



## **Savage Cleveland police murderer of Black child Tamir Rice excused by grand jury!**

The white Cleveland cop who shot and killed 12-year-old Black youth Tamir Rice will not be charged. The grand jury failed to see any chargeable offense, it was announced on December 28.

The failure to indict this murdering cop is in turn a big indictment of the racist savagery of the police and the judiciary under the rule of the white supremacist capitalist class today.

The way the police approached Tamir that day shows that they used his possession of an apparent gun to execute him. If they had been interested in resolving the situation peacefully, the cops would have parked their car at a distance, stood behind it and talked to him. Instead, they drove right up to him, one got out shot him two seconds later. If they knew it was a toy and not a real gun, then they pretended it was real and used its real appearance as an excuse to murder Tamir. If they did not know it was a toy, they drove so close that their very nearness itself provided an excuse to kill.

Either way, two seconds and: BAM!

Then they refused to care for him as he lay on the street, dying. Not only that, but they assaulted Tamir's sister who had rushed to his aid, and threw her in the police car.

The refusal of the grand jury to indict the police shows that the judicial system of Cleveland is complicit in the execution of a Black child. Prosecutor McGinty brought biased "experts" to convince the jury not to indict. Grand juries are so compliant to prosecutors that it is said that a prosecutor can get a jury to indict a ham sandwich. But to indict the murderers of a Black child? Oh no! Slavery was only formally defeated in 1865; its tradition of white supremacist savagery lives on.

The behavior of the Cleveland grand jury is just the latest in a horrifying series of grand juries excusing police murders of Black people. The latest phase of this began with the murder of Michael Brown by the white cop Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

In the Ferguson grand jury prosecutor McCulloch employed as a central witness a woman whom his office knew to be a mentally ill liar, whom they knew had not been at the scene of the killing and whom they knew had fabricated evidence in an unrelated case.

At the same time, the Ferguson prosecutor instructed his jury that it was legal for a cop to shoot a fleeing unarmed and non-dangerous suspect, as witnesses say Wilson had done to Brown. This practice had been outlawed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1980, but the Ferguson grand jury was guided by this outlawed law.

Only a ferocious mass struggle by Black people and all who believe in justice and freedom can limit the beastly savagery of the police and the judicial system.

The support that the judicial system provides to the racist actions of the police shows that the problem is not just a matter of a few bad cops. It is an institutional problem. White supremacist racist savagery is built into the American judicial system; it is a continuation, in another form, of slavery. And this system, the police and courts, is a front line of defense of the rule of the rich, headed by the big capitalist exploiters, who control and finance the political system in the U.S. today.

Racist savagery is an issue not just for Black people, for whom it is a matter of survival, but for the whole working class and all freedom-loving people. Elementary justice demands that we unite to end it; you cannot call yourself a moral human being and support these atrocities.

It is also a life-and-death matter for the workers as a class. For how can the workers build unity against our rich class enemies if the white workers stand aside and allow racist savages to murder Black people?

As Karl Marx wrote at the time of the Civil War, "Labor in the white skin cannot be emancipated where in the black it is branded."

This must be the workers' watchword. ■

## **Jail Gov. Snyder for poisoning 100,000 people in Flint!**

The criminal Michigan Governor Rick Snyder should go to jail!

To save money, this bloodsucker had the toxic water of the Flint River piped into Flint homes and refused to add chemicals to prevent this corrosive water causing the massive leaching of lead from water pipes. Though now the system is switched back to clean Lake Huron water, it goes on leaching lead.

Tests have shown lead levels far above safe standards. The long-term health of the whole population, largely working-class, poor and 50% African American, is now severely threatened. Lead poisoning can do irreversible damage, especially to children.

Reports have proven that the governor's office was directly involved and approved this poisoning in order to save money, at a time when the rich capitalist class is rolling in dough.

Arch-poisoner Snyder has been widely condemned. Local postal unions have passed resolutions demanding his removal. UAW locals are helping supply drinking water. But the relief measures ordered by Snyder are reportedly pitifully weak.

The federal government should guarantee clean water supplies and finance the rebuilding of the city's water system. As for Gov. Snyder, let him go to jail and enjoy the nutritious diet there, normally reserved for working-class people! ■

## **South African workers persist in struggle**

Today South African workers are setting an example of struggle. A key part of their struggle centers on NUMSA, the pro-socialist National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa. With well over a third of a million members, NUMSA is the largest union in the country. It has a militant history of struggle against apartheid in the old days, and against the continuing poverty today. It waged a successful month-long strike of a quarter of a million workers in 2014, but was expelled in November that year from the South African trade union federation COSATU for standing up against the free market policies of the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

NUMSA General Secretary Irvin Jim described what's going on as follows: "The ANC, SACP [South African Communist Party] and the State have succeeded in capturing and redirecting COSATU to become a mere instrument for securing the votes of the working class every five years, with absolutely no COSATU fighting workers program of action to deal with the job blood bath we see in retrenchments, increased levels of unemployment, poverty, inequality and corruption." (*NUMSA News* #2, August 2015)

In the year since then, NUMSA has continued to grow. A number of unions suspended participation in COSATU in protest over NUMSA's expulsion.

The militant South African workers are fighting the kind of vicious

cutbacks that the workers and poor have been suffering in the U.S. and throughout the world. The capitalists use their “free market” (neo-liberal) policies to destroy the safety nets of the people and cut the wages of the workers. NUMSA blames this robbery squarely on the capitalists and rejects the neo-liberal policies followed by the ANC today.

All over the world, corrupt union leaderships are collaborating with bourgeois parties and the capitalist employers to hold back the workers' struggles. Workers are seething with anger at the cutbacks and concessions being forced on them by the rich exploiters in country after country. In south Africa, the ANC sank to the ultimate depth in August 2012 when its police killed 41 striking black miners at Marikana, in the worst such incident since the Sharpeville massacre under apartheid. In this situation, NUMSA can no longer back the ANC and the SACP, and it is at the center of an attempt to build up a political alternative to them.

Here in the U.S., Obama's supposed economic “recovery” has meant continued unemployment or crumb-like jobs at miserable pay for millions. Food stamps, social security and many elements of the safety net are being destroyed by the combined assaults of the Republicans and the Democrats.

Employed organized and unorganized workers have been suffering from severe wage-cuts shoved down their throats by the bosses. Two- and multi-tier wage systems began in auto in 2007 as a price that Obama exacted for the auto bailout. And they spread to other major industries.

These wage cuts were imposed by the employers with the help of both the Democratic and the Republican parties, spearheaded by the Democratic union leaders. In auto, postal and elsewhere, wages were cut in half for new workers via these corrupt deals.

This fall auto workers rebelled against the tier system, voted down one tentative contract proposed by the union sellouts at Chrysler FCA and nearly voted down the rest. But the auto workers, like postal and other workers, haven't yet found a way to build solid rank-and-file organization. NUMSA is an inspiring example of workers building union organization dedicated to struggle.

For years NUMSA had backed the ANC and the SACP. But after taking power, the ANC betrayed the promise of major economic reforms made in the famous Freedom Charter, and this had led to a major political crisis in South Africa. So NUMSA is calling for employed workers to unite with the masses in the poverty-stricken communities against the rampant poverty and exploitation by the rich. NUMSA is also actively studying the path to real socialism.

Dissatisfied workers in the U.S. can learn a lot from the struggle of the fighting workers of South Africa.

You can follow their work at *NUMSA News*: <http://www.numsa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Numsa-October-2014-MAIN.pdf> and at their newsletter *Movement for Socialism*: <http://www.numsa.org.za/article/download-the-movement-for-socialism-newsletter/> ■

## Syrian masses continue to struggle against Assad tyranny

### Refugee crisis deepens into famine

The struggle of the Syrian people against the tyrannical Assad regime continues.

The Syrian Arab masses are fighting a bitter armed struggle against the Assad tyranny. The Syrian Kurds, with support of some of the Arab rebels, have been battling successfully against the beastly ISIS jihadists.

The people in the Arab areas are being deluged with bombing from the regime's air force, now coordinated with massive bombing from the Russian imperialist air force. The bombing is destroying some rebel strongholds of the Free Syrian Army. Bombs are generating ever more refugees, while the regime's blockade of some areas has created bitter famine and people are starving to death in the town of Madaya. And the Kurds are under continuous assault from ISIS.

This mayhem is the result of the contention of the big imperialist powers, the U.S. and Russia, and the local tyrants of the Assad regime, the ISIS medieval jihadi regime, the Saudi executioners and the Turkish bourgeois government as well, over control of the area. In addition, Assad has received military assistance from the large pro-Iranian Hezbollah army

from Lebanon.

The Russians entered the war in September, claiming to fight ISIS, but most of their carnage has been inflicted on rebel civilian populations. U.S. imperialism continues its bombing, claiming to target ISIS but also hitting civilian targets.

All these powers, like vampires, sometimes in conflict and sometimes allied, are pitted against the people. They are like a mafia, with different factions, but all dedicated criminals. Yet the people fight on.

But some of the left around the world has refused to support the embattled Syrian people. Instead these people have mostly supported the Assad regime, a regime that murders and tortures its own people, collaborates with the big imperialists and even ran torture houses for U.S. imperialism after 9/11. The failure to support the Syrian people is a big mistake.

One excuse given for non-support is that the Syrian fighters accepted weapons from the U.S. and were somehow pawns of the CIA. But an oppressed people has a right to get its weapons from anywhere. And seriously effective arms, such as anti-aircraft missiles which could have destroyed Assad's air force and probably would have led to his downfall – these have never been delivered to the Syrian fighters.

The Syrian masses have refused control by the U.S. When the U.S. tried to set up a group controlled by it, few Syrians joined and it collapsed.

Another excuse for non-support, equally lame, is that the Assad regime has some conflicts with the U.S. This supposedly makes it an anti-imperialist regime. But this is not genuine anti-imperialism; it does not benefit the masses. The Assad regime has drowned non-violent demonstrations in blood and systematically tortured rebels. It has relinquished all right to support. Genuine anti-imperialism starts with supporting the working people of each country against all their oppressors.

The imperialist powers, through the U.N., have called a peace conference for January 25. Their goal is to get the fighters to lay down their arms short of victory. They want to preserve the bloodstained Assad tyranny. But so far, the fighting organizations refuse to accept any continuation of the Assad regime.

**Support the fighting Syrian people against the Assad regime, ISIS, Russian imperialist attacks and U.S. imperialist manipulation! ■**

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