anti-gay attacks are a daily part of life for gay, lesbian and transgender youth: nearly two-thirds reported feeling unsafe at school, over a third experienced physical harassment and nearly a fifth were assaulted because of their sexual orientation. Religious reaction paves the way for murderous anti-gay terror, such as the brutal killings of Matthew



SYC raises call for free abortion on demand at March 2004 antiwar demonstration in San Francisco.

that is the primary cause of cervical cancer, was accompanied by an outcry from Christian right-wingers like Bridget Maher of the Family Research Council who howled: "Giving the HPV vaccine to young women could be potentially harmful, because they may see it as a licence [sic] to engage in premarital sex." In other words, these "pro-life" reactionaries would rather see young women die than have sex. Similar to religious nuts who say that AIDS is a "punishment" for promiscuity or homosexuality, most of what passes for sex education these days presents pregnancy or some loathsome disease as the punishment for teenagers who "disobey" the no-sex-before-marriage rule. Using fear and ignorance to try to prevent youth from acting on the biological urge to experience sexual pleasure is as old as the claim that masturbation causes blindness.

Why is the ruling class so worried about what we do in our bedrooms? Because they seek to strengthen the institution of the family, a key prop for capitalism. This institution is also the main

property to hand down. Together with religion, the family promotes a puritanical morality based on the repression of anything that deviates from the family ideal—from pre-marital to gay sex. Adults are driven to be fearful and docile, and children obedient and often guilt-ridden. This helps ensure that the capitalists have pliant workers to exploit and youth willing to die for "God and country" in imperialist wars.

Birds Do It, Bees Do It, Teens Do It

One cannot deny that teenagers have sex, just as one cannot deny the obvious changes that a person's body goes through during puberty. Despite centuries of church- and state-imposed deterrents, from the threat of burning eternally in hell to hellish punishments on earth like death by stoning, promiscuous and gay sex have been prevalent throughout the ages.

Abstinence until marriage, then one partner for life is a "norm" that is at odds with the makeup of the human animal: just look at the themes of the most popu-

Spartacists Evicted from Sydney Uni by Campus Security Goons

Hands Off Leftists!

We reprint below a letter submitted to Sydney University student newspaper *Honi* on 30 September protesting the eviction of supporters of the Spartacist League and Spartacus Youth Club from campus by security under threat of arrest.

The Spartacist League and Spartacus Youth Club has a history of more than 30 years of revolutionary activism at Sydney University from rallying students to join workers and Aborigines in 1993 to defeat a racist ban on Aborigines drinking at the nearby Student Prince Hotel to initiating a spirited united-front speakout on campus in 2002 demanding "Down With Australian Imperialism's Plunder of East Timor's Oil/Gas! Australian/UN Troops Out of East Timor!"

Against all attempts at political censorship both of our organisation and others, we will continue to assert the right of leftists to be active on campus as part of our fight to bring a revolutionary Marxist perspective to students!

Dear *Honi*,

On Wednesday 13 September, in the midst of student campaigning for SRC [Student Representative Council] elections, campus security guards escorted members of the Spartacus Youth Club (SYC) and the Spartacist League off campus under threat of arrest when attempting to sell our communist newspaper *Australasian Spartacist* with its headline calling for Australian Imperialism out of East Timor and the Solomons.

In the climate of the "War on Terror," university administrations are ramping up their attacks against students and non-students alike who speak out against the racist capitalist system and in defence of minorities, particularly the beleaguered Muslim community that is currently in the government's crosshairs. As attested to by various letters and editorials in

Honi, campus security are becoming increasingly emboldened in their attacks upon the left and minorities, most recently exemplified with threats to close down a forum run by reformist youth group Resistance, as well as the censoring of posters that opposed Israel's bloody invasion of Lebanon.

Campus security are the goon squad of the university Senate and are charged with protecting university property and enforcing the elitist, class-bias of the universities. They break the picket lines of workers and staff whilst working with the cops in targeting student rallies and demonstrations—they are not workers but enforcers of capitalist oppression and have to be expelled from the unions. The SYC are for open-admissions to universities and free quality education for all!

The ostensible reason why we were thrown off campus was because some of my comrades were not students at Sydney University, not even another student from UWS was allowed to sell with me! Nevertheless the Catholic Chaplaincy of Syd-

ney University got an anti-abortionist from the U.S. to talk on campus only a couple of weeks ago. Students might recall that it was vigorously protested by the Women's Collective, with the Spartacist League in attendance calling for free abortion on demand.

The anti-leftist censorship on campus has been exacerbated by the introduction at the start of this semester of VSU [Voluntary Student Unionism]. The *raison d'être* of VSU is to curtail student opposition such as was seen in 2003 against the U.S.-led and Australian backed, imperialist invasion of Iraq and more recently against Israel's invasion of Lebanon, seeking instead politically-censored, sterile universities. With communists being thrown off campus and leftists harassed on a daily basis, this explodes the myth that there can be the "vigorous political comment" which Gavin Brown purportedly permits. Student bodies such as the EAG [Education Action Group] call for a university-funded, politically independent SRC. But the type of political "independ-

ence" acceptable to the university Senate would only go so far as allowing student bureaucrats and up-and-coming bourgeois politicians freedom to play their limited campus sandbox politics.

We're against placing any faith in the capitalist vice-chancellor, who, enforcing the government's austerity measures, is trying to force his workforce onto union-busting AWAs. The threatened mass sackings at Newcastle University last year and UNSW this year are chilling examples of the role that the vice-chancellors play in capitalist Australia and given the chance Gavin Brown would do the same.

The Trotskyist Spartacus Youth Club will continue the struggle to give students a fighting Marxist perspective. As opposed to impotent hurrahs for "student power" we realise that students must ally themselves with the social power of the working class in order to push back the attacks of the campus administration. **For workers revolution against racist Australian imperialism! Hands off leftists! For staff, student and worker control of campuses!**

Dominic
Spartacus Youth Club



Spartacist-initiated actions: 1977 (left) campus rally to support striking Victorian power workers, 1993 (centre) Sydney University students rally behind united front of workers and Aborigines smashing racist ban on Aborigines at nearby Student Prince Hotel and (right) 2002 rally outside Fisher Library against Australian imperialist troops in East Timor.

ASp photos

Shepard in 1998 and Gwen Araujo in 2002. The SYCs oppose all forms of anti-gay bigotry and fight for full democratic rights for gay people.

Bourgeois triumphalism over the supposed "death of communism" in the wake of the destruction of the Soviet Union has fueled a massive growth in religious reaction and anti-science superstition. The Christian fundamentalists want to force their stifling morality on everyone, taking their anti-evolution, pro-prayer and "abstinence only" campaigns to the schools. Youth should be given comprehensive, science-based sex education. Instead the federal government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on "abstinence" programs. As Marx once said, "ignorance never helped nor did anybody any good." Take a look at Lubbock, Texas, a district with an "abstinence only" sex education policy, the subject of a documentary called *The Education of Shelby Knox*. It shows a popular preacher telling high school youth that if they have sex they "will get hurt physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and financially." Many students, including Shelby herself, pledge to stay "pure" until marriage.

So teen sex has been stamped out in this community, right? Wrong. Lubbock has some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the nation. What happened? The policies of Lubbock and other heavily religious communities do

not keep sex from happening (in a delicious twist, the film ends with the head of the school district resigning because he was caught having an affair with an employee). Instead, they promote a climate of ignorance and fear, which greatly increases the risk of unwanted pregnancies and STDs. This moral crusade against sex reveals its deadly nature when you look at the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS here and in other countries that promote abstinence programs. The horrific statistics underline our call for the separation of church and state.

Democrats Pander to Anti-Abortion Reaction

Liberals and feminists tout Hillary Clinton as a great defender of women's rights for joining anti-abortion Democrat Harry Reid in promoting the so-called "Prevention First Act." This proposal was intended to find common ground with anti-abortion bigots, asking them to "put their money where their mouths are" and to support increased access to birth control and sex education. Clinton and the Democrats are *aiding the crusade against abortion rights* by appealing to the wing of the bourgeoisie who want to rid this country of it altogether. That's because they agree on the same goal—the regimentation of youth and the maintenance of the institution of the family as a key prop for capitalism.

Democrats and Republicans alike have

led the onslaught against many of the gains won for working people and the oppressed through the massive social struggles that began with the civil rights movement and continued with the mass radicalization of youth against the Vietnam War in the 1960s and '70s. The first significant assault on abortion following *Roe v. Wade* took place under the administration of Democrat Jimmy Carter, the country's first "born again Christian" president. In 1977 he signed into law the Hyde Amendment, which eliminated abortion coverage from the Medicaid health plans of 23 million poor women.

Liberals and feminists look to the racist, repressive capitalist state to "protect" women. We Marxists understand that it requires class and social struggle not only to defend abortion rights, but to make abortion free and accessible to *anyone* in need, including poor or working-class women. Bourgeois women will generally have the means to get safe abortions regardless of legality. The Spartacist League and the SYCs advocate a strategy of mass, labor-backed mobilizations to defend clinics against the anti-abortion bigots and terrorists. We call on the working class to fight for abortion rights. This is because the fight for free abortion on demand, free health care and childcare is part of the fight against the state, family and religious institutions that keep the working class shackled to capitalist exploitation. This is

part of our fight for socialist revolution to destroy this rotten and reactionary class-divided society.

The SYCs call for women's liberation through socialist revolution. We understand that women's liberation is a material act, requiring the destruction of the capitalist system and the establishment of a socialist, planned economy. As noted in "The Russian Revolution and the Emancipation of Women," *Spartacist* (English-language edition) No. 59 (Spring 2006): "One of the tasks of the socialist revolution is the full replacement of the institution of the family with communal childcare, dining halls and laundries, and paid maternity leave, free health care and special efforts to draw women fully into social and political life."

Technology and modern medicine enable humanity to increasingly control the forces of nature and use them to the advantage of human beings. Abortion and birth control give women greater control over their own reproduction, and there are simple measures that greatly reduce the risk of STDs. While these advances allow sex to be a safe and enjoyable act for both men and women, it is only with the destruction of capitalism that humanity will be able to fully avail itself of these advances and be freed from state repression and religious bigotry. And only then will youth be able to do what they please sexually, with whom they please, free of state and parental control. ■

Unions...

(continued from page 5)

individual workers with fines of up to \$10,000 each, and in 2004 imprisoned militant union leader Craig Johnston for defending striking workers against scabs.

During its 13 years in power from 1983 to 1996, the Hawke/Keating ALP government showed nothing but contempt for the workers and oppressed they claimed to represent. Under a series of "Accords," the ACTU collaborated with the federal Labor government to slash jobs, conditions and living standards, all in the name of making Australian capitalism more competitive (i.e. profitable). Those unions that stepped out of line were smashed. Beazley was a member of the Hawke cabinet that presided over the smashing of the militant Builders Labourers Federation (BLF) in 1986. As minister for defence, Beazley also oversaw the use of the airforce to break the pilots' union in 1989. Labor's union busting emboldened the bosses and paved the way for Howard & Co. to escalate their attacks.

We seek to forge an internationalist revolutionary workers party. Such a party will be built by splitting the working-class base of the ALP from the pro-capitalist leadership through winning the workers and oppressed to a revolutionary program. A Leninist vanguard party must be built, fighting to replace the social-democratic union misleaders who divert workers struggles into parliamentary and legalistic channels, with a class-struggle revolutionary leadership of the unions committed to the fight for international socialist revolution.

While the Leninist tactic of critical electoral support to a social-democratic party can, when appropriate, be useful to expose the contradiction between the ALP's pro-capitalist program and its working-class base, we firmly *oppose* the Laborite view that socialists *must* support the ALP in elections. This is simply part of their illusory strategy to reform capitalism. In 1983 the Laborite left hailed the election of the federal Hawke ALP government as a victory for the working class. However Hawke stood on an openly pro-imperialist, anti-working-class program that included bellicose support to the U.S.-led anti-Soviet war drive. We said at the time, and with every federal election since, "No vote to Labor!" In the last federal election in 2004 Labor offered more of the same racist reaction, strong state militarism and attacks on workers. We Trotskyists of the Spartacist League declared that no party standing in the election offered workers the opportunity to vote for their own class interests, however crudely, against their class enemy (see "Elections of Racism, Militarism: No Vote

to Labor!" *Australasian Spartacist* No. 188, Spring 2004).

Full Citizenship Rights for All Immigrants and "Guest Workers"

Covering for their prostration before the bosses' attacks on unions, jobs and conditions, many ALP and union leaders are directing workers' anger against deeply exploited "foreign" workers. The number of skilled workers brought to Australia as temporary "guest workers" has rapidly expanded in the past few years following deregulation of the category 457 visa scheme. Some 70,000 workers are expected this financial year, including Chinese meatworkers and printers, Filipino construction workers and cooks, South Korean welders and Indian IT workers.

At the mercy of their sponsoring employer, temporary overseas workers are prey to dire exploitation, denied elementary rights and conditions, often subjected to dangerous conditions and sent

England drowned while working in debt-bondage to "gangmaster" contractors, denied all legal rights and given no safety instructions. Western Europe has taken advantage of the destruction of the deformed workers states in Eastern Europe to import skilled labour from countries such as Poland, often working under similar conditions as "illegal" immigrants. And the U.S. economy today relies on the labour of millions of super-exploited Mexican immigrants, legal and "illegal," many of whom have been deprived of a livelihood at home by the U.S.' "free trade" rape of Mexico.

In Australia, "guest worker" schemes recall the notorious "blackbirding" of the late 1800s when thousands of Pacific Islanders were basically kidnapped to slave on Queensland sugar plantations until they were deported *en masse* early the next century. Recently the World Bank called for Australia to import Pacific Islanders as unskilled "guest workers" to relieve the pressure of mass unemployment in places like Vanuatu and the

The defence of individual "guest workers" and anti-racist rhetoric notwithstanding, the union tops have joined an ALP-led nationalist chorus that portrays "guest workers," and all "foreign" workers, as competitors for jobs. This is instead of mobilising unions against the capitalists' destruction of jobs and union conditions. The NSW branch of the CFMEU pushes a "Campaign for Aussie jobs" to "protect the jobs of Australian workers and provide genuine training for young people instead of importing cheap guest labour" while railing against employers "caught using illegal workers" (*Unity*, June 2006).

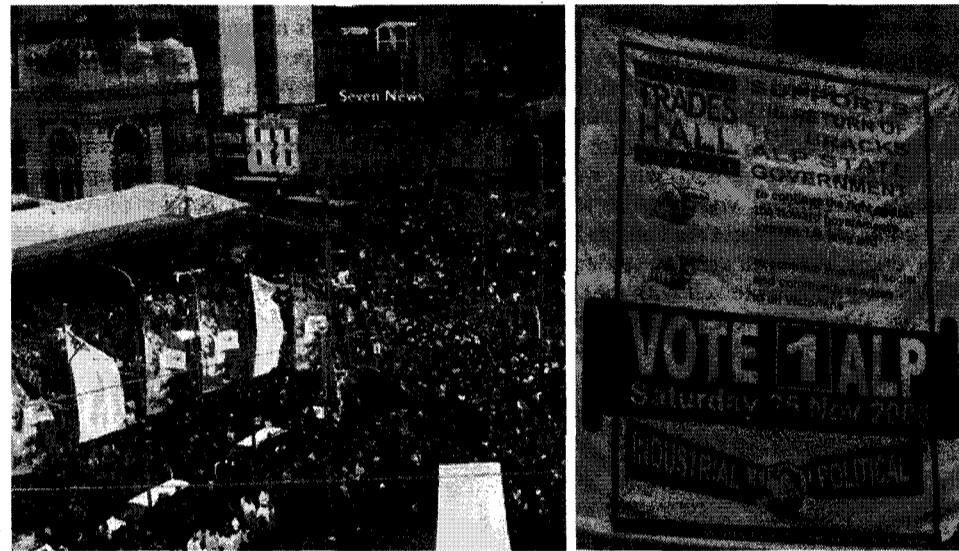
Meanwhile WA CFMEU chief Kevin Reynolds graphically illustrated the racist logic of the campaign. After declaring he "welcomed immigration as long as the immigrants had full rights of citizens," he added "Two elections ago, Howard won an election on Tampa, saying we're not going to let these bastards in the back door. He's flung the f-----g front doors wide open and now they're coming through legally.... I've had members of ours come to me saying they're no different to scabs. They're coming in and taking the jobs of Australian workers" (*Age*, 15 September).

Such xenophobia is poison to advancing the interests of the working class. Unions must fight to defend the rights of these workers—and *all* workers—through organising them into unions, fighting for full union wages and conditions and demanding full citizenship rights for all who have managed to make it here, including full access to social services, unemployment and sickness benefits, healthcare and education. While opposing all racist immigration laws and policies, including the indentured servitude that "guest worker" schemes represent, as Marxists we recognise that the capitalist class will always use immigration to suit their purpose, which is first and foremost to maximise profit. As we wrote in our International Declaration of Principles:

"Modern capitalism, i.e., imperialism, reaching into all areas of the planet, in the course of the class struggle and as economic need demands, brings into the proletariat at its bottom new sources of cheaper labor, principally immigrants from poorer and less-developed regions of the world—workers with few rights who are deemed more disposable in times of economic contraction. Thus capitalism in ongoing fashion creates different strata among the workers, while simultaneously amalgamating the workers of many different lands. Everywhere, the capitalists, abetted by aristocracy-of-labor opportunists, try to poison class consciousness and solidarity among the workers by fomenting religious, national and ethnic divisions. The struggle for the unity and integrity of the working class against chauvinism and racism is thus a vital task for the proletarian vanguard."

—"Declaration of Principles and Some Elements of Program, International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist)," *Spartacist* No. 54, Spring 1998

Far from being helpless victims, immigrant workers form a vital component of the force capable of destroying this racist capitalist system. Alongside bringing valuable experience of class struggle abroad, they also form a living link to workers of other countries, something essential to making international working-class unity more than a mere slogan. A revolutionary leadership in the unions would oppose surrendering one job,



Victorian Trades Hall Council

ASp photo

Melbourne, 28 June (left): Thousands rally in nationwide protests against attacks on union rights. Laborite union misleaders derail workers anger into dead-end of support to ALP in parliament. Victorian Trades Hall Council banner calls to re-elect pro-capitalist Bracks ALP state government (right).

back to their country of origin at the bosses' whim. Recently in Melbourne Chinese immigrant worker, Fu Zhihong, was sacked by his employer after he injured both his wrists on the job. He injured his right wrist in April but with no income he returned to the factory two days later. Then in June he broke his other wrist while attempting to use an electric drill. The company promptly stopped his pay and shortly after informed him that he was "terminated" and would be deported.

The exploitation of "guest workers" by Australian bosses echoes the plight of such workers around the globe. Two years ago 23 Chinese cockle pickers in

Solomons. Like East Timor, which is today under the brutal occupation of Australian military and cops, the economic devastation of such countries is a product of their rape by the imperialists. A smaller force of Australian troops and cops is present today in the Solomons. Pushing for a greater role for bloody Australian imperialism in the region, the ALP were in the forefront of those demanding Australian troops occupy East Timor in 1999 and again this year. Enthusiastically marching in demonstrations behind the ALP parliamentary and union misleaders in 1999 were the various reformist organisations including the Socialist Party and Socialist Alternative. Leading the charge for troops in were the social-chauvinist Democratic Socialist Perspective (DSP), who also refuse to call for the Australian imperialist occupiers to get out of East Timor today.

Unions such as the CFMEU, AMWU and the Liquor, Hospitality & Miscellaneous Workers Union (LHMU) have, to their credit, at times taken up and defended a number of "guest worker" cases. The CFMEU have called to stop the exploitation of these workers saying Australian workers should "join with workers across the world in opposing these capitalist tactics" noting that the bosses' seek to "set worker against worker in cut-throat competition" (*Hard Hat*, June 2006). Some union officials have decried racism while at the same time stating that they only want to protect "Australian" conditions. This in fact breeds the very prejudice they claim to oppose. The racist White Australia policy was always justified by its ALP and union proponents as "protection" for the living standards of the white Australian working class.

斯巴达克星 SPARTACIST

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AFP
Chilean miners' protest during August strike against BHP Billiton at its Escondida copper mine. For international proletarian class-struggle unity against the capitalist exploiters!

whether here or overseas, and fight for international co-operation between workers, such as between Australian workers under attack by BHP Billiton and Chilean workers who recently took on the "Big Australian" through concerted strike action at its massive Escondida copper mine. *For international proletarian class-struggle unity against the capitalist exploiters everywhere!*

Protectionism Poisons Proletarian Struggle

Today ALP leader Beazley competes doggedly with Howard over who can be the greater nationalist—thus his recent call for all those arriving here to sign up to "Australian values." Nationalism is an ideology that serves to strengthen the capitalist ruling class against the proletariat, blinding workers to the fact that there is an irreconcilable conflict between labour and capital. The ALP misleaders along with the Laborite trade-union bureaucracy are the chief purveyors of this poison within the workers movement. It serves to divide the proletariat and paralyse class struggle, so vital for the working class to not only defend hard-won gains but to fight for its historic interests, i.e., state power.

The increasing decimation of Australia's traditionally tariff-protected manufacturing base has given Beazley the opportunity to whip up fears within the working class of a "race to the bottom" against heavily exploited workers overseas. This is echoed by the pro-capitalist union misleaders as they push the lie that "protecting" Australian industry will protect workers jobs and conditions. In fact protectionism—whether in the form of tariffs, "quarantine regulations" or government subsidies—protects only the bosses' profits while inflating the cost of goods, from bananas to cars. Ultimately the result of protectionist measures against rival nations is not more jobs and better working conditions but trade war. In this epoch of imperialism, trade wars inevitably lead to shooting wars, that is, inter-imperialist wars over access to raw materials and labour power.

Protectionism is particularly pernicious when directed against China, a bureaucratically deformed workers state. When the president of Bluescope Steel slammed the federal government's proposed Free Trade Agreement with China in July, the South Coast Labour Council applauded. Finding unity with the class enemy, the Council secretary declared "What are the benefits of the FTA with China if the casualties are likely to be tens of thousands of Australian jobs?" (LaborNet, 16 July). This, even while the union misleaders accept, with little to no struggle, the projected loss of hundreds of jobs from Bluescope Steel's planned closure of its Illawarra tin mill plant.

The 1949 Chinese Revolution was a

world-shaking victory against the Chinese capitalist rulers and their imperialist overlords. Despite the revolution being deformed from its inception by the rule of a parasitic nationalist bureaucratic caste, it resulted in a collectivised economy, which not only meant enormous social progress for the Chinese masses, particularly women, but an historic gain for the working class internationally. Today the belligerent targeting of North Korea by various ALP leaders is ultimately aimed at fostering capitalist counterrevolution in China, a strategic task which the imperialists hope to



Asp photo

East Swanson dock, Melbourne, April 1998: Struggle against Patrick/government union busting betrayed by social-democratic misleaders preaching reliance on capitalists' courts, cops.

achieve through imperialist economic penetration and overt military pressure.

As with the other bureaucratically deformed workers states of Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam, we stand for the unconditional military defence of China against the imperialists' drive to overturn the 1949 Revolution and return China to one gigantic sweatshop of untrammelled exploitation. It is the task of the Chinese working class, led by a Trotskyist party committed to defending and extending the gains of the 1949 Revolution, to sweep away the Stalinist bureaucracy through *proletarian political revolution*. In counterposition to the reactionary Stalinist program of "socialism in one country," soviets (workers councils) will fight to extend working-class rule internationally through socialist revolution particularly in imperialist countries such as the U.S., Japan and Australia.

Like all class-collaboration, which pushes a false unity between workers and the bosses, protectionism is poison to class struggle. In contrast to those who preach "protectionism," a revolutionary leadership of the unions will demand a shorter workweek with no loss in pay to spread the available work around; it will oppose all sackings and fight for union

hiring halls with union programs to recruit and train those who have been historically discriminated against; against craftist divisions, a class-struggle leadership will fight for industrial unions and it will undertake an aggressive union drive to organise non-unionised workers. However for the working class to secure jobs for all at decent wages, free education and health care, and decent housing for all requires socialist revolutions across the planet and an international collectivised and planned economy.

For a Revolutionary Internationalist Workers Party

Against the government and bosses' union busting, the perspective of the ostensible left is to pressure the ACTU to fight and, along with the union tops, to mobilise to put the Labor Party in office federally. With the evident rank and file irritation at the passivity of the Laborite union leaders, the fake left have sought to find ways to re-connect frustrated union militants to their leadership. One such attempt, strongly supported by the DSP, is Melbourne-based Union Solidarity (USol) led by former BLF official and union militant Dave Kerin. USol states that they aim to build a "broad people's movement to beat back attacks on workers, unions and communities" while acting "as one link between communities, unions, Vic Trades Hall and the ACTU."

Echoing the ACTU's "community" campaign, a major refrain of USol is for "community assemblies." These can at times be a valid tactic to supplement an existing industrial struggle facing legal

It was clear that all the ports could and should have been shut down tight by the MUA, backed up by other unions. But the ACTU and MUA leadership pursued a strategy of keeping Australian ports working and the bosses' profits flowing, relying instead on the capitalist courts to reinstate the unionists at Patrick. The result was a defeat for the union that allowed the loss of over 600 MUA jobs (see *Australasian Spartacist* No. 164, Winter 1998). It also signalled an end to the hard-won union closed shop on the waterfront. USol's claim that the MUA "won" in 1998 simply serves as a cover up for the treacherous role of the ACTU and MUA leaders during that battle.

The push for "community" campaigns today by the pro-capitalist ACTU and union misleaders serves to bury the need for an independent class-struggle fight, reducing the role of the working class to just another player in social struggles. Rather, the proletariat is the only social force capable of not only beating back the attacks of the capitalist ruling class but carrying through the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. Its enormous class power lies in its numbers, organisation and, above all, the fact that its labour makes the wheels of profit turn in capitalist society. As Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin stressed:

"Whereas the liberals (and the liquidators) tell the workers: 'You are strong when you have the sympathy of "society";' the Marxist tells the workers something different, namely: 'You have the sympathy of "society" when you are strong.' What we mean by society in this case is all the various democratic sections of the population, the petty bourgeoisie, the peasants, and the intellectuals, who are in close touch with the life of the workers, office employees, etc."

—Economic and Political Strikes, 31 May 1912

It is necessary to wage a political fight against the Laborite union tops and their left hangers-on, who have brought the unions to the current impasse, and replace them with a revolutionary class-struggle leadership willing to fight for working-class power. We in the Spartacist League fight to build a revolutionary workers party, a tribune of the people, that can draw the oppressed in behind a class-struggle fight that mobilises the proletariat in its own class interests and in defence of all the oppressed.

Australian capitalism was built on the murder and dispossession of the Indigenous peoples, pogroms against the Chinese and racist exclusion of "non-whites," deep anti-woman bigotry as well as the bloody suppression of struggles of the toiling masses of this region from the Korean peninsula to Indonesia. It can promise the working class only increased immiseration, racism and war. The only road forward is for the working class to seize control of the means of production and set them to work in the interests of the workers and oppressed. This requires socialist revolutions internationally to smash capitalist rule and replace it with a planned, collectivised economy on a global scale. To prepare the working class for this historic mission requires re-forging the Fourth International as the international proletarian party of socialist revolution. ■

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Mumia...

(continued from page 2)

person's odds of being struck were *ten times* higher than someone who is white" (emphasis in original).

Mumia's third challenge strikes at the prosecution's outrageous closing argument that the jury should err on the side of convicting Mumia because he would have "appeal after appeal." This argument blatantly erased the reasonable doubt standard, telling the jury that in case of doubt they should convict Mumia. Mumia's brief also responds to the prosecution's own appeal of Judge Yohn's 2001 ruling, which seeks to reverse the overturning of Mumia's death sentence. Yohn found the sentence to be unconstitutional because the sentencing form and jury instructions did not allow jurors to freely consider all the "mitigating circumstances" weighing against a death sentence. Yet Mumia has remained on death row this entire time.

Mumia's case is what the death penalty is all about. It is a legacy of chattel slavery and the ultimate weapon in the government's arsenal of repression aimed at the working class and oppressed. The capitalist rulers want to see Mumia dead because they see in him the spectre of black revolution, a voice of defiant opposition to their system of racist oppression. Acting as their spearhead is the F.O.P., which has tried to intimidate Mumia's supporters at every step.

On July 19, the day before Mumia filed his court brief, more than 130 British lawyers released a letter to the court calling to overturn his conviction. Their letter emphasizes that the courts' blatant bias against Mumia must be seen "in the light of the Katrina hurricane disaster in New Orleans, when television viewers in every country of the world witnessed an unparalleled display of racism on a massive scale, allowed (some would say enabled) by the US government." The National Lawyers Guild and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund will be filing *amicus* (friend

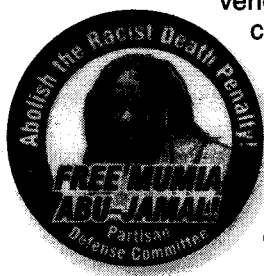
Join the Campaign!

Funds are urgently needed for legal defence!

Make a contribution today, payable to Partisan Defence Committee, write "Mumia legal defence" on the back of the cheque and mail to the address below. Every cent of such contributions is transmitted to Mumia's legal defence team via Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal in New York.

Organise protest! Pass motions in your unions, campus, community and religious organisations demanding Mumia's freedom. Get your union or organisation to make a contribution and join rallies and protests for Mumia. Publicise Mumia's case in your union or organisation's newsletter.

Spread the word! Contact the PDC for copies of *The Fight to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal—Mumia Is Innocent!* This pamphlet arms activists in the struggle for Mumia's freedom by presenting the political basis of the state vendetta against Mumia and the explosive evidence which completely destroys the more than two-decades-long frame-up of this eloquent fighter for black freedom. It is available for \$1. Get the PDC badge: "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal! Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!"—\$1 each. Order the PDC video, *From Death Row, This Is Mumia Abu-Jamal*—\$10 for DVD. Bundles of the 4-page brochure, *Mumia Is an Innocent Man: Free Mumia Abu-Jamal*—\$2 for 25 copies. **Order from/make cheques payable to Partisan Defence Committee, PO Box Q217, QVB, Sydney NSW 1230. Contact us on (02) 9281 2181 or (03) 9654 4315.**



Partisan Defence Committee
July 2006

The Fight to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

Anatomy of a Frame-Up

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of court) briefs on Mumia's behalf.

The frame-up of Mumia Abu-Jamal is an object lesson in the class character of the capitalist state—centrally the cops, courts, prisons and military—which is an apparatus of violence used to preserve bourgeois rule by suppressing the working class and oppressed. An international movement of millions stayed the executioner's hand in 1995 after Mumia's first death warrant was issued. But that movement was systematically demobilized by reformist organizations that tailored their appeals to the liberal "mainstream," to those who saw in Mumia's case a "miscarriage of justice" that could be remedied if only he got a new, "fair" trial. As Rachel Wolkenstein stated earlier this year, in a talk printed in *The Fight to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal*:

"This meant tying Mumia's defense to what Democratic Party politicians would

accept, like the need for a new trial to clean up the image created by Sabo's indisputably racially biased trial and PCRA proceeding. This meant denying the truth about the capitalist state and its vendetta against black militants, the COINTELPRO targeting of Mumia, the murderous attacks on the MOVE organization.

"Appealing to the 'mainstream' also meant ambiguity on the question of Mumia's innocence—and on whether he lives or dies, is entombed for life or goes free—so long as there is a new trial. It meant rejecting the very reasons that millions around the globe had taken up Mumia's cause: revulsion with the injustices inherent in capitalism—poverty, racial and ethnic bias, war. There was broad identification with Mumia's fight against the 'system' and for justice for all of humanity."

Every legal remedy must be pursued on Mumia's behalf. But Mumia himself told the French Communist Party's newspaper *L'Humanité* (25 April) that he had "very

little hope in a favorable decision" by the Third Circuit court. Since first taking up Mumia's cause in 1987, the PDC has warned against any illusions in bourgeois "justice," placing *all* our faith in mobilizing the social power of the working class and the oppressed in defense of Mumia. If successful, the fight for Mumia's freedom would, as Wolkenstein stated in her talk, "strike a blow against the government's 'anti-terror' campaign and the evisceration of democratic rights. It would give labor a sense of its own power. The fight for Mumia is the fight for black liberation, for the liberation of us all, part of the struggle for socialist revolution."

We must mobilize now to make Mumia's fight once again a rallying cry against racist "legal lynching," against black oppression, against government repression. **Free Mumia! Abolish the racist death penalty!** ■

Lebanon...

(continued from page 12)

Students Against Racism and War currently call for the U.S. and Australia to get out of Lebanon, Palestine and the Middle East, these reformists continue to promote the false idea that Australian imperialism can play a progressive role in the world. This was fully drawn out when SAIt and the DSP youth group Resistance endorsed a 19 August Melbourne demonstration that included the demand for a "Peace keeping force to protect Palestine."

SAIt's endorsement of such a pro-imperialist demand gives the lie to the

statement in their September issue that, "Everyone who wants to see justice in the Middle East should oppose the occupation of any part of Lebanon by multinational forces no matter what the colour of their helmets." It also exposes SAIt's posture over the recent Australian military occupation of East Timor, where they rewrote their own history in order to portray themselves as principled opponents of Australian military expeditions abroad (see "Social Chauvinists and Shameless Opportunists," *Australasian Spartacist* No. 195, Winter 2006).

For its part, SA's call on bourgeois politicians to "take a real stand against

terrorism" openly capitulates and gives credence to the "war on terror" state repression, which targets immigrants and Muslims. This repression has included racist dragnets and detentions without trial from Australia to Britain to Canada and the vicious persecution of individuals such as Mamdouh Habib, David Hicks, Jack Thomas and other so-called "terror" suspects who are currently locked down in prisons run by ALP state governments.

In reality the capitalist rulers' "war on terror" is a vicious hoax designed to spread fear and engender racial divisions, particularly amongst the working class. This campaign spawned the murderous rampage at Sydney's Cronulla beach last December when thousands of white racist youth, incited by nationalist demagogues and fascists, gathered to target and terrorise Lebanese and others of non-white complexion. While immigrants are its first victims, the "war on terror" is a pretext to shred the democratic rights of *everyone* and the bourgeoisie's ultimate target is the organised working class as shown by their recent "security" legislation aimed at maritime and airline workers.

Imperialist Hands Off Iran!

The U.S. has firmly backed Israel's onslaught against Lebanon as part of its attempt to build a "new Middle East" by stamping out any regime or political force that does not bow to its dictates. In Iraq, the bloody U.S./British/Australian imperialist occupation is resulting in the deaths of thousands each month, mainly

now at the hands of sectarian violence. Meanwhile U.S./NATO/Australian troops continue to pound the people of Afghanistan, where the imperialist occupation has meant continued brutal oppression of women and tribal warfare.

Syria and Iran, both of which support Hezbollah, have been repeatedly threatened by the U.S. and other imperialist powers. A 21 August *New Yorker* article by Seymour Hersh stated that the U.S. and Israel had made preparations for an attack on Hezbollah well before the group abducted two Israeli soldiers on 12 July. Hersh quoted a "Middle East expert" who said, "The White House was more focused on stripping Hezbollah of its missiles, because if there was to be a military option against Iran's nuclear facilities, it had to get rid of the weapons that Hezbollah could use in a potential retaliation at Israel."

In the event of an attack on countries such as Iran or Syria by the U.S. and allied imperialists—or by Israel acting as a proxy for the U.S.—we would stand for their military defence against imperialism without giving an iota of political support to the Ba'athist dictatorship in Damascus or the Persian-chauvinist Shi'ite clerical regime in Tehran. The U.S. has been pushing for UN sanctions against Iran for its nuclear program. However, they are far from guaranteed that Russia and China would vote in the UN Security Council to impose such sanctions.

On 26 August, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that the country was opening a new heavy water

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plant, which is used to create nuclear fuel. The Iranian regime says that its development of nuclear technology is entirely for energy purposes. Regardless, what is clear is that in the face of imperialist belligerence and threats, Iran *needs* nuclear weapons and effective delivery systems to defend itself and deter attack. Additionally, as part of our unconditional military defence of the North Korean bureaucratically deformed workers state against capitalist counterrevolution, we support that country's development and testing of nuclear weapons and delivery systems. **Hands off Syria and Iran! No UN sanctions against North Korea!**

No Alliances with Capitalist Rulers

The Australian capitalist ruling class is the main enemy of working people, minorities and the oppressed in this country. This junior imperialist power, subservient to its U.S. big brother, has helped rain death and destruction on Afghanistan and Iraq. A deadly enemy to the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, it is currently occupying East Timor and the Solomons. At "home," it is also wielding the axe against welfare recipients and union rights while carrying out a vicious campaign to blame the oppressed Aboriginal people for their own destitution. As part of our fight to forge an internationalist, revolutionary workers party—an Australian section of a reformed Fourth International—to lead the fight to sweep away the bloody Australian imperialist rulers through socialist revolution, the Spartacist League (SL) stood for working-class struggle at home against the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan. Today we demand: **Australian imperialist troops/cops get out of Iraq, Afghanistan, the Near East, Solomons and East Timor!**

Crucial to our perspective is the fight for the complete *political independence* of the working class from any and all non-proletarian forces and social classes, not least the capitalist rulers. However reformist left groups such as SAlt, the ISO, the DSP, the Socialist Party (SP) and the Communist Party have joined and actively built anti-war coalitions—from Sydney Peace and Justice, to Stop the War, to the Victorian Peace Network—which have from their inception been politically dominated by the bourgeois Greens (and in some places the Democrats) and pro-capitalist Labor politicians masquerading as opponents of war. These cross-class coalitions served only to channel the desire by many to fight against the brutal imperialist bombardment and occupation of Iraq into building platforms for wretched pro-imperialist politicians such as Greens leader Bob Brown. Just after the blitzkrieg of Baghdad began, Brown declared, "the hope must be that the war will be short" and "Our one point of unity is heartfelt support for our loyal Australian defence force personnel in Iraq" (Greens media release, 21 March 2003).

Socialist Alternative Doublespeak

It is axiomatic for Marxists that it is impossible to succeed in the fight against imperialist war in alliance with those who uphold the capitalist state and its military apparatus, which exists to violently enforce the interests of the capitalist rulers against the working class and oppressed. Indeed the fight against imperialist barbarism can only be successful if it becomes a struggle to overthrow the whole capitalist order through workers revolution.

Such a perspective is alien to our reformist opponents who continually bow before the bourgeois state while sometimes paying lip service to the need for socialist revolution. A case in point is SAlt who were particularly active in a number of cities protesting the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon. In the article, "Class

struggle in the modern Middle East" from their September issue SAlt leader Mick Armstrong writes:

"The crying need then [in the Middle East], is to build a revolutionary socialist party that can galvanise the working class opposition into a challenge for power....

"What is vital to take things forward is the establishment of a revolutionary left that offers a sharp alternative to the Islamists and the failed politics of Arab nationalism and Stalinism; a revolutionary left that looks to the power of workers and that breaks with the class collaborationist approach of the old Stalinist Communist Parties who argued for workers to unite with so-called 'progressive' Arab capitalists and nationalist politicians."

While Armstrong lectures Middle Eastern workers to break with class collaborationism, SAlt have been ensconced in class-collaborationist anti-war coalitions for more than three years with the likes of the bourgeois Greens! Indeed SAlt called



Workers Vanguard

New York City: Spartacists at protest against Israel's attack on Lebanon, 29 July.

for a vote to the Greens in the October 2004 federal elections forthrightly declaring, "Socialist Alternative is for voting Labor or Green in the lower house to ensure Howard is thrown out, and Green in the Senate to wipe out the Democrats..." (*Socialist Alternative*, September-October 2004).

Now, over Lebanon, SAlt complain "The role of the Greens during this invasion has been pathetic.... They are not prepared to lead a movement against the ongoing tragedy in Lebanon and Palestine and, given their level of left-wing support in the community, this is a crime" (*Socialist Alternative*, August). The real crime however, is not that the Greens are acting as the bourgeois party that they are, but that so-called socialists like SAlt called for workers to vote for this bourgeois party!

As for SAlt's call for workers in the Middle East to "challenge for power," this is rich when one recalls SAlt's endorsement of the 19 August Melbourne rally with its call for imperialist "peacekeepers" to be sent to Palestine. The job of such "peacekeepers" would, of course, be to drown in blood any "challenge" to capitalist rule! In fact, far from fighting for workers rule, the solution offered to the Near Eastern masses by SAlt is a capitalist one. Thus in their August issue they write: "A just peace will only be possible after US imperialism is driven out and the racist Israeli state is replaced by a democratic, secular state in which Jews, Muslims and Christians can live together." There is no solution to the murderous conflicts and daily oppression in the Near East under capitalism.

For New October Revolutions!

In the Lebanon protests the SL was unique in stressing the need to militarily defend Hezbollah against Zionist attack while at the same time making clear our political opposition to the anti-Semitic, anti-woman Hezbollah, Hamas and all other Islamic fundamentalist forces. We stood for the military defence of Hezbollah because an Israeli victory would have deepened the oppression of the Lebanese masses, strengthened the Zionists' whip hand against the Palestinians

and furthered imperialist designs in the region.

Building on the popularity it acquired by standing up to the Israeli military onslaught, Hezbollah is today taking the lead in rebuilding southern Lebanon and in providing relief. But Hezbollah's increasing authority represents a dire threat to women, Christians, the Druze, Sunnis and also Shi'ites deemed by Hezbollah to be "non-believers." Far from an expression of "anti-imperialism," the rise of Islamic mass movements reflects despair in the face of brutal oppression.

U.S. and other imperialist powers such as Australia played a key role in fostering the growth of Islamic reaction during the Cold War as a counterweight to Communism and secular nationalism in the Near East and Asia. The crucial battle was in Afghanistan following the Soviet intervention in 1979. The imperialists funneled

revolution in the Soviet degenerated workers state, a world-historic defeat for the proletariat internationally and a boon for the growth of Islamic fundamentalism.

That the masses in the Near East today look to reactionary Islamic fundamentalism for their liberation is a direct result of the political bankruptcy of the bourgeois nationalists and of the historic betrayals by the Stalinist parties that tailed and capitulated to them. In the 1950s, Communist parties in Iran and Iraq attracted mass support based on their association with the 1917 October Revolution, which had overturned capitalist rule in Russia. But the Stalinists betrayed the aspirations of their supporters, derailing potentially revolutionary situations by supporting bourgeois nationalists like Nasser in Egypt, Mossadeq in Iran, and Qassim in Iraq (see "Near East, 1950s—Permanent Revolution vs. Bourgeois Nationalism," *Workers Vanguard* Nos. 740 and 741, 25 August and 8 September 2000).

What is needed in the Near East is the forging of revolutionary internationalist workers parties through irreconcilable struggle against bourgeois and petty-bourgeois nationalism and religious fundamentalism. It is capitalist rule, which fuels national, ethnic and religious divisions, that has driven the constant bloodshed in the region. There will be no equitable resolution to the conflicting claims of the peoples of the Near East until bourgeois rule is overthrown and imperialist subjugation ended. This is particularly the case for Israel/Palestine, a case of two interpenetrated peoples who lay claim to the same piece of land. Assuring the right of self-determination for both the Palestinian and Hebrew-speaking peoples requires shattering the Zionist garrison state from within through Arab/Hebrew workers revolution and the overthrow of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the bloody Ba'athist bonapartist regime in Syria and the capitalist regime in Lebanon, establishing a socialist federation of the Near East.

The conquest of power by the proletariat in the Near East does not complete the socialist revolution, but only opens it by changing the direction of social development. That social development can only be consolidated through the international extension of the revolution, particularly to the advanced, industrialised imperialist centres. Defence of those subjugated by the imperialists around the globe demands the pursuit of class struggle in the U.S., Australia and other imperialist centres, pointing toward a proletarian struggle for power. The Spartacist League, Australian section of the International Communist League, is committed to the fight to forge a revolutionary workers party to lead the multiracial proletariat in the struggle to sweep away Australian imperialism through socialist revolution. ■

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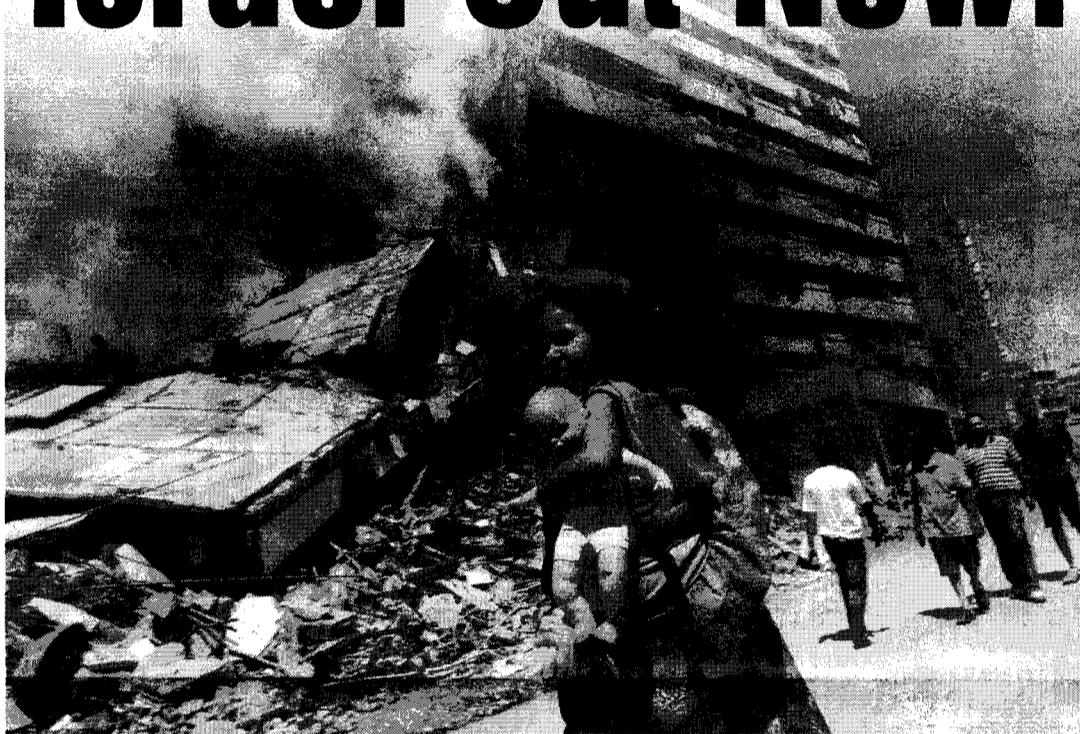
Down With UN Intervention! Israel Out Now!

The following article draws on material from Workers Vanguard (No. 874 and 875, 4 August and 1 September) newspaper of the Spartacist League/U.S.

SEPTEMBER 17—For over a month, Lebanon was a place of carnage, destruction and horror inflicted by relentless Israeli bombardment backed up by some 30,000 invading troops, all with the full support of the U.S. and their Australian junior partner. Over 1,100 men, women and children were slaughtered, nearly a quarter of the population was displaced and the infrastructure of the country was devastated. The Zionist regime of Ehud Olmert and Amir Peretz declared their intent was the annihilation of Hezbollah. But Hezbollah not only survived the onslaught, it inflicted significant casualties on the Israeli military. While Hezbollah is now idolised by much of the region's Arab population, Israel's setback in Lebanon has touched off a crisis for the Olmert regime.

The failure of Israel's campaign is what is really behind the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire agreement, which Israel has repeatedly violated. Having opposed a ceasefire for weeks the Bush administration suddenly switched track when it became clear that Israel was running into trouble pursuing its military objectives. The crux of the agreement is a plan to deploy some 15,000 UN troops in southern Lebanon. The ALP was in the forefront of those pushing for Australian military involvement, aggressively egging on the Howard government who cautiously spoke of a "limited" contribution. With small contingents already in the area, they were, like other imperialist powers, not exactly keen to put their troops on the ground between Hezbollah and Israel and get caught in a potential quagmire. Now, the French imperialists, Lebanon's former colonial overlords, have committed 2,000 troops (after initially offering only 200), while the Italians are sending up to 3,000.

The purpose of this imperialist UN "peacekeeping" force is to try to accomplish what the Israeli military could not—the neutralisation of Hezbollah and its fighters. It is a set-up for more repression against the peoples of Lebanon. From the Korean War in the 1950s to the starvation sanctions against Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the UN has acted as a tool of imperialist depredation throughout the world. It was under the UN umbrella that U.S., French and Italian "peacekeepers" disarmed Palestine Liberation Organisation fighters in Lebanon in 1982, laying the basis for the massacre of some 2,000 Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps at



Lebanese return to devastated south Beirut, 14 August.

Addario/NY Times

U.S./Australia Out of Iraq, Afghanistan Now! Hands Off Iran!

For a Socialist Federation of the Near East!

the hands of the fascistic Christian forces organised by the Israeli military.

Unlike Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, which touched off massive protests in the Zionist garrison state, there has been widespread popular support for the recent campaign. Nonetheless, there were courageous protests against the assault on Lebanon, including a demonstration of 5,000 in Tel Aviv on 22 July. In the recent conflict, we stood for the military defence of Hezbollah against the Zionist attack while maintaining our political opposition to that reactionary Islamic fundamentalist outfit. Today, we demand the full and immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon and say: **UN troops out of Lebanon now!**

As they carried out their slaughter in Lebanon, the Zionist rulers continued their campaign of repression and murder in the Occupied Territories. Nearly 200 Palestinians have been killed since late June, when militants seized an Israeli soldier. Dozens of Palestinian legislative and government officials from Hamas remain

in Israeli prisons, while several imperialist powers, as well as Israel, have continued their starvation embargo of the Palestinians as punishment for the election of a Hamas government in January. **Defend the Palestinian people! Down with the embargo! All Israeli troops and settlers out of the Occupied Territories—Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights!**

A 21 July leaflet issued by the Spartacist League/U.S., which was widely distributed to protests in a number of countries, including Australia, warned against any illusions in the UN or other imperialist agencies as protectors of the oppressed masses of the Near East and declared: **"The myriad peoples of the Near East will not know peace, prosperity or justice until bourgeois rule in the region is overthrown through a series of socialist revolutions"** ("Down With Zionist Onslaught Against Lebanon, Gaza!" reprinted in *Workers Vanguard* No. 874, 4 August). Opposed to this Marxist perspective, the reformist left

internationally has either given open or backhanded support to imperialist "peacekeepers."

In Britain the Socialist Workers Party (parent organisation of the International Socialist Organisation in Australia) leader Lindsey German signed a letter on behalf of the Stop the War Coalition (StWC) pleading with the Tony Blair government to call for "an immediate and unconditional ceasefire." Then, shortly after the UN-brokered ceasefire went into effect, the StWC canceled a 19 August London demonstration. For the StWC there was nothing left to protest, even as the imperialists were gathering forces to occupy Lebanon! In France, the pseudo-Trotskyist Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire (LCR) cosigned a call for a 12 August Paris demonstration calling on the Chirac government to "act without delay for an unconditional ceasefire" and demanding that the European Union impose "sanctions against the Israeli government." Such a strategy for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel is not only ineffective it is counterposed to the only road to social and national liberation for the oppressed peoples of the Near East, which lies through the *class struggle* of the international proletariat. In contrast to a proletarian-centred strategy the fake socialists promoted as a force for peace the imperialist rulers who carved up the Near East into a cauldron of national, ethnic and religious bloodletting, and who slaughtered countless millions in their former colonies. And now they're getting the ceasefire they called for in the form of the biggest "peacekeeping" force in the EU's history.

In Australia as thousands of people, including many of Lebanese background, took to the streets to protest the Zionist blitzkrieg, the Sydney Stop the War Coalition (SStWC), which includes Socialist Alternative (SAlt) and the International Socialist Organisation (ISO), called on "the Australian government to immediately demand the Israeli government cease hostilities and pull back from the Gaza and Lebanon" (Stop the War Coalition speech to 22 July Sydney protest, SStWC website). Meanwhile the Democratic Socialist Perspective (DSP) dominated Socialist Alliance (SA) appealed to the Howard government and the ALP to "take a real stand against terrorism, and for peace and justice, by publicly condemning Israel's actions and putting pressure on the Israeli government to immediately cease its attacks on Lebanon and withdraw all military personnel from both Lebanon and the Palestinian Occupied Territories." While SStWC and the SAlt-influenced

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