

# THE WHITE TERROR

## From Gastonia to Alabama.

By Clarence Miller.

The writer of this appeal is one of the seven working class leaders of Gastonia who were saved from the electric chair and had their sentences commuted to 20 years imprisonment each under the pressure of the masses of all countries. With the assistance of the working class it was possible to save them from this fate. Comrade Miller is now in the fatherland of the proletariat, with the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union. Ed.

Once again have the white landlords and capitalists of the Southern section of the United States brought the electric chair forward to terrorise the rising movement of the black and white workers and farmers of the South.

Two years have passed since the attempt of the same bourgeoisie to railroad to the electric chair the organisers of the textile workers' in Gastonia. Extreme oppression had forced the textile workers at that time into a strike struggle under the leadership of the revolutionary textile workers union. In this strike struggle for the first time in the South the question of uniting the black and white workers on a mass basis in the struggle against the ruling class was brought to the foreground.

The brutality of the ruling class in answering this attempt of organisation has forced the workers to organise a Strikers' Defence Corps, to defend themselves and their families from the attacks of the police and fascist groups. The shoots fired by the guards of the textile workers in Gastonia were in defence of the interests of the whole working class in the south. This proved that the workers of the South will no longer remain the "docile Americans" that the bourgeoisie wants them to be, but are beginning to take their place in the ranks of the class struggle.

This new working class in the South has made the beginning in Gastonia and this beginning is continuously extended. The bourgeoisie is especially afraid of the 10 millions Negro workers and farmers who are beginning to see that the Communist Party is the only party that is fighting in the interest of the black masses.

The result has been that the bourgeoisie in order to suppress this rising movement has resorted to increased terrorism in the South. Since the beginning of this year 43 Negroes have already been lynched. The Communist Party, the International Labour Defence and other working class organisations in the United States have carried on a broad campaign against these lynchings, and so the bourgeoisie now is simply resorting to legal lynching, and the latest case are the nine **Scottsboro** boys.

One of the boys is only 14 years of age, with the result that he was sentenced to life imprisonment and was spared death in the electric chair. Of the other eight only one is over 18 years of age.

The murder of these boys is a blow to the whole working class. These nine boys are charged with rape of two white prostitutes, but the evidence has shown clearly that most of them have even not been near the place where the girls were supposed to have been raped. But that does not matter to the American Bourgeoisie. Victims must be found who can be lynched "legally" or "illegally" so as to terrorise the Negroes and "keep the Negro in his place"!

Just as in the Gastonia case, the defendents were saved from the electric chair and later on from a twenty years' sentence that was substituted to the electric chair by the solidarity of the workers and the efforts of the International Labour Defence, so these boys, children of our class, must be saved from the fate of Sacco and Vanzetti.

They committed but one crime and this is that they are children of the working class. If these children of our class are permitted to burn on the electric chair, we do not know what the bourgeoisie will permit itself to do next. The hand of the executioner must be stayed and the boys freed. It can be stayed only by the mass movement of the workers of all countries, by the pressure upon the American capitalists to make them feel that the working class of the whole world is watching the fate of the Alabama boys and stands ready to revenge its martyrs.

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