

Against the Wage

Friday 17 Jun 2005

No: 1

Against the Wage is a voice of protest of workers' struggles against the wage-slavery system. It is a context aiming to reflect the directions and solutions of worker masses for the struggle against capitalism and the crystallization of possible efforts to help to unify working class internationalism.

Against the Wage is striving through its own power to meet the following responsibilities:

1.To explain the conditions of work, life, exploitation, and lack of workers' rights in the hegemony of the capitalist system; to explain the aggravated progression of all miseries, the depth of dismissal of worker masses from the work process, and from the fate of work and production as well as their own social products.

2.To explain the existing conditions of capitalism, the gigantic level of production, and the worker's labour in the world, where enormous capital and wealth is generated, alongside immense poverty and wretchedness for the working class.

3.To depict clearly to all workers and human beings the presence of actual material, technological, scientific and economic facilities existing in our world, which make it feasible for a socialist world where there is complete well-being, equality, and freedom.

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Editorial

The satisfaction with barely surviving rather than thriving must no longer be the norm for our society. The divisiveness of nation-states, unions and religion are pawns in this ruthless game that is destroying our hearts and our minds. Living free without the wage is a glimmer of light at the end of a very narrow suffocating tunnel – let us come together and burst open this black tunnel to emancipate all living beings. Solidarity joins us as workers forced into the capitalist box which dictates our lives and our minds. This box can be shattered by bringing an alternative to the capitalist disgusting brutality that it inflicts on everyone.

What is this alternative? **Against the Wage** is a forum to voice opposition to wage-slavery. Through its principles an opportunity to provide free expression to the daily drudgery of workers' lives is created. The vision of a world free of wage labour incites hope and international solidarity. This alternative must be explored, discussed and developed. As there are numerous anti-capitalist publications which exist, it is important to distinguish our differences – we see that the inherent problem with the capitalist system is capital, the exploitation of human beings for profit and therefore the brutal wage-labour system. Our main principles are outlined in an accompanying piece within this newsletter.

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Capitalism - A Solution to its Destruction of Humanity

The average production per capita and the production of labour is worth more than 20 thousand dollars among 52 countries in the world and the average income and social welfare of worker masses in the same countries has declined to \$2500 annually. Meanwhile about 1.3 billion people around the world are eking out an existence on the equivalent of about one U.S. dollar a day. The depth of dismissal, disposal and exclusion of the working class as 'inferior' humans from the work process; the fate of work and its production; as well as the workers' social product goes beyond human control.

The creation of for-profit production alongside the painful poverty, cruelty, and wretchedness for most human beings is capitalism. The immense profits of its production has created such a world that poverty, child labour, mass starvation, death from disease, global environmental devastation, war and all kinds of misery has become the standard of life in the world. The massive selling of labour around the world is an experience where workers' lives are falling more and more into poverty, misery and disconnectedness from their social existence. This situation is absolutely intolerable.

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To Workers in Europe and America:

For a long time, huge capitalist monopolistic corporations have reacted savagely to every single one of our protests against the immense exploitation of our painful conditions, both at work and in our lives. The use of force, intimidation, and threats against the working class with the goal of increasing the exploitation of the workforce and increasing the gigantic production of surplus-value, is the essence of capitalism. It is not only the Asian, Latin American, or African workers who are facing a rainstorm of bullets and bloodshed because of their demands of higher wages, it is also the European and American workers in the everyday struggle who are faced with this kind of brutality but in a different form. Currently, the dominant logic everywhere among the bourgeoisie shareholders of multinational corporations has been that if the workers cannot accept a lower wage and worse working conditions, then the entire factory is transferred to where there is cheaper labour such as Latin America, Eastern Europe or Asia. Up until now, this threat with the co-operation of trade unions with capitalism or governments impacted heavily on the working class in these countries. There is an important question facing the working class in Europe and America and that is – “Why?” In which context or condition and for what reason did this bourgeois class dare to use these threats?

What we are seeing around the globe is the accumulation of wealth as a direct product of labour, of our production and from the consecutive generations selling their labour. No penny from this gigantic capital and wealth has ever been produced by the owner of capital and no penny of their wealth and capital has ever been produced by their labour and pain. Neither the bourgeois class nor any gigantic monopolistic corporations have had any permission to use this kind of threat against us and our movement. The response of workers everywhere around the globe to this kind of threat against humanity is that if capitalism and all the gigantic monopolies are allowed to leave and go anywhere they want, then what they have is a direct production of our labour the exploitation of workers. They have absolutely no right to transfer any penny. We – workers - establish our own councils. With the power of our councils, any interference by any employer in the fate of production is prevented. Our way is to have our councils take in into our own hands the production and the work program. In this way we force our struggle against capitalism ahead. If we are determined to achieve our own ends, we can do it!

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Organization with
our own power!**

Workers!

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are only obligated to
register them. And even if
they are not registered,
this organization can
formed and be active**

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**To view the publication and the petition
you can visit us at
www.againstwage.com and reach us by
e-mail at againsthewage@yahoo.se**

Against the Wage...

4. To explain the necessity of organizing the anti-capitalist movement of working class for abolishing wage-labour, and to assist this organization anywhere.

5. To explain the necessity of seizing the political power and smashing the military-bureaucratic machine of bourgeois state by the organized working class as the first decisive step to abolish capitalist system.

6. To reveal the dominant resolutions and strategies of 'syndicalism', 'sectarism', 'social democracy', 'liberalism' or, in a word, 'reformism' as a fundamental obstruction in the way of the working class struggle against capitalism system.

7. To describe the expectations, directions, horizons, demands, and aims of the anti-wage labour movement as well as to explain the differentiation of this movement with right- and left-wing reformism.

8. To explain the role of reactionary religious and nationalist movements to mislead the struggle of the working class against capitalism.

9. To relay any news of workers' struggles against exploitation, oppression, and capitalist crime around the world.

10. To explain the situations of work exploitation and working class in different sectors of the capitalist system in recent periods.

11. To reflect common aims and perspectives of the current working class movement and to try to bring solidarity and unity to the international working class.

12. To reveal the aggressive warfare of global capitalism against the working class and 'inferior' human beings.

13. To discuss the assault of neo-liberalism as a new phase of degradation and fetidness of capitalism with its crucial need to program its attacks on the working class; to discuss the compulsion of capitalism programming its attack in order to put the internal and inevitable crisis of the capitalist mode of production on the shoulder of working class.

14. To explain the relation between neo-liberalism and the global capitalist production.

15. To discuss and explain the 'globalization' of capital where the migrant workers are forced to displace themselves for survival; to understand the negation of identities of these individuals fleeing from oppression around the world; to reveal the inherent racism of the capitalist system; and to provide an alternative vision of solidarity among all workers internationally.

Editorial...

We are living in a world that is based on exploitation and oppression. Billions and billions of people must meet their needs by selling their labour in the market not only in order to physically survive but also to create the profits for the huge capitalist corporations. These corporations are run by a few people who have never worked but have control over other human beings' lives and thoughts. According to statistics, since 1995 the 100 richest people in Canada are getting richer alongside increasing wretchedness for people where technological advances have hugely increased the scale of production. All of the misery and wretchedness in any form alongside war and bloodshed that people are facing daily is embodied by the capitalist system and so human beings find themselves alienated from all aspects of life. Many people from impoverished countries, such as Africa and Asia, to the cities of the West are trying to come forward with an alternative to this current misery.

Against the Wage is trying to create an alternative to wage-slavery. Many people who try to address this issue are *left*, however every *lefty* seems to have different answers and alternatives. One of these alternatives is to attempt to create a better union and therefore fight with the hierarchy within the unions. These *lefties* discuss the 'lack of democracy' within the unions and therefore consider that if the problem of 'democracy' is solved, then capitalism can be improved. They think that if there is democracy, the union is better, but they forget that the union is the bargaining unit, the mediator between workers and capitalism. That is, the union profits by this system. They will not reach an anti-capitalist alternative because they are part of the system.

After the First International, there was a division in labour – the union became the container for an economic struggle and the parties took on the political struggle of the working class. The parties became sectarian by creating elite who 'knew better' and bring 'conscience'.

The working class, by their very nature, are essentially anti-capitalist whether it is conscious or not. The working class will be emancipated by their own power and this is why this newsletter tries to present the alternative – emancipation from wage-slavery. Capitalism cannot be reformed. We are not against reforms; rather we view reforms as steps towards the ultimate goal of the end of wage-slavery.

Through its principles an opportunity to provide free expression to the daily drudgery of workers' lives is created. The vision of a world free of wage labour incites hope and international solidarity. We invite all workers, oppressed who share our principles to contribute to this discussion. Opening up this dialogue will facilitate us to learn, educate, and ultimately further the struggle and unite the wage-enslaved. We welcome articles, comments, experiences which may reflect the situations of the many oppressed groups such as women's struggles, disabled, people of colour, unemployed, working poor, First Nations, migrant workers and all others within the working class.

Omid Zareian

Capitalism - A Solution to its Destruction of Humanity...

During the last few years in Sweden the 'welfare system' and the numbers of beds in hospitals has been cut in half and at the same time the numbers of patients who suffer from the pressures of work has increased to large numbers. The massive accumulation of capital in the world during a decade has increased 223 percent alongside the stresses of hunger, lack of housing, lack of health care and education which have decreased enormously. The number of humans that are deprived daily of food, housing, clean water, medicine, doctors, health and education has surpassed 35 percent for the entire population of the world.

The workers movement during all of this period around the world has always been against this savage wage-slavery system. Despite of all these struggles no where was there any stop to this process of depth, ascendancy and the dehumanizing of capital. All of these struggles demonstrate the devastating persistence of a dead end and a dreadful process. Trade unionism, right and left reformism, all derail the wheel of a class struggle from the track of direct action against wage-labour - the main reason or true mystery of all the defeated, sterility and exhaustion is derailing the wheel of the workers movement from the rail of direct action against the capitalist system onto the wheel of reformism and different forms of syndicalism and sectarianism.

Global capital with all its brutality not only attacks the working class needs in Iran, Middle East, and Africa not because of the absent of trade unions or the ILO, or ICFTU, but also attacks in Europe, North America under the umbrella of the powers of trade unions which force the workers into more misery. The trade union movement never has been the flag-man of this protest, but rather it was an ominous mediator for enduring this process of working conditions for workers all over the world. Gigantic monopolies of corporations in France, Germany, Sweden, England and elsewhere who are in the daily process of buying forced labour and exploiting workers, hold the spectre of transferring the labour and production to somewhere else in the world over their heads. The trade unions not only have no objection to this condition rather they work as mediators for all this misery that is being endured by the working class. The large amount of unemployed workers in the different parts of Eastern Europe have to sell their labour equivalent to one dollar per hour to the large corporations and so suffer the stresses of poverty and hunger alongside the large trade unions.

The trade unionism movement is not any container for the struggle and protest against this brutality. During the last few years, brutal capitalist governments exploit more than 900 billion dollars of work and production from the hardship and suffering of workers around the world. This production is equivalent to the entire livelihood of 3 billion people who provide the arms for the mass destruction of human beings. The trade union never has been or can be opposed to this barbarian capitalism. On the other hand, political parties who are representing the working class are trying to place the working class into their own sect with their own proclamations. This does not work for the struggle. Not only do they not help to transfer the worker's struggle from the reformist rail to an anti-capitalist rail, rather with their own sectarianism, support syndicalism.

The workers movement in this current rail struggle, in this rotten farm-work of reformism, in an abyss of disdain for the essence of wage-slavery, is not able to defend itself from all the attacks of capitalism. This movement internationally, and independent of some differences and differentiation of some sectors, has two choices to make. Either, the movement can endure all the pressure that is increasing every single moment from capitalism or wage a direct battle against capitalism - with the clear horizon of abolishing wage-labour and to end wage-slavery.

The first way, is a way that capitalism is dreaming of for all the working class in the world with the companion of trade union, to interpret the workers' lives. The second way is the way to organize the anti-capitalist movement with the clear horizon of abolishing wage-labour - this way is the way of true communism - worker-activists against the wage-labour of the working class.

If the world is supposed to go in a different way, if it is supposed to stop to all misery, attacks, and brutality that are imposed by the capitalist system then we must choose the second way. This way is the road for all workers around the world; it is the road of communism, the road of the red workers internationalism. A charter plan of fundamental demands against capitalism for all workers around the world is fundamental for our new workers organization every where and it is a place of meeting for the internationally unity for all workers around the world. Lets join hands, in the work place, in the factories, schools, farms, hospitals, streets, cities, every where, discuss this charter and turn the results of our conversations into an objective practice struggle. We are living in such a world that the presence of viable means already exists in our world - economics, science and technology, which make it feasible for a world where there is complete well-being, equality, and freedom. Let's organize our forces all over the world and bring it to the street our massive forces to end wage-slavery. Let's be united all over the world to end all the misery that has been imposed to us and to our children. Let's develop our own struggle against capitalism until wage-slavery is abolished by gaining political power with the strength of our organized worker's movement.

Let Us Form Workers' Organization with Our Own Power!

Workers!

One of the most evident, basic, well-known and inalienable rights of the workers in today's world is their right to form any kind of workers' organizations. In today's world, workers form their organizations without governments' permissions and governments – based on the international standards – are only obligated to register them: and even if they are not registered, these organizations can be formed and be active.

The Iranian government , although having accepted Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Office (ILO) , has not only refused to meet the commitments mentioned in these conventions but , on the contrary , has deployed all its front line forces and strengths against the workers demands. Nowadays in this part of the world people are deprived of their right to have their independent and all-embracing organizations ; they are currently on trial for celebrating May Day ; in Khatoon Abad they are murdered for demanding jobs and job security ; in order to survive they have to accept a salary based on the standards from 20 years ago ;in order to have even a short term job they are forced to unconditionally sign a blank contract ; the double-exploitation of women continues where they earn one-third of the lowest amount approved by the government ; and the children – instead of being educated and having a childhood – are being enslaved , in some cases clandestinely, in the underground workshops .

Workers!

To be emancipated from all this misery, poverty, wretchedness and lack of protection we must – above all – be organized. But we do not petition any government, ministry or public institution for organization. **We do have the right to be organized. We first form our organization and then ask the government to officially recognize it.** To form workers' organizations does not require any governments' permissions, and this is so self-evident and obvious that it is stipulated in the Convention 87 of the ILO concerning the freedom of association and, ironically, this is even approved by the Iranian government. Therefore, the ILO who has itself compiled the conventions and had the governments sign them must force the Iranian government to put an end to the suppression of the workers' activities and activists instead of conceding to the government. And the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran must assure the security of the working class activists.

And you the honorable of our common class!

Based on common class interests, all the honorable people around the world are to shoulder the responsibility of supporting the workers in Iran. The workers' very existence in Iran is lost due to an incessant assault by the capitalist system. We ask you: workers, pioneers, activists, associations, syndicates, organizations and supporters of the working class to support and help us.

**Coordinating Committee to Form Workers Organization
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CC:

**Human Rights Watch
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
International Labour Office (ILO)**

We the following signatories confirm the above proclamation and form workers organization with our own power:

Negotiations between the International Labour Organization and Labour House and Islamic Labour Councils are deficient in credibility

According to the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA), on May 31, 2005, some agents of Labour House and Islamic Labour Councils participated in the 93rd International Labour Conference in Geneva 'on behalf of the Iranian workers community'.

As we have previously proclaimed, not only do we not recognize these governmental and ideological organizations (Labour House and Islamic Labour Councils) as representatives of the Iranian workers community, but we also believe these kinds of organizations must be abolished because of their obvious aggression against the interests of workers in Iran. The heads of these organizations must be put on trial especially because of their recent violent assaults, their hooliganism with maces, destruction, and looting of the Founding Committee of the Sherkat-e Vahed Union. (Sherkat-e Vahed is a public transport). Bearing this in mind, we condemn the negotiations between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Labour House and Islamic Labour Councils, and furthermore the negotiations lack credibility. In addition to this, the recognition of these kinds of anti-worker organizations not only is contrary to the International Labour Office conventions, but they are accomplices in their crimes. Therefore, we call on all worker-organizations and progressive parties around the world to protest against the ILO due to this kind of collaboration.

**Coordinating Committee to Form Workers Organization
June 1, 2005**

Condemning arrest and assault of worker-activists

On May 5th, 2005, a worker-activist, who is a colleague of "Committee in Pursuit of Free Labour Organisations" by the name of Sadegh Amiri was arrested at his work by three people who introduced themselves as intelligence agents. They took him to an unknown place. Additionally, according to other news that we have received, on May 9th, the Sherkat-e Vahed (bus workers) syndicate office was attacked and broken into. Manssor Osanloo, one of the syndicate activists, was seriously beaten up and injured, and then transferred to a hospital. Previously, on April 30, 2005, three worker-activists in Bukan: Esmaeel Khodkam (arrested on May 1st, 2004), Masoud Rahmani and Jalil Vasi were arrested and assaulted. They were released the next morning at 3:00 due to protests and persuasion of the baker-workers at Saqez and Bukan. Furthermore, Parviz Salarvand, a worker in Iran Khodro (car factory) was arrested on April 12th 2005. He is still in Evin prison and efforts of his co-workers and his family for his release have not provided any results. We condemn the assaults and arrests of the worker-activists. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of all these people as well as the end of repeated and obvious human rights violations for all those politically or economically active.

**Coordinating Committee to Form Workers Organization
May 10, 2005**

