Communist Party of England (Marxist Leninist)

Denounce the Police Murder of Anti-Fascist Fighter Kevin Gately

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DENOUNCE THE POLICE MURDER OF ANTI-FASCIST FIGHTER KEVIN GATELY!

A new upsurge in the mass movement to defeat fascism

STATEMENT OF THE BATTERSEA PARTY COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ENGLAND (MARXIST-LENINIST)

On Saturday, June 15, a around 2,000 progressive people -- workers, national minorities, youth and students -- staged a militant anti-fascist demonstration in London to oppose the Hitlerite National Front and its racist and fascist policies. They marched in opposition to a march and meeting held by the National Front.

The demonstration was viciously attacked by the police and twice was charged by mounted police with batons drawn. On the second occasion, police rode into the crowd, rearing their horses to kick at the demonstrators and trampling them underneath. As a direct result of this charge, one demonstrator was killed -- Kevin Gately, a 21-year-old student from Warwick University. The police and hospital have been issuing statements that he mysteriously collapsed, but the fact is that he was one of the group who were seriously injured by the police during this charge. The police are directly responsible for his death whatever the post-mortem might reveal. This is a most heinous crime for which they will pay.

It was their policy to inflict as much violence on the anti-fascist forces as possible. They succeeded in killing one and seriously wounding many more.

The overwhelming spirit of the demonstrators was to fight valiantly for the thorough defeat of fascism and racism and the defeat of the Hitlerite National Front. All along the march, which went from Charing Cross to Conway Hall in Red Lion Square, militant slogans resounded continuously: "Smash the National Front!" "Death to Fascism!" "Long Live the Revolution!" "Defeat the Hitlerite National Front!"

As the march entered Red Lion Square, the demonstrators launched a valiant surge in the direction of the hall in order to take it over and prevent the Hitlerite National Front from holding their meeting. Hundreds of police barred the way but was the militancy of the demonstrators that the police could not hold their lines. In desperation they charged on horseback with truncheons drawn, viciously laying into the staunch demonstrators. In the ensuing struggle the demonstrators fought tit for tat inflicting damage on more than 40 police, braved concerted charges by foot and mounted police, regrouped several times, rescued arrested comrades and despite the massive police defence of the National Front managed to inflict damage on more than one of the Hitlerite fascists. The demonstrators resolutely denounced the police, the agents of the monopoly capitalists, in their criminal role of acting as front-line in protecting the Hitlerite fascists and allowing them to organise.

As the National Front approached the square they were met with a solid wall of anti-fascists and they stopped in their tracks as massive police forces assembled to protect them. One fascist National Fronter arrogantly ran forward and started dancing up and down shouting abuse. A worker representative of the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) ran towards him with a red flag on a solid stick and smashed him over the head with it. This cowardly fascist limped off back behind the police protection.

The decaying forces of the National Front, carrying Union Jacks and shouting obscenities and abuse, began to sing "God Save the Queen" and the anti-fascists drowned them out with a militant rendering of the International, battle song of the proletariat.

Altogether 54 anti-fascists were arrested. Many were wounded by the police, who spared no efforts or viciousness in defending the Hitlerite National Front.

The demonstration reflected a great new upsurge in the anti-fascist movement in Britain, characterised by the consciousness that fascists have no right to promote their views or to organise and that the working class and people must organise to defeat and suppress the forces of fascism. The scale and militancy of this upsurge was unprecedented since the struggles of the sixties against U.S. imperialist aggression in Viet Nam. It upholds the heroic anti-fascist fighting tradition of the British working class, which waged tremendous struggles in the thirties to crush the forces of Mussolini fascism, sent its finest representatives to fight in Spain against Franco, and participated alongside the anti-fascist people of the whole world in wiping out the fascist hordes of Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo.

The sending of police to viciously attack the workers, national minorities, youth and students struggling against Hitlerite fascism is a vivid reflection of the fact that the British monopoly capitalist class is facing a growing economic and political crisis. They are financing, promoting and protecting the Hitlerite National Front and other fascists as a last-ditch reserve to hold onto state power in the face of the growing organisation and militancy of the working class.

It is the Labour Government who are treacherously carrying out this task for the monopoly capitalists today. Two weeks ago the Labour Government were responsible for the murder of the Irish patriot Michael Gaughan and then threatened to suppress...

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which dream of completely smashing
which poses as the representative of
and to protect the forces of Hitlerite
ment's talk of "voluntary restraint"
ment. Clearly, the Labour Govern­
whilst the monopoly capitalist class
ments Hitlerite fascism for a final on­
should lie down and give up struggle
of racism. The Labour Government,
attacks on the working class and nur­
attacks into a police ambush, held
"meeting" to divert attention from
the struggle raging against the police,
maliciously slandered the majority
trend to militantly oppose fascism as
"spittist" and taunted the demonstra­
tors making sacrifices in the struggle
against the police and fascists that they
should attend the spittist, pacifist
meeting which they claimed was the
"real way to oppose fascism". While
the demonstrators were fighting a run­
ning battle with the police this tiny hand­
ful preached "peaceful opposition to
fascism" and went so far as to claim
that they were the successors of the
great anti-Mosley battle of Cable
Street in the 1930's. This is the height
of hypocrisy.
At the conclusion of the demonstration,
a representative of the Battersea Party
Committee of the Communist Party of
England (Marxist-Leninist) started a
meeting to support the militant line of
actively fighting fascism and to oppose
all pacifist activities and speeches. The
representatives of the 'peaceful road'
arrogantly turned their loudspeaker to
oppose this meeting and made the mons­
trous claim that it was CPE (M-L) who
were splitting the forces. There can
never be any unity between the line
of peaceful opposition to fascism and the
line of actively smashing it up, and in the
demonstration on Saturday 15th, the
main trend was to fight. Who, then, is
splitting the anti-fascist forces when
the vast majority fights militantly to op­
pose the fascists and defend themsel­
es against police attacks while a tiny
minority says that police attacks should
be opposed "peacefully"? Who is fight­
ing fascism and who is acting as a lackey
of the monopoly capitalists?
The main victory of the demonstration
is that the line of fighting militantly to
defeat and suppress the Hitlerite Na­
tional Front, under the banner that fascists
have no right to promote their views
or organise and nobody has the right
to defend the fascists, won overwhel­
mimg support while the line of "peace­
ful opposition!" won scarcely any sup­
port. The two lines were brought into
the open for all to see.
By persisting in struggle and building
their unity around a Marxist-Leninist
party the genuinely anti-fascist forces
will certainly achieve victory in wiping
out the forces of Hitlerite fascism.

DENOUNCE THE POLICE MURDER
OF ANTI-FASCIST FIGHTER
KEVIN GATELY!

DEATH TO FASCISM AND RACISM!

DOWN WITH THE LABOUR PARTY'S
DEFENCE OF HITLERITE FASCISM:

DOWN WITH THE LINE OF "PEACEFUL OPPOSITION TO FASCISM":

DEFEAT THE HITLERITE NATIONAL
FRONT!

LONG LIVE THE HEROIC ANTI-FAS­
CIST FIGHTING TRADITION OF THE
BRITISH WORKING CLASS!

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