



Karnataka Bank Officers' Organisation (Regd.)

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(Affiliated to AIBOA)

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Dear Comrades,

MAY DAY RESOLVE - OBSERVE MAY DAY AS 'DEMANDS DAY'

MAY DAY AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE: May 1st is the International Day of the working class and is a day of special significance in the lives of the working class. **May Day is being observed world over as a day to celebrate the achievements of workers, especially the eight hour day movement which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation and eight hours for rest.** Its historic significance continues to be valued by the working people of our country. The senior comrades of ours are well aware of the history of this Day. We wish to enlighten our younger comrades also about the background, long drawn struggle and sacrifices made by millions of people for justice and better conditions of work.

Let us observe the May Day, this year as a 'Demands Day', demanding regulated working hours for the bank officers, five day week, job security and dignity and self-respect for all the bank workers. May Day will be a great inspiration for all of us to forge greater unity amongst us and take our struggles to a greater heights.

MAY DAY AND ITS HISTORY: On May 1, 1886, Chicago witnessed a great outpouring of workers who laid down tools at the call of the organized labour movement of the city. It was the most effective demonstration of working class solidarity yet experienced by the labour movement itself. **"The 8 hour movement" in the US, culminating in the Strike on May 1, 1886, forms by itself a glorious chapter in the fighting history of the working class.** The victorious march of the Chicago workers was arrested by then the combined force of the employers, determined to destroy the militant leaders, hoping thereby to deal a deadly blow to the entire labour movement of Chicago. The events of May 3 and 4, 1886 which led to what is known as the Haymarket Affair were a direct outgrowth of the May 1 Strike.

On May 3, police brutally attacked a peaceful meeting of striking workers at the McCormick Reaper Works in Chicago, resulting in the death of six workers. In response to this unprovoked barbaric attack by the police, the workers organized a demonstration on May 4 at the Haymarket Square. The meeting was peaceful and about to be adjourned when

agent provocateurs threw a bomb into the crowd. In the anarchy and violence that was deliberately organized by the agent provocateurs, several people were killed and many injured. Seven workers were sentenced to death. Later on, the entire trial was exposed as a farce. For a time, the employer class in the US was able to suppress the working class movement by unleashing ferocious onslaught on the workers. **However, it was unable to destroy the fighting spirit of the workers who decided to organize rallies throughout the US on May 1, 1990.**

The workers put forward the demands for 8 hour working day, better health conditions etc. **The Red flag was created as the symbol that would always remind us of the blood that the working class has bled and continues to bleed under the oppressive reign of employer class.** From that day onwards, workers throughout the world began to celebrate the 1st of May as a day of international working class solidarity, fighting for better working conditions and dignity of life without oppression and exploitation of the employer class.

The origin of May Day is closely bound up with the struggle for shorter workday –a demand of great significance for the working class.

MAY DAY AND OUR RESOLVE: Let it be our collective endeavor to carry forward the torch of this great movement of struggles and sacrifice. **Let us once again show our solidarity and strength by observing it as a ‘Demands Day’, demanding regulated working hours, five day week as well as job security and dignity and self-respect for all bank workers.**

WORKERS UNITY ZINDZBBAD

UNITE AND FIGHT FOR DIGNITY AND SELF-RESECT

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE PAID FOR JOB SECURITY

With revolutionary greetings,

Yours comradely,

Sd/-

(K. RAGHAVA)

GENERAL SECRETARY

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