



Solidarity with the workers on strike of Fiat Plastik of Serbia

We express our solidarity in the strongest terms with the workers who went on strike on 18th February in the Fiat Plastic factory in Kragujevac, a subsidiary of the FCA in Serbia.

We note that the principal cause as put forward by the Strike Committee, composed mainly of young workers, is the reduction of the wages and holiday pay to rates lower than those of other firms, which was imposed with an arrogant action by the factory management. We hear that a total of 15.000 dinars (128 €) are being stolen from Fiat workers every month just to increase the profits of the capitalists, who are also supported by the government.

We wholeheartedly support the resolute action taken by the workers and the Strike Committee to stop entire production until workers' demands for decent pay and holiday are met. We think this is all the more important considering that a warning strike had taken place on 12 January, which did not result in an agreement with the bosses, despite the negotiations ongoing until 1st February.

We condemn the actions of the factory bosses to disrupt workers' action which they tried last week when they released workers from their duties. We also note that this struggle against the bosses is also a defense of the proletariat of Kragujevac, the vanguard of the working class in Serbia, who are now trying to prosecute Fiat workers for the great strike in 2017.

Today's strike shows both the strength of the young workers and the role they are playing in the formation of the vanguard of the working class but also the true face of capitalism and imperialism. It has been laid bare once again that the capitalists are not hesitating to increase the exploitation of the working class, to leave them in poverty and to deteriorate their living conditions just to ensure the continuity of their system. Your action has highlighted the state of the working class in your country as submitted to savage exploitation, working to long shifts, bereft of health and safety protection and wages below levels of starvation.

Your strike once again shows the true strength of the independent action of the working class and how it can do away with the plans of the bosses quickly; your struggle is an inspiration for thousands of other workers to take up the struggle for their demands and to do away with capitalistic exploitation.

We express our full and unreserved support for the struggle of Fiat Plastik workers and denounce the anti-worker actions of the FCA management, the Serbian government and the Italian Draghi government supporting this automotive monopoly.

We call on FCA workers and militant trade unionists of our countries to take up action to express solidarity with the workers of Serbia.

Long live the struggle and the international solidarity of the working class!

23.02.2021

The Coordination Committee of CIPOML