

Build Labor, Black and Brown United Front Defense Against Racist Police, Fascist and Vigilante Terror!

For the ruling class, the face of terrorism is a person of Arabic ethnicity. This in spite of all evidence in the real world in which the working class lives. A white fascist terrorist was free to murder nine black church-goers at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina on June, 17, 2015. The fascist Dylan Roof wanted to start a race war saying somebody had to do it. The somebody he is referring to are the great numbers of reactionary racists who have been picking their heads up across the U.S.A., in this season where they are encouraged by the rise in the numbers of summary executions of black citizens by the police, usually without any provocation. To paraphrase the Dred Scot decision, black Americans in 2015 have **'no rights that the racist cops or courts of the capitalist state are bound to respect.....'** The dreams of equality of the liberal Civil Rights movement lie shattered after four decades, while acts of right-wing white supremacism and fascist violence are as frequent as ever and decaying capitalism still reels from the 2008 global financial crisis. In Ukraine and Greece, fascism is already a mass movement available to the ruling class. In the U.S., in the week since the Charleston murders, sales of Confederate flags have spiked 3000% giving us some index of the would-be conspirators and sympathizers with Roof and his race war dream.

The Judge in Charleston who arraigned Roof said Roof's family are victims. Just as remarkably, the dash cam of Roof's arrest shows him being treated with kid gloves and looks more like a health and welfare check, in contrast to the brutal police choke-hold execution of the unarmed Eric Garner, whose "crime" was selling untaxed cigarettes. The cops even gave Roof a bullet proof vest. Fox News' ridiculous claims that Roof's act was not racist has been augmented by the media claims that his killing spree was due to mental illness. Obama compared Roof's act to Columbine, giving cover to the racism. Roof's online manifesto and flag patches on his coat of Apartheid South Africa and Rhodesia showed him as a Klaus Barbie wannabe. The racist murders were a deliberate political act aimed at black people. He stated that he wanted to start a race war. These murders are a microcosm of the genocidal political program the fascist and white supremacist organizations would carry out on a mass scale if they had the means and the green light from the ruling class.

Recent protests have centered on the Confederate flags. The fact that it was flying at all over the South Carolina capitol is telling. The fact that it was the one flag not flying at half-staff is a really symbolic statement that the capitalist state holds black life cheap. The Confederate flag and the monuments to the leading military figures of the Confederate rebellion are not cultural symbols of any noble cause, but are the rallying icons of slavocrat reaction, features of which were models for German Nazism. Modern mythology of the Council of Conservative Citizens (CofCC) has it that the Civil War was over states' rights, but this is nonsense for camouflage purposes, such as their IRS tax-exempt status. The CofCC is explicitly racist and gets to hide behind the anti-Obama sentiment which claims that the Tea Party was being politically victimized by the IRS. We note that the CofCC daily lists the national police blotters, deleting all white-perpetrator's crimes for their propagandistic purposes.

The Charleston shooting is the deadliest right-wing terrorist attack since the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City by fascist Timothy McVeigh that killed 168 people and injured 600. Black people are not the only target

of the right-wing terrorists, but also immigrants, Jews, Arabs, women, gays and transgender people. Misogynist Christian extremists such as Eric Rudolph have carried out bombings of abortion clinics and execute doctors who perform abortions. Rudolph planted the bomb at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta that killed one woman and injured 111 others.

Anti-black racism, however, has always been the focal point of social reaction in America. The extra-judicial executions and beatings by the police of black people are reinforced by murderous right-wing violence. American capitalism was built on the bedrock of chattel slavery and race prejudice, and was later adapted to the conditions and needs of emerging industrial capitalism after the defeat of Reconstruction and the imposition of Jim Crow segregation.

Now, over half a century since the heyday of the Civil Rights Movement, the condition of the majority of blacks in the U.S. remains as bad, if not worse than ever. The incarceration rate for black males (non-violent drug offenses being the leading conviction) is six times that of whites. The cops gun down a black person every day. The official unemployment rate is 24% for black youth, voting rights are being undermined and the inner city public schools are left to rot by the bourgeois state. The overturning of legal Jim Crow segregation by the liberal Civil Rights Movement was unable to end the ***de facto economic segregation*** of black workers as a ***"last hired, first fired"*** super-exploited, specially oppressed sector of the working class.

The Gandhian program and method of Dr. King's liberal wing of the Civil Rights Movement did attempt to address economic inequality and stated economic equality for blacks as an aim, but scarcely won any of the economic objectives. Some organizing drives, such as the sanitation men and hospital workers can point to support from the poor People's March campaign, but after King's death, leadership fell to forces with an even more explicitly multi-class, Democratic Party political agenda and the Civil Rights Movement has been stymied and fighting defensive battles ever since. This could not be otherwise without a class independent political expression of the working people in the form of a political party, embracing the eradication of the oppression of the black and brown populations as an organic expression of working class unity. This is scientifically necessary. ***Black oppression is firmly grounded in capitalist relations of production in America and will only end with the abolition of capitalism.*** In the major U.S. cities, the Democratic Party is the party of real estate, gentrification and slumlords.

The liberal and progressive activists have no solution either to the fascist terror or for the conquest of black liberation. Liberal idealism that seeks to change racial prejudice on an individual level is not a program for black freedom. Checking privilege may make individual whites more aware of their personal prejudices, but it does little in the way of tearing down the brutal racist segregation of American society. The disparate treatment of black people was clearly demonstrated in the Atlanta, Georgia airport where a white man walked in with a rifle and stood down the police, while unarmed black youth are regularly killed by the cops. After the Warriors won in Oakland, white people were celebrating with firecrackers at the corner of 14th and Broadway while cops clamped down on celebrations in black East Oakland, enforcing Democratic mayor Scaff's curfew.

Education, housing, healthcare, jobs and the democratic right to walk down the street and not be beaten or killed by the cops **are not privileges, but rights that are denied** to a significant section of American society based on skin color. The fight for full equality will only be won through integrated struggle against capitalism by the multi-racial working class. **For the workers in America, this is a strategic question. The entire U.S. working class can either rise together fighting for black liberation, or continue to sink into misery under decaying capitalism.** It was Karl Marx who wrote immortal words which can serve to fight black oppression today, stating that **“labour cannot emancipate itself where in the black it is branded.”**

The situation in Obama’s America is getting worse for the entire working class as Obama just fast-tracked through the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) which could possibly export 25% of remaining American manufacturing jobs, according to Pete Sikora, the political director of Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 1. Sikora cited that post-NAFTA, half of the call center jobs have been outsourced overseas. The TPP will create a downward pressure on all wages and further deproletarianize the United States as marginalized service jobs increasingly become the only employment option. This will only lead to further impoverishment of the already desperate black and brown communities, and will impact every layer of our entire social class. This is, in fact, part of the global capitalist attack on the international working class.

It is exactly the lack of unity that has enfeebled the working class, so that it is not even on the agenda of the present leadership to fight for universal healthcare nor any fundamental reform, such “big things” not being on **their** agenda in the whole post Taft-Hartley era. The existing racial division of the U.S. working class reminds us of what Karl Marx wrote about the British and Irish working classes and how their division served their mutual capitalist exploiters:

*“And most important of all! Every industrial and commercial centre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps, English proletarians and Irish proletarians. The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker he regards himself as a member of the ruling nation and consequently he becomes a tool of the English aristocrats and capitalists against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social, and national prejudices against the Irish worker. His attitude towards him is much the same as that of the “poor whites” to the Negroes in the former slave states of the U.S.A. The Irishman pays him back with interest in his own money. He sees in the English worker both the accomplice and the stupid tool of the English rulers in Ireland. **This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short, by all the means at the disposal of the ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organisation. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power. And the latter is quite aware of this.**” (emphasis added, [Letter: Marx to Sigfrid Meyer and August Vogt In New York, 1870](#))¹*

The pacifist and liberal bourgeois reaction to the Charleston murders has been their standard call for gun control, which has been amplified by the Obama administration. This is being used to take guns away from the black community and from workers

and the oppressed generally. Where it has received blue collar support, this is an irrational and emotional response. Gun control will not stop racist terror; the fascists and white supremacists will always find a way to get weapons. They will get them from the police, where the police and themselves are not one and the same (remember Mark Fuhrman.) The Golden Dawn in Greece gets their guns from the police, as has been proved in court. This will only leave the masses defenseless against these race terrorists as well as removing what little remaining restraint felt by the police in the black and brown communities.

The sentiment for armed self-defense is inevitably coming to the fore (see [“Georgia civil rights leader calls for black families to defend themselves”](#).) In Texas, the Huey P. Newton Gun Club openly marches armed. What is needed is not to leave the black community isolated from the working class as a whole. The Black Panthers, as courageous as they were, were divorced and isolated from the organized labor movement and were targeted and killed by the F.B.I. and police. In the best tradition of the Minneapolis Teamsters defense guard that drove the fascist Silver Shirts from the Twin Cities, Robert F. Williams and the Deacons for Defense, the labor movement needs to organize to drive the KKK, Nazis, and racists from the streets. What is needed today is the building of organized, militant, trained and disciplined labor, black and brown self-defense guards to defend the black, brown and immigrant communities against racist police terror. Every act of police violence should be met with mass protest and labor political strikes. **They shoot us down, we shut them down!**

The CWG stands for uniting all forces that advocate for multi-racial self-defense by the workers and oppressed. **We call for workers assemblies and tribunals that fight for justice and to win safety for our class and all oppressed peoples. We think that convocation of workers assemblies for self-defense is the objective necessity of the moment and must be put on the agenda of the trade union and Black Lives Matter movements.** Revolutionary socialists should call for and organize a campaign that moves labor to the forefront of the mobilization for self-defense. Otherwise, when oppressed people defend themselves they will be isolated and shot down again by the COINTELPRO which we all know was never really dismantled.

We call for all black and brown organizations, Left and Socialist organizations, militant trade unionists, labor unions and the AFL-CIO/Change to Win labor federations and all those who wish to fight the white supremacy of the capitalist system, to organize and build for a national conference to create a national united front self-defense committee to organize labor, black and brown defense against racist terror. Such a committee would unite the resources and strength of our class and the oppressed communities in the best traditions of the labor movement, such as the International Labor Defense that defended the Scottsboro Boys, under the principle that **“An Injury to One, is an Injury to All!”**

Along with organizing militant, disciplined, and trained labor, black and brown self-defense guards, such a committee could coordinate and build the campaigns that are necessary; the labor political strikes against racist cop terror and the labor/oppressed mobilizations to drive the fascist and white supremacist organizations to ground.

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