

Young Socialist

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Bulletin of Socialist Youth

June 2002

STOP ALL SECTARIAN ATTACKS



The recent escalation in sectarian clashes in East Belfast and other areas should be met with mass action by workers and youth to prevent a slide into a viciously sectarian summer.

Both Catholic & Protestant communities are suffering from regular attacks and intimidation. Everyday there are attacks on public service workers. School students from both communities are being targeted as they go to and return from school.

At interface areas, the sectarian organisations are fighting a war of attrition over territory. The battle to claim streets by intimidating residents and covering areas in bunting has intensified. All the main parties are to blame for whipping up sectarian hatred.

But it is also the levels of poverty, unemployment, poor housing and services which are to blame. The lack of affordable social housing is forcing communities to spread into "the other sides" areas.

The privatisation of public land in Belfast

harbour is being used to build yuppie flats, while the local community in the Short Strand and Cluan Place are deprived of adequate social housing.

Socialist Youth believes working class and young people should come together and fight for housing rights, education rights, decent jobs and services.

Earlier this year 100,000 people came on to the streets to take a stand against sectarianism and to defend workers. Events forced the trade union movement to take the lead and mobilise the organised working class against sectarian attacks.

This shows the potential power working class people have when we unite on the issues which most affect us – jobs, housing, services etc. It is the failed right-wing policies being implemented by all the parties in the Assembly Executive which are to blame for these problems.

Young people and workers need a political alternative – a socialist alternative.

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While the politicians in Stormont argue about flags and green or orange lillies, there is one issue you can be sure they agree on: Privatisation. Privatisation of our schools, hospitals, transport in short of every public service they can get rid of. But, what does privatisation through PPP (Public Private Partnerships) and PFI (Private Finance Initiative) mean to young people? Chris Loughlin, Belfast Socialist Youth explains

Our schools are NOT for sale!



PFI/PPP means private companies and consortiums building and running schools, which are leased out to the public at exorbitant rates.

In every case of privatisation the companies and consortiums running or building the services gets paid a significant fee over what it costs to build and run the service. The private companies are in it for one thing: Profit.

This April Minister for Education Martin McGuinness announced the investment of money to pay for more schools and buildings. Of the £110 million to be invested in education next year £53 million

will be from private companies and consortiums. The new investment in schools should have been welcomed by everyone but the use of privatisation in education means we will get worse services and pay fat cat companies more for them. The use of PFI will now be used in Tor Bank Special School, Down High, Lagan College, Our Lady and St. Patricks College, St. Patricks Grammar and St. Josephs Primary School Carryduff. In Glasgow where PFI and PPP has already been used in education, 6 swimming pools have closed, class sizes have increased and there are growing complaints from teachers of fewer and

smaller classrooms. Thanks to all the parties in the Stormont Executive and especially Minister for Education Martin McGuinness, this is what we can look forward to in not just education but all public services.

We don't need big business to make profit out of public services which should be a right for everyone. Socialist Youth demands that all privatised services be taken back into public ownership. Public services should be properly funded, publicly owned and run under the democratic control of public service workers and service users.

Socialist Youth

A growing force

Derry

Socialist Youth was formally launched at a public meeting in Derry in June. We were delighted to have a guest speaker Yuval from our Israel/Palestine sister party. Yuval spoke on how our comrades are active in fighting for a socialist solution. Peter Hadden Northern Secretary of the Socialist Party also spoke on how the Intifada needed to be developed into a mass movement democratically controlled by the mass of Palestinian people, which appealed to the Israeli working class and youth with socialist ideas.

We have also been on the streets of Derry campaigning against the re-occupation of the Palestinian territories and against low pay. At one street activity 4 new people joined the branch, and we hope to step up our campaigning work throughout the summer to provide a genuine socialist alternative for young people in Derry.

Belfast

The Belfast branch of Socialist Youth has recently taken to the streets campaigning against sectarianism. The response we have received from people has been excellent. This is because we have called for an end to attacks on both communities, and have explained that working class and young people need to unite against the capitalist policies of the Assembly executive.

Every week we are getting more people joining or wanting to find out more about our campaigns. This summer we plan to organise many public meetings and continue to campaign on the issues which affect young people.

Bangor

Socialist Youth is also recruiting people in the Bangor area where we hope to establish a branch soon. Cassie, a school student living in Bangor explained why she joined: "I was completely put off

politics by the mainstream political parties until I met Socialist Youth. I was really interested in getting involved in the anti-capitalist movement and the idea of an organisation for young people run by young people was great. We really need to build Socialist Youth in Bangor and other parts of the country so that young people have an alternative to the sectarian capitalist parties who couldn't give a damn about us"

Socialist Youth has also got branches in Dublin, Cork and Limerick.

We hope to have reports from the South in the next bulletin.

International News

SOCIALISTS FIGHTING THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR IN Kashmir India & Pakistan



Young socialists in Kashmir

Report from Kashmiri socialist Jamal

Kashmir, India and Pakistan stand on the edge of a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions.

Two unstable regimes, with nuclear weapons threaten to bring destruction to millions of people already suffering from poverty, disease and mass unemployment.

There is an urgent need to mobilise a mass movement against war amongst workers and peasants in Kashmir, India and Pakistan.

This is the only guarantee against the possibility of a potentially nuclear conflict.

ISR supporters and members of the left Jammu and Kashmir National Awami Party organised a demonstration of 150 young people against the war in Hajeera, Pakistani Occupied Kashmir. This village is within shelling distance of the Line Of Control. Two days after the demo 6 people were killed there by Indian shelling.

The last five months of stand-off between the two regional nuclear powers, has led to the amassing of nearly one million soldiers on the international borders between India and Pakistan and on the dividing Line of Control (LOC) in occupied Kashmir. The almost continuous shelling across the LOC – vastly under-reported by the western press – has led to the displacement of over 100,000 people on both sides of the LoC.

The crisis demonstrates the complete failure of capitalism to solve the national question of Kashmir.

Only the working masses who have no interests in maintaining this system of exploitation can resolve this conflict in the interests of workers internationally.

The only logical and practical way forward is the forcible overthrow of capitalism and feudalism by the youth, the workers, peasants and the poor of all the countries of this region, including Kashmir, Pakistan and India.

It means the struggle for an independent, democratic socialist Kashmir being linked with the struggle for a voluntary federation of south Asian socialist states.

ISR supporters are campaigning around the demands:

- ☞ No to war!
- ☞ No to sectarianism!
- ☞ No to terrorism!
- ☞ For all refugees in POK to be rehoused and given a Rs1000 per months grant.
- ☞ For all displaced students to be provided with free education!
- ☞ For a mass movement by Kashmiri, Indian and Pakistan trade unions against the war!

international socialist resistance



Socialist Youth is the youth section of the Socialist Party. It is non-sectarian and open to all young people who wish to build a strong, young socialist movement to fight capitalism.

SY is also involved in the anti-capitalist movement and is part of the international organisation

International Socialist Resistance (ISR).

ISR is a broad international anti-capitalist organisation. We have groups set up in many countries including, Sweden, Germany, Brazil, England, Wales, Scotland, Greece, Kashmir, South Africa and many more.

Did you know?

A small group owns or controls the bulk of the world's resources. More than 50 of the world's 100 leading economies are multinational companies. The gap between the rich and the poor is obscene. The assets of the three richest people in the world are more than the combined income of all the least developed countries and their 600 million people. Capitalism means profits are put before human life. The G8 summit in Okinawa, in 2000, cost \$500 million, while the total worldwide budget for research on the malaria vaccine is about \$20 million (and still one million people die of malaria every year)

Lisburn Borough Council...

Where's our skatepark?

Lisburn Borough Council said building a skatepark was their top priority, but 4 months after the public meeting where the council promised to build a skatepark there is still nothing.

Temporary facilities were set up for 2 weeks at Easter but nothing else has been provided for over the summer. The number of people skateboarding, rollerblading and BMXing has

gone up not down so where's our skatepark?

We should have a say in the control and running of the skatepark and not have business making money out of us for profit, the skatepark needs to be publicly owned and run. But, first we need a skatepark.

Lisburn Borough Council, build a publicly owned skatepark NOW!

Young★Socialist

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June 02

Seville Anti-EU Summit Protests

FIGHT CAPITALISM

★ STEP UP THE FIGHT FOR A SOCIALIST WORLD

This summer over the weekend of June 20th – 23rd hundreds of thousands of workers and young people are expected to demonstrate against the EU Summit in Seville.

Following the magnificent protests in Genoa and Barcelona, workers and young people have been inspired to take to the streets in opposition to the capitalist policies of the EU.

The EU is a capitalist bloc of European states, which has been responsible for forcing through the neo-liberal policies of privatisation and attacking working peoples conditions. Locally in Northern Ireland it means attempting to privatisate public services like water, transport, health and education. In the South, the attempt to introduce water charges was defeated by a mass movement of non-payment by working class people. The Socialist Party, the party to which Socialist Youth is affiliated to, played a leading role in this campaign. The anti-capitalist movement needs to orientate towards the massive potential power of the organised working class.

Global capitalism has created a powerful class of workers which it needs to exploit in order to make profit. The capitalist class needs us to make profit, but we don't need them. In fact the longer capitalism exists, the worse our conditions will become.

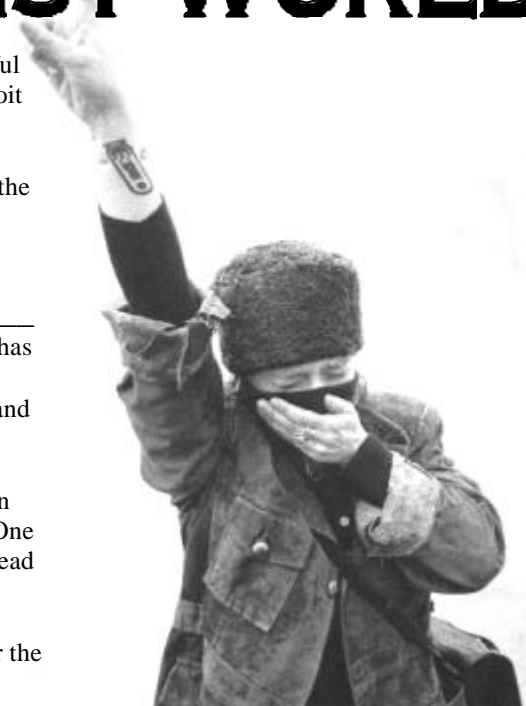
Barbaric System

In its blind greed for profit, capitalism has created a world of war, exploitation, instability, environmental destruction and mass poverty. Capitalism has brought a real threat of nuclear war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. (See inside for report). One nuclear exchange would immediately lead to the loss of up to 7 million innocent lives, while the environmental consequences would be devastating for the entire continent and affect the entire world.

This is the real face of global capitalism.

What's the alternative?

Socialist Youth is building an international movement against capitalism and fighting for a socialist alternative. Socialism would mean taking the key major industry and financial sectors into public ownership, and run democratically by working people.



This way the needs of people and the environment could be catered for, not the profit for a few.

Young people have a key role in building this socialist alternative.

That is why Socialist Youth is building an organisation for young people to get active.

Join us today!

*I would like to join Socialist Youth ☐ I would like more info ☐, then fill in the form and send to:
Socialist Youth, 36 Victoria Square, Belfast BT1 4BQ*

Name.....

Address.....

.....Phone.....

e-mail.....