Southern Workers Assembly statement:

No More Trayvon Martin’s or George Zimmerman’s – Organize the South!

The Southern Workers Assembly (SWA), along with millions across the U.S. and internationally are outraged by the Sanford, Florida court’s no guilty verdict of George Zimmerman, the racial profiler, stalker and murderer of unarmed, and innocent young Trayvon Martin.

This unjust verdict is part of a racist climate that has been intensified by the capitalist economic crisis that is attacking the entire working-class and scapegoating Blacks, oppressed people of color, women, immigrants, LGBTQ people and labor unions to divide the U.S. working-class.

The U.S. South has been the bastion for racist hate crimes and not guilty court verdicts that continue to uphold the Dred Scott decision—that Blacks have no rights that whites are bound to respect. These deeply felt atrocities from racists and the courts, reinforced by the institutionalized racism in the economic, social and political system that affects working class Blacks and people of color at work and in society, can only begin to heal when the working-class carries out the mantra that An Injury to One is An Injury to All.

The U.S. government is aware that the economic crisis and its austerity policies, highlighted by the high unemployment, is causing this intensified racism. It’s bailing out the banks and corporations, financing of unjust foreign wars and invasions, support for repressive governments, and the increased spending to militarize the police and build more prisons, in excess of $13 trillion over the past 15 years, makes clear that the government is on the side of the rich and don’t intend to seriously address the problems facing the working-class.

Living and working in the South, the region with the lowest number of unionized workers in the U.S., the SWA believes, that the fight for working-class unity must include building a rank-and-file democratic labor movement; one that is based on principles of social movement unionism that sees the role of unions as mobilizing the power of the working-class to fight for economic, social and political justice and changes that impact the lives workers and our families on the job, throughout society and internationally.

We grieve with Trayvon’s family and friends, and call for justice and accountability of the courts and overall U.S. justice system to human rights as defined by the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. Without this minimum level of accountability, we don’t have faith in the findings of the U.S. agencies, as they are influenced by the corporate interests.

The SWA will work to build support in our unions and worker organizations for the growing call for boycotts, divestment, sanctions and other possible worker actions, that will help to bring pressure for the system to honor the right of Trayvon and other unarmed Black and people of color to not be racially profiled, harassed, and murdered by anyone and with the blessings of the U.S. courts and other agencies of the government.

The George Zimmerman’s and the U.S. courts, make clear that Organizing the South has become critical to not only uniting the U.S. working-class, but also to radically transforming this society in the direction of human rights.

We join with others in saying Stop the War on Black America and the Working-Class.