



PRESS RELEASE

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

PR 93-11

5 October 1993

IMPRISONED UNIONIST NEEDS SOLIDARITY

For defending his fellow workers, his union and his strike during the bitter battle against Ravenswood Aluminum in 1991-1992, United Steel Workers member Bob Buck was sent to prison for 33 months.

Buck was convicted of possessing an explosive device (In reality, little more than a large fireworks which was set off outside the home of a strike-breaker). Buck's real crime in the eyes of the company and federal government was that he refused to wear an electronic monitor and spy on his striking co-workers.

Bob Buck refused to be a spy for the federal government and the bosses. He stood up to threats from US Federal Marshals, federal prosecutors and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Federal agents invaded Buck's home, armed with guns and searched his house and family belongings. Bob Buck told the federal agents he would never cooperate with them and would never wear an electronic monitor. For that he was railroaded to prison and sentenced to 33 months.

Originally sent to the private for profit prison in Hinton, Oklahoma, Buck was at least permitted to work outdoors. But as part of its contract with the federal government, the Hinton prison also serves as a detention center for undocumented immigrants. In an effort to create more space for the imprisoned immigrants Buck was shipped to the federal prison in Springfield, Missouri, where prison conditions are much worse.

The pro-company judge who sentenced Buck, Charles Haden, stated that Buck -- a young worker with a small daughter and no prior criminal record -- was "A danger to society." Because of this, Buck is outrageously designated as "in custody", making him ineligible for work release or even to work outside prison walls.

YOUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY IS URGENTLY NEEDED! PLEASE SEND LETTERS OF SOLIDARITY TO BOB BUCK AND PROTEST LETTERS TO U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO. PUBLISH THIS APPEAL IN YOUR NEWSPAPER AND GET YOUR UNION TO ALSO SEND LETTERS OF SOLIDARITY AND PROTEST.

.../...

* Robert Buck #03314-088
Post Office Box 4000
Springfield, MO 65808

* Attorney General Janet Reno
10th Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Please send copies of your letters and articles to both
Bob Buck and Workers Solidarity Alliance.

Special thanks to the Lehigh Valley (Pennsylvania) Branch
of the I.W.W. for this information.

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PRESS RELEASE

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PR 93-12

5 October 1993

RUSSIAN CONFEDERATION OF ANARCHO-SYNDICALISTS

OUTLAWED BY YELTSIN

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KAS, the Russian Confederation of Anarchist Syndicalists, was one of the groups outlawed in the repression following the Yeltsin Coup in Moscow. Following is a report from a KAS representative in Moscow received by email on 5 October, 1993.

WHAT FREEDOM? WHAT DEMOCRACY?

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BY MIKHAIL TSOVMA, INTER-
NATIONAL COORDINATOR, KAS

As the building of parliament in Moscow was on fire and changed from white to black, Russia sank further and further into the depths of authoritarianism. Thousands of spectators gathered on Oct 4 around the White House to see the storm troops seizing the parliament. There was no unity among the people gathered, however, since both Yeltsinites and the people who consider his actions criminal and anti-constitutional gathered there. Even among those who speak in support of Yeltsin there are many who see no need to kill that many people to get rid of the "Communist parliament". During the last three days the media have urged people alternately to sit home and then to go defend the president. Information has been scarce and very ideologically one-sided. Those who had a chance to watch Western TV broadcasts or listen to the "Radio Liberty" were much more in touch with the events than those who stuck to the Russian media.

On Oct 4 while the troops stormed the parliament the media changed its tune to begin trying to manufacture public support for the actions of Yeltsin and his companions. The arrests of Khasbulatov, Rutskoi and Makashov received heavy airplay as comments were made that these were the people responsible for the Bacchanalia of killings. Yeltsin made no TV appearances on the 4th.

WHO WERE THE SNIPERS?

One of the keystones of the media propaganda campaign on Oct 4 were "the snipers", that is armed putchists who spread all over the city and whose numbers it was impossible to determine. One of the doctors who was evacuating the injured from the parliament was interviewed by Russian TV and said that there was a considerable number of people shot near the White House in the morning and during the day right in their hearts, necks and heads. This was

presented by the media as the evidence of the crimes of the putschists. In fact it is, but it appears more grounded to say that these were the people killed by the KGB and special police troops loyal to the Yeltsin government. Though there were quite a lot of arms in the White House there were hardly any "snipers", that is people specially trained in shooting, among its defenders. It is more probable that those who were shot were shot by the snipers of KGB. (During the August 1991 coup there was much worries about whether these special KGB troops would take the side of Yeltsin.)

Since none of these special troops had declared their loyalty to the parliament, it's hardly likely that the Communist "snipers" killed people in dozens around the parliament.

It is also interesting to learn how it happened that considerable numbers of armed people escaped from the White House and spread around the city. The parliament was blocked from all sides and since its defenders didn't have tanks it was almost impossible for them to get out...until they were let out by the government. The story about "unprofessional actions of the police and the military" is an old one and it is usually used by the authorities to justify more repression and the use of more troops. This is what happened during the clash between communists and the police on the 1st of May this year. This is what happened on Oct 3 when the authorities let the opposition to "defeat" special police troops on the streets of Moscow. This is probably how they provoked more violence during the storm of the White House.

DEMOCRACY IS THE POWER OF DEMOCRATS (ARMED)

For all of Oct 4, central Gorky Street was blocked by barricades erected by the sympathizers of Yeltsin who searched people's bags looking for arms. None of these people had any ID authorizing these searches. They claimed they were "representing the structure." In his appeal to the Muscovites in the evening of Oct 3 vice-premier Yegor Gaidar urged the people to come defend the building of the Moscow city Soviet (currently the mayor's office). On Oct 4 after the storm of the White House Gaidar was asked by a journalist whether he thinks this appeal could have lead to more bloodshed on the streets of Moscow. The vice-premier responded that since the army and police troops are part of the society they can no longer be manipulated and that they will act only if they see that there is enough public support of their actions. That is why the public support of the "democratic government" was crucial. He also said that the government was ready to give out arms to those who gathered around the mayor's office.

CENSORSHIP OF THE MEDIA

There are clear signs of the coming authoriatarian regime. Even the programs of CNN transmitted through Moscow and Russian TV channels get censored--in the evening of Oct 4 sound dissappeared during one of the street interviews with a person who was speaking unfavorably of president Yeltsin. The same happened on several occasions to a TV journalist of Channel 1 while she interviewed vice-premier of the government Sergei Shakhrai. Several papers were prevented from publishing on Oct 5. Censorship has implemented in all the major papers. "Nezavisimaya Gazeta" appeared on Tuesday with two black spots, while "Moskovsky Komsomolets" (Moscow's largest boulevard paper that was attacked on October 4) and "Moskovskaya Pravda" didn't appear. In "Komsomolskaya Pravda" censors looked through all

the materials including advertisements. Seven communist and nationalist papers were closed the day before. "Press Club" TV show which was recorded in the afternoon on October 4 didn't appear in the evening because it might have been too controversial and featured politically questionable commentators.

MORE FREEDOM, MORE DEMOCRACY

On October 4 it was announced that the Ministry of Justice (sic!) declared illegal a broad variety of "pro-communist and nationalist organizations" that supported the parliament including the fascist Russian National Unity and social-democratic Party of Labor. The list of organizations was a kind of weird since there was nothing about the Civic Union (the association of entrepreneurs and industrial managers) which supported parliament and declared it's loyalty to Rutskoi, but Confederation of Anarcho-syndicalists (KAS) was in the list together with "pro-communist and nationalist organizations." KAS has been clear, however, that it supports neither Yeltsin, nor Rutskoi and instead has called upon people to stop work and create popular organizations from below.

Moscow City and district Soviets have been disbanded by Presidential Decree. Moscow Soviet deputies have been arrested and beaten at the police stations, some of them were released in the morning, October 5.

Moscow is returning to its everyday life with metro stations surrounding the White House opened and the curfew introduced from 23.00 to 5.00 for an uncertain period.

Moscow, October 5, 1993



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PR 93-13

15 October 1993

UPDATE ON NIGERIAN AWARENESS LEAGUE PRISONERS

As previously reported, the four Nigerian Awareness League prisoners, James Ndubisi (General Secretary), Garba Audu, Kingsley Etioni and Chuks Udemba, were arrested in May 1992 during the popular protests that swept the country. The protests were against the economic and social policies of the military dictatorship of General Babangida, and the austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The protests were also aimed at Babangida's continued stay in office and continued manipulation of the political process. The protests were nationwide in character and led to the indefinite closing of all federally funded Universities and Polytechnic in Nigeria. The four members of the libertarian socialist and anarchist unionist (anarcho-syndicalist) Awareness League, were arrested in the town of Enugu, the eastern regional capital while taking part in the protests. According to the Awareness League, over 2000 people were arrested nationwide following the protests.

After spending a long period in detention, under harsh conditions, the four AL members were released earlier this year. The four AL members won a reprieve from the courts, a rare thing under the Babangida dictatorship. Their bail was, however, conditional as they were instructed to report daily to the office of State Security Police (SSS). Despite their conditional freedom, two of the AL members were detained because, according to the SSS they violated the terms of their bail. None of the AL members are, however, currently being detained.

According to a recent AL information release, the "psychological warfare and harassment of the State" continues. State repression consists of occasional raids on AL members homes, with the SSS "display[ing]...their names in their offices, organized house searches, etc. ... Two members of the League, including the [AL] coordinator Samuel Mbah, were arrested in the begining of August 1993, following a[final] crack-down of the Babangida Dictatorship." The two AL members were later released by the newly installed interim government, whose leaders were hand-picked by General Babangida.

.../...

The Awareness League is continuing their fight and are asking all concerned workers, students and friends of freedom to continue to send their "material and moral...solidarity."

To date such solidarity has helped the AL comrades to carry out their work, and has prevented the authorities from taking harsher repressive measures against the AL..

Your support and solidarity are still needed! Please send International Money Orders or U.K. Bank Cheques directly to:
Awareness League c/o Samuel Mbah, Post Office Box 28, Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria. Please seal the envelope to conceal its actual contents. Contributions should be sent Express Mail to enable the AL to meet their immediate needs. Please use all precautions by concealing the contents so as to beat mail thieves.

For additional information, including the AL Charter and 1993 Annual Report, please contact the Workers Solidarity Alliance. Please enclose a donation to cover the costs of printing/postage.



Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Rm 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

November 11, 1993

BLACK WORKERS ORGANIZING PROJECT
Post Office Box 5223
Chattanooga, TN. 37406

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings once again. We hope by now you received our earlier mailing.

Upon speaking to Lorenzo Ervin, he asked that we send you some of our literature. Enclosed please find some materials which we have issued, including the last edition of our newsbulletin, "Workers Solidarity". Please feel free to comment on any of the enclosures.

Further enclosed is a copy of your "Open Letter" which we are in the process of mailing out. This letter is being sent, for your information, to about 100 labor and community activists in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe.

Lastly, please also find enclosed a copy of a petition which we will begin to circulate this evening. Copies of this petition are also being sent out to a number of those receiving the mailing.

That's about all for now.

With best wishes and regards, we are,

Yours in solidarity,

WORKERS SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE
NY/NJ

Michael Harris
Corresponding Secretary

c: WSA Knoxville
WSA Atlanta
WSA Russellville, AL
File



Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

PR-93-14

10 November 1993

**AN OPEN LETTER ABOUT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AT
CARTA by employees and the Black Workers Organizing Project.**

CARTA, the (CHATTANOOGA AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY) public bus company in Chattanooga, Tennessee is an extremely racist and sexist company. Just this year four Black workers, James Jones (who was fired in a phony "accident" charge by management in October 1992), Ralph Williams, Lolita Blackmon and Annette Evans, all other bus drivers or maintenance workers at the company have filed charges of racial or sexual discrimination against the company with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Jones, whose complaint was the first one filed in January, sent additional copies to the federal Department of Transportation, the Secretary of Labor, and members of Congress, alleging company-wide racial discrimination and harassment of Black employees. At least seven other Black drivers have been fired on company frame-up charges. Then Ralph Williams, another Black driver, filed a complaint in April alleging that he was being harassed and was actually told by management that he was going to be fired just like Jones because he had complained about company discrimination in its disciplinary policies, and had resisted his harassment by racist managers.

The two women, Lolita Blackmon and Annette Evans, filed charges of not only employment discrimination but also for sexual harassment. MS. Blackmon's complaint filed on September 23, 1993 alleges that she was denied promotions twice in favor of lesser qualified White males, and that when she complained she was harassed and subjected to sexual harassment by Art Barnes, a company assistant executive director, and Gale Chambers, President of the labor union, ATU Local 1212, who commented that she should be doing "woman's work", and agreed that she was "too attractive to be getting oily and dirty in a maintenance, and [that] she would look better in a skirt with splits all around". Lolita was also threatened with the fate of another employee, Annette Evans, a female bus driver, who in Chambers' words was a "smart ass bitch..." who he was conspiring with the company to "...send her skinny ass back to Texas", meaning they would have her fired. Annette also filed a complaint to the EEOC on (9-24-93) over this sexist incident, as well as her denial of seniority in favor of a White male worker.

Now there is a move afoot, by several would-be labor politicians in the union who seek his position, to remove Chambers as union President over the sexual harassment charges, but they do not want to deal with the underlying problem to all this: a company with a racist and sexist work environment. CARTA is known as "the plantation" among Black workers, and the union is nothing but a "sweetheart union", with a spineless weakling like Gale Chambers (and his executive board), who was made the first Black President after Jones' complaint shook up the company. Chambers is just a Black face in a high place, he is not known as a fighter for workers' rights. This union has sold out to the company completely, and is so corrupt that Gale must be seen as nothing but a labor boss, no different than Art Barnes, the company's Black face in management. They are both stooges, two of a kind!

This company has been racist for many years, for a long time Blacks had to ride in the back of the buses and there were few, if any Black drivers. Even now there is only one Black administrator, Barnes, and they use him just to discipline or fire Black drivers, while White drivers get away with all kinds of racist activity or misconduct. Blacks are fired or disciplined for the slightest infraction--real or imagined--while Whites, like one driver who brandished a gun on Black passengers, one who won't pick-up Black passengers if a White person is with them at the bus stop, and another who calls Black people racist names like "Boy", "Gal", and even

"Nigger", are allowed to carry on without question, even though the majority of bus riders are Black (over 70%). This company could not carry on its operations if Black riders boycotted CARTA operations.

Although the complaints by these workers have been filed to federal civil rights agencies, this is not enough, we call upon our fellow workers, the Black community, and other workers in unions in this city *and all over the nation* to join us in a campaign to win justice for African-American employees at the company, as well as a stronger union. **With your help we can win!**

Here is what you can do:

1. Join our picket line in front of the company at 1617 Wilcox Boulevard. (We will announce the exact day later).
2. Pack the meetings of the CARTA board of directors, which is open to the public. (We will announce the exact days later).
3. Print this letter in your organization or union newsletter or newspaper, so that others will know of our struggle.
4. Write letters of complaint to both the union and the company:

Gale Chambers
President
ATU Local 1212
1617 Wilcox Blvd.
Chattanooga, TN. 37406

Tom Dugan
Executive Director
CARTA
1617 Wilcox Blvd. (Corporate mail stop)
Chattanooga, TN. 37406
(615)629-1411 or Fax: (615) 698-7178

5. Call or write letters to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to demand that they take action against this company:

Marie Devine
Intake Supervisor
EEOC Regional Office
50 Vantage Way, Suite 202
Nashville, TN. 37228
1-800-669-4000 (in-state calls only)

For more information, contact, *Mann*, Black Workers Organizing Project,
P. O. Box 5223, Chattanooga, TN 37406, 615-697-0724.

Defeat Racism!
FIGHT FOR WORKERS SOLIDARITY!

This information is being distributed by
New York/New Jersey Workers Solidarity Alliance
in cooperation with the Black Workers Organizing
Project.



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TO IWA SECTIONS AND LIBERTARIAN MOVEMENT:

PERUVIAN ANARCHO-SYNDICALISTS SEEK HELP FOR MINERS

Dear comrades,

We have recently received word from our comrades in Peru (publishers of "Colectivizacion") about a desperate situation.

Former miners from Huamper, Peru have been living and begging on the streets of the capital city of Lima for almost two years now. These miners were involved in a labor dispute and came to the capital to get the government and mining bosses to act on their problems. The issues leading to their trip to the capital have not been resolved and have forced the miners to stay in Lima.

Our comrades report that the miners "must go out asking for alms (from) the people every day." Sadly, the money they raise is not enough for food, medicine and clothes. "Therefore", writes our comrades, "Victor Taype (former President of the Miners and Metal Workers Union) and (us) have planned to set-up a small self-managed restaurant" that would aid the miners.

The Peruvian comrades estimate they would need about \$150- (USD) to get this project started.

"We ask your support urgently. Can you help the mining workers with a donation? Any ammount would be welcomed."

International Money Orders should be made out and sent as follows:

Javier Vela-Jones
Juilio C. Tello 421
Urb. San Jose-Callao 2
Peru

IMPORTANT NOTE: Checks smaller than \$30-(USD) can not be cashed. NY WSA will act as a collecting point for all small donations. Such donations will be forwarded to Peru. Please make checks out to "WSA", earmarked for Peru Soli.

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S Section of the International Workers Association

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January 21, 1994, #1

339 Lafayette St., Rm 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF PERUVIAN HUAMPER MINERS

DONATIONS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. WORKERS SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE (NY/NJ) | \$20.00 |
| 2. WORKERS SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT (Ireland) | \$30.00 |
| 3. LEHIGH VALLEY INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD | \$20.00 |
| 4. BLACK FLAG (England) | \$10.00 |
| 5. B.A. (Ontario) | \$5.00 |

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE: \$85.00 USD

Respectfully submitted,

WORKERS SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE - I.W.A.
New York/New Jersey Area

Michael Harris

Michael Harris