

Milwaukee Burning!

Communist Revolution Will Eliminate Racist Police Terror!

Since the police shooting of Sylville Smith in Milwaukee, WI, on Friday, hundreds of people have taken to the streets, burning buildings and police cars. This mass anger reflects, as even the ruling class media admit, a long history of institutionalized racism in all aspects of life for the black community in Milwaukee. Students pushed out of substandard schools, high unemployment, racist police terror—welcome to any black or Latino working-class community in the USA. It's all the same. Just fill in the blank. Baltimore? Boyle Heights? North Milwaukee?

The uprising this last weekend in Milwaukee; and uprisings in Baltimore in 2015, Los Angeles in 1992, and Detroit, Newark and Milwaukee itself in 1967 reflect the same mass anger at racist capitalism. Capitalism—based on money and private property—needs racism and racist terror to survive. A system with a tiny ruling elite and masses of workers forced to slave for a wage needs racism to keep us fighting amongst ourselves and racist cop terror to keep us in line. Only communist revolution can eliminate the material basis of racism and allow us to build a communist society where we live and work together and look out for each other.

We can't be fooled by the ruling class' games

The uprising in Milwaukee scared the ruling class. Governor Walker sent in the National Guard. But the mayor kept them off the streets, keeping them in reserve as a threat while trying not to provoke further mass anger. Politicians, preachers and social workers are walking the streets, calling for calm. Next we can expect calls for an investigation or community-policing commissions and promises of reform.

Or cops will try to blame the victim. In the case of Sylville Smith as in other recent police murders such as that of Korryn Gaines in Baltimore and 14-year old Jesse Romero in Boyle Heights, the police will justify shooting a suspect by evidence of a gun which may or may not have been on the scene. People know it's the cop's word against that of the suspect—whose voice has been forever silenced.

We know there's a lot that goes on in these communities—people are unemployed, underemployed, marginalized, and desperate. Hustles, drugs, survival crimes—whatever you want to call it—are actually a set-up created by deindustrialization, the war on drugs, and the prison-industrial complex—what has been called the new Jim Crow. People are up against the wall with very few options in a capitalist system.

Anger at racist structures and racist police terror must lead to a mass mobilization for communism. We can't just burn down a beauty salon or a gas station and then go home. We have to have a plan. That plan involves political strikes of bus drivers and garment workers, walkouts of high school and college students, and the mass mobilization of the entire working class. It requires understanding that it's not just racist cops—but the whole capitalist system that has to go. It calls for a vision of a communist society—a world worth fighting for.

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