

Our solidarity with the Genoese dockworkers of CALP, members and delegates of USB, affected by repression of the state

The Genoa prosecutor's office has launched investigations, with searches of homes and lockers in locker rooms in the port, resulting in seizures of phones, tablets and computers for four dock workers, CALP members and USB delegates, on charges of "criminal association" aimed at crimes ranging from resistance, lighting smoke bombs, throwing dangerous objects, and attacking public transport safety.

The smoke bombs used during the anti-militarist strike on May 20, 2019, to prevent the loading of military equipment onto a Saudi ship were described by prosecutors as "devices modified to make them deadly." It's the smoke bombs that are deadly here, not the war ordinance!

An investigation with accusations that could be characterized as grotesque, if they didn't entail serious consequences for workers and trade unionism.

What happened in Genoa should be framed in a more national context, which includes the state and collaborationist unions and that affects the entire working class.

On March 10, in Piacenza, the homes of 20 SI Cobas workers were searched and 2 local union leaders were placed under house arrest, following the clashes that resulted from the police's barbarous breaking of a picket line of 60 workers sitting on the ground in front of the gate of Fedex TNT on the night of February 1, the 13th day of the strike.

In addition, the attacks of the police aimed at clearing the picket line of Texprint workers in Prato, on strike for 60 days in order to reduce the current 12 hour workday and for the enforcement of the labor contract!

A few days ago, the Provincial Coordinator of the Bologna SI Cobas was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment for the confrontation with the police during the eviction of a picket held in 2014 at Mirror Levigature in Sant'Agostino, Ferrara.

The state repression against struggling workers organized with rank-and-file unions is contrasted with two elements.

The first one: the new springtime of the agreement, in an even more disgraceful and corporate form than in the past, with the leaderships of CGIL, CISL and UIL openly supporting the Draghi government, willing to sign a programmatic agreement for the "reform" of the Public Administration with Minister Brunetta.

The government, cunningly, has extended the freeze on layoffs, thus offering the leaderships of these collaborationist unions the justification to proceed with their maneuvers aimed at maintaining control over the workers, hindering their struggle.

The second element: a partial return of activism of the collaborationist unions, as for example with the strike of Amazon on Monday, March 22, of Local Public Transport on March 26, of Logistics on March 29. Strikes for which the official media lend themselves as sounding boards, while they don't make a peep about the struggles promoted by militant unions: silence about the grave events in Piacenza on March 10 and the demonstration against anti-worker repression on March 13, in that same city, in the presence of a thousand workers.

These strikes are confined by the leaderships of the collaborationist unions within limits that make them weak and as unharmed as possible to the bosses because they serve to guarantee these unions places on the bargaining table not as a result of the organization of real struggles, for goals that defend the workers, but rather by offering the bosses the ability to maintain social peace.

This play of the judiciary, trade unions and government seem to be part of a strategy to deepen the offensive against trade unionism, in the knowledge that the employers' front has to proceed as soon as possible to more and more attacks on the living and working conditions of wage-earners.

In the face of such an offensive, militant trade unionism should adhere to two fundamental lines of conduct:

- Not to react in a disjointed manner, with splits that would only be of benefit for the goal of the bosses, the government and the collaborationist unions to isolate union militants and its unions from the working masses. In order to prevent this goal of the employers, we consider it essential to reverse the traditional conduct of the leadership of the rank-and-file unions to boycott strikes promoted by the collaborationist unions. It is also necessary to participate in strikes, incorporating the demands and methods of struggle of class unionism, in the conviction that a favorable condition for mobilizations to be freed from the control of the collaborationist unions that proclaim them is that of successful strikes, which inspire confidence in workers, a feeling of having real strength; in this sense we consider very positive the choice of some rank-and-file unions to support the strike in the Amazon supply chain last Monday.

- Responding to the repression of the state and the bosses by uniting in every action of struggle all the militant trade unions, the rank-and-file unions and the class opposition in CGIL; grassroots unions, such as SI Cobas and USB, which in the logistics sector have become tangled in harmful diatribes, are now both under the storm of repression. This experience must teach and push - if not yet the leaders - then the activists, delegates and members to the unity of action of militant unionism.

Stand with the CALP dockers, delegates and members of the USB!

With the workers and trade unionists of the SI Cobas!

Stand with the workers of Texprint Prato! On the side of every worker affected by repression of the state and the bosses!

For unity in the struggle of male and female workers!

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