The following article is based on eyewitness reports by our comrades of the Lega Trotskista d’Italia (LTD'I).

MIANO, July 30—As the imperialist rulers met in palatial surroundings at the Group of 8 (G-8) summit in Genoa (Genova), the rest of the city was subjected to one of the biggest "security" buildups in Italy since the downfall of Mussolini’s fascist regime and the end of World War II. Cops killed at least one young protester in cold blood on July 20 and carried out repeated rampages against thousands of others. On Saturday, July 21, after the "anti-globalization" demonstrations in Genoa had come to an end, the police staged Gestapo-style raids in the dead of night against a number of protest headquarters, including the Genoa Social Forum (GSF), smashing into sleeping protesters with their nightsticks and leaving the floors and walls splattered with blood.

At least 49 people remain under arrest. Hundreds more were tortured by cops screaming fascist slogans, while for days political police prowled the hospitals looking to round up those who were injured. Initial reports of a second demonstrator, a young woman, killed by the cops have been utterly buried by the bourgeois media. But with dogs imagined that there would no longer be left-wing tendencies that might threaten the material interests of the Western imperialist bourgeoisies. Behind the bloody crackdown on the streets and the hysterical uproar over "anarchist hooligans" lies the climate created by capitalist counterrevolution in the Soviet Union and East Europe. Drunk with glee over the "death of communism," the capitalists and their social-democratic lap dogs imagined that there would no longer be left-wing tendencies that might threaten the material interests of bourgeois parliamentary rule.

The re-emergence of anarchism as a militant and growing current among young radicals was an unexpected as well as repellent development for West European ruling circles, especially for the social democrats, who regarded their political/ideological vanguard, or "counterrevolution in the natural (i.e., bourgeois) order. Internationally, the most blood-thirsty defenders of the repression in Genoa came from social-democratic rulers like British Labour prime minister Tony Blair. Echoing the imperialist butchers were the reformist organizers of the mainstream "anti-globalization" protests, who denounced the cops for not being hard enough against "violent" protesters or smeared the anarchist youth as "provocateurs."

In the wake of Genoa, there is now a clear left-right division—written in blood—within the "anti-globalization" movement. That division is not primarily over protest tactics, or "violence" versus "nonviolence." Rather, at root what is at issue is the question of the "democratic" legitimacy of the existing parliamentary capitalist governments. On that question, we stand with the anarchists against the left social democrats, including those who occasionally masquerade as Marxists or Trotskyists. Having capitulated to their own bourgeoisies from the Cold War...

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Israel Shahak
Opponent of Zionist Repression

Israel Shahak died on July 2 from complications caused by diabetes. He was 68 years old. Shahak was a courageous opponent of the semi-theocratic Zionist state and its bloody repression of Palestinian people, a declared enemy of racism, chauvinism and injustice. He was an opponent of the Zionist state and its bloody repression of Jews, and was deeply perceptive and thorough in his knowledge of Zionist history and current affairs, but by the dismemberment of the Nazi Holocaust. He was a scientist by profession, he was an acutely analytical and richly informed opponent of religious fanaticism and inquisition, especially Jewish fundamentalism.

Shahak, exhausted secular and hypocritical as it is, is precisely the essence of that so-called Zionism "left" as embodied in the thoroughly bourgeois "Labor" Party. His was a rare voice against the seeming chauvinist consensus among Israel's Hebrew-speaking population. Though not a Marxist, he stood head and shoulders above those false leftists who capitulate to the pretensions of "Laborite" Zionism, as embodied in the Zionism "peace camp" exemplified by Meretz. He denounced the U.S.-brokered sham "autonomy" agreement between Labour prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, haled by such groups as a step toward peace. In a typical statement in a May 1995 article attacking the 1993 accord, he wrote that "Labor's version of Jewish racism has always been much more hypocritical and hence more dangerous than Likud's. Regarding Arafat, Shahak pointedly titled one of his articles following the accord, "Oslo Agreement Makes PLO Nazi Kommunist, Right, Shahak and his mother immigrated to Palestine, then still under British rule, in 1945, three years before the creation of the Zionist state. After completing his studies, Shahak went on to become a renowned and popular professor of organic chemistry at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, where he taught for 25 years before he was forced by illness to retire in 1990. But when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, as Shahak put it, "I ceased to be just a scientist and became a political being."

Though raised in a Zionist family, Shahak has been critical of Labor's expansionist policies at least from the time of the 1956 invasion of the Sinai peninsula, continuing in league with British and French imperialist attack on Egypt. But the conquest of the Occupied Territories, which was immediately followed by the reconstruction of Palestinian homes, the creation of fortified Zionist "settlements," turned him into an active opponent of Zionism. In 1968, he became head of the Council Against House Destruction, one of the foundations to the growth of the Israeli occupation. Two years later, he was elected chairman of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, which had been founded in 1937 by Arabs and Jews to support a prisoners hunger strike against the British colonial administration.

In the years that followed, Shahak pro-digiously documented and indicted the Zionist leaders' genocidal drive for a "Greater Israel" over the living body of the Palestinian nation and their support for repressive regimes beyond its borders, including through such books as Israel's Global Role: Weapons for Repression (1972) and The Growth of Zionism (1974). He also composed monthly mailings of key articles from the Israeli press that he translated and circulated to opponents of Zionism around the world until he became too ill to continue several years ago.

Beginning in 1977, Workers Vanguard also had the benefit of direct correspondence and interviews with Shahak. One of these, under the Israeli title "Israel Sha­ hak: I Accuse!" (WF No. 314, October 1982), was published immediately after Arafat, then leader of the Israeli army and now prime minister, orchestrated the infamous September 1982 pogrom, in which over 2,000 Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon, Shahak compared the death squads recruiting for the Israeli state in Lebanon to fascists Phulange with those, like the Croatian Ustaši, recruited by Hitler from indigenous fascist forces in the occupied Baltic republics, the Ukraine and East Europe.

"As I can testify, those forces were fully armed and their special units had a very important role in the mass extermination of Jews (and of course in the extermination of other people) and were much more horrible and much crueler than even the SS." Shahak denounced as "perturbing and racist" those who sought to explain the Nazi Holocaust in order to amnesty Zionist terror against the Palestinians and to brand all gentiles with "collective guilt." He went on to observe that, like many other Polish Jews, he and his mother were hidden by a Catholic family after their escape from Poles's concentration camp, while the Jewish ghetto police were no less guilty of collaboration with the Nazi extermination machine than were Polish anti-Semites.

Shahak endorsed a number of labor black mobilizations initiated by the Puri­ san Defense Committee to stop Nazi KKK provocations in the U.S. His voice was particularly important in countering attempts to sabotage these mobilizations by American Zionist organizations like the misnamed Anti-Defamation League, who seem to think of the Nazis as a lesser evil than black militants and reds. This never surprised Shahak, who observed that the American Zionists backed the most fanatical, racist and militaristic policies of the Israeli Zionists. For exposing Israel's sinister ambitions for a "Greater Israel" and its role as a regional gendarme for U.S. imperialism, he earned the hatred not only of the Israeli ruling class but of the American Zionist establishment.

Characteristically, one of his last acts was to write a letter to Ha'aretz, Israel's leading daily. In it he wrote that it was suspicious and incomprehensible introduction of the religious dogma that the universe is but 6,000 years old into a school curriculum. He denounced the many virtues of the Enlightenment and in that tradition was truly "a citizen of the world."

Israel Shahak was a humanitarian, "an old-fashioned liberal," in the words of an obituary in the London Guardian (6 July). Naturally, we had a range of political differences with him, including when he argued that the presence of imperialist "peacekeeping" forces in Lebanon would have prevented the Sabra/Shatila massacre.

But his love of a good argument was an essential ingredient in his willingness and ability to stand up to the stultifying climate of hysterical chauvinism and fanatical obscurantism that dominates Israeli society. The Israeli editors of the Warsaw Globe and Berlin Börsen has might have felt little more than an insult, burst­ out shell. But in the case of Israel Shahak (and not him alone, though these are exceptional people), they forged a char­acter that drew its sustenance from resis­ tance. They fought not simply to live, but hung on in life to defeat. •

1933-2001

NOTICE
Workers Vanguard skips alternate issues in June, July and August. Our next issue will be dated August 31.

WORKERS VANGUARD

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**Workers Hammer**

The 7 June general election returned Prime Minister Tony Blair’s New Labour to office with their huge parliamentary majority intact. But they are hated by millions of workers, youth and minorities. For most of the population the election was mind-numbingly boring; the outcome was a foregone conclusion and both Labour and Tories promised the same thing. Not surprisingly, the turnout was the lowest since 1918. We gave critical support to Arthur Scargill’s Socialist Labour Party (SLP) who ran against Blair’s anti-working-class “anti-Labour” campaign was subordinate to getting Labour elected.

For four years Labour has been waging unremitting attacks on the poor and the oppressed. Their record includes: privatisations, hundreds of thousands of job losses; a bigoted witch hunt against “sex offenders” and a huge assault on civil liberties. They eagerly participated in the bombing of Serbia in 1999; now they plan to send additional troops to the Balkans and to Northern Ireland. We say: British troops out now!

The bourgeois political establishment and media were near unanimous in support of Blair’s re-election, saluting the job he has done so far. The deeply-divided Tories ran almost exclusively on xenophobia and were trounced at the polls. Labour matched the Tories, both in racist policies and demagogy. This culminated in a huge escalation of racist terror and an ominously high level of electoral support for the fascist British National Party (BNP). In Oldham they polled 11,643 votes—almost 16 per cent—and got significant support in nearby Burnley. Asian areas in both towns have suffered fascist provocations and police occupation. We issued a leaflet calling for mobilising the social power of the working class to defend the Asian community in Oldham. We call for trade union/minority mobilisations to stop fascist provocations and fight for full citizenship rights for all immigrants as part of the fight for workers revolution.

Unemployment levels in these and other former industrial towns in northern England are phenomenal, which makes them a breeding ground for fascism. Britain is increasingly divided along ethnic lines as well as geographically. The north/south divide—the bloated City of London and southeast versus Scotland, Wales and the north of England—has been exacerbated by economic destruction and anti-working-class attacks begun by Thatcher and pursued by Blair. This is a breeding ground for fascism. Britain is a nation divided by classes which is launching the SA’s campaign. The SA/SSP did not oppose the election of Labour. On the contrary, in the vast majority of constituencies there was no SA candidate and in these areas the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) said “No vote to Labour. Their line was: “Vote Socialist where you can, vote Labour where you must” (International Socialism, Spring 2001).

We were pleased to give critical support to the SLP. Unlike the wretched Socialist Alliance, the SLP opposed voting for Labour and ran against Labour “left” such as Jeremy Corbyn and against Socialist Alliance. We seek to break the working class from Labourism and join them in an revolutionary programme. As the Spartacist League/Britain statement of 14 May said:

“The key question is what kind of party and programme does the working class need to represent its interests and those of all the oppressed—minorities, women, gays and youth—in the struggle against capitalism? We seek to build a party which is proletarian, revolutionary and internationalist, modelled on the Bolshevik Party of Lenin and Trotsky which led the great October Revolution of 1917. “The SLP, which raises many supportable demands, at bottom is nothing but a party of nostalgia. Capitalists are looking to a Labourite past, not a socialist future.”

Exemplifying our critical support to the SLP, on 19 May we issued a supplementary statement saying no vote to one SLP candidate—Gordon Potts—who is a pro-borough officer and thus part of the capital state’s apparatus of repression.

Labour are so right wing that bourgeois nationalist parties such as the Scottish National Party (SNP) are now prominent in Wales, as well as the Liberal Democrats, are able to pose as a “left” alternative to Labour. This is the latter position held by Labour “left” Tony Benn. The SA and SSP go with the flow of national chauvinism and are on a road to some form of convergence of Labourite organisations based in England, dominated by the SWP and incorporating Workers Power, the Alliance for Workers Liberty and Socialist Outlook. The SSP is an equally reformist party created by Scottish Militant Labour who until the early 1990s were part of the English-chauvinist Labour Party but today tail the SNP. The Socialist Alliance demonstrated their fealty to British imperialism by consciously removing the call for British troops out of Northern Ireland from their election leaflets and from their Web site. Dave Nellist, SA chairman and leadinglight in Peter Taaffe’s Socialist Party (SP), pointedly refused to call for it at the press conference which launched the SA’s campaign. This is not new—the SP (like the SWP and AWL) never call for British troops out of Northern Ireland.

Laying bare their parliamentary reformist framework, the Socialist Alliance responded to their racist attacks with the slogan: “Don’t vote Nazi.” They chose not to stand in Oldham, so this meant vote Labour. This is fascist. Fascists are genocidal race-terrorists whose “policies” are the firebomb and the lynching.
Hosted the annual Heritage Foundation meeting in a Foreign Relations Committee hearing room. This racist bible-thumper was not honoring some Christian fundamentalist, as might be expected, but a Chinese man named Li Hongzhi, founder of the bizarre mystical group Falun Gong. American politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, have championed this reactionary outfit ever since it was banned by the Chinese government in July 1999. Clinton’s secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, denounced the suppression of Falun Gong in the United Nations Human Rights Commission and George W. Bush’s State Department has imperiously lectured Beijing to respect “freedom of religion, freedom of belief and freedom of conscience.”

Claiming roots in Buddhism and Daoism, Li preaches that miracles of health can be attained by following his brand of qigong exercises and adhering to “moral” precepts laced with the vilest racist, anti-woman and anti-gay bigotry. The sinister nature of Falun Gong jumps out from the swastika prominently displayed on its Web site. His supporters try to dismiss it as simply an ancient Buddhist symbol, but Li’s racist notions are certainly not far removed from Nazi ideology. He denounces interracial marriage as degenerate and has no place in his “heaven” for “a person of mixed blood,” envisioning a segregationist paradise with separate worlds for “white people,” “yellow people,” etc. No wonder Jesse Helms likes this bunch!

High on the list of evils denounced in Li’s book Zhuan Falun (Turning the Wheel in the Sky) are “homosexuality, sexual freedom, and drug abuse.” Lashing out at abortion as “killing,” in a March 1997 lecture Li also attacked “advisors for women’s liberation” as a sign of “degeneration.” And he’s not talking just about the contemporary movement for women’s equality. Li wants to go right back to the days when “men knew how to treat their wives,” ridiculing the “notice” that “women” were oppressed in ancient times, when Chinese women were subjected to the barbaric practice of foot-binding and were so degraded that they generally did not even have names.

While it is true that his movement is not political, early last year his followers tried to hang a giant portrait of their “master” over the painting of Mao Zedong, founder of the People’s Republic of China, that overhangs Beijing’s Tiananmen Square. Two months later, in the midst of almost daily Falun Gong demonstrations in Beijing, the Wall Street Journal (20 April 2000) salivated over how “Falun Gong faithful have mustered what is arguably the most sustained challenge to authority in 50 years of Communist rule.”

As this imperialist mouthpiece makes clear, Falun Gong is the latest weapon in the American bourgeoisie’s crusade to overturn the 1949 Chinese Revolution, which ripped China out of the clutches of imperialist exploitation and drove out the Chinese bourgeoisie. The victory of Mao’s peasant-based guerrilla forces resulted in a workers state which, despite its bureaucratic deformation under the rule of the Stalinist Chinese Communist Party (CCP), created a planned, collective economy that led to massive gains of the Chinese Revolution.

From the standpoint of unconditional military defense of the Chinese deformed workers state, the International Communist League opposes Falun Gong as a counterrevolutionary menace. Needless to say, to root out such reactionary forces we do not look to the venal bureaucracy, which has no moral authority to combat religious reaction and pro-imperialist “dissidents.” The CCP regime’s “market reforms” have encouraged the growth of new millionaires entwined with the bureaucratic “princelings” while attacking previously guaranteed jobs, health care and other social benefits, driving the masses of workers and peasants into anger and despair. This has led to massive labor struggles on the one hand and created a following for the sinister Falun Gong on the other. The growth of the extreme Falun Gong rally on Capitol Hill, July 19.

Falun Gong is but the latest in a long line of religious movements used by the imperialists as battering rams for capitalist counterrevolution. In 1950, Cold War hero John Foster Dulles proclaimed: “The religions of the East are deeply rooted and have many precious values. Their spiritual beliefs cannot be reconciled with Communist atheism and materialism. That creates a common bond between us.” Since 1959, the CIA has sponsored the Dalai Lama’s “Free Tibet” movement, which harks back to a Tibet of rampant slavery (sexual and otherwise), nonexistent medical care and an illiterate population. In the early 1990s, Washington (joined by Beijing) funded the Islamic fundamentalist mujahidin cutthroats fighting the Soviet Army in Afghanistan, as well as the Vatican-backed Solidarność counterrevolutionaries in Pope Wojtyla’s native Poland.

In Vietnam, following the defeat of French colonialism in 1954, the CIA and Vatican hatched the “Virgin Goes South” campaign aimed at weakening the North Vietnamese defense production hard hit by “the revolutionaries of almost one million Catholics to the capitalist South ruled by the brutal Ngo Din Diem regime, which included the infamous Catholic zealot Madame Nhu. More recently in China, the Vatican has provocatively canonized 120 Catholics, many of whom died fighting for the imperialists during the Opium Wars and the Boxer Rebellion. Meanwhile, the Bush administration, rife with right-wing Christian bigots, has denounced Beijing’s moves to suppress underground Protestant “house churches.”

Imperialist propagandists point to the growth of religious movements in China to argue that the CCP regime faces a new version of the revolts which shook the Qing Dynasty: the Taiping Rebellion of the mid-19th century and the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. Such comparisons are utterly false. While the Taiping leaders embraced Christianity, their revolt was based on an egalitarian program—including giving land to all peasants and special measures to liberate women—and was aimed against a decretal imperial state in thrall to and militarily propped up by the West. And while the Boxers believed that qigong would protect them from bullets, their fire was directed against the imperialists who were plundering China. In contrast, Falun Gong is a tool of the imperialists.

But when Li Hongzhi got his start as a snake-oil salesman in the early 1990s, it was with the support of the Beijing bureaucracy. As Peter Carlson noted in the Washington Post (27 February 2000), “The post-Mao government has lifted restrictions on religion and encouraged entrepreneurship.... Scores of self-proclaimed qigong masters competed for followers by offering ‘miraculous spiritual healing potions.’ Based in the northeastern city of Changchun, Jilin province—a center of state-owned mining and machine production hard hit by Workers Vanguard
factory closings—Li gave public lectures sponsored by the state-controlled "China Qigong Research Society," and was soon adopted by a local police station as an "authority." Money rolled in from sales of cassettes, videos and books and Zhanan Fanlu, published in 1994, became a bestseller. When the government turned against Li, banning his books and curtailing meetings of his followers, he left the country. He arrived in the U.S. in 1996, in possession, curiously enough, of a permanent residency visa for himself, like a mass opposition with evident hai compound in Beijing in April 1999, port in the highest echelons of the party, political and military. After Falun Gong was banned, its adherents carried out illegal protests in Tiananmen and elsewhere, leading to thousands of arrests.

Whatever the immediate cause for Li's disfavor, Beijing was clearly fearful that the growing popularity of his mystical nonsense was detrimental to the task of advancing technology and modernization. The most prominent spokesman against Falun Gong is a theoretical physicist named He Xiaoxia, a pioneer in developing China's nuclear weapons in the 1960s. He is a self-proclaimed Marxist who has lashed out against "market reforms" for steering China away from the socialist path. Today he is spending time in jail for spreading the regime's propaganda campaign against Falun Gong, most prominently in a 1999 article in Sino-American Science and Technology for Youth that denounced Li for disseminating pseudoscience. In response to that, most of Li's followers began hounding He and his family and then staged their mass protest in Beijing in April 1999.

"Pseudoscience" hardly captures Li's "outlandish" cosmology, based on the "Dharma Wheel" and "buddha wheel," transcribed in the New York Times (July 5) reports, "he says he installs telekinetically in the abodes of all his followers, where it rotates Earth and that the French have discovered a two-billion-year-old nuclear reactor which is proof of an ancient civilization that practiced Falun Gong! He simultaneously preaches that the Ark is "true.""

Women's Gains Under Attack

The resurgence of religious reaction in China is a direct threat to women. It is a fact that the regime of the People's Republic of China has long been countering Falun Gong to create a "harmonious country." The Beijing bureaucracy that it has sparked a revival of Buddhism, Daoism and even the indigenous "folk religion" of the abjunction of women as household slaves and was wielded by China's dynastic rulers to instill unquestioning loyalty to emperors, father and husband. That opposition was only deepened by the Western imperialism that subjugated China in the 19th century and set up networks of Christian missions and schools to recruit local agents to defend the West's "civilizing" mission.

The overthrow of capitalist rule in 1949 resulted in enormous advances for women—a leap of centuries accomplished in a matter of years—the right to be educated, to have a job, to marry the husband of their choice. These advances were a measure of the power of the planned economy, in which the number of women working in industry soared from 600,000 in 1949 to 50 million in 1990, though they were largely excluded from skilled labor. In the countryside, the "Great Leap Forward" of the late 1950s, created rural communes that included communal kitchens, helping to relieve the burdens on peasant women. But Mao's catastrophic attempt to catapult China to the level of an advanced-industrial society within the next few years, led to a horrific famine. Unlike the Russian October Revolution of 1917, the Chinese"socialism in one country"—using mass levies of peasant labor to make up for the lack of technological productivity—dealt young workers, leading to a horrific famine.
The following is an edited presentation given by James Palmer of the Spartacist League/Britain to a meeting of youth from SYCs in the U.S., as well as internationally, in New York on June 11.

I'm going to tell you about our campaign of critical support to the Socialist Labour Party (SLP) in Britain in the general election that's just taken place. The situation is: Tony Blair, the Labour Party leader, had called the general election (elections are: Tony Blair, the Labour Party) in Britain for the first time. He won a landslide victory in '97, after about 17 or 18 years of Tory government.

What's basically happened since then is that the Conservative Party in Britain has been very much marginalized by the fact that the overt policies of the Labour Party have been gradually shifting to the right over the last few years. The traditional image of the Labour Party is the party that's supposed to represent the working class in Britain; now that no longer stands in many ways. The Labour Party, which has now become "New Labour," is quite open in the way it's publicly aspired to become a party that represents big business rather than pretending to actually represent the working class in any way.

When the Labour Party was elected in '97 a lot of people had a lot of illusions in them and they felt that things might be beginning to change. But, not surprisingly, the Labour Party has ended up ruling effectively for the capitalist class, as the Conservative Party (the Tories) had done. The bourgeoisie didn't actually feel any need to support the Conservative Party in these elections because the Labour Party now is openly ruling quite comfortably for them.

Since '97 there's obviously been an increase in populist dissatisfaction with the Labour Party which has refracted in the unions as well. The Labour government's campaign to privatize what remains of nationalized services has led one of the major unions, the Communications Workers Union (CWU), which organizes the postal workers, to vote at their last meeting to break all ties with the Labour Party if they go any further ahead in their plans to privatize the Post Office.

For those of you who don't come from countries where you have a social democratic or socialist party you need to know that in Britain the Labour Party has been the historical barrier to building a revolutionary party for the working class. The Labour Party is what Lenin called a bourgeoisie workers party, consisting of a proletariat base but a thoroughly pro-capitalist leadership. If you want to build a revolutionary party then you need to understand that in Britain the Labour Party has been the historical barrier to building a revolutionary party for the working class. The Labour Party is what Lenin called a bourgeoisie workers party, consisting of a proletariat base but a thoroughly pro-capitalist leadership. It's important to understand that in Britain the Labour Party has been the historical barrier to building a revolutionary party for the working class. The Labour Party is what Lenin called a bourgeoisie workers party, consisting of a proletariat base but a thoroughly pro-capitalist leadership.

supposedly as an alternative to Tony Blair because at the end of the day they knew there was no real threat of them clashing the Labour Party to lose an election. So they could make a pressure group to the left of Tony Blair, which is completely in line with their reformist aims, without actually having to challenge the Labour Party.

The Socialist Alliance

So what you have is the Socialist Alliance, which has emerged basically since this time last year. It was first formed during the mayoral elections in London in support of Ken Livingstone—then it was called the London Socialist Alliance. Livingstone had a reputation as a leftist in the Labour Party in the 1980s. But he supported the bombing of Serbia in 1999. He's no leftist or friend of the workers—he has appointed Bob Kiley, former CIA man and notorious union-buster in the New York subway system—to run the London Underground.

The Socialist Alliance has been expanded since then and has been used in various local by-elections, which is when they elect members of Parliament when one dies or goes out of action for some reason. And at the time of the election the Socialist Alliance has been mobilized on a concerted campaign, which is supposedly offering an alternative to New Labour and their capitalist policies. They're representing it as a socialist alternative and their slogans are things like "Oppose New Labour's Tory Policies." The component organizations of the Socialist Alliance include the Socialist Workers Party, Workers Power, the Socialist Party and various other reformist and centrist groups on the left in Britain. In Scotland, where Tommy Sheridan leads the Scottish Socialist Party (SSP)—which we're currently affiliated with Socialist Alternative in the U.S.—and it has much more influence, the SSP is quite happy to have their brancher in Scotland actually liquidate into the SSP.

What the Socialist Alliance doesn't do is draw any sort of clear class line at all. Their presentation of left-wing politics is always as "ordinary people" versus fat cats. They don't talk about the working class versus the ruling class. They certainly don't use the traditional language that we do in terms of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

The nature of the Socialist Alliance is also very much characterized by their tactics in the election on where they wouldn't stand and where they would stand candidates. They're quite happy to stand against safe Labour seats. They won't stand against marginal seats where they're likely to be seen to be causing the Labour Party to lose seats to the Conservatives. That's completely out of the question for them. And they also won't stand against Labour "lefts," like Jeremy Corbyn. So, with all of their pretending to offer an alternative to the Labour Party, in no way will they actually make an effective challenge to them. It is entirely a pressure group on New Labour. Where they are not actually standing candidates, which is about three-quarters of all the seats, they are effectively calling for a vote to the Labour Party.
This was exposed particularly in the material of the SWP. John Rees wrote an article in International Socialism (Spring 2001) several months beforehand warning, and I quote, “Vote Socialist where you can, vote Labour where you must.” That was the whole perspective of the SWP. It was, entirely subordinate to a Labour victory in the elections and they would very much like to have had one, said, “Vote Labour,” but the situation in Britain is such that if they had called openly for a vote to the Labour Party most of their membership, certainly the youth members, would have been quite keen to leave.

An example of how they blur the class line is that they won’t ever mention the word “Revolution” isn’t mentioned in their meetings. At a meeting to launch the whole of the Socialist Alliance campaign several months ago, one of our comrades asked Dave Nellist of the Socialist Party, who’s basically the leader of the Socialist Alliance milieu, whether or not he stood for revolution. He said, “We don’t want to build a real socialist alternative to Labour.”

The article in International Socialism by John Rees argues that, because Labour is based on the trade unions, as Lenin made clear in his essay “Left-Wing Communism,” the Socialists should support and they do talk about the working class and the need to abolish capitalism. They do make basic demands all socialists should support and they do talk about British imperialism. They call for British troops out of Northern Ireland, which is something that other groups on the left will not do, and we think this is very significant. More important is that they were clearly angry about calling for a vote to the Labour Party. They were not saying “you can vote Labour if you want, we clearly believe you are wrong.”

This was done to try to deceive workers into believing that it is possible to achieve socialism through parliamentary means. Lenin proposed a number of tactics, including critical support against openly capitalist parties in elections, to expose the Labour Party, to show that once in power they would defend the interests of the capitalists and not the workers. During the recent campaign, the Socialist Workers Party encouraged some of their comrades who questioned their position on the elections to read “Left-Wing Communism” with the idea that this kind of argument applied in this situation. If anyone in Britain today thinks that the Labour Party is offering anything to workers that sounds even vaguely socialist, they are completely wrong; nobody feels that—even the least class-conscious workers do not feel the Labour Party stands for anything radical in terms of working-class politics.

The Tactic of Critical Support

In the recent elections we extended critical support to the Socialist Labour Party, which means we called for a vote to the SLP and helped campaign for them while counterpoising our revolutionary politics at every step. We used this tactic to point out the contradictions in the SLP program, which is to the left of Labour on some questions but offers no solution to the problems of the working class. Why should we support the SLP? Is it not also a reformist party? The answer to that is yes, the political program of the SLP are reformist. However, what the SLP did do was, by appealing to the more advanced workers with the propaganda, it brought in people with the political consciousness that we want to intersect. The Socialist Labour Party took a crude class line. They talked about the working class and the need to abolish capitalism. They won’t make it clear how they feel that should be done except through parliamentary methods, of course.

But they do talk about the working class as distinct from the capitalist ruling class. They make basic demands all socialists should support and they do talk about British imperialism. They call for British troops out of Northern Ireland, which is something that other groups on the left will not do, and we think this is very significant. More important is that they were clearly angry about calling for a vote to the Labour Party. They were not saying “you can vote Labour if you want, we clearly believe you are wrong.”

As well as being dealt with the Stalinism and the bourgeoisie.
The fake-Trotskyist outfits all joined with their own capitalist rulers in fighting for the destruction of the Soviet Union-and the Eastern European deformed workers states and today refuse to defend China against imperialism. Within the SLP, the dominant force on the Russian question is the Ian Wilson Association (IWA) which regards China as a "socialist" country and opposes counter-revolution but has no programme to prevent it. According to the IWA, the problems in the USSR began with Khrushchev, Stalin’s successor, thus they say that in 1991 "the once-mighty Soviet Union itself collapsed, as a culmination of three decades of Kruschevite revisionist betrayal of, and departure from, the principles of Marxism-Leninism..." (Lukkar, January/February 2000). A political counter-revolution occurred in the USSR in 1923-24 when a privileged bureaucratic layer led by Stalin usurped political power and then embraced Stalin’s nationalist dogma of "socialism in one country." This was a qualitative political break from the internationalism of the Bolsheviks and was used to ably gross betrayals of the proletariat international.
some of the youth in groups like the SWP and the other component groups of the Socialist Alliance. The clear contradiction in the SLP’s politics makes it quite easy for us to argue and expose them on their Stalinism and their National-Chauvinist reformism. So, that’s the basis for critical support as a tactic.

The SLP and the Campaign

The SLP itself was formed by Arthur Scargill. This was prior to the last election in 1997, where he also stood against the Labour Party and we also gave him critical support. Arthur Scargill was the leader of the great miners strike in 1984-85 in Britain. That strike was defeated because the Labour leaders and the trade-union bureaucrats stood it in the back by leaving the miners union to fight it alone against the state. At the time, Arthur Scargill was tied to the Labour Party and was much limited by that.

But to give you an idea of Arthur Scargill’s status, the miners strike was the biggest class struggle in living memory in Britain. It went on for a year, and Arthur Scargill was virtually worshipped by the working class. The children of miners drew pictures of King Arthur which were pinned up in the shops and they depicted him walking on water with a halo and things like that.

That is how he was viewed, because he was the only person who was actually representing their families, and the children thought that was great.

Only months before that strike began, Scargill was denounced and vilified by the Tories, the capitalist press and the Labour leaders for correctly stating that the counterrevolutionary “union” in Poland, Solidarność, was anti-socialist. This was against the cheering support for Solidarność by the British Labour Party and its apologists, including Soviet-far-left leftists like the SWP and Workers Power. That is very much to his credit, and something that we remember.

The SLP is an entirely electoral party. They only have a few hundred members but they had over 100 candidates standing, so that didn’t leave very many canvassers in relation to the number of candidates.

We only obtained their manifestos just over a month before the election. We produced a leaflet about saying, why we were giving them critical support, and what we thought was good about what they were saying, their supportive demands, and what we disagreed about. Our critical support met contradictory responses from the SLP. Some SLP branches were split down the middle over whether to accept our offer to canvass for their candidates.

We received their newspaper and it listed all of the candidates. Now, there was a bit of a surprise here. When we looked through the list of the candidates one of our comrades spotted that one of the candidates—his name is Gordon Potts—is a tutor in the probation service and that he’s been active in supporting the National Association of Probation Officers, a cog “union.” This wasn’t a characteristic of the whole organization, as this was one candidate, but it showed that the SLP did not see the class line, so we added a box to our leaflet. We decided it wasn’t the basis for withdrawing the critical support to the other SLP candidates. In fact, it was very much to our advantage because it showed a clear contradiction within the organization and something that we can use to draw a much, much clearer line in our interventions against them, and in our discussions with their members about the nature of the state and how they’re blaming that line.

We ended up supporting the Manchester to canvass with the SLP, and we were able to meet up with some of their people and have very productive and interesting discussions. We’d also sent our people to a meeting that they were at down in Bright­­on, where there is a large number of stu­dents and the SLP has a big influence.

The campaign wrapped up with Arthur Scargill’s meeting in London which was held a couple of days before the election. A comrade had been to a previous meet­­­­ing and had gotten a flavor of what Scargill’s delivery would be; it was highly protectionist and nationalist. He’d basically condemned French imports and other foreign imports, he talked about French mineral water and condemned that—it was coming from basically every angle. So we knew pretty much what to expect. He knew we were at the meeting and he wasn’t quite as keen to bring up those kinds of issues again when we were there, but a comrade made an intervention about that at the meeting. He came back and tried to defend his protec­tionism by going on to the issue of imported coal during the miners’ strike. That blurred the issue: we were against imported coal at that time because it was scab coal and we were supporting against imported coal because it was from overseas. It had been brought in directly to undermine the miners and nationalism and protectionism is inherent to all of Labourite politics and goes much deeper than just that.

We engaged in this election campaign with the perspective of fighting to win the working class, minorities and youth to the understanding of the need for a revolutionary workers party, and that the “parliamentary road” is no road at all.

Lenin at time of Second Comintern Congress, 1920. He wrote "Left-Wing" Communism-An Infantile Disorder for Second Congress to guide interventions into mass reformist workers parties to split them, win workers to Bolshevism.

Among the fundamental disagreements between a revolutionary and a reformist approach is a sharp difference we have with Scargill’s SLP. Intervening at an SLP electoral meeting in Manchester, where a Spartacist comrade challenged Scargill, citing his nationalistic rant at a meeting in Leicester:

“Your very upset about French water and German car manufacturing, etc. We differ there because we are not for national chauvinism—British jobs for British workers or ‘American jobs for American workers.’ What’s necessary is for international struggle across borders, for international solidarity to overthrow the capitalist system.”

Scargill replied:

“Looked at absolutely clear to you, we are in favour of import controls and we are in favour of controlling our own economy and we’re in favour under a social democratic government to control imports. I’ll tell you why. I don’t want to see a situation ever again where the Third World is being exploited by its own agriculture destroyed by the dumping policies of the European Union and its Common Agricultural Policy. That’s why import controls would have saved millions of lives. Don’t preach to me about internationalism. I know about internationalism, I’m not against it. I’m against defending our own class here and that those workers abroad see by example that it’s time, not to work with labour productivity, but to control their own production and establish a socialist society in their country.

Soviet internationalism is the fight for socialism abroad, Scargill soundscap worlds away from the German-bashing chauvinism of the union bureaucrats who were giving them critical support, and that he’s been active in supporting the National Association of Probation Officers, a cog “union.” This wasn’t a characteristic of the whole organization, as this was one candidate, but it showed that the SLP did not see the class line, so we added a box to our leaflet. We decided it wasn’t the basis for withdrawing the critical support to the other SLP candidates. In fact, it was very much to our advantage because it showed a clear contradiction within the organization and something that we can use to draw a much, much stronger line in our interventions against them, and in our discussions with their members about the nature of the state and how they’re blaming that line.

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against the Soviet Union in the 1980s to the 1999 U.S./NATO war against Serbia, these pseudo-Marxists take their stand with the bosses.

The question before the huge numbers of young radicals who have been drawn to the “anti-globalization” protests of recent years is: how do you change the world? The proletariat, a huge social force, is the only force that can change the world.

“we must put an end to the capitalist system. To do away with capitalism means to fight for a workers state leading to a socialist society.”

We struggle to become the party fit to lead the proletariat in a new world revolution.

In July 1999, they found a ghost town. An inner red zone (nearly three miles) long was completely encircled by a 12-foot-high metal barrier. When our comrades arrived in Genoa on July 18, they found a ghost town. An inner red zone carried out continuous searches of apartments and harassment of the heavily immigrant population. Reports of letter bombs and harassment of the heavily immigrant population. Reports of letter bombs and attacks on pension offices and unemployment centres carried out continuous searches of apartments and harassment of the heavily immigrant population.

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In 1994 to usher in a series of reforms which were aimed at restabilizing the bourgeois order.

In 1980’s and 1990’s, there was a huge mobilizations with FIOM and CGIL banners prominent everywhere: 40,000 in Venice, 30,000 in Bologna, and 60,000 marched in Rome. Twenty thousand protesters marched in Genoa and got shot with a tear gas canister from a police helicopter. My family was attacked. Next time, I will defend myself.

In 2011, protests poured into the streets in defiance of the reformist politicians and the International Monetary Fund. As did the RC, millions of demonstrators mobilized on the cliffs. This perspective is urgently posed in the face of the new world order: we live in a society that is only apparently democratic and pluralist, but which is in reality a single party system, which is only nominally diverse, with one party controlling all the other parties.

In Genoa, protests were deflected by a 12-foot-high metal barrier. Mounted police entered the inner red zone carried out continuous searches of apartments and harassment of the heavily immigrant population. Reports of letter bombs and harassment of the heavily immigrant population. Reports of letter bombs and harassment of the heavily immigrant population.

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The following statement was issued by the comrades in the Lega Trostnikov d’Italia. 20 JULY—The imperialist rulers gathered in Genoa and the threat and starvation of the working masses were thirsty for blood, and they got it. The anti-globalization protesters were deliberately killed today by paramilitary police in Genoa. One young Italian, who was shot in the head by the cops, who then drove a police van over his lifeless body. Another in French and Italian media, the second was a young woman killed by a gunshot wound. The imperialist rulers are being pushed by those who, in the name of a Left, right, “peace” movement they support, these to suppress and to crush this new generation to revolutionary Marxism, and from their impoverishment of Asia and Africa.

Preparations for capitalist “law and order” in Genoa began last month in Göteborg, when Swedish cops fired live ammunition into a crowd of demonstra tors, critically wounding a 20-year-old man who was shot in the back as he tried to escape the police onslaught. British Labour prime minister Tony Blair urged more murderous repression in Genova, ranting that Europe’s rulers had been “far too apologetic” to anti-globalization protesters and needed to be “a lot more robust.” And let’s not forget that it was the popular-front government of D’Alençon’s Democratsi di Sinistra (DS), which organized the G8 gathering in the first place to boost Italy’s standing among its imperialist allies. The DS sufficiently action against the anarchists. With such statements the DS and RC expose their appetite to administer Italian capitalist rule in a new popular-front government of anti-working-class austerity, anti-immigrant bigotry and attacks on women’s rights.

Echoing the social-democratic rulers of post-war Europe are the fake leftists who campaigned and voted for them. They played into the state’s murderous plans by isolating the militants. In the immediate aftermath of the shootings last month in Göteborg, ATTAC spokes man Susan George alibied the state ter rorists and blamed the victims for their own repression, saying she was “sick and tired of these groups... who turn up at demos like venomous flowers in order to cause destruction.” Alain Krivine, leader of the French Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire and member of the Euro pean Parliament, chimed in that he was “sickened that a minority could impose its methods of struggle on the majority, with all its media consequences and the increasing threats of repression facing future demonstrations in Genova.” With such statements these miserable misleaders prove their loyalty to the capitalist class and its police assassins and expose their attacks on “globalization” as rooted in social-chauvinist, reformist support for their “own” bourgeois. Their “movement” aims not to overthrow capitalism but to mask its monstrous reality.

While fake “leftists” flinch in the face of the state crackdown in Genova and criminally denounce the anarchists, we Trotskyists stand in full solidarity with the anarchist youth and other protesters against the G-8 in Genova and against state repression, regardless of our political differences. In shooting down the two young protesters, the state is taking aim at the workers of Europe and the rest of the world, as an ominous warning against any political challenge to the imperialists’ starvation austerity and crushing exploitation. Only hours before the G8 conference was scheduled to open, organizers by the COBAS rank-and-file unions marched through the streets as part of a political general strike against the G-8. A chief order of business at the G8 conference was to order Argentina’s government to push ahead with wage cuts and starvation measures which have already sparked massive workers’ struggles. The capitalist rulers are dead to appeals to act more “humanely” in the “Third World.” But a workers strike against the G-8 and the cop terror would open the door to mobilizing broader class struggle against the capitalists, the only road to combating and sweeping away the imperialists.

Drop the charges against all arrested protesters! Down with the police state of siege in Genova! For massive labor protest strikes! 

For Workers Strikes to Protest Deadly Police State of Siege!

Berlusconi and the G-8: Imperialist Butchers!

This pamphlet reprints a series by Spartacist League Central Committee member Joseph Seymour originally published in Workers Vanguard. It presents a comprehensive historical analysis of the origins of anarchism and the view of its leading figures through the 1871 Paris Commune and the split in the First International. Later articles discuss the pre-WW I period and the impact of the war, the 1917 October Revolution and the founding of the Communist International on the anarchist and syndicalist movements. The first article addresses radical youth today who, in an ideological climate conditioned by the so-called “death of communism,” are drawn to all variants of anarchism, Green radicalism and left liberalism. The pamphlet is dedicated to the fight to win a new generation to revolutionary anarchism, the communism which animated Lenin and Trotsky’s Bolshevik Party.
Jamal... (continued from page 16)

must be suppressed. In the three months since those affidavits were filed, the mainstream media outside Philadelphia have maintained a blackout on this spectacular new development in what is the most prominent death penalty case in the U.S. Along with national and international courts, the forces of racist “law and order” and their auxiliaries in the media of a conspiracy aimed at lynching this innocent man! They seek to kill Mumia Abu-Jamal because they see in this former曝光s of the racist capitalist injustice is the most prominent death penalty case forever this conviction, which resulted in the assassination of 35 Panther activists and the frame-up of hundreds more. When they found Jamal at the scene of Faulkner’s killing in 1981, they seized the opportunity to set him up for a legal lynching. In arguing that Jamal should be sentenced to death, the D.A. pointed to his past as a member of the Black Panther Party and his reference to the Maoist slogan, “Political power grows out of the barrel of a weapon.”

In barring the Beverly confession, Yohn cited the one-year limit on new evidence ordered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and Effective Death Penalty Act signed into law by Clinton in 1996. Yohn falsely claimed, “Petitioner chose not to present this evidence to the courts in the original trial court until May 2001.” The new PCRA papers thoroughly document how former defense attorneys Government and Daniel Williams refused to present the Beverly confession when it was first secured in 1998. When Yohn was exposed as a liar, defense lawyers declared the Beverly confession, as affirmed by expert polygrapher Charles R. Honts in an affidavit appended to the filing. The papers establish that “the facts underlying attorney Weinglass and attorney Williams’ suppression of this evidence were unknown to Jamal and that they misrepresented to him that they were investigating the evidence further when in fact they had no intention of ever presenting that evidence in any court.”

Mumia fired Weinglass and Williams for disloyalty and conflict of interest last May after Williams authored a treacherous and mendacious “inside account” of the “exposed Executing Judge,” which rehabilitates the Beverly confession as “bana file lunacy,” “patently outrageous” and “absurd.” (The aim of this despicable act, as Weinglass himself stated, was to send Jamal appended to the new papers, was to carry out a “pre-emptive strike” against the new evidence should it ever surface—that is to say, how it has been used by the prosecution. Excerpts from Williams’ book made up the bulk of the D.A.’s papers opposing the Beverly deposition.

The D.A.’s reply to the new PCRA papers reveals so heavily that it does not bother to make a single substantial argument against the 272 pages of PCRA material. As Jamal’s new attorneys state in the PCRA petition: “Jamal’s interest lay in proving his innocence, overcoming his biased trial and winning his freedom. There can be no strategic, tactical or rational reason for the defense attorneys to have suppressed the evidence of his innocence.”

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal shows what is at stake here. A legacy of medieval barbarism and, in the case of the U.S., black chattel slavery, the death penalty is at its lowest point in more than two decades, but ever more cases come to light of innocent people sentenced to death. The ICL Committee opposes the death penalty on principle, for the guilty as well as the innocent. We do not agree with the right to decide who shall live and who shall die.

Yohn’s decision, as does every previous court ruling in Jamal’s case, charge that fighters for Mumia’s freedom and those who oppose the death penalty worship police and insurance companies. The police will be found in the courts of the capitalist class. Mass protest centered on the murder of Mumia, but that movement is not only urgently needed to win Mumia’s freedom but would strike a blow against the whole capitalist frame-up system.

An Infanticide Disorder, which aimed at winning the best of the anarchists and syndicalists of the Black Block, Lenin remarked. “Anarchism was not infrequently a kind of a penalty for the petit-bourgeoisie. In the working-class movement it is not only urgently needed to win Mumia’s freedom but would strike a blow against the whole capitalist frame-up system.”

Genoa... (continued from page 11)

A revolutionary Communist Interna­
tional (LCRI). A statement posted on the WP/LICI Web site on July 23 was headlined, “After Genoa Repression Turn to the Working Class.” In this statement, this means succumbing militant anarchist youth back into the social-democratic fold. The Genoa declaration calls for a revolutionary party “free of all the filth of Stalinism”—but has no word about the Lihorabˈith “filth” in which WP wallows.

Safeguarding its standing in the eyes of the social democrats, WP made clear that “we organised for non-violent civil disobedience” and attacked the Black Block on William’s “record of smashing up property.” Nonetheless, the statement explicitly denounced “those in the move­ment who have focussed confusion on the “black bloc.” But in a new ver­sion of the statement distributed at a July 28 protest in Genoa, the call for smashing up buildings even this tepid expression of solidarity with the militant anarchists under attack by the Italian and U.S. state apparatus.

That the police insist on provoking the workers movement and left-wing protesters is widely familiar with the workings of the capitalist state, and there is certainly evidence that police provocateurs have been engaged in provocations in Genoa. But for the pseudo-Marxists, any affront to the legitimacy of parliamentary “demo­cracy” is deemed a provocation. As Bol­shevnik leader V.L. Lenin noted in The State and Revolution: “The opportunists of modern Social-Democracy accept the bourgeois political forms of a parliamentary, democratic state as the limit which cannot be over­stepped; they broke their forefront with­out a ushing before this idol, denouncing as Anarchism every attempt to destroy these forms.”

For our forthright statement in defense of the anarchists against state repression, our comrades in Genoa were likewise denounced as “provocateurs” by the social-democratic trade-union bureaucrats.

“The main enemies are the police, we understand that the main enemy is the state as the limit which cannot be overstepped. We demand the overthrow of the bourgeois order. The point is to set the mass of production from the bourgeois, to overthrow capitalism and replace it with global workers rule. Personal outrage is not substitute for a mass movement centered on the power of the working class, which alone has the social power to lead all the oppressed in a revolutionary assault on the capitalist order. Many young radicals do not see the proletariat as an agency for social revolu­tion because they equate the workers organizations with the misleaders who have a stake in preserving the capitalist system. We must ‘sacrifice the corpuscles of the workers at the base and the pro-capitalist politics of the left in order to break the workers from reformism and win them to a revolutionary perspective.’

Those who call themselves “anarchist” run the gamut from subjective revolution­aries and their solidarists to those who call right-wing petty-bourgeois thugs who hate the working class and attack commu­nists. At bottom, anarchism is in a form of radical-democratic idealism that com­bines military and adventurism with bourgeois liberalism. Rejecting the state in general—and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat by the revolution­ary working class in particular—the anarchists are led to genuflect before the existing, bourgeois state. During the Spanish Civil War, anarchists became ministers in the populist-front government which disarmed and repressed the armed workers struggle against capitalism, opening the road to decades of Franco’s dicta­torship. Today in Italy, the “official” an­archists of A mania refused to assas­sin the bourgeoisie of their hostility to the “violent” protesters in Genoa: We be­lieve that indiscriminate violence and terrorism (even psychological) are tools of the power, not of those who want to uproot the rotten capitalist system in Genoa.

Those who send bombs, who devastate a town with the help and complicity of the police…have nothing to do with us.”

For those who genuinely seek the overthrow of the bourgeois, anarchism’s appeal is a healthy rejection of the parlia­mentary reforms of the social democ­rats, the ex-Stalinists and the fake left­ists who prop up and maintain the capit­alist order. In “Left- Wing” Commissariat

—An Infanticide Disorder, which aimed at winning the best of the anarchists and syndicalists of the Black Block, Lenin remarked. “Anarchism was not infrequently a kind of a penalty for the petit-bourgeoisie. In the working-class movement it is not only urgently needed to win Mumia’s freedom but would strike a blow against the whole capitalist frame-up system.”

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Yohn’s decision, as does every previous court ruling in Jamal’s case, charge that fighters for Mumia’s freedom and those who oppose the death penalty worship police and insurance companies. The police will be found in the courts of the capitalist class. Mass protest centered on the murder of Mumia, but that movement is not only urgently needed to win Mumia’s freedom but would strike a blow against the whole capitalist frame-up system.
The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal represents one of the more heinously pure examples of the "American justice system," which is wielded by the rulers of this country to silence political opponents, even in their own way. In this case the means is to be state-sanctioned murder. It matters not to the powers that be this society that another man, Arnold Beverly, has confess­ed to the crime for which Jamal has spent the last 20 years enourmized in a death row cell. But it had better matter to this society who could just as easily be lined up in the sights of the state for perjury and manufactured "eyewitnesses." A case-as articulated by its star witness, a prostitute named Cynthia White, after the shooting, his cab had been parked at a point completely different location to where he had claimed it was at the original time and that he had been unable to see what he had testified to. When the investiga­tion team read it back to her in the police account of what Chobert had supposedly seen, Chob­ert blurted out, "That's a lie." Five eyewitnesses reenacted the scene of Faulkner's shooting, just as Beverly testifies that he did not know a single soul when he pulled the trigger. This was the original early testimony of the cops on the scene themselves. The PCRA papers state: "There were no witnesses present at the police station after the shooting. Beverly's account makes clear that no police officer at the scene reported to central division that a suspect with a weapon had been found until some 14 minutes after [the first two cops] arrived at the scene. In the mean­time, there were radio inquiries and flashes that the suspects had fled with off-duty police."

Four witnesses, including two cops, said that they saw a man at the site wearing a green army jacket, just as Beverly testifies that he was wearing a red ski jacket. Faulkner was wearing a blue and red ski jacket.

The PCRA filings state, "The limited scientific and physical evidence which is available is much more corroboration of Faulkner's story than it is with the prosecution's case." The location and trajectory of the bullet fragments found at the scene ruled out the prosecution lie that Jamal emptied his gun into Faulkner as Faulkner lay on the sidewalk. In fact, there is not one shred of evidence that Mumia's gun was even fired that night, let alone by him. Moreover, as the PCRA papers note: "Similarly, no trace of Police Officer Faulkner's blood was ever identified on the Petitioner's trousers or other clothing. No tests appear to have been carried out, even though [Jamal] allegedly 'blew out' Faulkner's brains as he was standing over him.' For the prosecution's claim that Jamal emptied his gun into Faulkner as Faulkner lay on the sidewalk, the PCRA papers note: "The Petitioner would have had to have been standing handstands for Police Officer Faulkner to throw him in this way from a prone position."

Beverly says that Mumia arrived on the scene after Beverly and did not say that another cop then shot Jamal. A cop at the scene the night of Faulkner's shooting reported at the time that Jamal had been shot by arriving cops. This information was suppressed at the 1982 trial. So how could Beverly have somehow discovered this, or other evidence which obviously corroborates the testimony of many others to what happened that night? In fact, Beverly's account explains the "otherwise inexplicable" fact, as the PCRA filing notes, that, none of the prosecu­tion witnesses claimed to see how Jamal was shot. His statement also squares with a police medical examiner's report just five hours after the shooting that Jamal "was shot subsequently by arriving police reinforcements."

As the PCRA papers state: "There is no other explanation for how, in its details, Arnold Beverly's account of what hap­pened finds such close corroboration with so much of the evidence in this case which Arnold Beverly could not possibly have known about." Confession: It has already been more than simply demonstrated that Jamal's purported "confession" was a total inven­tion, concocted over two months later. The official original police report by Officer Gary Walshul, who was with Jamal the entire time from his arrest through medical treatment, said that "during this time, the negro male made no comments." Two months later, prosecutor McGill con­vened a "round table" where he asked the police officers in attendance to "raise their hands if they heard" Jamal confess. Walshul compiled, testified that in his report and in the PCRA papers, the rank­ing officer at the scene the night of Faulkner's shooting, Alfonzo Giordano, was the first to state that Jamal had con­fessed. Yet McGill never called on Giordano to testify for the prosecution at Jamal's 1982 trial. Giordano resigned as police chief months later. The new papers report the "so-called confession" was the result of pressure on Jamal to have retrieved Faulkner's and Jamal's gun at the time of Jamal's arrest. At the time of Faulkner's shooting, Alfonzo Giordano, the then police chief, had been instructed to retrieve Faulkner's gun. The gun was not retrieved. The gun was not retrieved.

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Party of V. I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky but on the conservative bureaucratic caste that usurped power from the Soviet pro-opposition of women in class—setting up communal childcare, laundry and kitchen facilities. The Bolshevik regime also abolished all laws discriminating against homosexuals. But under conditions of extreme poverty and hostile imperialist encirclement, the young Soviet state could only begin the work of liberating women. The Bolsheviks understood that women could only be fully emancipated in a socialist—i.e., classless—society international in scope and premised on a level of technology far higher than that in even the most advanced capitalist countries.

Repudiating the program of international socialist revolution in favor of the lie of “building socialism in one country,” the Stalinist bureaucracy also repudiated the liberating ideals of Bolshevism, not least when it came to women. In his analysis of the Stalinist degeneration, The Revolution Betrayed (1936), Trotsky characterized the bureaucracy’s imposition of a ban on abortion as “the philo-

phy of a priest endorsed also with the powers of a gendarme,” continuing, “The marriage and family laws established by the October revolution, once the object of its legitimate pride, are being made over and mutilated by vast borrowings from the law treasuries of the bourgeois countries. And as though on purpose to stamp treachery with the same arguments which were earlier advanced in favor of unconditional freedom of divorce and abortion—the liberation of women, ‘defense of the rights of personality,’ ‘protection of motherhood’—are repeated now in favor of their limitation

people to defend women set upon by the purveyors of market capitalism. A revolutionary leadership would seek to organize the masses of poor peasants behind the urban working class struggle for a China of workers and peasants councils (soviet). While fighting to extend the revolutionary struggle internationally, a revolutionary leadership would begin to reconstruct a centrally planned economy under conditions of socio-political and economic freedom they once had, thrown out of work, and even from marrying. This measure is so outrageous that it has come under criticism from the local press.

While the regime victimizes people infected with HIV, its “market reforms” have directly contributed to the spread of the virus. In Henan Province, where the government encouraged the growth of private blood collection firms, virtually all village populations have been infected with HIV. The companies bought blood from poor peasants for plasma production, pooled the collected blood and then re-injected villagers with red blood cells so that they could quickly donate again. Moreover, some villagers began developing AIDS, but the authorities curried up the story for fear they would be held liable. By the late 1980s, a million people open to infection.

A Chinese Trotskyist party would embolden on its banners the fight for the full emancipation of women and full democratic rights for homosexuals. We wrote in “China: ‘Free Market’ Misery Targets Women” (Women and Revolution No. 45, Winter-Spring 1996): “As the ‘tribune of the people,’ a van-guard party would fight hard and well against the attempt to fer demons from their hard-wo man positions in the workplace and would mobilize working

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guise of medicine. But as it cut funding for health care, the Beijing regime began promoting traditional herbal medicines. Various practices rooted in rural backwardness, training doctors in traditional Chinese medicine and cultivating the sale of herbal medicines. In the 1990s, shamans were officially redesignated “traditional medical shamans.”

In the face of counterrevolutionary agitation by the Dalai Lama, the Vatican and the International Educational Foundation,3 Beijing has warmly embraced a range of Chinese traditions “and religions is part and parcel of Lamaism, its own Catholic bishops, led the country’s slide toward sexual freedom.

In its campaign against Falun Gong, the CCP makes a point of differentiating between “cults” and bona fide “religions.” While Falun Gong is truly wacky, it is not different in substance from any other promulgating shamunism and other superstitions. The dualist of Falun Gong’s behavior is “purification of the people.” Instead of condemning Falun Gong as a counterrevolutionary danger, Beijing compares this outfit to the integrated Chinese workers in the Special Economic Zones. Investment by offshore Chinese capitalists reduces the flow of labor supply to the multinational working class to China, but we warned that the bureaucrat’s maintenance of capitalism undermines that defense and encourages the growth of capitalist-restorationist forces. A Trotskyist party must be forged in the movement against the pernicious spectacle of Stalinism—neo-Maoists and “capitalist roaders” alike—and in sharp opposition to pro-imperialist parties.

Communist-minded workers and intellectuals can look back to the early Chinese Communist Party led by Chen Duxiu. At the time of the anti-imperialist May Fourth Movement of 1919, Chen was a radical democracy and linguist who had popularized the goals of emancipation and modernization, including the right to political combat against all wings of capitalists.

In China, the Tsarist state was reformed to superpower status, capitalist misery for the workers and peasants. The wretched state of China 1949, mass poverty, falling lifespans, the collapse of science and technology—was a harbinger of what capitalist counterrevolution would mean for China, a far more backward society than the former USSR. The ostensible Trotskyists of the Hong Kong-based October Review long ago abandoned even the pretense of unconditional military defense of the Chinese deformed workers state. Their international co-thinkers of the United Secretariat tilted all manner of counterrevolutionary forces arrayed against the Soviet Union, even helping run supplies to波兰 Solidarity in the early 1980s. Already acting as virtual press agents for CIA-sponsored “labor activists” and “democrats,” October Review (5 August 1999) also rallies to the defense of the Falun Gong reactionaries against Beijing’s “high-handed repression.”

A subsequent article even uncritically retails claims by Falun Gong followers that “their practice cured them of disease and improved their health” (October Review, 30 April 2000). This article also defends the Chinese Democratic Party, as openly pro-imperialist outfit based in the U.S.

Unlike October Review, the Pioneer group, another Hong Kong-based outfit under the false Trotskyist, at least acknowledges that not all of Falun Gong’s behavior is “totally pure and normal.” Nevertheless, in a 10 February statement, Pioneer calls on “the people to rise up against the persecution of Falun Gong” particularly condemning Beijing’s attempt to extend its crackdown into Hong Kong. Pioneer’s concern is that “the whole self-governing right of the Hong Kong special region would be lost.” We Trotskyists hailed the return of the former British colony to China, but we warned that the bureaucracy’s maintenance of capitalism in Hong Kong under the rubric of “one country, two systems” was a huge threat to the economic foundations of the defunct workers state. At the same time, Beijing has offered an encouraging degree of openness in Hong Kong as part of the reversion agreement with Britain.

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The Ghastly Deformation of Chinese Revolution.

Bolshevik Revolution, Chen and other leading radicals became founding members of the CCP. As part of Lenin and Trotsky’s Communist International, the early CCP sought to wipe out oppression and obscurantism through a socialist revolution, which saw as part and parcel of a world proletarian revolution. That is the internationalist program that will propel the Chinese working class to capitalist re-enslavement of China into a refuged Trotskyist Fourth International, the embodiment of revolutionary Marxism in our time.
Mumia Abu-Jamal in Peril

Judge Bars New Evidence of Innocence

The following statement was issued by the Pennsylvania Defense Committee on July 26.

In a July 19 “memorandum and order,” U.S. district court judge Yohn ruled in effect that a court of law is no place for evidence of Mumia Abu-Jamal’s innocence. Yohn has barred the sworn confession of Arnold Beverly that he was “paid to shoot and kill” Philadelphia policeman Daniel Faulkner in December 1981, the killing for which Jamal was framed up and railroaded to death row.

While Yohn stopped short of turning down Mumia’s federal habeas corpus appeal outright, this ruling brings Jamal a huge step closer to the execution chamber. His fate must not be allowed to rest in the rigged scales of the racist capitalist “justice” system that perpetrated his frame-up in the first place. The Pennsylvania Defense Committee calls on all working people, all opponents of racist injustice, all death penalty abolitionists—-in the U.S. and internationally—to mobilize on the streets and in protest strikes to demand: Freedom now for Mumia Abu-Jamal! Abolish the racist death penalty!

Yohn’s order is wantonly malicious in every respect. Responding to a request by Jamal’s new legal team that Beverly be deposed in court in order to safeguard his testimony, Yohn went far beyond that particular issue to try to bury the new evidence of Jamal’s innocence, even gratuitously advising the Pennsylvania state court to reject the new Post-Conviction Relief (PCRA) papers filed by Jamal earlier this month. Yohn even invokes the infamous 1993 Herrera decision that evidence of innocence was no bar to execution.

Yohn argues: “I cannot conclude that petitioner has alleged information sufficient to establish that had the statements contained in the Beverly declaration been presented at trial, no reasonable juror would have found petitioner guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Moreover, given that the statements presented evidence of four eyewitnesses, none of which corroborates Beverly’s story, and given that the witness could have found petitioner guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.”

Only yesterday, the New York Times (which has not breathed a word of the new evidence in Jamal’s case) reported: “A Bronx man was freed from prison yesterday by a federal judge who said that he never would have been convicted of murder if the jury had known 13 years ago that a guilt-racked teenager had admitted committing the crime.” The judge in that case acknowledged, “Surely the jury would have found reasonable doubt.” But not the judge in Jamal’s case.

Even in the face of the blatantly racist jury-rigging presided over by hanging judge Albert Sabo in Jamal’s 1982 trial, Beverly’s confession would have found reasonable doubt if the jury had known 13 years ago that a guilt-racked teenager had admitted committing the crime.

Mobilize Labor Now to Fight for Mumia’s Freedom!

Workers Vanguard

New Legal Defense Fund

Contributions Urgently Needed!

Mumia’s new legal team is challenging the frame-up with the explosive new evidence of his innocence. Your donations are urgently needed to help pursue efforts in the courts to fight for his freedom.

Send contributions earmarked “Mumia Abu-Jamal” to: Humanitarian Law Project, 8124 W. 3rd Street, Suite 105, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

While Jamal was on the ground with a bullet in his chest, Beverly said he wore a green camouflage jacket to lure police. Four witnesses, including two cops, said they saw a man with a green army jacket. One, William Singleton, even reported that the man who shot Faulkner was wearing a green army jacket.

Beverly’s declaration also fits with the fact that the FBI was at that time engaged in at least three investigations of police corruption in the Center City District that Faulkner patrolled. As the PCRA papers submitted by Jamal’s new lawyers—Marlene Kamish, Elliot Grossman, Nicholas Brown and Michael Farrell—state: “It is difficult to conceive of any more compelling evidence of the Petitioner’s actual innocence than the signed confession of the man who shot Police Officer Faulkner. It found a wealth of support and corroboration in the available evidence both in and outside the existing record.

It clearly undermines every single aspect of the Commonwealth’s case against the Petitioner, from the purported eyewitness testimony through the purported scientific evidence to the evidence of the alleged confession. Not only did it identify the true killer of Police Officer Faulkner, but it also provided an innocent explanation of how the Petitioner came to [be] found shot at the scene. It raised the issue of the prosecution perpetrating a fraud upon the courts, by suborning perjury.

In fact, what Yohn and the capitalist rulers he represents have concluded is that the Beverly declaration and accompanying affidavits by Jamal and Billy Cook so thoroughly expose the police frame-up and prove Mumia’s innocence beyond the shadow of a doubt that they continued on page 12.