

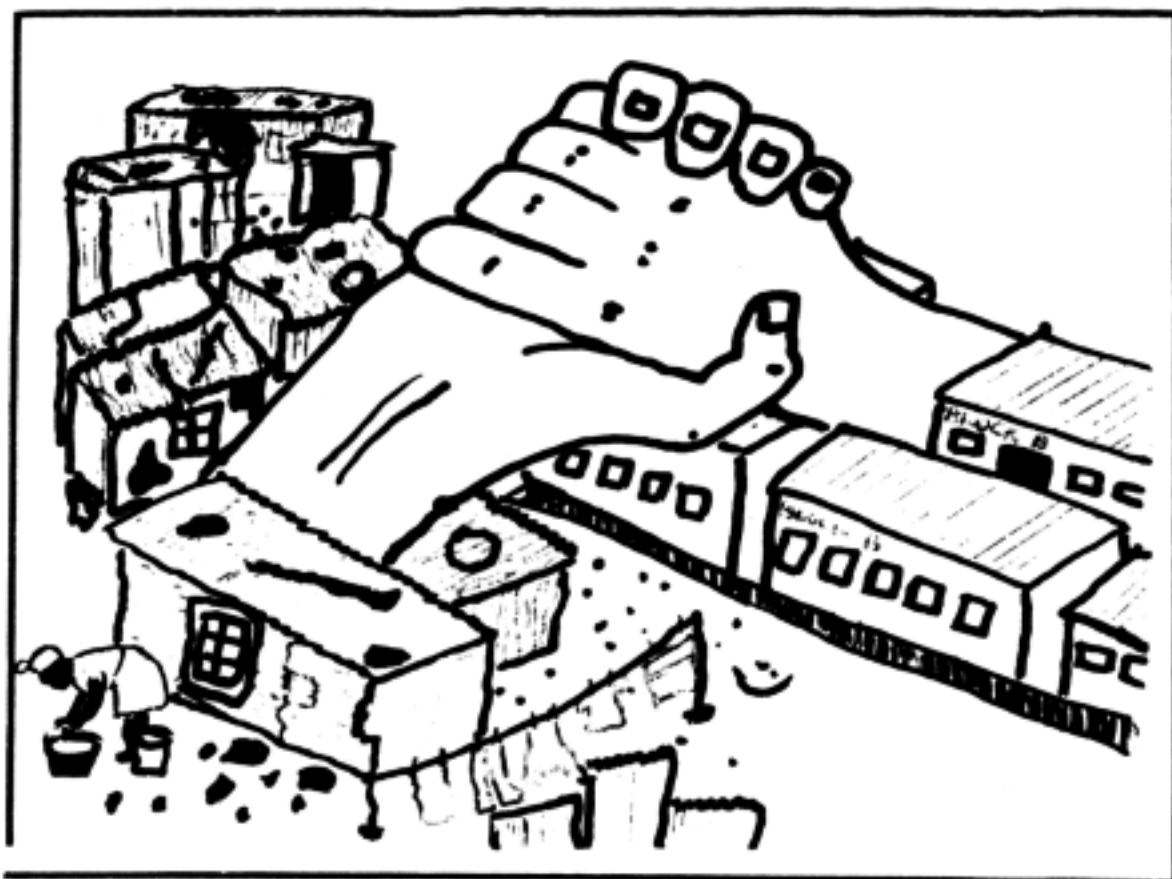
SQUATTER CAMP AND HOSTEL DWELLERS UNITE AND RESIST.

We at Phola Park, a squatter camp in Thokoza near Alberton, with a population of over 20 000, are under attack by the forces of oppression and exploitation.

Over the past few months we have been constantly raided. In the process over 800 shacks have been demolished. Scores of families do not have any shelter. The puppet councillors have said that we must move because the area is swampy. This area is rocky not swampy. We live here, we know. They are conducting their third raid in 6 months. Previously their excuse was that the area has been sold to industrial developers.

The councillors are now charging high rents. In this area with over 20 thousand people there is no water, toilets, streets, health centres, schools or even rubbish bins. What are we suppose to pay rent for? We get water from the nearby hostel toilets. These toilets are blocked and the pipes have burst. We have managed to raise money for a few portable toilets.

In June we recieved notices of rent increases of up to R50 a shack. Through our executive committee we contacted a legal advisor. As the executive was reporting back, the police arrived and arrested seven people. Their names are Meshack Tuswa, John Ndlovu, John



Ntombela, Mbuleli Benase, Simon Mjokwa, Sithembele Batalo and Philemon Zwane. The police claimed they were attending an illegal gathering and committing public violence.

They are forcing us to go and settle 25km away at Tamboekies. This we reject. We will end up paying three times more to reach our workplaces. The only water there, is from a polluted stream. The roads are uneven for a distance of 12km.

We on behalf of Phola Park residents want to thank the following organisations for

combining their forces with ours: Katlehong Youth Organisation, Thokoza Youth Congress, the SACC for providing bail money for the seven arrested comrades and Action Youth for sacrificing one of its legal advisors. Our struggle continues. We want to especially thank the socialist committed movement in the nearby hostels whose leadership is mainly made up of Action Youth members. This is their message:

"We are united as one with our Phola Park comrades.

CONT'D

Like them we live in miserable conditions while we enrich the capitalists. In the hostels, sewerage pipes which have burst months ago have not been repaired, refuse is not collected, there are broken windows everywhere, the water is cold and globes are never replaced. They do not supply coal and expect sixteen people to share a two plate stove after a long hardworking day. During half the week electricity is shut off without us being notified. Now they have increased our rent.

We constantly experience night raids by masked people looking for comrades and their leaders. We suspect these people of being members of a hit squad".



The system tries to divide us from our brothers and sisters in Phola Park. We say that, we, as the working class must unite and fight against our bad situation both where we live and where we work.

PHAMBILI
NGOKUNGAKHOKHI
UNITED WE
WILL BURY DIVISION
TOGETHER
WE WILL BUILD
SOCIALISM.



INDUSTRIAL AREA COMMITTEES FORMED

Over the past few months an encouraging development in the Transvaal has been the serious attempts at forming Industrial Area Committees. The aim of these committees is to initiate unity among working-class groups and co-ordinate their activities, both in the trade unions and in the community. These committees are not directly linked to any trade union federation

Already a few area committees are in operation. The Chamdor- Kagiso - Krugersdorp Area Committee and Dobsonville have had the most success. The Chamdor committee is made up of civic organisations, women and youth groups, as well as trade unions from both federations, Cosatu and Nactu.

Thus far the committee has played a crucial role in mobilising workers against the LRAA. It has embarked on an educational campaign in the township to highlight the dangers of the new LRAA. In addition, it has fought against the recent rent and service charges as well as the lack of electricity in the Kagiso area.

The non-sectarian attempt at uniting workers across federations and linking the problems of workers on the shopfloor with their problems in the community must be supported.



The workers' struggle marches
FORWARD