

"Imperialism knows only one right – capital's profits. It knows only one language – the sword. It knows only one method – violence."

—The German Spartacists, 1918

BOSSSES' INTERNATIONALISM



WORKERS' INTERNATIONALISM

Capitalism is a world economy. It has been built through the most terrible conquests and wars. It creates wealth for a small minority by keeping the majority of humanity in poverty. In pursuit of profits bosses cross borders every day with investments, retrenchments and armies. A decision taken by a boss in one place can mean life or death for workers thousands of miles away.

The internationalism of the bosses cannot be fought by workers just inside one country. This is why working class internationalism has always been the foundation of the struggle for socialism.

Because of this need, workers in different countries have come together in history to fight for socialism. Today the voice of socialist internationalism is not strong. But there is a rich history that goes from the First International of Marx and Engels, through the Second and Third Internationals to the Fourth International. It is a history that belongs to workers everywhere. It is a history that speaks to workers from the past and that offers a thousand lessons today in our struggle against the internationalism of the bosses.



"The final victory of socialism in a single country is of course impossible. We never had the illusion that the forces of the proletariat and the revolutionary people of one country, however heroic, organised and disciplined, could overthrow international imperialism. That can only be done by the joint effort of workers of the world."

—Lenin, 1918

JANUARY 1992

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A South Korean woman worker said: "We all have the same hard life. We are bound together with one string." The string that binds together millions of women all around the world is tied by firms in search of profit. All over the world women are exploited. Women on opposite sides of the world often work for the same boss under the same oppressive conditions - from the jeans factory in the USA, to the jeans factory in the Philippines.

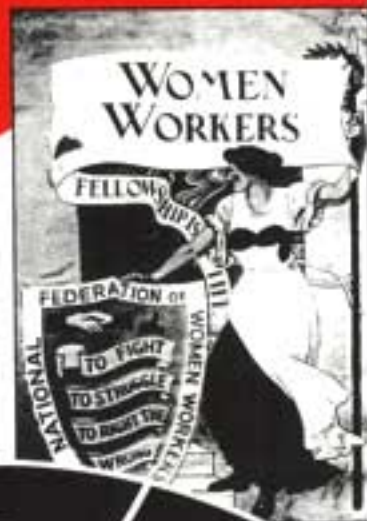
**"We all have the same hard life
We are bound together with one string"**



On 8 March 1908 in New York women members of the International Garment Workers' Union took to the streets in anger against bad working conditions. March 8 is now celebrated as International Women's Day. It is the day when women workers all over the world call for solidarity in the struggle for equality and women's rights. Today women workers are fighting for the right to join and form trade unions. They are also fighting male domination within their trade unions.

Through international links women workers are exchanging information about the struggles they are fighting. Today working women worldwide are saying - we are bound together by one string - the string of oppression and exploitation, but we are also bound by the string of our solidarity in struggle.

**BUILD
SOLIDARITY
WITH
WORKING
WOMEN
WORLD-WIDE**





When it comes to making profits, capitalism does not care about national borders. A small number of multi-national companies control the industries of the world. The Coca-Cola company is one of these.

In Guatemala, in Central America, Coca-Cola owns a bottling factory. The bosses and the police tried to smash the workers' trade union. Death squads murdered union leaders. In 1979 the workers fought back. And they were not left to fight alone when they turned to the International Union of Food-workers with their call for solidarity. Food-workers in many countries held solidarity meetings; they sent protests to the bosses and they sent messages of support to their comrades in Guatemala. Coca-Cola workers around the world went on strike and organised a boycott of Coca-Cola. In the end, the bosses had to give in to the demands of the Guatemalan workers.

Often the international trade union organisations have been far away from the struggles of ordinary workers. Often the leaders of the organisations are more interested in making agreements with bosses than in fighting against their greed. But the Guatemalan workers took the resources of their international organisation into their own hands. The multi-national bosses were confronted with the huge power of worker internationalism; workers around the world united in solidarity.



**BUILD
SOLIDARITY
THROUGH
GIVING
LIFE TO
INTERNATIONAL
TRADE UNIONS**



Guatemalan Coca-Cola workers on picket duty during their strike

MAY 1992

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				1 <small>May Day</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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1 <small>Children's Day</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 <small>Truth Day</small>	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					

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★

**BUILD
SOLIDARITY
IN
DEFENCE
OF
WORKING
CLASS
STRUGGLES**

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Volunteers arriving in Spain to fight with the International Brigades

Tom Jones was a coalminer from Wales who joined the International Brigades and was killed fighting the Fascists in Spain. The newspaper in his home town wrote:

He was a hero of the working class. He did more than talk of liberty; when the time came that the freedom of the people was threatened by Fascism, he left his home and went to Spain to help the workers there to protect their liberty. Death came to him out of a summer afternoon.

His body lies not alone, but with other brave men who gave their lives for liberty.

From 1936 to 1939 a civil war raged in Spain between the defenders of the Republican government and General Franco's Fascists. Soldiers were sent from Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Portugal to support the Fascists.

The workers of the world answered the solidarity of the bosses and Fascists with international worker solidarity. When the Communist International called for volunteers to defend the Spanish Republic, forty thousand went to fight alongside their comrades in Spain, in the International Brigades.

But the support of this international army of comrades was not enough to defeat the vicious might of the Fascists. A bigger and stronger solidarity would have been built through the Comintern if Communist Parties around the world had also carried forward the revolutionary struggle in their own countries.

Build solidarity with militant and democratic trade union movements



In the Philippines and in South Africa, in Brazil and in South Korea workers face the same starvation wages and miserable living conditions; and the same attacks and repression from bosses and governments. But in all these countries workers have actively struggled against these conditions.

We can see that workers have built strong, militant trade union organisations to take forward their struggle. They have built trade unions which are under the control of workers, and which take forward the voice of workers.

When we look to see who we must build solidarity with, we must turn to these trade unions which have a similar tradition of militancy and democracy to our own trade unions. We must build a strong, active support with trade unions like Chennohyop in South Korea, KMU in the Philippines, and CUT in Brazil.

We must bring life to the COSATU resolution:

"We must strengthen south-south links with unions in developing countries in Asia and Latin America, particularly with unions which have a militant and democratic approach similar to our own."



Source: 1990 International Labour Reports Calendar

1992 SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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Yesterday the apartheid regime took its tanks and guns across our borders into Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The people of Southern Africa suffered destruction and death. Yet they turned their eyes to our struggle and gave us support.

Today the South African bosses are openly crossing these same borders with their bags full of money and goods. And capitalists from around the world are using South Africa as a base to launch their investments into Africa.

In the future how will we offer our solidarity to other workers in Southern Africa? How will we unite with our comrades in the rest of Africa to bring an end to the system which has brought them debt, unemployment, poverty and hunger?

COSATU says this about worker unity in Southern Africa:

- ★ COSATU will affiliate to the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity.
- ★ COSATU will work through the South African Trade Union Coordinating Council to build a Charter of Rights for the workers of Southern Africa.
- ★ We must strengthen our ties with Namibian workers and their federation the NUNW, and build a joint campaign to force the South African government and bosses to decolonise Walvis Bay and return it to the Namibian people.
- ★ We must build the union movement throughout Southern Africa, particularly in Swaziland and Lesotho, whose economies are almost entirely integrated with ours.



BUILD SOLIDARITY WITH OUR ALLIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



NOVEMBER 1992

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON							
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DECEMBER

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1992 calendar

Since the Russian Revolution there has never been a struggle which has been given as much solidarity as our struggle against apartheid and capitalism in South Africa. All over the world there are millions of workers who have given money, held meetings, been on strike, taken blacking action and marched and boycotted to support us.

We have also built solidarity with the struggle of workers in other countries. But we have not always built a strong active solidarity. Sometimes we have looked more at how support can be given to our struggle, and not looked at how we can build solidarity with other workers. In the future we are still going to be struggling against capitalism. We need to turn to the people in the world who face the same struggles as we do, who share the same need for, and vision of, a better future. We need this solidarity because the bosses' system of exploitation does not respect any borders. The bosses cross borders to spread exploitation and competition. We must cross borders to spread co-operation and build solidarity.

We must turn our eyes to the struggles of workers in other countries to see how we can build international working class solidarity that goes beyond words. We need to look at how we can build together with workers all over the world a strong international solidarity in action.

*Workers of the world unite!
Reach out across borders to build solidarity!*



BUILDING INTERNATIONAL WORKING-CLASS SOLIDARITY