

# International Human Rights Day

## 10 December 2004

Today we celebrate International Human Rights Day together.

Today there is no human right that is not trampled by capitalists in their race for profit.

Human rights are created by human beings. They do not exist independently of human society and are not determined by natural law. They can be given or taken away. They are not inalienable and they are not immutable.

The rights we have as human beings vary greatly according to time, place and class. A slave, a mill owner of the English industrial revolution, a citizen of the French Republic after the deposition of Louis XVI in 1792, a contemporary Masai woman and a Wall Street banker are all human beings, but they have quite different sets of rights deriving from different sources.

After the ending of the Soviet Union left the United

States of America as the world's only super power, a long-predicted change has started to take shape. States and corporations are prepared to increase repression against workers to whatever extent is required to make the biggest possible profits.

Our struggle is a struggle against capitalist companies which use up workers and are controlled by nothing more or less than their need to maximise profit. Corporations do not need air to breathe, clean water to drink, food to eat, houses, hospitals, schools, art or culture. Corporations do not care for workers or any human beings.

The rights we have as workers are those we have forced the capitalists to concede to us.

We must return to the task of building workers' political organisations and unions with the urgency dictated by today's conditions.

Our lives and the future depend on this.

# workers change the world



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