

**STOP
KILLER
COKE**

**Support
Columbian
Trade
Unionists**



REVOLUTION
socialist youth movement

JANUARY 2004

One solution: Revolution

We oppose capitalism and all it represents: war, racism, oppression, imperialism, exploitation, poverty and control of the world's resources in the hands of a tiny minority.

We fight for its replacement with socialism, a system of direct workers and community control over production and the economy. A planned economy organised to meet the needs of humanity, rather than a competitive economy meeting the needs of a tiny ruling class.

While we fight for every gain of the working class and oppressed, we do not think that capitalism can be moulded to our interests. In the end it cannot be reformed. Capitalism must be overthrown, through international workers revolution.

Some say this is a pipe dream, but we don't think so. Two hundred years of capitalist history shows one thing: Our class will continue to fight and resist the constraints imposed upon us. The question is, how far will our resistance go?

Recently there have been revolutionary movements in Argentina and Bolivia, and massive strike waves in Italy. Many within these movements will tell you, far from a pipe dream, revolution is the only practical solution to capitalism.

Capitalism

The capitalist economy is one where the means of production – the factories and offices, docklands and warehouses, call centres and stores, mines and smelters – are all controlled by one class, the capitalists. They did not earn this right, but were born into it.

The rest of us, the majority of humanity, must work to live.

Work is waged slavery. We are “free” to sell our labour power to the bosses, and “free” to spend our wages on commodities. But we do not control the conditions under which we sell our labour, or the conditions under which we spend our hard earned dollars.

Meanwhile the capitalists are free – free to make massive profits off our backs, free to control who works, where, for how much and for how long. Free to decide how goods are made, how many are made, where they are distributed and who gets access to them.

But the capitalists are not free to get rid of the working class. They need us to work. And their weakness is our strength. We are free to withdraw our labour, to take away the thing which produces the bosses' profits. Even better, when organised and prepared to fight, we can take over the factories and offices and run them ourselves.

The capitalist class needs us – but we do not need them.

FIGHTING CAPITALISM AND THE STATE

The State

Sitting behind capitalism is a legal system, which justifies private property. For capitalism what is essential about the legal entitlement to private property, is not whether or not I own my toothbrush, but the power of the capitalist class to own and control the means of the production, and also the removal of workers control over what they produce (sometimes called alienation).

But for law to mean more than a phrase on a piece of paper, it must be implemented. The law must be backed up by instruments of power and repression – through the state.

“The second distinguishing characteristic is the institution of a public force which is no longer immediately identical with the people's own organisation of themselves as an armed power. ... This public force exists in every state; it consists not merely of armed men [sic] but also of material appendages, prisons and coercive institutions of all kinds” (F Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*)

When workers choose to exercise their right to strike, police show up to enforce anti-union laws. The police and even armies are brought in to break picket lines, and force through scabs to steal our work.

As Lenin described it “A standing army and police are the chief instruments of state power”

Anti-union and anti-protest laws are not a recent development under the Howard Government – they have always existed. The anti-picketing laws in place today existed more than 100 years ago. They go to the heart of Australia's capitalist opposition to working class organisation, enshrining the right of the bosses' state to smash up strikes and occupations.

But as long as these laws exist, so will opposition to them. We are compelled every day to battle against the injustices of capitalism – economic, legal and policy related – and so too are we compelled to take on the state which defends these injustices.

But if we are to really build an alternative to capitalism, rather than continue to fight symptoms of it, then we must overthrow the capitalist state itself.



Resistance and revolution

In every mass movement or strike action, alternative forms of democracy arise. These are embryos of workers democracy— strike committees, protest committees, organisations of elected union or activist delegates.

These bodies not only represent those that elected them, but they organise our resistance and begin to take on the state through defence of protests and strikes.

In mass revolutionary struggles workers councils have been formed, made up of elected and recallable delegates from factories and communities. They not only lead the resistance, but also begun to run society from the ground up – they took back control over parts of the economy, over production and distribution.

But more than this is needed. Even just before the Russian Revolution, the capitalist state continued to undermine and repress the rule of the Soviets (Russian workers councils). The state itself needed to be taken over, smashed and replaced.

Workers control over even large sections of the economy cannot be maintained as long as the capitalists continue to control the state. This means taking on the state machinery not just at the factory gates, but at their command control.

The smashing of the capitalist state is the ultimate aim of socialist revolution.

We believe in being upfront about what we stand for. As Marx stated in The Communist Manifesto, “The communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be obtained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions”.

There is only one solution to capitalism: revolution.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We are active in many campaigns

Get active with us

**Stall and meeting every Saturday,
Bourke St Mall 11am-1pm**

www.onesolutionrevolution.org

REVOLUTION



STOP KILLER COKE!

Columbia is a dangerous place to be a trade unionist. It's even more dangerous if you work for the Coca Cola Company!

In the last 10 years around a dozen trade unionists working at Coca Cola's Columbian bottling plants have been killed. Hundreds more have been intimidated, kid-napped, unlawfully detained, jailed or simply frightened into resigning from their union.

The families of Sinaltrainal (the food and beverage workers union) members and officials have also been targeted. In early December the sister of a leading unionist was killed.

Of course the company isn't directly involved.

They use Columbia's infamous paramilitaries, often trained in the CIA School of the Americas, to do their dirty work.

But why?

Columbian companies, especially the local parts of huge multi-nationals do not want their workforce to be unionized.

In one bottling plant, after the head union negotiator had been shot

What can we do about it?

There is an international campaign that began in July 2003. Sinaltrainal and the World Social Forum together called for awareness raising and boycott action.

Individual boycotts might not make much difference but in the US, activists have been running campaigns to get coke off campuses. They have had success already.

We can do the same thing here.

Collective action to remove all coke products from campuses and workplaces would send a strong message to the company and provide real solidarity for unionists in Columbia.

In the early 1980's Coca Cola workers in Guatemala succeeded in unionizing their factories by calling on workers in other plants around the world to take solidarity strike action with

them.

Already some unions in Australia have shown interest in supporting the campaign. It is this kind of united action that can win justice for Coca Cola workers in Columbia.

**Get Involved!
STOP KILLER COKE**

**Stall every Saturday 11am-1pm
Bourke St Mall**



Q and A on the FTA

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

What is the FTA?

Australia and the US are currently trying to come up with an agreement to abolish 'trade barriers' between the two countries - an Australia United States Free Trade Agreement.

What's wrong with it?

Firstly, the process is completely undemocratic. The negotiations are taking place in secret and when they come up with a deal the federal parliament doesn't even get to vote on it.

Once the agreement is signed future governments won't be able to introduce

any policies that conflict with it without being sued by corporations.

Secondly many of the changes proposed pose a threat to the social structures we take for granted.

Like what?

☠ The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - a means of keeping the price of medicines affordable - might be scrapped.

☠ The US wants all moves to label genetically modified food scrapped and they want quarantine laws changed.

☠ The content quotas that have given airplay to Australian music and TV programmes are up for grabs.

☠ The US have said they want social services like public health, education and water privatised and opened up for commercial investment.

Why are they doing it?

All the independent studies that the government has commissioned have shown that Australia won't benefit economically from the agreement. But the government has said having closer ties with the US is good foreign policy - ie for defence and security.

The Howard government are probably also using the agreement (together with the Nelson reforms of tertiary education) as a means of forcing through the privatisation of public health and education by stealth.

As for the US government, they've been fairly clear about the fact that they're using this agreement with Australia (small fry for them) to serve as a precedent for future bilateral trade agreements.

They want to be able to go to big economies like Europe and China and use the precedent of the Australian agreement as a precedent to be able to say "if the Australians will give us this, why won't you?". The US is going after these agreements with individual economies because the negotiations for multilateral agreements (involving the whole world) like GATS (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) aren't



What if we don't agree?...

going as planned.

You can see this in the way the World Trade Organisation talks broke down in Cancun last year.

What about similar trade agreements with the US?

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) the Canadian and Mexican governments and even small town councils are being successfully sued for millions of dollars every time they try to introduce progressive social policies or environmental protections that get in the way of US corporate interests.

Even existing public services are under threat from the new rules - for example Canada's government service, Canadian Post, is currently



Don't just get angry. Get active! Join REVOLUTION

www.onesolutionrevolution.org

contact@onesolutionrevolution.org



✂ **TROOPS OUT
OF IRAQ**

Who benefits from the war?

The US is currently throwing billions of dollars into rebuilding Iraq, and begs other countries for financial input, but what's being made of this funding?

Rubble and debris from the US invasion still lies in streets, and Iraqi citizens have infrequent access to essential services, like running water and electricity, while all the money seems to be poured into rebuilding the frequently attacked oil transport lines.



There can be absolutely no doubt now that the US's invasion and "rebuilding" of Iraq is to benefit from the remodelled economy (that is, remodelled to assist the US's flagging economy).

It's no secret that the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) intend forcing unfunded development with the October 8 announcement of mass privatisation of the Iraqi state enterprises.

What's worse is that this is backed up with a September 19 publication of the CPA, where they announced permission for 100 percent foreign ownership of businesses (with the exception of oil industries).

Employers will have to operate at the lowest possible employment levels in order to gain maximum profit from the low labour costs, in an already horrifically low employment region. This is expected to cause staffing cuts of almost 50 percent, which ordinarily should have people up in arms.

But sacked Iraqis will have

problems stemming from the absence of redundancy payouts or unemployment benefits, and the lack of feasible re-employment prospects. Together, this means a very bleak future for many Iraqi workers and their families.

Dathar Al-Kashab, manager of the Al Daura oil refinery summed up the feeling with a recent statement: "In America, when a company lays people off, there's unemployment insurance and they won't die from hunger. If I dismiss employees now, I'm killing them and their families."

The Iraq rebuild is slowly starting to employ Iraqi citizens, yet the screening process for these prospective employees is far from democratic. People with particular religious, union, family, regional and even social ties will find gaining employment downright impossible.

As recently as the 6th of December, a small union (formed for unemployed workers) headquarters was raided by the US military, and union leaders were taken away for questioning.

The leaders were released several hours later without charge, and with little clue as to why the raid occurred in the first place. The small number

of files the union had were confiscated, and posters condemning terrorism were torn from the walls, leaving staff in total confusion.

This followed the arrests on November 23rd of two other union leaders, in particular Qasim Hadi, who has

been subjected to arrests and raids for weapon ownership, yet can receive no protection from troops over threats and attacks from extremist groups.

This clearly undemocratic and biased rebuilding of working Iraq shows the international interests for what they really are: milking a war torn cash cow.

So what's the best foot forward for Iraq? Allowing the workers to control the rebuild democratically and fairly is the most essential step here. Unions mustn't accept the bullying and US led injustice.

The only way this can happen is to pull the coalition forces out of Iraq and surrounding countries now, and to make those countries responsible for the destruction of Iraq pay for it, without receiving the long term economic and political benefits they hoped to reap from the destruction they've caused.

Iraq must be rebuilt for its people, not for the benefit of its invaders.



COPY PROTECTION AND CDS:

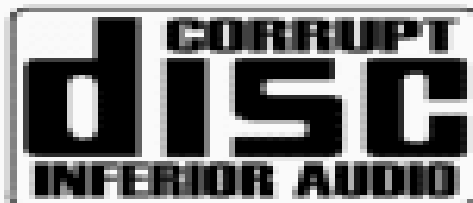
Why your favourite music is being ruined

It is more than reasonable to expect that you, as a consumer, have purchased CDs before. Hell, you wouldn't be reading this otherwise, would you?

Let's say you've just gone out and bought the latest album by your favourite artist. You take it home, slap it into your stereo and prepare yourself for some music. But wait a minute, nothings happening! For some reason your stereo won't read the CD.

So, you take it over to your computer and give it a shot, only to find that, after problems reading the disc, you have to install a specialised player just so you can listen to your CD at an extremely low bitrate (very low quality audio).

Right about then you notice it. There, on the CD case in tiny print, 'Copy Controlled, Playback problems may be encountered on some equipment'.



Welcome to the world of copy protection.

So what exactly is this 'copy protection' and why can't I listen to my CD? The music industry, faced with the 'problem' of piracy and driven

by a lust for even more profits, felt the need to do *something* about people ripping music tracks and making illegal copies of CDs. So, after much time and effort spent trying to safeguard their products, a cheap and easy solution was reached: corruption of discs. Yes, you read right, record companies are intentionally corrupting the CDs they are selling to you. Angry yet?

In most cases, the complex and professional copy protection is nothing more than a section of bad data at the start of CDs. This bad data, *in theory*, prevents the playing of CDs on computer systems, so that people can't make copies of them. Unfortunately for both parties involved (Record com-



panies and you, the consumer) this does **not** work properly.

The corrupted data can, and does, cause problems in more than just computer systems. Problems have been encountered in Car stereos, game consoles (Playstations, XBOX, etc.), DVD players, portable players (discman, etc.), home stereos, and other audio equipment. Oh, and as for its ability to stop the acts of ripping and/or copying: nearly non-existent. Many programs work around this 'copy protection' with no problems.

So, why should the very people who pay for these CDs be the ones to suffer? Why should you have to put up with faulty and ineffective CDs when you're actually *supporting* the music industry and artists by buying these CDs? Why should **you** have your music spoiled by industry fat cats out for a quick buck?

WORLD REVOLUTION

We're not just active in Australia. We're part of World Revolution that has groups in many countries.

Some of us were at the European Social Forum where we argued for more room for young people to organize in the ESF and for a Youth International.

World Revo members have been to Palestine to work with the international Solidarity Movement. They've been involved in anti-sweatshop campaigns. Some have helped organize May Day demonstrations.

We've been on the streets of Europe fighting racism and fascism.

Join the fight against corrupted audio and faulty CDs!

Boycott any new releases that are marked with this 'copy protection' and return any CDs already purchased that have it, making sure to explain just why you're returning them.

If you want things to change, stand up and voice your opinions. Tell the record companies just what you think of them by boycotting their faulty products!

To learn more head to:
<http://ukcdr.org/issues/cd/quick/>

Want to know more?

REVOLUTION BRITAIN
www.worldrevolution.org.uk
info@worldrevolution.org.uk

REVOLUTION SWEDEN
www.revolution.se
info@revolution.se

REVOLUTION AUSTRIA
www.revolution-austria.atemail
worldrevolution@gmx.at

REVOLUTION CZECH REPUBLIC
www.revo-cz.webpark.cz
revo_cz@centrum.cz

FREE MARIO BANGO!

Self-Defence is No Offence



On November 20, the Bratislavan county court sentenced Mario Bango to 12 years prison without parole for attempted murder.

Allegedly he committed this crime on March 10, 2001, when he injured Branislav Slamka with a knife on the bus. Mario, who is a young Roma, an antifascist activist, was defending his brother Eduard from the racial attack.

That this was self-defence was ignored by the court. The defence lawyer was unable to find a witness who was unafraid to state what antifascists have known for a long time - that Slamka was a member of the movement of "National Socialists" and had participated in racist attacks.

The county court explained the verdict with the argument that "Slamka was perfectly healthy when he got on the bus." This ignores that no relationship could be established between the knife wounds caused by Mario and the head injury that led to Slamka's death. Mario's intention to kill Slamka could not be established.

It is obvious that this sentence expresses the racist prejudice of the court. The case became politically interesting when Slamka's defence was taken over by Robert Fico, chairman of the populist party, SMER. The Slovakian parliament even held a minute of silence for the dead nazi on a motion of the HZDS member of parliament, Kalman.

Mario has already received support from many activists from cultural, trade union, political, human rights, and anti-racist organisations.

Take Action to free Mario!

You can write to Mario at:
Mário Bango, nar. 8. 6. 1982
Ústav na vy'kon väzby
priečinok 1077
Chorvatská 5
812 29 Bratislava
Slovensko/Slovakia

Send protest emails to the Justice department of the Slovak government.

email: tlacove@justice.gov.sk

A model letter of protest can found at:

www.workerspower.com/wpglobal/Mario-index.html

Write to Slovak authorities and demand

Mario's release from prison:

Slovak president Rudolph Schuster

Kancelaria prezidenta SR

Stefanikova 14

814 38 Bratislava

ph: 00421-7-5441 6624

Ministry of Justice

Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR

Zupne namestie 13

813 11 Bratislava

ph: 00421-7-5935 3497

fax: 00421-7-5443 0467

email: tlacove@justice.gov.sk

The Government

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813 70 Bratislava

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fax: 00421-7-5249 7595