

Struggle Song

Workers across the world united
Stand up for justice & what's ours
With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

Dare to fight ! Dare to win !
March together arm in arm
With my comrades beside me
See the power of our class

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Stand up for justice & what's ours
Are we Union? Yes we are
See the power of our class

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The story of the Struggle Song

On 17 May 1980 martial law was declared in South Korea. In the industrial city of Kwan-ju protests continued for nine days. The government sent in troops. More than 2000 workers were killed. The Struggle Song was written to commemorate this massacre. Korean unions have said that the Struggle Song belongs to all workers. They ask all unions in the Asia Pacific region to sing it. Already Korean, Indonesian, Taiwanese and Thai workers sing versions of this song. This is the Australian version.

The Internationale

Arise ye workers from your slumbers
Arise ye prisoners of want
For reason in revolt now thunders
And at last ends the age of cant.
Away with all your superstitions
Servile masses arise, arise
We'll change henceforth the old tradition
And spurn the dust to win the prize

So comrades, come rally
And the last fight let us face
The Internationale unites the human race

No more deluded by reaction
On tyrants only we'll make war
The soldiers too will take strike action
They'll break ranks and fight no more
And if those cannibals keep trying
To sacrifice us to their pride
They soon shall hear the bullets flying
We'll shoot the generals on our own side

So comrades, come rally
And the last fight let us face
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No saviour from on high delivers
No faith have we in prince or peer
Our own right hand the chains must shiver
Chains of hatred, greed and fear
E'er the thieves will out with their booty
And give to all a happier lot.
Each at the forge must do their duty
And we'll strike while the iron is hot

So comrades, come rally
And the last fight let us face
The Internationale unites the human race

The Internationale was written in June 1871 after the Paris Commune was crushed by the French government. It is the song of the workers' movement everywhere.

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