

Portugal...A New Dictatorship?

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Portugal

.. a New Dictatorship ?

The democratic and trade union rights that the Portuguese people seized upon the overthrow of the Caetano regime on April 25th last year have been under continuous attack by the military junta. The right to strike, the right of political association, access to information, political organisation and the right to demonstrate were won by the mass of the people at a time when the new ruling regime was unable to halt the surge forward. Today there is the "information law" which imposes fines and suspensions on newspapers. The "anti-strike law" designed to control the organised workers. The "anti-demonstration" law which forbids gathering unless authorised by the junta.

Upon seizing power, the Armed Forces Movement junta promised a "free election" as newly installed military juntas always do. This election is to take place on the first anniversary of the coup. The election is used to divert the

workers from class struggle, to attack political parties and political association through its law on regulating the elections (many parties are banned) in order to elect an assembly which has been stripped of any power even before it meets.

While the election is hoped to give the regime a veil of legality, it is embracing the revisionist Communist Party of Portugal to give it a semblance of mass base. It has been the task of that party to enforce the labour and anti-democratic laws of the regime. Landless peasants had to face those revisionists from the ministry stopping them from taking over the thousands of acres of unused land owned by absentee landlords.

On the first anniversary of the overthrow of the fascist Caetano dictatorship, the people of Portugal must be organising to overthrow the new rising fascist dictatorship.
