

# AGAINST WAGE-LABOUR

Number 5



May 2006

## A los obreros y obreras de FAS-INPAT:

We have learned what you have accomplished in the last few years with the ceramic tile factory. Your achievements not only demonstrate bravery, integrity, and dignity, but you also exemplify how we envision a better future with socialism. As workers faced with an economic collapse within the capitalist system, you have succeeded in defeating the capitalists in their own ruthless game, that is, you create the wealth with your own hands, but rather than the wealth be transferred upwards to the managers, it remains with the real owners of the wealth, the workers, the community. It is tiresome and disgusting to learn about the failures everyday by unions who collaborate with corporates, so your experience is a direct sign that a society without the hegemony of hierarchical capitalist misery is possible. You have managed to stick it in the faces of the capitalists that – the bosses need you – you don't need the bosses.

We, anti-wage-labour activists support you the workers of FASINPAT in your fight to be recognized as the self-managed workers in a society with capitalist/hierarchically-run businesses. This incredible challenge is being overcome and provides everyone around the world a vision for a better world, where humans work co-operatively without oppression, subjugation, rather there are rights for all regardless of gender, ability, age etcetera. Please accept our humble, strong support and solidarity in your 'lucha' contra un sistema de brutalidad – el capitalismo.

Con solidaridad,

Editorial Committee

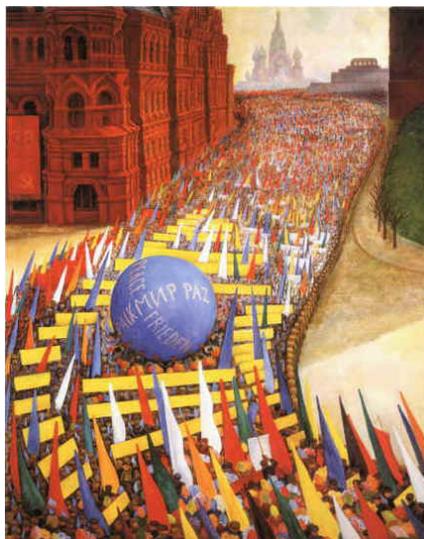
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Anti-Wage-Labour Collective Activists

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## May 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and the Workers Movement



## Happy May Day!

"During this year, unfortunately, the struggles of the working class were carried out in most cases without vision and strangled by union reformism, and left reformism both of which prevent the true anti-capitalist nature of worker struggles to manifest itself. The trade unions as usual were trying to keep the workers loyal to the wage-slavery system. In many cases, unions sacrificed the working class interests for that of the capitalist's interest. Also 2005 an anti-wage-labour movement was emerging in the class struggle of the proletariat against capitalism around the world."

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## May 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and the Workers Movement

The dreadful continuation of the exploitation of workers, alongside the poverty and deprivation of worker masses and inferior people of the world was and is the direct result of the attacks by the capitalist system. This system also propagates the deadly competition among the international working class to sell their labour-force cheaper in order to eke out an existence, the stalemate of the union movement as an important instrument for capitalist negotiation as well as accompanying global capitalists against the condition and lives of workers. Furthermore the continuation of capitalist organized warfare is an important factor within the reproductive process of global capital along with the extreme insolvency of the bourgeois social democracy, the resistance and struggle of the international working class against every moment of capitalism's attack and government aggression all over the world. The rebirth of a living workers' movement and aspirations of anti-capitalism for abolishing wage-labour around the world are headlines between May 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 and May 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and illustrated here in various examples from different countries.

In Iran the fierceness of capital against the working class has grown tremendously. The acceleration of capitalism's centralization has imposed record levels of immense employment upon the masses of labour sellers. The high unemployment in the ever-worsening situation of class antagonism forces the workers to accept anything that capitalism imposes on them because they have to sell their labour power to make ends meet. Capitalism and its governments use the unemployed population as a lever for a new slavery method. The rate of exploitation of the labour force in the golden age of capitalist accumulation was around 400-500%, but at our present time this rate of exploitation has reached 1300%. This rate of accumulation of capital openly demonstrates that the cost of billions of workers' lives burning in the furnaces is all for the profitability of capital – it is sucking the blood of millions of children in workplaces which have no similarity to any regular workplace, that is they are slaving in dungeons where carpets, bricks, shoes, clothing, etcetera are made. Another situation is where womyn work for free in the home and the majority of the working class in Iran, all along side the profits from the surplus value of oil – this has all contributed to an immense surplus value for the bourgeois of Iran beyond our imagination.

In the European Union capitalism also exerts its power to impoverish workers. In Germany, employment agencies prosper well when renting and selling the labour force where some work for almost one Euro per hour or as contract workers without job security. Additionally, there are immense cutbacks to social assistance for the elderly and disabled, the assaults on the basic rights of children, cutbacks on medication and health care and ultimately to the livelihood of people. For example, 5 million people are unemployed and poverty has become normalized. In France, the intense pressure of capitalism's exploitation has pushed millions of workers into poverty. In Italy, Holland, and in all of Europe capitalism has imposed the same level of poverty and starvation on the working class.

Between last Mayday and this Mayday humankind everywhere and in every moment is suffering the devastation of not being able to enjoy a simple and basic human existence because this is in direct contradiction to the inhumane and backwards capitalist system. As the capitalist system continues its unending wrath, not a moment goes by where it does not directly cause the death of millions of people in various ways: illness, death and starvation due to lack of access to medication and health-care, clean water; engagement into sex work; child slavery; the butchering of children for their organs; the addiction of millions of people to different kinds

of drugs; work-related injuries and deaths; as well as many more deaths related to class differences. Global capitalism in each moment of its reproductive process duplicates all these crimes on a large social scale across the world. An obvious example of deaths by capitalism is the existence of organized violence, that is, war.

The year of 2005 was a year of continuous war against humanity in Iraq, Israel, Sudan, Somalia, and Palestine. There was no day without bloodshed around the world and has become our social norm. The warfare is not just soldiers of the bourgeois killing soldiers of the bourgeois of another state. Children are killing, being killed, mass killings of homes and families with chemicals (such as in Fallujah), and the means of any existence to workers is destroyed as their communities are bathed in blood. Civil wars destroy even the ability to wage-labour and therefore the simple capacity of workers to earn a living to feed and house themselves.

Cheapening labour and even the ongoing existence of free labour of the labour force around the world during this year similar to previous years is planned on a large scale by the different sectors of global capitalism. The giant industrial capitalist corporation transferred their capital to the cheapest existing areas of selling and buying the labour force; China, East Asia, Latin America, and Africa. The little hands of Chinese girls wrap the fishes from the North Sea; the little fingers of children in India, Pakistan, and El Salvador produce expensive shoes like Nike and Adidas; harvesting the cotton that is full of pesticides on the farms by the poor womyn in Pakistan working seven days a week to produce T-shirts for Nike and Adidas in the factories that in fact was the place of death for many of them. The brutal exploitation of the labour force and in many cases free labour of 3 billion workers in China, India, Pakistan and elsewhere was the beginning of the opening a new phase of a deepened assaults and aggression by the expansion of the exploitation of the international working class. This phase illustrates that capitalism has not recognized any border and limitation for its intensive exploitation of the working class. The character of this phase is changing all inhabitants of the globe as sellers of the labour force into the most disenfranchised, the cheapest and lowest wage-slavery. In this phase capitalism instigates a brutal competition among workers in order to get the cheapest labour for more profit. Additionally the cheap labour in some regions transplants the cheap labour by causing a migration of workers. In 2005 the capitalist system has destroyed the achievements' of the working class by taking advantage of the status of refugees and migrant workers who increasingly find themselves in vulnerable situations without rights as other fellow workers with status. The system benefits by facilitating the bringing of cheap labour from different countries such as Mexico. In Canada there is a program where Mexican workers come to work on the farms for the growing season for cheap labour without the same rights as other workers with a different status. No matter if the cheap labour force is transported to a 'First World' state for a temporary period in order to extract as much surplus value as possible by bringing the workers there, such as the example above in Canada; or the jobs, factories, work itself is transported to the 'Third World' where wages are lower; the answer is always the same – at the expense of the dignity of human beings, the governments and bourgeoisie extract greater profits.

With this ever-deepening exploitation of humans, workers have less and less to lose by challenging the system. The year of 2005, was therefore also a year that showed the resistance, struggle, and revolt from France to South Korea, from China to Iran and elsewhere against the brutality and attack

of capitalism. The worker protests in Germany alongside many strikes in some industrial sectors some of which still continue; the strike and the street battles in France that pushed the government to scrap the proposed youth employment bill; the revolt of youth in the poor neighbourhoods of France; the general strike in more than 80 cities in Italy; the protests by the auto workers in Detroit; the strike of the transportation workers in New York city; the strike by the Vahed Bus workers in Iran or other strikes across Iran; the movements to occupy and control factories in Latin America; as well as other resistance struggles by workers are examples of all the chains of resistance and the struggle of the international working class against the viciousness of the capitalist system.

During this year, unfortunately, the struggles of the working class were carried out in most cases without vision and strangled by union reformism, and left reformism both of which prevent the true anti-capitalist nature of worker struggles to manifest itself. The trade unions as usual were trying to keep the workers loyal to the wage-slavery system. In many cases, unions sacrificed the working class interests for that of the capitalist's interest. Also 2005 an anti-wage-labour movement was emerging in the class struggle of the proletariat against capitalism around the world. In Iran, this movement, however, was under pressures of a tyrannical regime where arrests, detention, and torture were used; and on the other hand workers were under pressure of the right syndicalism reformists, or the sectarian left with its own resolution for organizing workers – despite all of this the workers could take a few steps forward with their own power. In Argentina, the extensive council movement for controlling factories brought good experiences and achievements for the working class. In America, the rank and file Auto workers in Detroit had combined their struggle against the concessions and pressure of exploitation and the right reformist unions and talked about abolishing wage-labour. In France, the worker masses spread their revolt to the 'Per-Lashez' the place of the most heroic struggle the Communards by singing the Partisan song demonstrated their hate towards the capitalist system. In Germany, many workers left their unions in protest towards their union reformist policies before capitalism which was a new departure against capitalism.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 the workers movement is in a crucial moment within its existence and the fate of its class struggle history as it has reached a fork in the road. The workers movement in this existing situation is not able to go ahead without having a clear horizon for their class struggle or without having suitable power balance. The workers around the world have no way but to raise the red flag of anti-capitalism and anti-wage-labour. The international unity of the workers around the world in front of the international unity of capital is the first step to be taken for this historical class struggle. To have free access to health, education, daycare, housing, and the guarantee of having a high level of humanity and life for all people around the world and where government intervention in our freedoms is completely prohibited - these could be the basic demands to initiate an anti-capitalist movement. The unity of workers around the world and our common struggle to impose these demands on the global bourgeois is the real basis of international class unity for abolishing the capitalist system and the establishment of true working class socialism.

Workers around the world unite.

**Anti-Wage-Labor Collective Activists**

April 23, 2006

## Anti-Wage Labour Movement — Both a Strategy and Tactic

### Anti-Wage Labour Movement

#### Both a Strategy and Tactic

#### PART I

Naser Paydar

Labour-slavery or the relation of buying and selling labour-force is the foundation of the material existence of the capitalist system. Any description and examination of capitalism lacking this characteristic role of this social relation would be a vague and sightless capitalist analysis indeed. In fact it would be carried out as a non-worker and non-Marxian analysis. The history of the invasion of various dominant directions of the bourgeoisie and social bourgeoisies within the international workers movement exemplifies this non-worker perspective which denies the substantial form of mode of production and capitalist system, and substitutes it with a subordinate form of capitalist economy. The relation of wage-slavery is a relation of the surplus-value of production. This relation indeed, is a social relation which on one hand, labour is not in place of the human space itself, rather it is defined as a commodity known as labour force, therefore there is no freedom, rights or dignity. Rather the human beings are degraded as commodities. In fact, this commodity which is the labour-force is like other commodities; it is labour production and the crystallization of the accumulation of surplus work of itself and of its class. And inside this relationship - the relationship of buying and selling labour-force - the surplus-labour converts to capital. Capital as a manifestation and crystallization of this social relationship or this mode of production rules over the social and human existence of labour and its class. Marx explains the first chain of existence of the capitalist production process or emergence of this mode of production from inside the process of expansion and development of a commodity economy under the name of the primitive accumulation phase. He illustrates;

"In themselves money and commodities are no more capital than are the means of production and of subsistence. They want transforming into capital. But this transformation itself can only take place under certain circumstances that centre in this, viz., that two very different kinds of commodity-possessors must come face to face and into contact; on the one hand, the owners of money, means of production, means of subsistence, who are eager to increase the sum of values they possess, by buying other people's labour-power; on the other hand, free labourers, the sellers of their own labour-power, and therefore the sellers of labour. Free labourers, in the double sense that neither they themselves form part and parcel of the means of production, as in the case of slaves, bondsmen, &c., nor do the means of production belong to them, as in the case of peasant-proprietors; they are, therefore, free from, unencumbered by, any means of production of their own." (Capital Volume I)



### Capitalist society and worker movement

Through the development of the wage-labour relation as a dominant mode of production of society, the entire meta-structure and social relationship property, state, law, culture, social value and ethics and all that is called civil society, all goes through the transformation and embraces the foundation



and relation of buying and selling labour force re-production. The capitalist society in all its realms; economic, legal, civil, political, cultural, and social is in relation to profitability of capital and inevitably to the class struggle between capital and the selling of masses of labour force. In this realm what is called a right for capital, is disfranchisement for the working masses. And what is freedom for capital, is the same as captivity and suppression for the sellers of labour force. And what gives power to capital is the dismissal of the working class of its exerting force. And what gives dignity to capital indeed, brings suffering for the working class. In one word, what is

relation of capitalism which is beneficial for the working class. This point of view is not a radical view about this phenomenon rather it is an upside-down view of it. Human beings during capitalist history have discovered many things, but in every moment of these transformations it has been accompanied with a savage world. The history of

capitalist civilization indeed, was based on and displayed the darkest period of fierceness and subjugation of human beings' history. One of the characteristics of 'The Communist Manifesto' in which Marx, with deep accuracy, showed the organic tendencies of capitalism's civilization in accordance with the mode of production which subjected human beings to rule the mode of production and exchange. Marx's explanation of the role of the British in India, however, these days is facing a critique with previously pro-Russian and now post-modernists, indeed, an organic correlation of capitalist civilization alongside the brutality of capitalism on which it is based.

Marx in his anatomy of the capitalist system and his critique of every angle of this system sees the relationship of wage-labour, and had a radical, revolutionary and changeable view about this. Class struggle brings unity to the labour struggle of any kind of disenfranchisement and oppression, that is, fighting for reforms, with the dissent against the material foundation of this disenfranchisement and oppression, which is the entire wage-slavery, capitalist system. The realization of this unity continues as a subject-matter for activists of this movement. The worker movement in the absence of this unity is a movement which restricts itself and then reproduces and perpetuates the base and foundation of the capitalist system. Any protest by a worker about his livelihood and his means of substance needs to go further to the roots of his miserable life and if this worker is not able to grasp this root, it is the responsibility of his other fellow workers to display one. The struggle of the working class indeed goes up and down with different faces; from defeat to victory but what it is important is that in his entire struggle the point of his struggle should be pointed at the base and foundation of the capitalist system which is wage-slavery.

described as the relation of human beings among themselves in society is as much as it brings a benefit for a particular class indeed, and goes against the other class. It may be said that the role of human knowledge, and all the discovery or achievements of science, welfare or parts of the political, legal, and social-civil reform is directly the

This will be continued in the next issue.

# AGAINST WAGE-LABOUR

Number 4



April 2006

## Joining the International Solidarity Campaign with Workers in Zenon

Based on news that the Coordinating Committee received, workers of the tile factory in Zenon-Neuquen Argentina initiated a campaign to be recognized as having workers' control over the factory. For four years these workers are struggling for workers' control over the factory, and in most difficult situations they were able to run the factory by obtaining financial assistance. During this period, the workers were able to create 210 positions and build a Health Centre for the community. At the same time, they were warning that nothing is guaranteed and there is still a risk of lay-offs and the kicking of workers out from the factory.

The judge of this case has recognized the control of workers over the factory for one year. According to the judge, the main reason that the judge recognized the worker co-operative was the report of Neuquen's police which states: "Today it was not possible to move ahead and evict in order to terminate and liquidate the factory due to the social impact this would have."

It is now obvious that the judge due to the fear of the response from the workers did not issue an order to kick out the workers, and there is no guarantee of the future after this period ends in one year, in October 2006, that the judge will not evict the workers from the factory.

In this situation in the city of Neuquen there is a solidarity campaign with the workers of Zenon to recognize the workers control of the factory and therefore, the factory being at the service of the community, putting together a civic plan to build social housing, hospitals, schools, etc. This campaign contains a petition demanding from Argentina's government that as soon as possible to expropriate the factory officially and recognize the workers' control of the factory. Signatures will be received until April 30<sup>th</sup> and on the First of May all solidarity signatures will be submitted to the provincial legislature of Neuquen. The fax that these workers ask to be sent signatures is: 00542994413063

Thus, we-organized workers in the Coordinating Committee to Form Worker Organization in Iran support this campaign.

April 24, 2006

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## To the Workers in the University of Miami

Dear Colleagues in the University of Miami,

We heard of your hunger strike here in this part of the world. Your demand is our demand as well. We are struggling for this purpose as well. In our country, Iran, the capitalists and their supporting government are preventing us from forming our independent organization. Worker-activists in Saghez, Kurdistan province in Iran, are condemned to imprisonment and exile. The workers of the bus company in Tehran who struggle for their own independent organization have been severely oppressed. More than one thousand among them have been arrested and imprisoned. Governmental forces have even assaulted some of the workers' homes and arrested and imprisoned their wives and children. At the moment, many of them are waiting for their trials and plenty of them have been fired. Everywhere in the world, including US and Iran, capitalism oppresses with force and violence the workers struggling for their freedom from the chains of exploitation.

We, the workers in the Coordinating Committee to Form Workers' Organization who struggle for creating an anti-capitalist and all-embracing organization of the working class in Iran, recognize your right to form your own organization, and support your hunger strike.

Hoping that the organized and unified struggle of the workers all over the world, and the creation of the Workers' International, bring the capitalist system to its knees - the system which is the cause of all this poverty, affliction, imprisonment, torture, war, homelessness and all the evils of life of today's human beings - and create a world devoid of wage-labour and free of all oppressions.

## Coordinating Committee to Form Workers' Organization

April 2006

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## Steel Workers in Mexico Clash with Police



Five-hundred striking Steel workers who have occupied the SICARTSA steel mill in Michoacan, Mexico [repelled 800 armed policemen](#) dressed in riot gear who tried to overtake the plant. On April 20 two workers, José Luis Castillo Zúñiga and Héctor Alvarez Gómez, were killed when police entered the plant through a back door at daybreak and began firing tear gas and live ammunition at surprised workers. Forty one workers were injured, mostly by gun shots.

The SICARTSA workers, who have been on strike since April 2, did not give up easily. As news of the police attack got around, union workers from nearby MITTAL Steel— arrived and fought back police with sticks. Police were forced to leave through the same

door from which they entered.

Later, a video tape surfaced that showed Police Ministry Director Jaime Liera Alvare giving orders to fire at protesters' "feet." Liera Alvare resigned the next day. [Michoacan State Police retired from the mill](#), leaving 400 Federal Preventative Police (PFP) on the Mill's perimeter.

Workers are demanding the re-installation of union leader Napoleon Gomez Urrutia, who was removed by government fiat in February and accused of embezzlement. He was replaced by a former union official who now supports the company.

Former Labor Secretary Carlos Abascal, who is Mexico's current Interior Secretary, was tapped by President Fox to spearhead negotiations between mill owners and the union. The union has demanded the resignation of current Labor Secretary Francisco Xavier Salazar and the impeachment of Fox. [Abascal drew attention as Labor Secretary when he claimed that women who work outside the home threatened femininity.]

Early last week, the Labor Secretariat's arbitration board ruled the strike illegal, precipitating Thursday's police action. The second of the two victims of Thursday's clash was buried Saturday in the port city of Lázaro Cárdenas, home of the conflicted mill.

This article was originally published in <http://upsidedownworld.org/>, a website uncovering activism and politics in Latin America.