



# REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE RCI

ONE WORLD - ONE STRUGGLE - ONE REVOLUTION



Cartoon by Carlos Latuff, Rassd.com

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August 2017

## Al-Aqsa Uprising: Long live the Palestinian Resistance!

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- \* Syria: Astana-Deal Struggle Intensifies

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*Revolutionary Communism* is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria.

**[www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net) - [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)  
Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314  
Füchselhofgasse 6, 1120 Vienna, Austria**

# Al-Aqsa Uprising: Solidarity with the Palestinian Resistance!

**For an International Solidarity Campaign with the Palestinian People!  
For an Immediate End to the Blockade against Gaza! For a Free Red Palestine!**

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25.7.2017*

The Zionist Apartheid State of Israel has again intensified its decades-long oppression of the Palestinian people. A couple of weeks ago, it increased the already existing access restrictions on Palestinians to the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem – one of the most important holy places, not only for the Palestinian people, but for 1.7 billion Muslims around the world.

The RCIT declares its unconditional solidarity with the protests of the Palestinian people! We support the demand of the Palestinians for the withdrawal of all Israeli security forces from the al-Aqsa Mosque compound and unrestricted access to this site for Muslim worshippers.

We denounce the Zionist Apartheid State of Israel as a racist and oppressive colonial state.

We support the demand for the unconditional right of return for the millions of Palestinians, whether currently residing beyond the borders of Mandatory Palestine or as internally displaced persons living inside Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank who have been prevented from returning to their homes following the wars of 1948, 1967, and as a result of the ongoing policy of uprooting and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Zionist regime.

We stand in solidarity with the resistance of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank against the Israeli occupation.

We condemn any collaboration of the official Palestinian administration with the Israeli state.

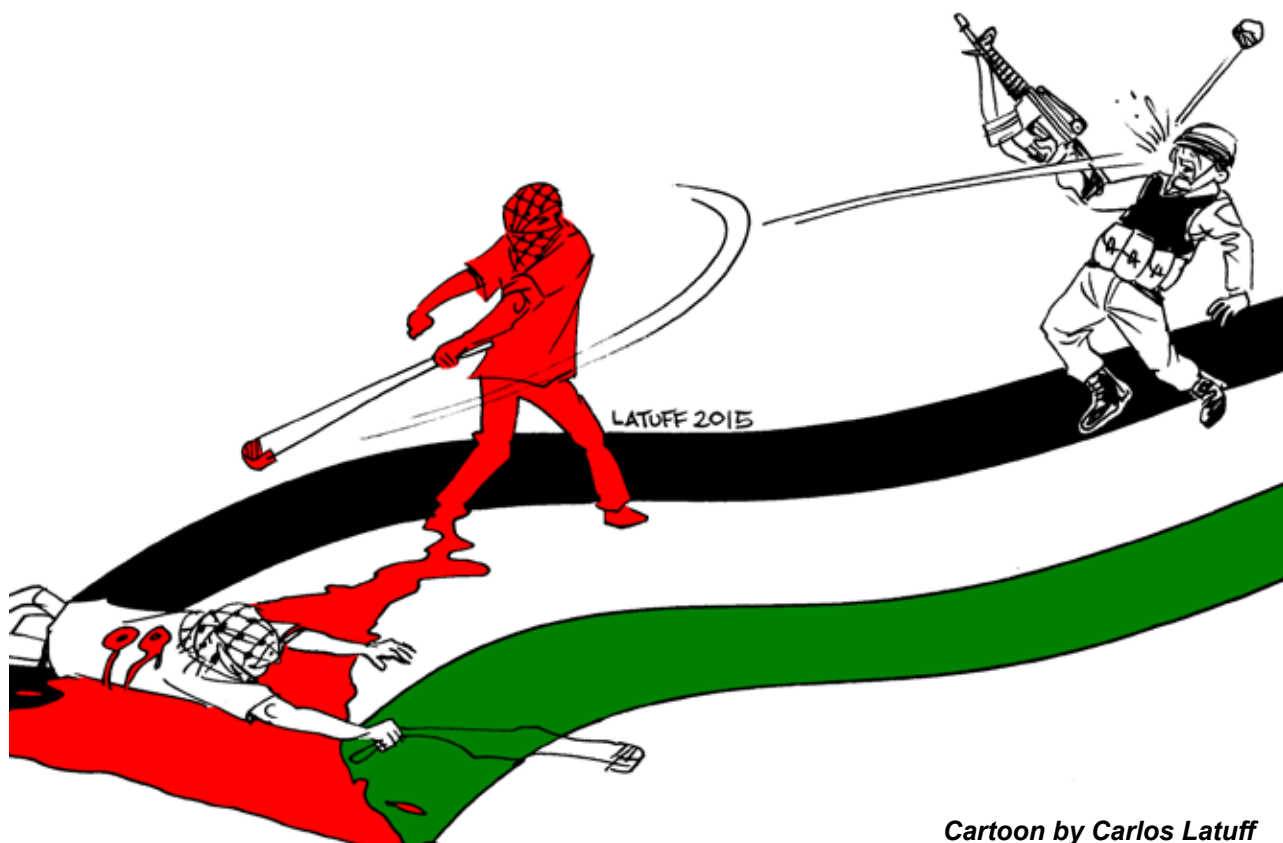
We denounce the barbaric, inhuman blockade which Israel has imposed against the Gaza Strip, by which it alone decides how much food, medicine, building materials and equipment of all sorts enters what is the world's largest open air prison. We also condemn the collaboration with this blockade by the military dictatorship in Egypt.

We call for the replacement of the Zionist Apartheid State of Israel with a joint democratic Palestinian State from the river to the sea. Such a state, where all Jews who respect the Palestinian right of national self-determination will be able to find their place, can only exist as a workers' and fellahin republic. For a Free Red Palestine! For a Socialist Federation in the Middle East!

The struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian people is an integral part of the struggle against all reactionary dictatorships and monarchies world-wide and in specifically in the Muslim world: the regimes of Assad in Syria, General al-Sisi in Egypt, King Salman in Saudi Arab, and the theocracy of Rouhani in Iran being the most prominent. This struggle is also part of the international struggle against all imperialist Great Powers (i.e., the US, EU, Russia and China).

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The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*(RCIT) is an international organization with sections and activists in 14 countries (including Occupied Palestine / Israel).



Cartoon by Carlos Latuff



# Occupied Palestine: In the Aftermath of the alAqsa Clashes

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 29.07.2017

In the last two weeks of protests, the Israeli occupation forces wounded more than 1,000 Palestinians during clashes, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent. Three Palestinians were killed Friday last week during "Day of Rage" protests across the West bank, including East Jerusalem.

Israel was forced to remove the metal detectors and the cameras it installed in order to assert its sovereignty over the alAqsa compound. Furthermore, the police that tried to prevent young Palestinians from entering the old city finally gave up and lifted the ban.

The Palestinians perhaps paid in blood, but they can justifiably claim victory. Palestinian religious leaders seem satisfied with the significant Israeli capitulations but afraid of losing control over the Palestinians masses. That is why they called to end to the boycott (worshippers refrained from entering the compound and instead chose to pray in the surrounding streets and alleys) and thousands of Palestinian Muslims returned to the mosque on Thursday for the first time since July 14th.

Raed Saleh, head of the now outlawed *Islamic Movement (Northern Branch)* said that re-entering the compound on their own terms was a victory for Palestinians:

"We never saw this kind of win for our people," he told Al Jazeera. "People are coming from everywhere just to support us in this occasion. The Israeli government will now understand

that Palestinians from Jerusalem will not accept everything they [Israelis] will tell them. We control ourselves. No one is controlling us."

However, renewed clashes followed, with Israeli forces firing stun grenades, tear gas and flash grenades into the holy compound, wounding more than 100 people. This Friday afternoon a 16-year-old Palestinian was killed during clashes with occupation forces on the border fence with central Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of Palestinians took part in protests throughout the West Bank, while a relative calm was observed in the Mosques' compound, after prayers in the holy place which had been the focus of tensions for the past two weeks ended. For now. [1]

In the meantime in Jordan, Attorney General Judge Akram Masaadeh, announced (Thursday) the end of the investigation into the killing of the two Jordanian citizens, Mohammad Jawawdeh and Bashar Kamel Hamarneh, which took place at the Israeli embassy in Amman, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Masaadeh said that the Public Prosecution indicted the murderer, named Ziv, with both the murder of more than one person in violation of Article 27/3 of the Jordanian Penal Code, and the possession of a firearm without a licence contrary to Articles 3, 4 and 11/D of the Firearms and Ammunition Law No. 54 of 1952, after the

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery of the South Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *THE GREAT ROBBERY OF THE SOUTH*. The book's subtitle is: *Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital*. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism. The book is in English-language. It has 15 chapters, 448 pages and includes 139 Tables and Figures. The author of the book is *Michael Pröbsting* who is the International Secretary of the RCIT.

In *The Great Robbery of the South* Michael Pröbsting analyses the super-exploitation and oppression of the semi-colonial world (often referred to as the "Third World") by the imperialist powers and monopolies. He shows that the relationship between the small minority of rich capitalist countries and the huge majority of mankind living in the semi-colonial world forms one of the most important elements of the imperialist world system we are living in. The Great Robbery of the South shows that the past decades have been a complete confirmation of the validity of Lenin's theory of imperialism and its programmatic conclusions. *The Great Robbery of the South* demonstrates the important changes in the relationship between the imperialist and the semi-colonial countries. Using comprehensive material (including 139 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that never before

has such a big share of the world capitalist value been produced in the South. Never before have the imperialist monopolies been so dependent on the super-exploitation of the semi-colonial world. Never before has migrant labor from the semi-colonial world played such a significant role for the capitalist value production in the imperialist countries. Never before has the huge majority of the world working class lived in the South – outside of the old imperialist metropolises.

In *The Great Robbery of the South* Michael Pröbsting argues that a correct understanding of the nature of imperialism as well as of the program of permanent revolution which includes the tactics of consistent anti-imperialism is essential for anyone who wants to change the world and bring about a socialist future. Order your copy NOW! \$20 / £13 / €15 plus p+p (21\$ for US and international, £9 for UK, €10 for Europe)

### The Great Robbery of the South

*Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital  
Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism*



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

investigation clarified that Ziv was in fact the killer.

Masaadeh said that *“the Public Prosecutor’s Office found through the investigation that the murderer enjoy diplomatic and judicial immunity”*, pointing out that the prosecutor decided that they cannot prosecute him, in accordance with Article 11 of the Jordanian Penal Code.

He added that the immunity of the murderer, according to the Vienna Convention, is purely procedural immunity, and does not exempt him from trials before the courts of his country. [2]

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the guard a hero’s embrace after Israel brought him home under diplomatic immunity. King Abdullah said Netanyahu’s behavior was *“provocative on all fronts and enrages us, destabilize security and fuels extremism”*.

To make things worse Netanyahu announced that Israel is considering a plan where the Arab-majority areas of the Triangle (Wadi ‘Ara) will be exchanged for the settlements in the West Bank. This was the first time Netanyahu is speaking openly about a new transfer of the Palestinian citizens of Israel - this time jurisdictional rather than physical.

### Golden opportunity to revitalize the Arab Revolution

Hundreds of people took to the streets of Amman-Jordan in protest over the king’s decision to allow the Israeli killer to leave for Israel. This exposes the mechanism in the region through which Israel is being protected by the corrupt regimes surrounding it. Smashing this mechanism

is one of the main tasks of the Arab Revolution.

This is a golden opportunity to mobilize the Arab masses in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel together with the Arabs in Egypt and Jordan. Unity in action should be formed around the demand to put the Israeli murderer to trial and remove the Israeli police from the Mosques.

Past experience shows that Israel’s retreat is a temporary one. As soon as the Israeli government feels strong again, it will act to impose its sovereignty over the Mosques once more. The only way to put an end to such insane racist policies is to organize the struggle around the vision of a unified democratic state from the river to the sea.

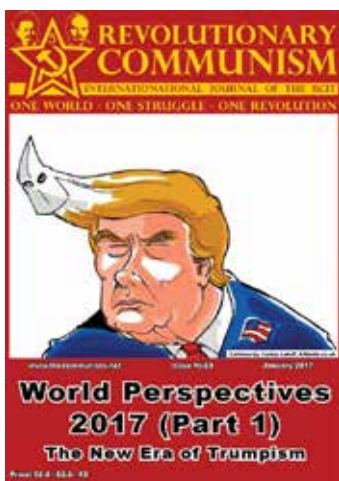
This state would naturally take the form of a Palestinian nation-state, but its class content must be one of a workers’ republic. Otherwise, the forces of the bourgeois counter-revolution would prove, once again, too strong and their brutality is already well engraved in the memory of the masses, especially in our region.

Such a workers’ republic could only be achieved through an alliance of the working class with the rural Fellahin and the urban lower-middle classes.

### Footnotes

[1] <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4995636,00.html>

[2] <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/attorney-indicts-embassy-killer-urges-trial-under-int%E2%80%99law>



## NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

# World Perspectives 2017: The Struggle against the Reactionary Offensive in the Era of Trumpism

Introduction \* I . A New Political Phase Has Opened: The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class in the Era of Trumpism \* II. Some Theoretical Question about the New Political Phase \* III. The Great Power Rivalry and Its Consequences for World Politics \* IV. The Middle East and the State of the Arab Revolution \* V. Class Struggle in the US after Trump’s Victory \* VI . The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class and the Resistance in Latin America \* VII. Imperialist Interference and the Struggle for Democracy in Sub-Sahara Africa \* VIII. Europe in the Era of Chauvinism, Militarization and Brexit \* IX. Russia: Victorious Outcome of NATO’s Cold War \* X. China: Strengthened as a Great Power but Before a Serious Recession \* XI. The Class Struggle in Asia \* XII. Perspectives for Building of the Revolutionary World Party Today  
\* Footnotes

Published as two special issues of RevCom with altogether 56 pages, A4 Format

## Palestine: Lessons of the alQuds Clashes

By Yossi Schwartz and Boris Hammerschlag, *Internationalist Socialist League*, 26.07.2017

In the last two weeks the Zionist state has proven in action, that the widespread Palestinian belief that Israel is acting to take over the alAqsa compound has substantial merit to it. This battle for sovereignty over the holy places between the Zionist colonialist society and the native Palestinian population proves right before our eyes what we have been claiming for the past decade. The idea that a colonialist society, as a whole, is in any way shape or form capable of self-containment, is ludicrous at best.

It was also proven that the native Palestinian nation cannot afford to let its guard down for even a split second. Furthermore, should it collectively take a decisive position of struggle, it could put enough pressure to send the Zionist apartheid regime on a humiliating retreat.

Retreat we say and stand by it, but unfortunately, not defeat. In order to defeat Zionism, i.e. establish a Palestinian democratic republic, a genuinely free society for all native religious groups and ethnicities from the river to the sea, Israel must lose its protective vest in the form of the corrupt, despotic and oppressive regimes throughout the region, via a renewed revolutionary Arab Spring.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who is internationally known as a person who cannot distinguish fact from fiction, has declared that Israel does not wish to change the status quo over the "Temple Mount". However, by installing metal detectors, it had placed at the entrance to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound and by using Israeli police to decide who will enter the mosques, Israel has shown that it considers itself as the sole sovereign.

If anyone still had any illusions, a day before yesterday (Monday) Tzipi Hotovely, a member of the Knesset for the Likud, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs since 2015, conveyed a few times on the Israeli TV that Israel is the sole sovereign over the compound she calls *Har Habayit* (Temple Mount). In an infamous interview she also shared her dream with the viewers to see the Israeli flag fly over the Temple Mount. (1)

### Murder Fiasco in Jordan

Yesterday, the issue has surfaced in Jordan when an Israeli security guard murdered in cold blood two Arabs, one of them a 17-year old Palestinian. According to Jordanian news service two Jordanians have been killed and an Israeli wounded by gunfire in a residential building in the heavily fortified Israeli embassy compound in Jordan's capital of Amman. The kingdom's Public Security Directorate said that the shooting took place on Sunday evening in a residential building used by embassy staff. Police said that the two Jordanians worked for a furniture company and entered the embassy compound to carry out repairs.

Thousands of Jordanians took to the streets of Amman after Friday prayers to denounce the Israeli measures at the al-Haram ash-Sharif compound. Jordan is the official custodian of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. (2)

According to the Israeli media the 17-year old youth attacked the guard with a screwdriver and the guard used his pistol to kill him. Even if this was the case, it is clear

that the trained guard could disarm the young man very easily. The boy was killed because the guard wanted to.

King Abdullah is a loyal servant of US imperialism and an ally of Israel. Thus, he allowed the killer to leave for Israel. However, Israel was forced to remove the metal detectors, but in another humiliating act for the Muslims expressed its plans to have them replaced by most-advanced surveillance cameras.

Whether the Zionist government is acting out of plain stupidity or sinister aims, we do not have sufficient evidence to be sure. But the colonialist struggle between a settler colonialist society and the native population is gradually being nudged by the Zionist movement's right wing towards a global religious holy war between the Jews and nearly 2 billion Muslims. The Zionist right also tries very hard to drag the Christian world along with it to participate in this bloody adventure.

This time, it retreated because it failed to provoke enough desperate and misguided individuals to retaliate in a sufficiently horrifying manner. It failed to rally enough public support outside Israel, but mostly it received enough phone calls from its neighboring ally dictators demanding that it stops contributing to the destabilization of their regimes.

Israel is not only an oppressive place for the Palestinians and the Arabs in general, but a death trap for the Jews. The only way for the Jews to survive is to break from Zionism and join the Palestinian struggle against their national oppression. To such Jews who see themselves as supporters of democracy and social justice we suggest, as a first step, joining forces with Balad, which recently officially opened its gate to social justice-oriented Israelis.

The only way forward is to organize the mass-struggle around the idea of a single decolonized democratic state formed by the Palestinian workers, urban and rural poor, and those Jews willing to break with Zionism.

### Footnotes

(1) <http://www.timesofisrael.com/deputy-fm-i-dream-of-israeli-flag-flying-over-temple-mount/>

(2) <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/07/deadly-shooting-incident-israeli-embassy-jordan-170723185223671.html>



## Al-Aqsa Uprising: Zionists Provoke Global Clash with Muslim World

Report from the Internationalist Socialist League (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 25.07.2017

In the last two weeks the Zionist state has proven that the Palestinians believe that Israel is acting to take over Al Aqsa mosques is justified and proven by the Israeli actions. The issue is very simple who has the sovereignty over the third holiest place to the Muslims – the Zionist state that occupied and annexes East Jerusalem or the Muslims.

Benyamin Netanyahu who is known as a person who does not know the difference between facts and lies has declared that Israel does not change the status quo in “Har Habyet” (which is the Jewish name for the al-Aqsa mosque compound). However by installing metal detectors it had placed at the entrance to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound and by using Israeli police to decide who will enter the Mosques Israel has show that it consider Israel to be the sovereign. If anyone has any illusions, yesterday (Monday) Tzipi Hotovely (a member of the Knesset for the Likud and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs since 2015) stated a few times on the Israeli TV that Israel is the sovereign over the compound of Har Habyit.

Yesterday the issue was surfaced in Jordan when an Israeli security guard murdered in cold blood two Arabs, one of them a 17 years old Palestinian. Al Jazeera reported: “Two Jordanians have been killed and an Israeli wounded by gunfire in a residential building in the heavily fortified Israeli embassy compound in Jordan’s capital Amman, the kingdom’s Public Security Directorate said The shooting took place on Sunday evening in a residential building used by embassy staff. (...) Police said that the two Jordanians worked for a furniture company and entered the embassy compound to carry out repairs. Israeli media say the guard opened fire, killing the 17-year-old Jordanian. The reports say the Jordanian owner of the apartment was hit by gunfire inadvertently and later died. (...) Thousands of Jordanians took to the streets of Amman after Friday prayers to denounce the Israeli measures at the al-Haram al-Sharif

mosque compound. Jordan is the official custodian of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.” (Deadly shooting incident at Israeli embassy in Jordan, 24.7.2017, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/07/deadly-shooting-incident-israeli-embassy-jordan-170723185223671.html>)

According to the Israeli news media the 17 years old youth attacked the guard with a screwdriver and the guard used his pistol to kill him. Even if this was the case it is clear that the trained guard could disarm the young man very easily but he wanted to kill him.

Jordan’s King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, a servant of US imperialism and an ally of Israel, allowed the killer to leave for Israel.

However, Israel was forced to remove the metal detectors, but in another humiliating act for the Muslims replaced them with more advanced surveillance cameras.

Whether it is on purpose or because of the stupidity and blindness of the rulers of Israel, they act to transform the national conflict and turned it into a religious war between the more than one billion Muslims and the Jews. Israel is not only an oppressive place for the Palestinians and the Arabs in general, but a death trap for the Jews. The only way for the Jews to survive is to break from Zionism and join the Palestinians struggle against their national oppression and for this reason to join the Balad party.

The Stalinist Party the CPI, who calls for a popular front with Zionist parties, and the right wing centrist *Maavak Socialisti* (Israeli section of the CWI), who put the Palestinians and the Settler colonialists on the same level and claim that the solution is two states, are both mouth pieces for the Zionists. The only way forward is the struggle for one democratic state formed by the workers and the Palestinian poor peasants and those Jews who would break with Zionism.



### NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

## The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

## Israel - Hands Off Al-Aqsa! Revolutionaries - Defend the Rights of Muslims!

By Boris Hammerschlag, *Internationalist Socialist League (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine)*, 22.07.2017

Yet another wave of violence is sweeping AlQuds (Jerusalem) and the holy al-Aqsa compound. A guerilla shooting attack by three Muslim Palestinian citizens of Israel, which happened last week (14 July) and led to the death of two Israeli Policemen, has been expectedly used by the Israeli government as an excuse to enact collective punishment, political arrests and murderous repression. The clashes that soon followed have claimed so far the lives of 3 Palestinians and 3 Israeli West Bank settlers with ~140 Palestinians injured.

The *Internationalist Socialist League* places the blame for these Palestinian and Israeli-Jewish deaths and injuries squarely on the Zionist ultra-right-wing government and its consistent provocative policy of shifting the Zionist-Palestinian conflict from a colonialist-nationalist struggle into a global inter-religious holy war.

We call upon all revolutionary minded socialists, as well as all supporters of freedom and democracy, to take a stand in mass mobilizations in defense of Muslim religious freedom, in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for the de-colonization and full liberation of their homeland, from the river to the sea.

We continue to strongly and consistently maintain our position that the only way to achieve peace, prosperity and social justice in Palestine is through a regional democratic revolution led by an alliance of the working class and the oppressed masses. This revolution must not limit itself to the attainment of full-democracy, but continue uninterrupted as a socialist revolution. Otherwise, all democratic or social gains would quickly be rolled back by a bourgeois capitalist counter-revolution.

### Refuting one-by-one the Lies of the Zionist Media and State-Funded Propaganda

*Lie #1 - Israel has imposed a complete ban on Muslims entering the al-Aqsa compound for the first time in 48 years, placing metal detectors and flooding the area with security forces, only because it is concerned with the security and religious freedom of the Jews, Muslims and Christians.*

The truth is that Israel has been using its stranglehold over all the holy sites it occupied in 1967 to collectively punish the Palestinian population whenever any of them act according to their UN-mandated right to armed resistance against an illegal military occupation.

Any political entity truly concerned with human lives and religious freedom would not have annexed holy sites placing them under military or police-state rule, and it would certainly refrain from using its own population as human shields by moving them to settle occupied lands, nor fund religious fanatic NGOs that are openly calling for the removal of the al-Aqsa mosque in favor of a 3rd Jewish Temple. (1)

*Lie #2 - Israel is doing nothing wrong nor special by placing metal detectors at the entrance to the holy compound. Many other religious holy-sites and places of cultural importance have metal detectors, including the Vatican and the Ka'aba in Mecca.*

The truth is that all of these other places have metal detectors placed at the request, or at least consent, of the worshippers, by those who they see as the legitimate sovereign.

Historical experience shows that those Muslims and peaceful tourists who frequent the al-Aqsa compound have only the occupation police, occupation military and

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via our Contact Address!**

The image displays four covers of the journal 'Revolutionary Communism', published by the Revolutionary Communist Internationalist Tendency (RCIT). Each cover includes the journal's title, issue information, and a red star with a hammer and sickle symbol. The slogan 'WORKERS AND OPPRESSED UNITE!' is printed at the bottom of each cover.

- Cover 1 (July/August 2013):** Features a cartoon by Carlos Latuff showing a man with a rifle and a speech bubble saying 'Free at last!'. The cover title is 'Down with the Military Coup in Egypt' and includes 'History: Israel's War in 1967 plus: Pakistan, Syria, Brazil, Venezuela, ...'.
- Cover 2 (September 2013):** Features a cartoon by Carlos Latuff showing a man with a rifle and a speech bubble saying 'Free at last!'. The cover title is 'The Military Coup in Egypt' and includes 'Analysis, Program & the Failure of the Left'.
- Cover 3 (March 2015):** Features a photograph of a woman wearing a headscarf. The cover title is 'Arab Revolutions at the crossroad'.
- Cover 4 (June 2013):** Features a photograph of a group of people. The cover title is 'Palestine:' and includes 'Al-Nakba and the 1948 War' and 'Permanent Revolution today'. It also includes 'plus Open Letter for Revolutionary Unity'.



the occasional ultra-right-wing religious fanatic settler, armed with an Israeli army issued machine gun, to fear - none of which have any business entering the site in the first place. If any metal-detectors should be put in place, it should be done by the Waqf administration to guard against the Zionists and not vice versa.

The Palestinians have every right to be wary, in the 1930's Zionist leaders have also promised that they do not want to take over the western wall, and after the 1967' war that they will not hurt the Ibrahim Mosque in Al-Khalil.

Many Israelis can't seem to grasp what's the big deal with security checks by Israeli soldiers, perhaps, they need to ask themselves why are they fasting on Tish'a B'Av and what led to the Jewish rebellion against the Romans.

**Lie #3** - *The terrorists who shot and killed the two policemen near the compound were radicalized and incited to violence by the leadership of the Palestinian citizens of Israel, namely the recently shut down, by invoking a permanent "state of emergency", Islamic Movement (Northern Branch).*

Firstly, those who kill armed occupation policemen cannot be classified as terrorists, but as guerillas. Secondly, It is true that the IMNB has been for a while a leading voice in claiming Israel has sinister aims in alQuds - not only in the Jewification (a form of Zionist gentrification project) of Palestinian villages and neighborhoods in alQuds (East Jerusalem), but also physically undermining the structure of the Mosques and the holy compound under the guise of archeological excavations and research - all for the sake of rebuilding the mythical Jewish Temple of antiquity.

However, the truth is that such concerns are not expressed without a solid basis. Jewification of certain Arab-majority areas is historically an open and declarative Zionist practice. One of the major revolutionary outbreaks in Palestine - the 1936-39 uprising - was partly provoked by what the Zionists openly called "the occupation of labor". Under the slogan of Hebrew Labor, the Zionist leadership made considerable efforts to get rid of Arab workers in all fields of occupation and replace them with Jewish workers. The workings of Zionist settler colonialism are

already quite well known around the world.

Israel has been excavating the ground under the al-Aqsa mosque to find archeological proof of a Jewish presence and religious life in the area 2000 years ago. Muslims who come to pray in the compound post countless of photos online of cracks that are forming in the walls of the mosque above and nearby houses, holes that suddenly open in the ground, etc. (2)

We do not have sufficient evidence that the Israeli government is deliberately preparing the sudden destruction of al-Aqsa. However, as an occupying force, an illegitimate usurper of power, it has zero right to apply any changes to or around the holy sites.

We can certainly *do* understand the concerns of the Muslim population of Palestine for their places of worship. After all, "Price-tag" arson attacks by Zionist hard-liners against Mosques and Churches are commonplace in Israel and the occupied territories, with extremely rare cases of capturing and prosecuting the perpetrators by the Israeli authorities. (3)

Furthermore, the voices of those who support the construction of the 3rd Temple for Jews in alQuds have, in recent years, moved at an extremely fast pace, from the dark fringes of the Zionist Kahanist extreme right to the mainstream of the "moderate" right-wing Zionist ruling party - HaLikud, headed by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

**Lie #4** - *Israel is the state of all Jews around the world and as such it is responsible for maintaining freedom of worship in the "Temple Mount", as well as the security of the worshippers in the adjacent Wailing Wall compound. The Muslim leadership is the enemy of religious freedom as it would not allow Jews to pray at the al-Aqsa compound, where the Jewish Temple once stood. It further serves to prove that Islam is a religion of intolerance and terrorism.*

The truth is that the Zionist movement has perhaps the most hypocritical political doctrines on the planet today. Just a few weeks ago the government *revoked* a compromise plan that would have allowed non-Ultra-Orthodox Jews

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to pray in the manner they see fit (men and women pray together, women leading prayer, sing scripture aloud, etc.) in a miniscule portion of the Wailing Wall compound.

We are quite sure that non-Orthodox Jewish women who came to worship at the Wailing Wall did not feel very much secure when they faced a barrage of spit, rocks, plastic chairs etc., only to be forcefully hauled away by police as provocateurs, instead of arresting their attackers. In Palestine under Zionism - one must pick carefully one's victimizer! Muslim attackers would not have been allowed to continue breathing in similar circumstances.

Muslims, on the other hand, have been allowing Jews to enter their mosques to worship when snow piling up in areas of Turkey would not have allowed such prayer in the Jewish synagogues. During the holocaust, mosques gave shelter to Jews in Paris and Northern Africa and hid them from the Nazis.

Israel's apparent motivation to turn the colonial conflict into a religious holy war could perhaps be explained by the pressure of increasingly declining support from the largest Jewish population outside Israel - American Jews. Polls suggest that a wapping 15% of them did not only withdraw their automatic support of Israel, but also support the efforts to boycott, divest and sanction its institutions - the BDS campaign.

An increasing number of Jews now understand Israel's true nature as a death trap for Jews rather than their salvation. When Israel's prime minister acts all chummy with the symbol of American male chauvinism and white supremacism - Donald Trump - who received open support from open antisemitic elements such as the KKK and neo-Nazi gangs - it is getting tougher and tougher to refuse to put 2 and 2 together.

**Individual heroism is not the answer!  
It is time for action of mass mobilization!**

The ISL (Israel/ Occupied Palestine) does not support individual acts of terrorism or heroic individual guerilla attacks. We do not see any benefit that comes from such individualist actions to the Palestinian struggle, understandable as they may be. We see how the Zionist leadership uses such attacks as an excuse to raise the level of brutality of its apartheid regime.

It is time for the Palestinian people and their supporters among the Israeli Jews to rise up and organize in mass collective and unified mobilizations. The urgent task is to organize democratic popular action committees. We must provide all of those who wish to fight Zionist apartheid, oppression and land theft and opportunity to do so collectively. We must find a way stir hope in their hearts instead of despair!

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# Syria: The Astana-Deal Struggle Intensifies

## Some Notes on Recent Developments in the Syrian Civil War and the Dangers for the Liberation Struggle

By Michael Pröbsting, *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*, 28 July 2017

As we have warned in the past, the last weeks have seen a massive intensification of efforts by the Great Powers and their regional allies to pacify Syria, and to finally liquidate the Revolution and divide the country into different zones of influence. (1) In the wake of these intensified efforts, it is vital that all supporters of the Syrian Revolution clearly understand the dangers and challenges ahead.

Let us briefly note the most important developments:

1) The US with its local allies – mostly the petty-bourgeois nationalist Kurdish YPG – is continuing to conquer northern Syria under the pretext of fighting against Daesh. The battle for Raqqa is still going on and it will take some time before the city falls to these enemies of the revolution. It is clear that US imperialism, with the help of the YPG (the darling of many Stalinist and pseudo-Trotskyist leftists), is already transforming this region into its military domain. (2) Several media have already published – to the outrage of the Pentagon – maps which show the exact location of 10 US military installations – including two air bases. (See the map attached below.) (3)

2) At the same time, Russia and its allies (Iran, Hezbollah, and the Assad regime) are also advancing into eastern

Syria, effectively driving Daesh out from this region. Russia and Iran are also using this opportunity to build up military bases and, in particular, take control of the border with Iraq while the Iraqi army, following its recent conquest of Mosul, and is also advancing towards the border region. At the same time, the Russian Air Force is continuing its terroristic bombardment against the Syrian people. According to Interfax, it delivered over 5,800 strikes in the past two months! (4) All in all, we are witnessing a race between the two imperialist Great Powers, the US and Russia, along with their respective allies, to defeat Daesh and to grab for themselves slices of Syria that as large as possible.

3) Naturally, the relation between the two imperialist camps and their respective allies is characterized not only by rivalry but also by a degree of cooperation in order to defeat their common enemies. This results in scattered instances of clashes (e.g., Trump's missile strike against an air base of the Assad regime in last April; the US's shooting down of drones), but primarily the element of cooperation predominates. This is because both imperialist camps want to see Daesh annihilated and the Syrian Revolution defeated. Currently the Russian/Iranian/Assad camp is



### NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

## Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified?

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2017

*An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution*

**Introduction \* The Nature of the Local Coordination Councils in Syria \* The Contradictory Nature of the Petty-Bourgeois Rebel Factions \* A note on the adjectival juxtaposition of “progressive” to liberal democrats versus “reactionary” to Islamists \* Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham and Other Islamist Militias \* The Role of Religion in Democratic and National Liberation Struggles \* Some Arguments on the Ongoing Progressive Character of the Syrian Revolution \* Have the Rebels Become Agents of US Imperialism and Regional Powers? \* On Foreign Powers' Support for Liberation Movements p\* Lenin and Trotsky on Liberation Struggles and Imperialist Interference \* What Did Lenin and Trotsky Say about Getting Support from Imperialists? \* Imagining Two Different Scenarios of the Revolution's Success & Failure \* A Period of Defeats and Retreats: What Are the Reasons? \* Some Thoughts on the Future Prospects of the Arab Revolution \* The Urgent Need for a Revolutionary Party \* Footnotes**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*



clearly the stronger factor, as the US has no relevant local military ally except the Kurdish YPG.

4) It is clear that the imperialists' battle for Raqqa is in its final phase. It may still take a few months more to conquer the whole of eastern Syria and to smash Daesh. This depends in large part on the degree of continuing cooperation between Russia and the US. Temporary conflicts breaking out between the two could prolong Daesh's demise. But, in the end, the defeat of the so-called "Islamic State" is unavoidable, as Daesh has greatly undermined popular support for it with its reactionary sectarian and totalitarian policy. However, while Daesh in its current form may not survive, it is very likely that, given the oppression by the imperialist powers and the Assad regime, other forms of Islamist Sunni resistance will continue to exist. While Daesh obviously is a counterrevolutionary Salafist-Takfiri force, it is equally clear that the main enemies in the current conflict in the north of Syria are the imperialist forces and their local allies.

5) The most important political development in the imperialist attempt to liquidate the Syrian Revolution is the so-called Astana negotiations. They are dominated by Russia, Iran and Turkey and include, besides the Assad regime, several factions of the rebels (e.g., FSA, *Ahrar Al-Sham*). It is the explicit goal of the Astana deal, as stated in its treaty of 4 May, to finish off the Syrian Revolution by transforming the areas still held by the rebels (mainly Idlib, Deraa, the enclaves in East Ghouta and Homs) into territories occupied by foreign troops (mainly Russian, Iranian and Turkish). At the same time, the deal commits its signatories to continue their war against the so-called

terrorists, which in particular include the strongest, best organized and most committed force in the ongoing liberation war against the Assad regime – the petty-bourgeois Islamist *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham*. (5)

6) For all practical purposes, the Trump administration is currently going along with the Russian-imposed Astana deal. The US has formally ended its so-called aid program to the rebels, which never really reached significant levels. (6) It has instructed the Syrian forces which are part of the so-called "coalition" that they must be exclusively focused on fighting Daseh and not to fight the Syrian regime. This directive prompted one rebel group to depart the US-led forces in Southern Syria. (7) During the recent G20, held in Germany in June, Trump and Putin agreed in an impromptu one-on-one summit to observe an ongoing truce in southern Syria (the Deraa region). (8)

7) Russia, for its part, unilaterally declared a truce for the eastern Ghouta region on 22 July. While most rebel factions, with the exception of *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham*, agreed to this, the Assad government continued its terrorist bombings of the region from the air. (9) Clearly there are some tactical differences between Assad and Putin, as the former hopes to entirely eradicate the enclave while the Russian leader prefers to end the civil war sooner rather than later.

8) Hezbollah has intensified its military offensive against the rebel enclave in the Aarsal region on the Syrian-Lebanese border. The rebel forces – led by *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham* – are desperately fighting for their survival, but their situation is extremely difficult.

9) While the Assad regime as well as the imperialists and their allies are the most dangerous enemies of the Syrian

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Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of Organized Struggle for Bolshevism

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The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

A few months ago, our movement commemorated its 25th anniversary. In the summer of 1989 our predecessor organization, the League for a Revolutionary Communist International (LRCI) was founded as a democratic-centralist international tendency based on an elaborated program. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) continues the revolutionary tradition of the LRCI. Below we give an overview of our history, an evaluation of its achievements as well as mistakes, and a summary of the lessons for the struggles ahead. This book summarizes our theoretical and practical experience of the past

25 years.

In Chapter I we outline a summary of the Bolshevik-Communists' theoretical conception of the role of the revolutionary party and its relation to the working class. In Chapter II we elaborate on the essential characteristics of revolutionary party respective of the pre-party organization. In Chapter III we deal with the history of our movement – the RCIT and its predecessor organization. Finally, in Chapter IV we outline the main lessons of our 25 years of organized struggle for building a Bolshevik party and their meaning for our future work.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/rcit-party-building/> ■

**Building the  
Revolutionary Party  
in Theory  
and Practice**

Looking Back and Ahead after  
25 Years of organized Struggle for Bolshevism



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

Revolution in terms of military force, Turkey's Erdoğan regime is the Revolution's most dangerous political enemy. This is so because Turkey not only possesses a sizable army in the region, but also because it exercises strong influence on the leaderships of various rebel factions. Furthermore, Turkey has much more credibility among Syrians than Russia, Iran or the US, as it has provided refuge for millions of Syrians and in past years has offered logistical support for some rebel factions. Hence, Turkey's actual influence far transcends that which it has on the relatively small number of rebel forces who were incorporated into the Turkish-led *Operation Euphrates Shield*. They also strongly influence other FSA factions, along with *Ahrar Al-Sham*. As a signatory to the counter-revolutionary Astana deal, the Erdoğan regime is now striving to both increase its influence in Syria and liquidate the liberation struggle against the Assad regime.

10) As part of this process, the Erdoğan regime has upped its efforts in the rebel-controlled Idlib region to weaken the forces allied with *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham*. The latter organization has unequivocally condemned the Astana deal and has officially warned Turkey not to attempt to invade Idlib. (10) Given the strength of *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham*, Turkey and its allies are reluctant to openly invade the province and are limiting themselves to various assassination attempts against HTS leaders, while encouraging hostile maneuvers by *Ahrar Al-Sahm* which

has become de facto the reactionary agent of Erdoğan and the Astana conspiracy. (11) However, these attempts to militarily utilize *Ahrar Al-Sahm* against the revolutionary forces backfired when *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham* defeated Erdoğan's agents in a relatively bloodless confrontation between 19 and 23 July. As a result most of Idlib is now under the control of HTS. While these developments provoked many internal conflicts within both HTS as well as in *Ahrar Al-Sahm*, this recent military confrontation resulted in the significant strengthening of the former organization and weakening of the latter. (12)

11) While the defeat of the pro-Astana forces in Idlib is certainly a welcome development, it would be naïve to ignore the terrible dangers looming before the Syrian Revolution. First of all, there is the backward and sectarian policy of the HTS leadership itself, which repels many non-Sunnis as well as opponents of its strict religious agenda. However, a much more imminent danger is the unholy alliance of all the imperialist and regional forces – including Turkey – which are threatening to unite in order to conquer Idlib and to annihilate the liberation fighters. (13) This would probably mean the end of the Syrian Revolution. Given the ongoing battle against Daesh in the Raqqa region which currently occupies the imperialist forces, it is possible that the liberation fighters still have some time to prepare for the upcoming assault. But probably not very far in the future is the time when all

### US INCREASES MILITARY POSTS SUPPORTING PKK/PYD IN SYRIA

Washington has two airbases, eight military points in PKK/PYD-held areas in northern Syria

There are also U.S. special forces located in military points in Al-Hasakah, Raqqah and Manbij

The latest of military points was established in the northern district Tal Baydar

Two military points in Manbij to protect PKK/PYD units against FSA



reactionary opponents of the Syrian Revolution will unite to subjugate the whole of Syria to their reactionary Astana deal.

As we have stated in the past, it is now crucial to place massive pressure on the rebel leaderships not to support the Astana deal. In fact, all who are authentically true to the Syrian Revolution must demand that all negotiators claiming to represent Syrian rebel factions immediately cease their participation in the so-called “peace negotiations” at Astana and Geneva. Similarly, all forces that, in the interest of the Great Powers, are instigating armed provocations against rebel factions fighting against the Assad tyranny must be denounced.

The central task now is for all loyal supporters of the Syrian Revolution to call for the creation of an *anti-capitulationist united front* of all forces which unambiguously reject the Astana deal; which oppose the partition of the country by the Great Powers and their regional allies; and which support the continuation of the struggle against the Assad tyranny.

Any confidence in the existing leaderships of the rebel factions (including that of the HTS) is misplaced. The only way forward for the Syrian Revolution is to create popular councils and militias, under the control of the workers and poor peasants, which will fight for a workers’ and peasant republic. We repeat our call for an international workers’ and popular solidarity movement in support of the Syrian Revolution. Furthermore, we urge all authentic supporters of the liberation struggle to unite and found a revolutionary party in Syria and a global revolutionary international based on a program of permanent revolution.

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# The Meaning, Consequences and Lessons of Trump’s Victory

By Michael Pröbsting, November 2016

Introduction \* I. The Election Outcome \* II. Where is the Trump Administration Heading? \* III. Global Consequences: The Beginning of a New Era \* IV. Lessons and Perspectives for the Struggle \* V. Summary Theses \* Footnotes

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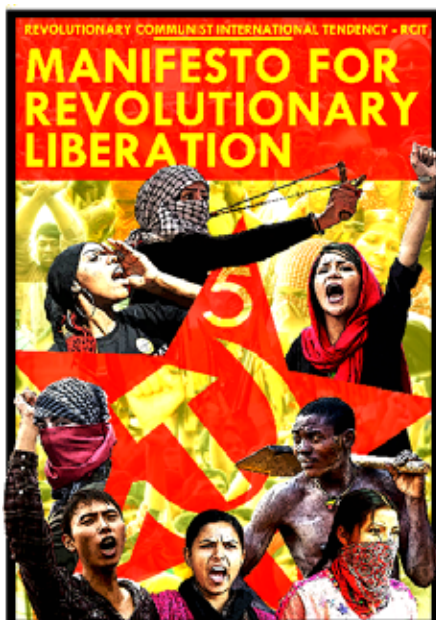
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## NEW RCIT PROGRAM!

# Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

*Adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in October 2016*

Introduction \* I. Decaying Capitalism \* II. Today's Worldwide Historic Revolutionary Period \* III. The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class \* IV. A Program for Socialist Revolution to Halt Humanity's Collapse into Barbarism \* V. The Crisis of Leadership and the Construction of a Revolutionary World Party \* VI. Work in Mass Organizations and the United Front Tactic \* VII. The Semi-Colonial South \* VIII. The Emerging Imperialist Great Powers of the East: China and Russia \* IX. The Old Imperialist Great Powers: The EU, North America and Japan \* X. Conclusion

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format*

For the RCIT's analysis of the Arab Revolution in general and the Syrian Revolution in particular, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents which can be accessed from the Africa and Middle East section of our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>. In particular we refer readers to the following documents:

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# Zambia: Down with the State of Emergency!

## Everyone Out to the Streets to Fight for Democratic Rights and against the IMF-Imposed Austerity Attacks!

*Joint Statement of the International Secretariat of the RCIT and the Socialist League of Zimbabwe, 09.07.2017*

1. . . . .Zambian President Edgar Lungu declared a state of emergency throughout the country on 6 July in the wake of a series of fires which broke out in markets and courts in Lusaka, Kabwe, Mongu, Monze and Choma. While Lungu has made the extremely dubious claim that the political opposition is responsible for these “*acts of sabotage*,” it is much more likely that the regime itself initiated these provocations.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its Zimbabwean Section strongly condemn this declaration of a state of emergency. This is an authoritarian step by a reactionary regime rapidly losing any popular support following its imposition of drastic austerity measures dictated by the IMF, as well as its shameless attacks on basic democratic rights. We call upon all workers, poor peasants and youth in Zambia to protest against this anti-democratic and reactionary act and to begin making preparations for a general strike.

3. Zambia is an impoverished, semi-colonial country where the economic conditions of the masses reflect its victimhood to the imperialist exploitation and oppression of the entire African continent. Zambia is rich in raw materials, being Africa’s second largest producer of copper, ranking seventh globally. Furthermore, the country has considerable reserves of uranium, a mineral

in high demand, particularly with the increase in civilian nuclear energy projects around the world.

4. However, being dominated by imperialist monopolies, Zambia has been unable to develop a diversified domestic economy, with the result that it is almost entirely dependent on its exports of copper and cobalt, which together account for 64% of the country’s total exports. Consequently, when the price of raw materials collapsed on the world market in 2015, Zambia was heavily impacted. Today about 60.5% of Zambians live below the officially-recognized national poverty line, and it can be taken for granted that real unemployment is much higher than the official figure of 14%.

5. Under the dictates of the *International Monetary Fund* (IMF), since the early 1990s Zambia has been forced to privatize large sectors of its industry as well as cut state subsidies. Today, the country is dominated by Western imperialist powers like the US and Britain, by South Africa as well as by the great emerging Asian imperialist power of China. Since last year, the country’s stock of external debt has increased by US\$300 million to US\$7.2 billion, the latter being equivalent to 31% of the country’s GDP. As a result, with the IMF’s pistol at its temple, the government has announced a 75% rise in its tariff for electricity, a measure which will further aggravate the dire economic

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

#### The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – MARXISM AND THE UNITED FRONT TACTIC TODAY. The book’s subtitle is: The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today. On the Application of the Marxist United Front Tactic in Semi-Colonial and Imperialist Countries in the Present Period. It contains eight chapters plus an appendix (172 pages) and includes 9 tables and 5 figures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

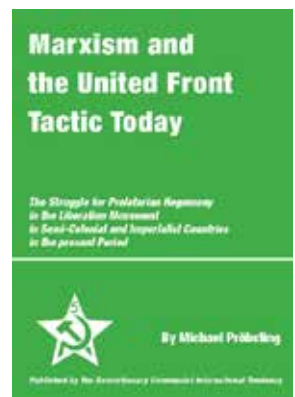
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

The united front tactic is a crucial instrument for revolutionaries under today’s circumstances in which the mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed are dominated by social democratic, Stalinist and petty-bourgeois-populist forces.

The purpose of this document is both to summarize the main ideas of the Marxist united front tactic while at the same time explaining its development and modification which have become necessary due to political changes which have transpired in the

working class liberation movement since the tactic’s original formulation.

In this book we initially summarize the main characteristics of the united front tactic and elaborate the approach of the Marxist classics to this issue. We then outline important social developments in the working class and the popular masses as well as in their political formations in recent decades. From there we will discuss how the united front tactic should be applied in light of a number of new developments (the rise of petty-bourgeois populist parties, the decline of the classic reformist parties, the role of national minorities and migrants in imperialist countries, etc.). The eight chapters of the book are accompanied by nine tables and five figures.





conditions of most people. Cuts to fuel subsidies are also in the cards.

6. The government's series of austerity attacks, as well as the effects of the foreign domination have provoked popular resistance as well as growing divisions inside the ruling class. President Lungu emerged as the successor head of state following a power struggle after the death of President Michael Sata at the end of 2014. Lungu and his misnamed "*Patriotic Front*" (PF) are governing the country in the interests of the imperialist monopolies. However, in order to accommodate popular outrage they camouflage their pro-IMF policy with some "anti-imperialist" rhetoric. As this is not sufficient to stabilize the political situation, Lungu is increasingly suppressing all dissident voices. His authoritarian, Bonapartist regime is systematically silencing the media, including having closed the country's biggest independent newspaper, *The Post*. It has arrested many activists of opposition parties. It has banned student union activities at the University of Zambia in the capital Lusaka. It has even arrested Hakainde Hichilema, the leader of the main opposition party – the *United Party for National Development* (UPND) –, under the Kafkaesque pretext that his convoy failed to pull off the road and make way for Lungu's motorcade!

7. However, the RCIT warns against having any illusion in Hichilema and his UPND. Hichilema is a former business consultant and darling of the business elite. He limits his rhetorical protests on democratic issues but fails to raise any opposition against the draconian IMF programs. Both the PF as well as the UPND are openly bourgeois parties which loyally serve the imperialist powers and the domestic capitalist class.

9. It is urgent that socialist and democratic activists in Zambia prepare for mass struggles against the pro-IMF attacks on social gains and public ownership of key industries, as well as against the regime's attack on democratic rights. They should call for the immediate release of all political prisoners. Activists should also call for the formation of action committees in the workplaces, schools, universities and neighborhoods. They should push the trade unions to organize strike actions. They should also advocate a united front of all forces which are ready to fight against these attacks. Such popular protests should be united in a general strike and a popular uprising to bring down the Lungu regime. In this context it is important to advocate the formation of self-defense groups designed to protect the masses against attacks by the regime's thugs and which, in the future, can serve as a springboard for workers and peasant militias.

10. It is crucial that socialists in Zambia organize to build a new mass party of the working class which also defends the interests of the urban and rural poor. Such a party must be independent of any factions of the capitalist class as well as of all imperialist powers. Such a party must be democratic, with all functionaries earning no more than the wages of an average worker. Such a party should help organize the working class to fight back against all economic and political attacks by the regime, the IMF and the Great Powers. Furthermore, the RCIT proposes that such a party should combine the struggle for the defense of the immediate interests of the masses with a program for the expropriation of the foreign monopolies and the big domestic capitalists, culminating in a revolutionary

overthrow of the ruling class and the founding of a socialist state led by the workers and peasants.

11. The RCIT calls upon activists in Zambia to link the struggle against the Lungu regime with a Pan-African and global perspective. Our struggle for liberation in Zambia must be tied to the struggle of our brothers and sisters against the imperialist powers and domestic reactionary regimes – starting from Zimbabwe and Morocco to the popular struggles against Assad in Syria, General al-Sisi in Egypt, and against the ongoing Israeli aggression of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank.

The RCIT sends its greetings to all Zambian revolutionaries and calls them to join forces with us in the international struggle for a socialist future!

*\* Down with the State of Emergency! Defend democratic rights! Immediate freedom for all political prisoners!*

*\* Down with the IMF-imposed austerity programs!*

*\* For the renationalization of all key industries under control of the employees!*

*\* For the forming of action committees in the workplaces, schools, universities and neighborhoods!*

*\* For a united front of all forces to stop the attacks of the Lungu regime!*

*\* Everyone out to the streets! Prepare for a general strike!*

*\* For a program of public employment and the rescinding of social cuts!*

*\* For a workers' and peasant government based on popular councils and militias!*

*\* For a united Intifada of the workers and peasants – from Lusaka, Harare, Rabat, Idlib, and Cairo to Jerusalem!*

*\* For a socialist federation in Black Africa!*

*\* For a new mass workers' party! For a revolutionary Workers International!*

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For the RCIT analysis of the liberation in Black Africa, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents accessed from the Africa and Middle East section of our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>. In particular we refer readers to the following documents:

RCIT: Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa, 13 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/africa-theses/>

Platform of the Socialist League of Zimbabwe (Section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency), <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/rcit-zimbabwe-platform/>

## Letter to South African Socialists on the “Platform for the Left Bloc in the ‘Zuma Must Go’ Campaign”

Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT) and Tinashe Mhukahuru (Zimbabwe Section of the RCIT)

**Note of the Editorial Board:** Below we publish a letter which has been circulated amongst socialists in South Africa. It has been sent by the RCIT in late May in response to the publication of the draft “Platform for the Left Bloc in the ‘Zuma Must Go’ Campaign” written by the comrades Ahmed Jooma and Shaheen Khan. The platform has been published on the website of the Khanya journal (<http://khanyajournal.org.za/platform-of-the-left-bloc-in-the-zuma-must-go-campaign/>).

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear comrades,

Thanks for forwarding us your “Platform for the Left Bloc in the ‘Zuma Must Go’ Campaign”. We think that this document is highly interesting and provides a useful basis for discussion among revolutionaries in South Africa and internationally.

In the following letter we would like to outline some observations on your platform. We will not outline here our assessment of the political situation in South Africa in the last years and refer you, as a summary of our views, to two

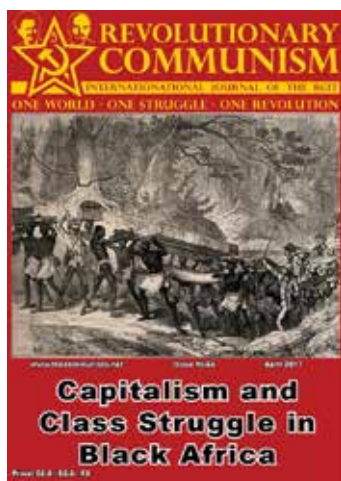
documents of the RCIT (<http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/south-africa-election-tactics/>, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/south-africa-workers-party/>) as well as our recently published Theses on Black Africa (<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/africa-theses/>).

Obviously we ask you to take into account that we have to refrain ourselves to rather general remarks as we are not so closely familiar with the current concrete situation in South Africa. Hence we will focus here on some analytical and methodological issues.

We want to emphasize that we agree with your economic analysis, your general anti-capitalist and socialist outlook as well as your denunciation of the Stalinist/ANC strategy of NDR which in fact has always been only a cover for its capitulation to White Monopoly Capital.

Your analysis of the ‘State Capture’ by the Zuma faction of the ANC and its fusion with a sector of capital (Gupta, etc.) sounds sensible and convincing to us.

You repeatedly speak about the ANCYL/WL/MKMVA as (semi-)fascist forces. While we are aware that petty-bourgeois-nationalist, populist forces have the potential to become fascists, we are not sure if this is a correct



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characterization in this case. In general, we would warn against a too loose use of the term “fascist” and would restrict it to paramilitary movements in the service of imperialist capital with the goal to annihilate the workers government and bourgeois democracy. In our opinion it is not necessary to characterize the Zupta regime as potentially fascist in order to legitimize the need to focus the struggle against it. Yes, revolutionaries should support the present mass protests against the regime because it represents a *reactionary, increasingly Bonapartist neoliberal regime in the service of monopoly capital*.

We agree that revolutionaries must not support any wing in the current power struggle inside the bourgeois, popular-frontist ANC.

We agree with your assessment of the present situation as having the potential to transform into an “Arab Spring” situation and hence the necessity to fight for a revolutionary Action Program.

We agree with your criticism of the NUMSA leadership and of their strategy of abstaining from the growing mass movement.

It seems correct to us to say that the present mass movement against the Zuma regime has a cross-class character. We also share your approach that it would be sectarian to organize a small movement outside of this mass movement. It is necessary to fight *inside* this mass movement and to combine it with a perspective to fight for working class independence and against the influence of the bourgeois (e.g. DA) and petty-bourgeois parties (e.g. EFF) and to finally destroy their influence.

In this context it might be worth mentioning that Trotsky – contrary to the ultra-leftists – also argued for working *inside* the mass action committees of the French popular front in the 1930s in order to better break up the popular front.

On the other hand, joining organized political popular front campaign like “Save SA” would be completely unprincipled for Marxists.

We strongly support your perspective to call for the creation of action committees as the basis for an authentic mass movement.

Our biggest difference with your document is probably that we consider your call “*Bring Forward General Elections!*” as completely wrong. We consider it as wrong because it shifts the focus of the current mass struggle to a parliamentary level. Naturally, if elections take place revolutionaries will

not ignore it and either stand candidates independently, participate in a workers party or give critical support to reformist/left-populist parties. But in the current situation it would massively disorientate the mass movement if you call for elections now. The focus must rather be to better organize and mobilize the mass movement towards a general strike and a popular uprising in order to prepare for the overthrow of the government. This could open the perspective for the formation of the government of the workers and poor.

In contrast your slogan of elections now does NOT open the perspective for a workers government because i) such a workers government should be based on soviet-like councils and militias and not the parliament and ii) there exists currently no party you could call to vote for and which would fight for a workers government inside the parliament.

In this context we want to draw your attention to the fact that you do not mention the issue of the armed self-defense of the working class and the poor against the state repression and the “fascists” a single time! This however seems to us to be an important issue – even more so should it be for you since you characterize your enemies partly as “fascists”! We also mention this because there is a strong reformist tradition in South Africa which creates illusions in the possibility of a peaceful transformation to socialism (the Stalinist SACP, the centrist CWI/WASP, etc). Hence these forces all oppose or are silent on the necessity of the arming of the working class and the poor. The task of revolutionaries is to fight against such illusions and openly denounce their reformist supporters.

In general we feel you should give more emphasis to the issue of building a mass workers party respectively a Bolshevik organization fighting for a revolutionary program. A “Left Bloc” in the best case can only be a temporary thing.

Finally we have a question to you: do you consider South Africa as an imperialist or a semi-colonial state? Or do you share Patrick Bond’s opinion that it is sub-imperialist?

We hope our comments are of any use for you and look forward to your thoughts.

Revolutionary Greetings,

Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)  
and Tinashe Mhukahuru (Zimbabwe Section of the RCIT)

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# G20 Summit: A Symbol for Global Capitalism and its Crisis

## Imperialist Leaders Maneuver amid Accelerating Rivalry between the Great Powers and Mass Protests on the Streets

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 10.07.2017*

1. The G20 Summit in Germany's port city of Hamburg and the events surrounding it represent an accurate picture of the present world situation. During their 7-8 July meeting, the imperialist leaders desperately negotiated behind closed doors in an attempt to reach a compromise that would bridge the gaps between their conflicting interests. While they succeeded in doing so for issues on which they share common interests, they glaringly failed to do so for other matters. At the same time as the conference was being held, militant mass demonstrations on the streets of Hamburg reflected popular outrage towards the arrogant "leaders" of the world.

2. We are living in a world of drastic upheavals. Among other things, this is reflected in the fact that, for the first time in the history of such summits, the imperialist leaders of the world's biggest powers were forced to formally admit in their official communiqué issued at the end of their negotiations that they failed to reach an agreement on the issue of climate change. US President Donald Trump – in contrast to all other heads of states – insisted that the world's biggest imperialist power, as well as its second-largest emitter of carbon, will formally leave the so-called *Paris Climate Accord*. The significance of this is that the US will now see itself free to increase its greenhouse gas emissions which, to a large extent, are responsible for a large portion of global warming. Furthermore, in the recent G20 summit, the Great Powers could only thinly conceal their profound disagreement on the issue of global trade. Again, in particular it was Donald Trump who adhered to his chauvinist-protectionist "America First" policy.

3. Of course, behind this lack of consensus there are no ideological differences between the various parties, arising from the adherence of one side or another to some more "progressive" goals. Rather, while still the biggest power, albeit a rapidly declining one, US imperialism is both in a position to take a more aggressive protectionist stand against its rivals, as well as simultaneously being forced to do so. The other imperialist powers – like the European Union, China, Russia or Japan – are by no means more progressive than the North American aging giant.

4. On issues where the interests of the imperialists coincided, they were able to make "progress" – to the detriment of the oppressed peoples. Trump and Putin, together with their respective foreign ministers, held a long meeting where seem to have reached a significant amount of agreement on how to liquidate the popular uprising in Syria. They formally agreed to impose a cease-fire and to create a "de-escalation zone" in the regions of Deraa, Quneitra and Suweida. US Secretary of State Tillerson emphasized the joint reactionary interests of these two imperialist powers in smashing the armed popular struggle against the Assad dictatorship and pacifying the country by a settlement imposed by the Great Powers (in

the template of the so-called "Astana-Deal"). Reporting on the meeting of the world's two biggest robbers, Tillerson said: "And I would tell you that, by and large, our objectives are exactly the same. How we get there, we each have a view. But there's a lot more commonality to that than there are differences. So we want to build on the commonality, and we spent a lot of time talking about next steps." Tillerson even openly admired Russia's aggressive support for the Assad's barbaric war which has claimed the lives until now of at least half a million persons: "Maybe they've got the right approach and we've got the wrong approach," [!] said the former CEO of ExxonMobile, US Secretary of State (New York Times: U.S., Russia and Jordan Reach Deal for Cease-Fire in Part of Syria, 7.7.2017)

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its sections in the Middle East restate their support for the ongoing Syrian Revolution. We call upon all activists around the world to continue their solidarity work with the workers and peasants of Syria in their heroic fight against the Assad regime and encourage them reject any counter-revolutionary settlement initiative like the *Astana Deal*. We similarly express our support for the right of national self-determination for all oppressed peoples – including the Kurdish people in Turkey and Syria. Long live the socialist revolution!

6. The G20 summit also approved German chancellor Merkel's misnamed "*Partnership for Africa*" initiative. While ostensibly designed to aid the impoverished African peoples, this initiative in fact only serves the interests of the imperialist monopolies by letting them buy up Africa's raw materials, while they avoid paying taxes to the governments of these nations, and instead repatriate their huge profits back to their home countries. Furthermore, the initiative openly serves the imperialist agenda – in particularly that of the European Union – by strengthening its political and military grip on northern and central Africa in order to put down armed resistance and to prevent millions of Africans migrating to Europe (see, e.g., the French president Macron's recent initiative to create a 5,000 soldier-strong regional anti-terror force for the Sahel region).

7. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) and its Zimbabwean section condemn the imperialist "*Partnership for Africa*." We once again emphasize our solidarity with the popular resistance against imperialist exploitation and oppression on the African continent. We support popular uprisings against reactionary dictatorships and austerity attacks. Likewise, the RCIT calls upon the working class and the oppressed of Africa to expropriate the imperialist monopolies and expel the troops of the Great Powers along with their local auxiliaries. For a socialist federation of Black Africa!

8. The G20 summit also impressively demonstrated the wide-spread popular outrage against the imperialist leaders who are destroying the social and ecological living

conditions of humanity. For three days more than 100,000 people protested in the streets of Hamburg, expressing the rejection of the agenda of the Great Powers by the workers and oppressed around the world. These protests were also a vivid demonstration that the world-wide popular struggle against the attacks of the ruling class around have not receded – contrary to various predictions of doomsayers among the reformist and centrist left.

9. The brutal attacks against the demonstrators by a force of German police numbering 21,000 cops equipped with numerous anti-riot water cannon vehicles – and including at one point the presence of special police units openly wearing machine guns on the streets – showed once more that the state apparatus is a tool of repression in the service of the ruling capitalist class.

10. Naturally, such a positive evaluation of the mass protests against the G20 summit should not allow us to ignore some obvious weaknesses in its organization. Among them was the counter-productive role of some sectors of the so-called Black Block anarchists who senselessly attacked and, in several instances, even set alight small shops and ordinary cars. It was also very problematic that a large contingent of the Kurdish PKK/YPG marched at the head of the huge demonstration of 100,000 on Saturday. This sent a very wrong signal to the world and in particular to the Syrian people given the utterly reactionary role of the petty-bourgeois Stalinist-nationalist YPG as foot soldiers of US imperialism in their offensive to conquer northern Syria. All these weaknesses reflect the still influential role of Stalinist and anarchist forces among the so-called “left” in Germany.

11. In the light of the mass protests against the G20 summit, the RCIT reemphasizes the conclusions of its “*Urgent Call for Revolutionary Unity*” as well as other programmatic documents: We call upon all organizations and activists honestly striving towards the creation of a new Revolutionary World Party to join forces on a joint programmatic basis. The RCIT is committed to serious discussions and the closest possible collaboration with all forces who share such an outlook.

*International Secretariat*

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For the RCIT analysis of the current world situation and the acceleration of capitalism’s contradictions, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents accessed on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/>. In particular we refer readers to the following documents:

RCIT: World Perspectives 2017: The Struggle against the Reactionary Offensive in the Era of Trumpism. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries, 18 December 2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2017/>

RCIT: Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa, 13 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/africa-theses/>

RCIT: Syria: Condemn the Reactionary Astana Deal! The so-called “De-Escalation Zones” are a First Step towards the Partition of Syria and a Conspiracy by the Great Powers to Defeat the Revolution, 7 May 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/astana-deal/>

Michael Pröbsting: Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified? An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution, 5 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syrian-revolution-not-dead/>

RCIT: Urgent Call for Unity and a Joint Struggle on a Revolutionary Platform. An Open Letter to All Authentic Revolutionaries for an International Conference on the 100th Anniversary of the October Revolution to Advance the Building of a Revolutionary World Party, 09.01.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/urgent-call-revolutionary-unity-1/>

Michael Pröbsting: The Meaning, Consequences and Lessons of Trump’s Victory. On the Lessons of the US Presidential Election Outcome and the Perspectives for the Domestic and International Class Struggle, 24.November 2016, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/meaning-of-trump/>

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*Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*

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# What the RCIT Stands for

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) is a fighting organisation for the liberation of the working class and all oppressed. It has national sections in various countries. The working class is the class of all those (and their families) who are forced to sell their labour power as wage earners to the capitalists. The RCIT stands on the theory and practice of the revolutionary workers' movement associated with the names of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

Capitalism endangers our lives and the future of humanity. Unemployment, war, environmental disasters, hunger, exploitation, are part of everyday life under capitalism as are the national oppression of migrants and nations and the oppression of women, young people and homosexuals. Therefore, we want to eliminate capitalism.

The liberation of the working class and all oppressed is possible only in a classless society without exploitation and oppression. Such a society can only be established internationally.

Therefore, the RCIT is fighting for a socialist revolution at home and around the world.

This revolution must be carried out and led by the working class, for she is the only class that has nothing to lose but their chains.

The revolution can not proceed peacefully because never before has a ruling class voluntarily surrendered their power. The road to liberation includes necessarily the armed rebellion and civil war against the capitalists.

The RCIT is fighting for the establishment of workers' and peasant republics, where the oppressed organize themselves in rank and file meetings in factories, neighbourhoods and schools – in councils. These councils elect and control the government and all other authorities and can always replace them.

Real socialism and communism has nothing to do with the so-called "real existing socialism" in the Soviet Union, China, Cuba or Eastern Europe. In these countries, a bureaucracy dominated and oppressed the proletariat.

The RCIT supports all efforts to improve the living conditions of workers and the oppressed. We combine this with a perspective of the overthrow of capitalism.

We work inside the trade unions and advocate class struggle, socialism and workers' democracy. But trade unions and social democracy are controlled by a bureaucracy. This bureaucracy is a layer which is connected with the state and capital via jobs and privileges. It is far from the interests and

living circumstances of the members. This bureaucracy's basis rests mainly on the top, privileged layers of the working class - the workers' aristocracy. The struggle for the liberation of the working class must be based on the broad mass of the proletariat rather than their upper strata.

The RCIT strives for unity in action with other organizations. However, we are aware that the policy of social democracy and the pseudo-revolutionary groups is dangerous and they ultimately represent an obstacle to the emancipation of the working class.

We fight for the expropriation of the big land owners as well as for the nationalisation of the land and its distribution to the poor and landless peasants. We fight for the independent organisation of the rural workers.

We support national liberation movements against oppression. We also support the anti-imperialist struggles of oppressed peoples against the great powers. Within these movements we advocate a revolutionary leadership as an alternative to nationalist or reformist forces.

In a war between imperialist states (e.g. U.S., China, EU, Russia, Japan) we take a revolutionary defeatist position, i.e. we don't support neither side and advocate the transformation of the war into a civil war against the ruling class. In a war between an imperialist power (or its stooge) and a semi-colonial country we stand for the defeat of the former and the victory of the oppressed country.

The struggle against national and social oppression (women, youth, sexual minorities etc.) must be led by the working class. We fight for revolutionary movements of the oppressed (women, youth, migrants etc.) based on the working class. We oppose the leadership of petty-bourgeois forces (feminism, nationalism, Islamism etc.) and strive to replace them by a revolutionary communist leadership.

Only with a revolutionary party fighting as its leadership can the working class win. The construction of such a party and the conduct of a successful revolution as it was demonstrated by the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky in Russia are a model for the revolutionary parties and revolutions also in the 21 Century.

For new, revolutionary workers' parties in all countries! For a 5<sup>th</sup> Workers International on a revolutionary program! Join the RCIT!

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*



