

This poem was written by a 40 year old Black man in the Atlanta city jail. It was written on a brown paper bag, just after he received the special supplement of the Revolutionary Worker on the murder of Damian Garcia. The poem was the first poem he had written in 5 years. It was read at May 1st rallies in cities across the country:

# Damian Garcia is Dead But in His Death I Came Alive

Damian Garcia is dead  
But in his death I came alive

Every day we are murdered bit by bit  
I am 40 years old  
A veteran, and a Black man  
My brother has been murdered  
Cold-blooded, gangster scum death  
I'm running out of patience

Damian Garcia is dead  
But in his death I came alive

He held the blood--red flag as his own blood flowed  
I never knew I had a flag  
Until Damian Garcia died  
Rage is nothing new to me  
And I've seen death before  
But I'm 40 years old and running out of patience

Damian Garcia is dead  
What you gonna do?

I'm gonna take his place, motherfuckers  
And if you slit my throat and open my belly  
I was dying anyway bit by bit  
I lost an eye in the army, got shot in the back by a pig  
I'm 40 years old, run out of patience  
Ready for Revolution

Damian Garcia is dead  
But in his death I came alive

Pass me a red flag  
Hand me a gun  
And when the time comes and we' all ready  
I'll be one with the millions  
And I'll whisper to myself  
This one's for you, Damian  
'Cause in your death I came alive



DAMIAN GARCIA, SECOND FROM RIGHT, AND OTHER MAY DAY BRIGADE MEMBERS TALK TO PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS IN L.A.

## REVISIONISTS CAW OVER MURDER OF COMMUNIST

What is revisionism? While not having exclusive rights to it, the CPML has been practicing it for some time. But now they have stooped to new depths of depravity to provide us with yet another example of their endless ability to teach genuine revolutionaries by their negative example.

In The Call, May 5, 1980, they join the crows' chorus of the bourgeoisie's press, the L.A. Police Department, every opportunist group in the country, not to mention the KKK and the Nazis, in declaring that Comrade Damian Garcia was "killed by the residents" of the Pico-Aliso housing project.

This should in no way be a surprise to anyone who is aware of the line and practice of the CPML. What is astonishing is the fact that this time they have so thoroughly and callously exposed themselves. They, scurvey lapdogs of the rich that they aspire to be, hypocritically described Comrade Damian Garcia "as an individual who

was deeply committed to the working class struggle", while from beginning to end they painted this heroic martyr of the international proletariat, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, as a "dupe" of the RCP. They went even further than the bourgeois press when they characterized his murder as a just reaction of "local people", of "community youths fed up with their (referring to the May Day Brigade--RW) harassment."

In their futile attempt to buttress up this attack of theirs, the CPML resort to the most thinly veiled demagoguery. They have actually outdone themselves this time.

They quote a high school youth saying, in reference to the May Day Brigade, "They would talk about the Alamo, world war, and the stealing of Mexican land. They played on our Chicano pride. But there must be another way." We plead GUILTY! with two exceptions. First, we do not play, and we think it is

a fine thing if the national pride that exists among the Chicano people is unleashed against the chauvinism the bourgeoisie unleashes on the oppressed nationalities. Second, there is no other way. And while this sister is thinking this question over, the CPML has already answered it. It is an historic feature of revisionism to answer this question with the lie that the slaves can easily, painlessly and slowly rid themselves of oppression.

And what should "communists" be doing, according to the CPML they should be "...linking their ideas to the demands of the community." Of course, these demands, according to the CPML then, must have nothing to do with world war, the stealing of Mexican land, the Alamo, or Chicano pride.

And then, they quote a 10 year old saying "Everytime they come, the police come." It is evidently a great source of pride to the CPML that the pigs don't give a damn what CPML

is doing. According to these scum sucking pigs calling themselves revolutionaries, this is proof of "ultra-left antics" on the part of the RCP. Evidently the CPML thinks that calling on the masses to overthrow their oppressors, unleashing the masses to struggle for the emancipation of all mankind, should be possible without incurring the wrath of these oppressors. Perhaps they do not realize in their frenzy to assist (or hide behind) every social democrat and reformist in their task of trying to keep the anger of the people safely bottled up in pie-in-the-sky schemes, that the pigs are out here in the streets, including in Pico-Aliso, shooting the masses down every day. Or perhaps they realize it all too well and they want to stay as far away from it as they can.

Of course the CPML does not want any talk of world war, and certainly not in places

# Erupts

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they'd achieved of busting up May Day--but they were wrong. Although the march was temporarily dispersed forces gathered the ranks together and marched triumphantly into downtown.

At one local high school 300 youths gathered to check out the march. Some reactionary youth attacked the demonstration while others tried to break through police lines to join it. 30 students marched along on the sidewalk beside the main body of the march. The cops ran frantically in front of the students and using heavy intimidation tactics, turned them back. One Black youth was arrested for running to join the demonstration. At a junior high school a few teachers had been building for May Day and estimate that 80 students would walkout. Hundreds of office and clerical workers jammed one intersection to watch the march.

Initial reports are that a number of workers took off work. At one plant for example, a worker estimates that twenty younger workers stayed out and came down to the march. A Black woman commented on the march--"There was a lot of trouble. Oh, but it's the kind of trouble I like..."

## Atlanta

Fifty people marched in Atlanta assembling at a downtown park and marching through the downtown area. 125 cops and assorted reactionaries accompanied the march intimidating people from joining and even physically prevented people from doing so. But the march was watched with keen interest by hundreds of people who gathered in the area. After the march reached its destination, it was decided to go out and do it again rather than just end it right there. At the end of the second time around the cops arrested all of the cars of people on the march, so the marchers re-formed and marched out of downtown to a bus stop.

After doing a lot of agitation people boarded a bus followed by the press and the police. The pigs discussed plans to impound the entire bus as people gathered around the bus where struggle and debate raged among 200 people until the pigs let the bus go being content to arrest people as they got off the bus near the revolutionary workers center in Atlanta. 14 were arrested.

At the Atlanta City jail, red flags were hanging out of cell-windows including a huge red tablecloth with prisoners giving the fist and chanting "May Day, May Day!" The slogan, "We won't Work That Day Will You" had a real effect on May 1st. Many who didn't join the fray at the demonstration took that step at the Southern Iron Company. There one worker who came to May Day had another worker who didn't, count the time cards in his department to see how many stayed out of work. 25 were absent with 12 to 15 who most likely stayed out for May Day.

## West Virginia

In the coalfields of West Virginia the bourgeoisie made a very concentrated effort to mobilize every kind of reactionary swamp dweller available to show up in Beckley to attack the May Day march. A very large number of these flag-waving scum was able to prevent the march from getting off the ground. The concerted effort by the ruling class and their servants of all stripes to organize a large counter demonstration is an indication of just how seriously concerned they are about keeping the masses of workers away from revolutionary politics. The coal miners in this area are a tremendous potential source of great strength to the working class as a whole and a constant nightmare to the bourgeoisie that is determined to keep coal miners chained or with their sights narrowed to economic strug-

# Caw

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like Pico-Aliso, because they have long ago set for themselves the task of calling on the masses to fight--and fight hard indeed--in this Soviet/U.S. slavemaster war for one of the masters--in their case the U.S. government which oppresses them and peoples around the world every single day.

They are actually so subjective, so isolated from the masses of people, that they think the quotes they mustered in their article from the masses in Pico-Aliso, such as "The RCP got some sympathy after the stabbing, but why did they return?"; and "they shouldn't come in here, there's too much killing"; and "They were known as the Red Flag people," stand as examples of the correctness of the CPML's line. Certainly there is a social base in Pico-Aliso for their line, but they didn't quote those people in their article.

There is one thing the CPML is at present afraid to do. They did not attack Comrade Damian Garcia (or his comrade Hayden Fisher who was wounded by the same hit squad) for plan-

ting the red flag of the international proletariat atop the Alamo. THEY DID NOT DARE!

But make no mistake about it. It is this red flag which the CPML fears. The red flag that was raised by thousands and thousands on May 1st, 1980 in this country, carrying forward, in defiance of murder, in the face of the armed power of the state, the spectre of the Red Flag flying permanently atop the Alamo, the spectre of the armed revolution of the masses. This, indeed is more than the CPML can bear. For the masses will put them and their kind out of the business of pimping off of their struggle.

It was for this reason that the bourgeoisie singled out Comrade Damian Garcia for murder. When it became clear that Comrade Garcia was dying his fellow comrades of the brigade stood around him and sang the Internationale. Damian Garcia raised his fist, still grasping his blood stained red flag, and died. This is the stuff the leaders of the proletariat are made of.

We hope that the CPML sells this issue of their paper especially in East L.A. All revolutionary minded people who read it there will surely come to hate them deeply.

gle only in their black pits. In spite of this show of force marchers stood up and proudly waved the red flags in the faces of these neanderthals.

A large number of the anti-May Day forces were youth let out of a downtown Catholic School. A legal observer's reaction to this was: "What are these kids going to be thinking when they're laying in the trenches, thinking about what happened today, and wondering what the hell they were carrying the red, white and blue for."

## Cleveland

A pitched battle raged in the streets of Cleveland as a hundred demonstrators, marching 2 x 2 beat back 30 separate attacks by reactionaries to fly the red flag on May 1st.

The focus was definitely the red flag as the air resounded with "We're proletarians, not Americans. Our flag is red, not red white and blue". Stand with the Future Not with the Past Raise the Red Flag of the Working Class." The initially puffed-up reactionaries responded with such imaginative slogans as "Our flag is red white and blue, USA, USA." Organized by a hardcore of Nazis and union officials these hundred thugs, some wearing Teamster jackets, pretended to speak for the working class. In the face of staunch determination and sharp agitation, one of this motley crew admitted, "Look, I'm paid to be here." Some others dropped away, and towards the end of the march, several were half-way admitting defeat, with comments like "You guys got it together today but after today, well then what are you going to do? We'll get you guys eventually."

Five rabid reactionaries were physically held back by sympathetic people on the sidewalk.

One Black man, who originally was part of the caveman squad, changed sides, and, at a press conference immediately after the march, apologized, saying, "My eyes have been closed but the march opened them and I understand much more clearly the nature of the system and the working class..."

The local ruling class had mounted a major campaign to turn public opinion against the May Day action and had unleashed reactionaries for the express purpose of humiliating and crushing the marches. It boomeranged badly. As one Black worker described the victorious May Day march: "this rally here May Day showed that spirit that we have, you know, it shows the people that they can't fuck us around. You know when they started to come against us we didn't stop. We just kept fighting on, marching through the bricks and bottles, the whole works. We kept on steppin'. I believe we won a lot of believers and I believe we'll win the whole thing..."

More on these demonstrations and reports on other demonstrations we were unable to cover will follow in the next issues of the Revolutionary Worker.

# Turkey

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vity. In Ankara, clashes with the armed forces left at least two dead and 10 wounded as protesters marched in defiance of the ban on May Day actions.

There were also major May Day events in the smaller cities and towns. Merchants closed down their shops in support of the actions day by day, and the police checked ID's from house to house all night long. In the town of Mersinda in the South, 50,000 marched, including a very large number of people who came here to demonstrate because it was one of the few places not yet under martial law and a May Day prohibition. In the city of Antalya in southern Turkey, according to early reports, demonstrators chased the armed units sent in against them out of town.

There were also at least four openly fascist demonstrations organized by armed forces officers and civilian reactionaries who raised slogans in defense of Turkey's national flag and against what they called "terrorism"--which was rather ironic since murder and terror is the specialty of these unofficial arms of Turkey's top flunkies for foreign imperialism. In Tazmir, where many of the Americans who serve as advisors to torturers and company executives live, the Army was called out to protect them against demonstrators.

Setting the stakes for these actions, beginning in January, Turkey's pro-U.S. Demirel government responded to imminent bankruptcy by opening the country even wider to U.S. and Western European pillage in return for a \$3 billion loan from the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund--a loan necessary to pay off previous loans and keep Turkey afloat in the finan-

cial web it is trapped in. Wages were frozen, price controls lifted, the currency devaluated and the whole economy offered up to foreign investors. In addition, as the "loss" of Iran to the U.S. and the approach of a confrontation with the Soviet Union made Turkey even more important militarily to the U.S. bloc, Demirel signed new military treaties in an attempt to replace the Shah as U.S. imperialism's Mideast blockhouse. All this was accompanied by new widespread measures against the revolutionary movement including the extension of martial law all over the country.

Although May Day has been legal in Turkey since 1976, the government announced that this year the May Day actions would not be allowed to fly the red flag. Later it tried to ban them altogether. The trade union federation DISK, backed down on its May Day plans and held only one rally, which attracted about 60,000 people. DISK, whose leadership includes the pro-Soviet revisionists has played the role of using the threat of fascism to win the workers to putting their faith in Demirel's "liberal" opposition, which is equally pro-imperialist and ruthless. Many of the actions in 10 other cities and 20 towns were led by revolutionary forces, including the Communist Party of Turkey (Marxist-Leninist) [TKP (M-L)]. This represented a very clear difference with the past several May Days where the revisionists had far tighter control. Faced with this international and national situation, military authorities have announced that if the civilian government can't stop the opposition the armed forces will do so--a statement representing the sentiments of Turkey's highest level capitalists, landlords and other forces tied to U.S. imperialism.