

Half a million sacked in Castro's Cuba



In a move, justified with striking parallels to lib-con talk of 'big society', the Castroist government in the 'socialist' Cuba is enforcing half a million job cuts (in a workforce of 5,100,000). The official (i.e. state) workers union in Cuba, the Cuban Workers Confederation, welcomed the news as necessary as "Cuba faces the urgent need to move forward economically, better organize production, increase productivity and reserves, improve discipline and efficiency and this is only possible through the dignified and devoted work of our people".

The government of Cuba aims to soften the blow, "by authorizing simultaneous increases in job

opportunities in the non-state sector, allowing more Cubans to become self-employed, to form cooperatives run by employees rather than government bureaucrats and to increase private control of state land and infrastructure through long-term leases".

In response to the cuts announced on 13th September a Joint Communiqué was issued on behalf of the MLC-GALSIC (Cuban Libertarian Movement – Support Group for Libertarians and Independent Syndicalists of Cuba):

On September 13th, the newspaper Granma, official voice of the Cuban Communist Party published a communiqué¹ by the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC - Cuba's

only union) in which the official labor union announces, justifies and defends the labor adjustment measures the Cuban government has implemented, "following the process of modernizing the economic model and the projections for the economy for the 2011-2015 period" which foresees for the coming year "a reduction of over 500,000 workers from the state sector and their transfer to the private sector". The reply (not by chance) of Fidel Castro to an American journalist's question, admitting that "the Cuban model doesn't work, even in Cuba" and the shameful and cynical pronouncement by the CTC announcing, justifying and defending the firing of half a million Cuban workers – a measure decided unilaterally by the government of President-General Raúl Castro – clearly show that the Castro brothers are saying goodbye to socialism but not to power, and that in order to continue in power they are ready to implement an economic policy of naked capitalism.

The moment has arrived, for those who continue to believe that the Castro regime was making a socialist revolution and that the role of the CTC was to defend the Cuban worker, to confront their naïve credulity with the harsh reality. We hope this reality will lead them to recognize that Castro's "socialism" is nothing but state capitalism and the CTC the most miserable and brutal yellow union in

the service of Cuba's ruling class.

This new betrayal by the Castrista union leadership does not surprise us. For many years we have been denouncing the farcical syndicalism the Cuban workers have had to suffer. But now their "classist" and revolutionary" demagoguery is grotesquely exposed, as well as their true role to control and subjugate the Cuban working class. The Cuban workers react with angry accusations loudly proclaiming² their disappointment in and their rejection of "state unions" as a tool for those in power.

For an autonomous, independent and combative labor movement in the service of the Cuban workers!

For Libertarian Socialism!

For a Free and Libertarian Cuba!

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GALSIC (Grupo de Apoyo a los Libertarios y Sindicalistas Independientes en Cuba) ((Support Group for Libertarians and Independent Sindicalists of Cuba) - cesamepop@orange.fr

(1) <http://www.kaosenlared.net/noticia/pronunciamento-central-trabajadores-cuba-propoposito-cambios-cuba>
(2) <http://www.kaosenlared.net/noticia/dudas-sobre-medio-millon-cubanos>

The Anarchists and the Revolution - From the Libertarian Association of Cuba to the International Anarchist Movement. Havana, June, 1959.

"The Communist Party of Cuba is just as dangerous for the revolution as are the extreme nationalists and upper echelons of the Church. Fortunately, their influence is limited because they are discredited by their association with Batista and their servility to the Russian totalitarian dictatorship. Hiding behind the banner of liberalism, patriotism, mutual tolerance and the coexistence of all anti-Batista forces, they have been able to infiltrate a number of organizations and some sectors of the labor movement. Though small in number, the Communists are skilful connivers, well-organized and totally unscrupulous; their counterrevolutionary potential must not be underestimated."



Fidel and Che - Icons of an elusive 'revolution'