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The picture on the cover shows Zambian student leaders addressing a rally on 21 March 2018 in Lusaka.  
Source: RCIT Zambia

*Revolutionary Communism* is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Zambia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria. The RCIT has fraternal relations with the *Economic Liberation Association* (Zambia), the *Alkebulan School of Black Studies* (Kenya), the *Marxist Group 'Class Politics'* (Russia) and *Sınıf Savaşı* (Turkey).

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# Zambia: Stop the Repression against Students!

## Police arrested 333 students after mass protests of Evelyn Hone students in Lusaka

Report (with Pictures) from the RCIT Section in Zambia, 24 March 2018

On Wednesday, 21 March, a huge number of students of the Evelyn Hone College went on the street in Lusaka. (See pictures below) They protested against the unacceptable delays to release their 2017 end year exam results. Evelyn Hone College is the largest college in Zambia.

However, their just protest was met with brutal violence. Police initially arrested 126 male and female students. When more students joined the protest to demand the release of their brothers and sisters, police arrested many more. All in all, 333 students were thrown into prison by the end of the day!

The Evelyn Hone College Student Union negotiated with the police and due to massive solidarity all students were fi-

nally released.

Comrade X (name withheld for security reasons), who is part of the central leadership of the student union and a member of the RCIT section in Zambia, said: "The brutal repression of the police is a scandal! It is important now to show solidarity with our just struggle!" In a speech at a rally of the students he called for broad support for the students' demands.

The RCIT section in Zambia emphasises that the delay to release the students' 2017 end year exam results is just another example for the bureaucratic and incompetent nature of the education system. This is a result of the capitalist nature of education system. This is why we fight for just, socialist future!



### ZANASU demands release of Evelyn Hone students

By Mukosha Funga

Zambia National Students Union has demanded the release of 333 Evelyn Hone students who were arrested for protesting poor results saying they have a constitutional right to air their grievances. On Wednesday afternoon, police apprehended 126 students who were marching to TEVETA to demand answers on their poor results. Lusaka Province Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri confirmed to

cannot accept without somebody responsibility of information. So explain that you to trace people, it We should take more serious if v close issues from point of view. So I should be given you would give i general. So my c now is do you reasons to tell us conclude the iss asked.

Committee zhai

Student Protests in Lusaka: Student activists (left top), image from Zambian newspaper (left bottom), student union leaders address rally (right)

## Nigeria: Free the Arrested Students!

### Police arrested 333 students after mass protests of Evelyn Hole students in Lusaka

*Call of the Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria) with an Introduction of the RCIT, 27.03.2018*

**B**elow we publish a call for solidarity issued by the Nigerian comrades of the *Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance*. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) unreservedly supports this call and adds its voice to these legitimate demands. The international workers movement and popular organizations must not remain passive but demonstrate their solidarity with the arrested Nigerian students.

The global reactionary offensive of the ruling class results, among others, in an increasing number of attacks against democratic rights in Africa. This also leads to more and more incidents of repression against students at Africa's universities. The RCIT comrades from Zambia have reported about the mass arrests last week in Lusaka and we know examples of repression at universities also from comrades in other countries. We therefore ask African revolutionaries to consider the idea of building a joint international revolutionary youth movement, capable of organizing solidarity campaigns, not only in their respective countries but also on an international scale.

*International Secretariat of the RCIT*

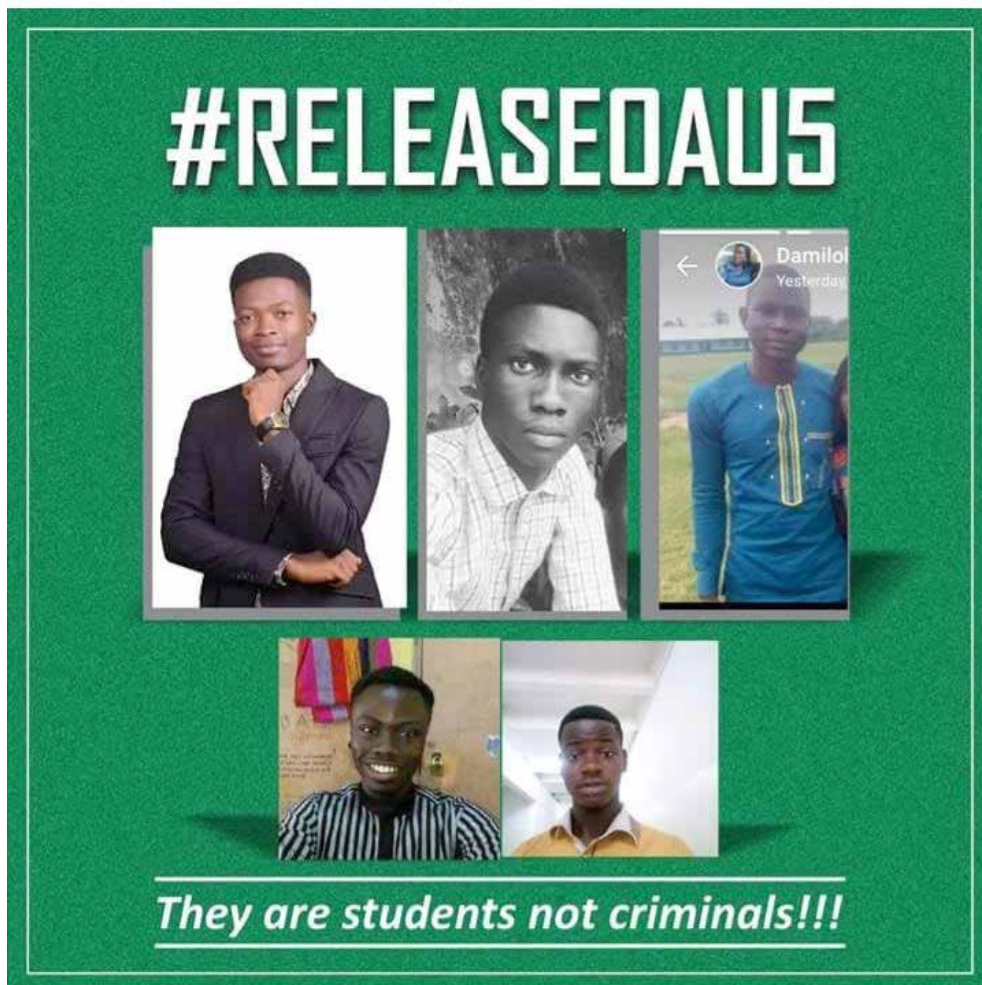
*Call from the Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), <https://m.facebook.com/pacrenaissance/?ref=bookmarks>*

*Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance* condemns the unlawful, illegal and inhumane arrest of five student-activists of the Obafemi Awolowo University by Prof. Eyiotope Ogunbodede led university management.

Since the 21st of March 2018, these students have been arrested by the university management over the crisis of accommodation. Our movement therefore demands for the immediate and unconditional release of these students. We are also demanding that the university management immediately halts the recent anti-students hostel policy. The abovementioned Pan-Afrikan movement also demands for the immediate restoration of the illegal proscribed Students Union of the university by the management. In the same vein, we are also calling on the university management to recall all student-activists that are currently serving unjust suspension and also expulsion order.

*Aluta Continua!! Victoria Acerta!! Izwe Lethu E'Afrika!! Amandla!!*

\* \* \* \* \*



*Release the Nigerian student activists! Gbenga Oloruniran, Olajide Ademola, Oyedeji Samson, Jimoh Oladipupo and Adeniji John*

## Kenya: Solidarity with the University Teachers!

*Joint Statement of the Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya) and the International Secretariat of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 20 March 2018*

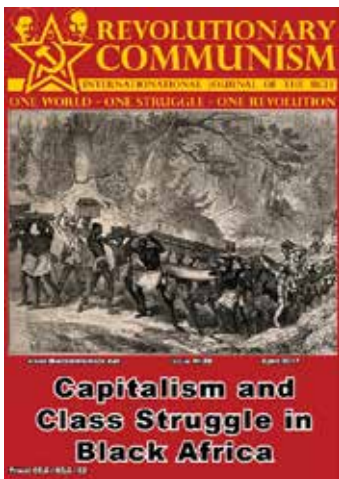
Kenya's university staff and lecturers are on strike since 1 March. They are protesting against low salaries and remuneration for academic staff as well as against the governments' refusal to offer a counter-proposal for a new collective bargaining agreement, which expired in 2017. Furthermore, they demand funding to upgrade the numerous substandard and outdated facilities in Kenya's public university system.

The strike was launched by the *Universities' Academic Staff Union* and *Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union*. On 16 March the *Employment and Labour Relations Court* ruled that the strike is illegal. However, the strikers are continuing their protests until now.

The strike has greatly affected students in public universities in Kenya. Last year the strikes combined deprived students seven months of learning due to Government failure to honour teachers' requirements.

*Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya) and the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* express their solidarity with struggle of the university staff and lecturers. Their demands for higher salaries and better funding of the universities are justified. We support this strike because we support the struggle for higher wages of employees as well as for an improvement of the education system. We call for unity and joint struggle of all workers and students against low wages, precarious labour conditions, cuts in the education system and attacks on social and health service.

We understand our solidarity with the university staff and lectures as part of the revolutionary struggle against imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation and for a socialist future which will liberate the working people in Kenya, Africa and the whole world.



### NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

## Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

*An Analysis of Imperialist Exploitation and Oppression and the Perspectives of the Liberation Struggle*

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

Introduction \* Some Background Notes on Black Africa's Modern History: How Colonial Plunder and Oppression Blocked Independent Development \* Popular Struggles against Colonialism Led to Formal Independence \* Formal Independence as Disguised Imperialist Dependency \* The Reactionary Role of White Settlers \* Is Capitalist Black Africa Rising? \* Africa in the Grip of Imperialism \* China as a new Imperialist Great Power Challenging the Western Domination \* The Working Class and the Oppressed \* Rising Class Struggle \* Key Lessons for a Revolutionary Strategy in Black Africa \* Imperialist Domination and Authoritarian Regimes Remain in Place despite Formal Changes \* Breaking the Capitalist Chain – The Program of Permanent Revolution \* The Revolutionary Struggle against Imperialism \* Imperialist Chauvinism and the Anti-Imperialist Patriotism of the Oppressed \* The Independence of the Working Class and the Struggle against the Popular Front \* The Struggle for Pan-African Unity \* The Revolutionary World Party and its African Sections \* Footnotes

## The Sound of War Drums in the Middle East

Statement by the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 22.02.2018

The shooting down of the Israeli F16 over the skies of Syria was a blow to the Israeli air force that has gotten used to control the skies of Lebanon and Syria and attack positions of Hezbollah, Syria and Iran at a whim.

It was the first time an Israeli military airplane was shot down since 1982. Following this event, four Israeli soldiers were wounded. This happened when an improvised explosive device blew up along the border with Gaza that is under siege since 2007. The Israeli soldiers were injured while trying to remove a Palestinian flag, a symbol of defiance against Israeli oppression. The Israeli army retaliated by attacking 18 Hamas positions.

According to Aljazeera reporters from Gaza, two Palestinian teenagers were killed in the southern area of the besieged Gaza Strip, following two waves of Israeli air raids.

The two bodies of the two 17-year-old boys were retrieved in the city of Rafah on Sunday morning, Ashraf al-Qudra, and spokesman for Gaza's health ministry, confirmed.

At least two other Palestinians have been wounded, one of whom is in critical condition, and are currently treated in a medical facility in Rafah. [1]

This is the most serious clash between Israel and Hamas since 2014, when Israel killed 2,300 Palestinians with more than 17,000 injured, according to the annual report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

It is difficult not to see that a new war between Israel and

Gaza or Israel and Syria, Iran and Hezbollah is on the way. The only two questions are when and with whom? It is even possible that this time Israel will face four fronts: Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iran. In such a war the interest of the international working class lies with a military defeat for imperialist Israel. However, it is more likely that the next war of Israel will begin in the south against Hamas.

We think so because the situation in Syria is becoming even more complicated by the war between the Kurds in Northern Syria and Turkey. As this statement is written a convoy of 20 vehicles with heavy machine guns carrying dozens of pro-Assad fighters entered Afrin region waving Assadist Syrian flags and chanting pro-government slogans. It has to be seen whether they will fight alongside the Kurds.

Last month, Turkey launched a major air and ground attack against the Kurds in Afrin. Syria's government has not been involved in the fighting in Afrin since 2012, but now Assad has announced his intentions to back the Kurdish YPG militia in Afrin.

The armed deployment, said Damascus, will arrive after an agreement was reached with the People's Protection Units (YPG) group, "Popular forces will arrive in Afrin within a few hours to support its people's stand against the Turkish regime's attack on the area and its people," announced Sana, the Syrian state news agency. The forces, continued Sana, will position themselves at the frontier – a move that opens up

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018 - A World Pregnant With Wars And Popular Uprisings

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – WORLD PERSPECTIVES 2018: A WORLD PREGNANT WITH WARS AND POPULAR UPRISINGS. The book's subtitle is: Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries.

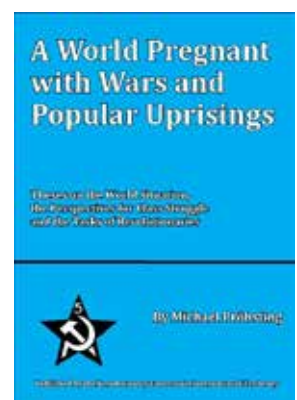
This book is a major contribution of our organization to keep the Marxists' analysis of the world situation and its accelerating contradictions updated. As we emphasize in the document, we consider it as crucial for revolutionaries to understand the nature and the inner dynamics of the current historic period. Without such an understanding it is impossible for socialists, indeed for all liberation fighters, to possess the necessary political compass on which they can base their program, strategy and tactics.

Since several years does the RCIT publish annual studies on the world situation in which it analysis its most important developments and changes. This book updates the Marxist analysis of the state of the world economy, of the relations between the Great Powers, of the struggle between the classes and the tactics of revolutionaries. We also deal in depth with new issues respectively extend our theoretical analysis on several questions. In particular we have deepened in this book,

among others, our understanding of the nature respectively the transitional character of the present world political phase, of the nature of different types of wars and the tactical conclusions arriving from this, of the complex nature of the conflicts in the Middle East, of the capitalist restoration in North Korea and, finally, we have elaborated a new proposal for an international platform for the unification of revolutionary forces in the present phase.

The book contains a preface, introduction and seven eight chapters plus an appendix (118 pages) and includes 23 figures , 9 tables and 2 maps. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/>



the possibility of direct clashes with the Turks and allied Syrian Arab militias. [2]

The reference to “popular forces” indicate that the initial units may not be the regular Syrian’s army, but paramilitaries composed of, among others, Shia Afghans recruited in Iran, and the Shabiha – the militia of Syria’s ruling Alawite community.

Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in response to the Syrian statement: “If they [the Syrians] are entering Afrin to protect YPG/PKK, nobody can stop the Turkish army.” However, he added that “there will be no problem” if the regime forces were being sent to control the Kurds. “We have always expressed our support for Syria’s territorial integrity. We are one of the countries with the utmost support for it.” [3]

Nuri Mahmoud, a spokesman for the YPG, also spoke of “preserving the unity of Syria”. He said: “We are calling on the Syrian army to protect Afrin because we would love to preserve a unified Syria.” [4] This statement is a clear betrayal of the Kurdish masses who want an independent state.

Even though the Kurdish militia has been considered the most reliable pro US imperialism in Syria, the US has not intervened militarily against Turkey on the side of the Kurds. Last month the US announced its plans to create a new armed force with the Kurds close to the Turkish border. After Turkey protested with strong words, the Pentagon said it drops this plan. [5]

While we defend the Kurds’ right to self determination in the regions they are the majority in Turkey, Syria and Iran, it is clear that the reactionary leadership of the Kurds, that

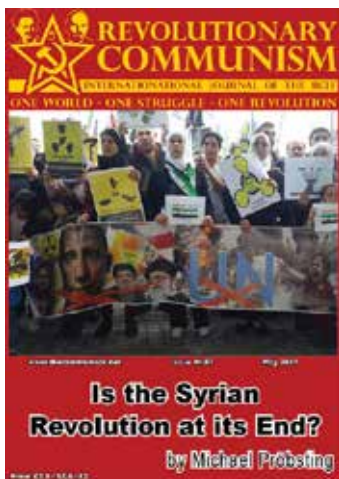
relies on the imperialists and now on Assad and that has committed many atrocities against Arabs, rather than being part of the Syrian revolution, will never be able to gain a state with their strategic alliances. As the popular saying goes “those who sleep with the dogs will wake up with fleas.” At best they will win a short lived autonomy.

Nevertheless, in the war between Turkey and the oppressed Kurds we defend the Kurds as long as they fight for their territory. However, if this war will turn into a war between Turkey and Assad’s army we will be for a revolutionary defeat for both sides. It seems, however, that Assad’s army and militias are more likely to prevent the Kurds from fighting Turkey rather than defend them against Turkey. In the meantime, it means that the hands of Assad are full and Israel will be free to attack Gaza without so much as a symbolic protest from Syria.

The Kurds, like the Palestinians, will not be free short of a victorious Arab revolution that will begin with democratic demands. In order to win it is necessary for the workers and the Fallahins to take power and establish a socialist Federation of the Middle East with red Palestine and red Kurdistan. For such a victory, revolutionary working class parties - sections of the Fifth International, must be built.

#### References:

- [1] <https://tinyurl.com/y9w33vx9>
- [2] <https://tinyurl.com/y7wgxuu4>
- [3] *ibid.*
- [4] *ibid.*
- [5] <https://tinyurl.com/yc3uljhy>



## 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*

## Syria/Idlib: The Attack of the Astana Conspirators could be repelled thus far Turkey's allies Nour al-Din al-Zenki and Ahrar al-Sham continue their aggression against Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham. This represents a mortal danger for the Syrian Revolution!

*By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 05.03.2018*

**T**he furious civil war in Idlib between different rebel factions continues without interruption. On 20 February Nour al-Din al-Zenki and Ahrar al-Sham – two rebel factions which are financed by and closely allied with the Turkish state – started a sudden and massive attack against Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). In this, they demonstrate their indifference for the tragic fate of the 400,000 Syrian brothers and sisters in Al-Ghouta which are besieged and terrorized by the Assad regime and whose situation worsens day by day. (1)

A few days before they launched their aggression against HTS, Zenki and Ahrar formally merged into the an alliance called *Jabhat Tahrir Suriya*. As numerous sources have confirmed, the Turkish Erdoğan regime supports these anti-HTS forces as it wants to pacify Idlib and implement its deal with Russia and Iran. (2) In order to achieve this, the resistance of the anti-Astana factions has to be smashed and this is why Ankara supports and coordinates all those treacherous factions which aim to destroy HTS.

This is why, as we already stated in the past, this aggression represents a mortal danger for the Syrian Revolution. From this follows our characterization of this civil war and our consequence for revolutionary tactics, that is to say to give critical support for the military struggle of HTS and allies against the pro-Astana factions: *"The character of the current civil war in Idlib is that Zenki/Ahrar act as allies of Turkey, as foot soldiers to implement Ankara's plan to pacify the region and to smash HTS as the most important obstacle for this goal. They are executors of the counter-revolutionary Astana conspiracy which aims to liquidate the Syrian Revolution. HTS on the other side currently represents those forces which oppose*

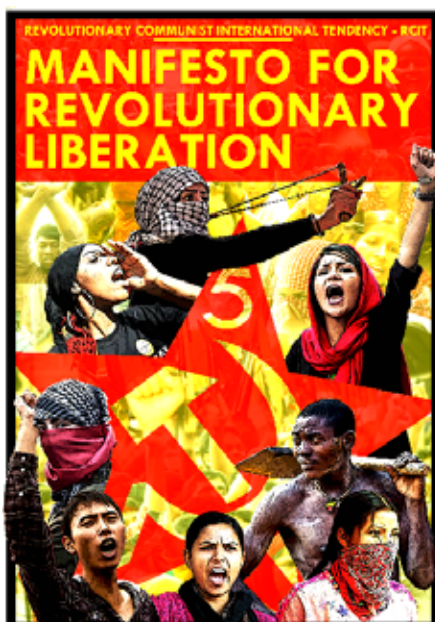
*the Astana deal and which stand for the continuation of the liberation struggle against the Assad tyranny and the imperialist occupation of the country, despite all its petty-bourgeois Islamist limitations. (...) In such a conflict revolutionaries can not remain neutral. All those who reject the reactionary Astana conspiracy and who favor the continuation of the liberation struggle must defend HTS and its allies. Of course this does not include any political support for the program of HTS."* (3)

### The Development of the Civil War until now

With the backing of the Turkish army, Zenki and Ahrar – also called *"Ahrar al-Dollar"* *"Zenki gang"* and *"servants of the Dollar"* by their opponents – succeeded in the first week to surprise and overpower HTS. They managed to conquer about 60 cities, towns and villages in the north of Syria including Maarrat al-Nu'man, Darat Izza, Khan Shaykhun, Saraqib, Morek, Ariha, and Maarrat Misrin.

As Zenki and Ahrar have refrained from participating in the recent battles against Assad's army and Daesh/ISIS in the north of Syria and kept their heavy armaments stored, they have been able now to strike against HTS with full force. HTS, on the other hand, has been militarily exhausted because it suffered serious losses in the past months as they bore the brunt of the fighting against the Assad's army and Daesh/ISIS.

However, since the 28 February, HTS and its allies – most importantly the *Turkestan Islamic Party* – have launched an impressive counter-offensive. Since then they have succeeded to recapture about 50 towns and villages in particular in North Idlib and Western Aleppo (e.g. Maarrat



### 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*



Misrin, al-Dana, Turmanin, Atme, Zardana, Hizano, Ram Hamdan, Kafr Yahmul, etc.). (See also the Map at the end of this article.) As we are writing these lines, it looks like that HTS forces have also started to regain lost ground in south Idlib and opened a front at Maarrat al-Nu'man. (4)

The main reasons for the successful counter-attack are, on one hand, smart military maneuvers including strategic retreats from areas which were difficult to defend. On the other hand, HTS has clearly built a popular base and its advance has been welcomed by the people in many towns and villages. (5)

### Background: The Struggle about the Russian-Turkish Astana Deal

The political background of the coup by the "servants of the Dollar" is the fact that HTS represents the most significant faction which continues to oppose the Astana deal. The Astana deal, as the RCIT has stated many time, is a counterrevolutionary agreement between imperialist Russia, Iran and Turkey – with the blessing of the US and European imperialists – to liquidate the Syrian Revolution. (6)

The Astana deal includes the cessation of the struggle against the Assad regime and the isolation of the rebels in a few pockets called "de-escalation zones" which are controlled and occupied by Russia, Iran respectively Turkey.

The leaderships of *Ahrar al-Sham*, *Jaish al-Islam* and various FSA factions have participated in the Astana negotiations and support its goals. A leader of the delegation of these factions in Astana, Major Yasser Abdul Rahim, defended their support for this treacherous deal in an interview with the following arguments: "What characterized the "Astana 6" conference was that each representation and coordination were extensive. All the major factions, including *Ahrar al-Sham*, *Jaish al-Islam*, representatives of the Southern Front, and more than 80% of the northern Syrian factions attended. (...) We have to ask ourselves what would have been achieved if we did not attend Astana? In the past nine months, the Syrian people have a well period of peace, no ground attacks by the Syrian regime and its Iranian and Russian allies. The bombing has been stopped, we became an internationally recognized party

and we are not terrorist groups, as the regime always tries to promote. Thousands of Syrian refugees have returned to their homes as a result of stability. (...) The conference in Astana is not a substitute for the Geneva process, it is complementary. The conference is a gateway to a political solution that will bring down Bashar al-Assad and his gang. The Turkish side was and still is supportive of the Syrian people, and its position with us during the conference was great, and continues to support our position, and its position contributed to the achievement of many gains in favor of the revolution." (7)

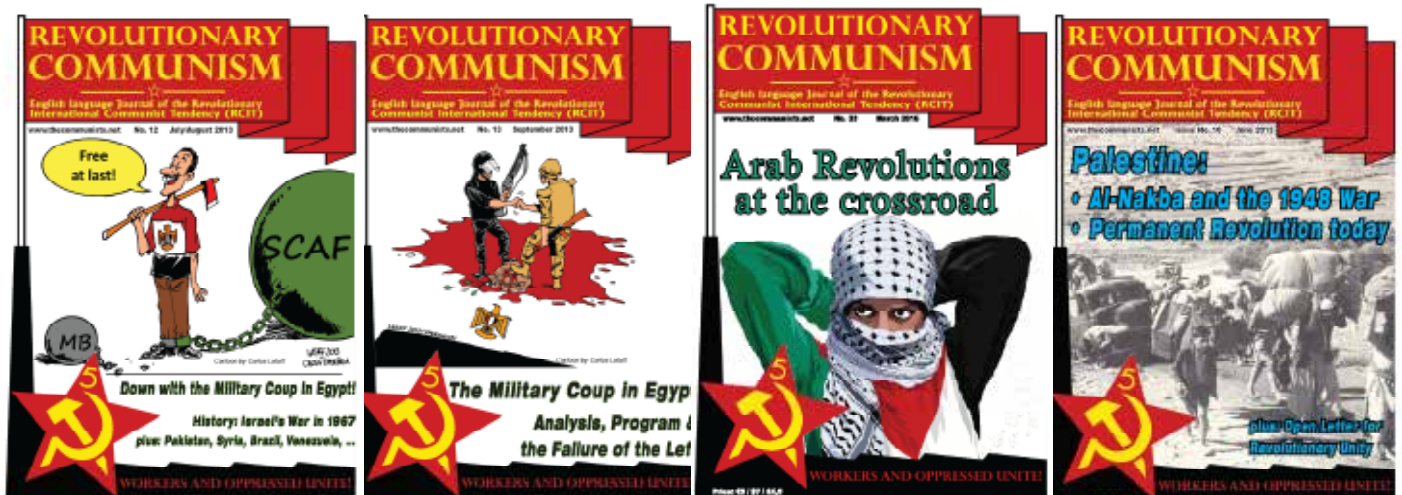
The reality has proven that these arguments have all been a smokescreen to justify the sell-out of the revolution. Neither Russia, Iran not Turkey has any serious intention to remove the Assad regime. Quite the opposite, Assad is stronger than ever. Instead of offering "peace" and "stability", the result of the Astana deal has been the ongoing catastrophes in Idlib and East Ghouta. In the past two months alone thousands were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced.

In the same interview, Rahim also stated: "Neither we nor our Turkish allies have any intention of fighting Hayat Tahrir al-Sham Organization. All that the media is reporting about imminent military action against it aims of sedition and the creation of new factional strife to make it easier for our enemy to take us one by one."

The reality of the past weeks has shown what a scandalous lie this statement has been and how correct all those, including the RCIT, have been who warned from the beginning that the Astana conspirators will try to forcefully annihilate the resistance.

On the other hand, the petty-bourgeois Islamist HTS and others have always unconditionally rejected this reactionary conspiracy against the Syrian Revolution. In a recent speech, HTS central leader Abu Muhammad al-Jolani warned: "We are facing a critical phase, due to the peace conferences in which some opposition factions are participating. We constantly repeated, warning against attempts of hijack the Syrian revolution, from the beginning. The most dangerous of those [conferences] is the so-called Astana [process], that we rejected in its entirety. While a lot of people blamed us for that [stance at the time], many are now supporting what we said about it and have done during the Astana talks."

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The so-called Astana talks succeeded in conferring legitimacy on the Russia occupation and its place as part of a political solution and even a "peace guarantor" for stopping the criminal Asad regime's atrocities. Russia, along with Iran, succeeded in forcing many opposition factions to cease fighting against Asad regime on the fronts, even making some of the brothers in the opposition start media campaigns against Tahrir al-Sham when they started offensives. (...)

There were even cases where the opposition sent intelligence details about our battles to the enemies. All of this happened while the Asad regime continued with its non-stop military operations. Then, the de-escalation zones were formed via an agreement to divide the North [of Syria] into Turkish and Russian spheres of influence. The so-called "agreement" included a complete surrender of the areas east of the railway, which were placed outside the de-escalation zones, as we saw in the leaked agreement maps.

The Astana talks agreement just gave the Asad regime and its allies the right attack and recapture territory. We rejected it all. We rejected the agreement, and we communicated our position to Turkey, as well as to the opposition groups. Some in the opposition tried to make the mujahideen withdraw from those areas [that Astana proposed to give to the regime] in peace. We rejected the deal, which unfortunately other armed groups agreed to. (...) Astana also included [an agreement] setting up Turkish checkpoints across the [Idlib] region. We rejected it because it had no guarantees that those areas would not be given to Asad regime easily via [subsequent] deals. We also rejected it because it would make the jihad and fighting spirit weak, perhaps even making it more difficult to defend the fronts." (8)

**Splits from HTS**

The recent developments have also provoked several splits from HTS. Already a few months ago, several groups inside HTS criticized the Jolani leadership for its compromise with Turkey's project of setting up so-called "checkpoints" as well as for its break with Al-Qaeda. (9)

In October 2017, a group emerged which called itself "Jama'at Ansar al-Furqan in Bilad al Sham" and named as its leaders Ayad Tubasi (Abu Julibib) and Bilal Kharisat. It strongly denounced the Turkish invasion in Idlib and the

FSA factions supporting it. (10)

Since the beginning of the Zenki/Ahrar aggression two weeks ago, two additional new formations emerged, often consisting of smaller groups which have been part of HTS respectively al-Nusra before. Similarly to Ansar al-Furqan they support a harder line against Turkey's intervention. Furthermore they oppose Jolani's efforts to build a regional administration- the Syrian Salvation Government - and advocate a more classic al-Qaeda line of guerilla warfare.

One of them is called "Tanzim Horas al-Din" (Guardians of the Religion Organization). It unites seven al-Qaeda-affiliated groups - Jaysh al-Malahem, Jaysh al-Badiyah, Jaysh al-Sahel, Saraya al-Sahel, Saryat Kabul Jun al- Sharia and cells of Jund al-Aqsa - and will be led by Abu Humam al-Shami, a former general commander of HTS. It also includes a number of other former HTS commanders (e.g. Abu Jalibib Tubas, Abu Khadiga al-Ordini, Sami al-Aridi, Abu Qassam, Abu Adulrahman al-Maki) (11)

Another new formation is called Kataib Ansar Allah. It is a merger of different factions like Katibat Taftanaz, Katibat Saraqib, Katibat Khan al-Sabil, Katibat al-Maera, Katibat Reef al-Maarat al-Sharqi, Katibat Ansar al-Sharia, and Al-Katibat al-Khudara. (12)

While these formations are hard-core opponents of any compromise with Turkey and the Astana deal, they are adherents of a petty-bourgeois, elitist al-Qaeda strategy which is not only a dead-end but which also lacks the element of "mass orientation" which Jolani's HTS has pursued in the past years. (13)

However, one must have a realistic view of the petty-bourgeois Islamist nature of HTS and the cul-de-sac of its strategy. True, to its credit it calls the Syrian people to continue fighting against the Assad tyranny, against the Astana treachery, against Russian as well as US imperialism, against Daesh/ISIS as well as against the "corrupt" pro-Astana factions. (See e.g. the recent speech of Abu Al-Yaqazan Al-Masri, a leader of HTS. (14))

But it is thoroughly petty-bourgeois formation, hostile to any orientation which puts the working class and the poor peasants in the center of its policy and which focuses on class organs of the oppressed (i.e. workers and poor peas-

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ants council and militias). Furthermore it follows a sectarian, Sunni-centered line which is incapable of integrating Syria's minorities. It also lacks any serious internationalist orientation which would appeal to the workers and poor peasants in other countries of the Middle East.

### The Immediate Dangers

As we said, the goal of the Zenki/Ahrar coup is to smash HTS and other factions which reject Astana and which are determined to continue the liberation struggle against the Assad tyranny and its Russian and Iranian masters. While HTS was able to repel the first offensive, the war is not over. Given the fact that Russia's and Turkey's plan for implementation of the Astana deal is in danger, it is guaranteed that Ankara will do everything in power to defeat Tahrir al-Sham respectively to force its leadership to capitulate. Hence, the Turkish state – through its lackeys *Nour al-Din al-Zenki* and *Ahrar al-Sham* – will continue trying to smash the resistance of the factions opposed to the Astana deal.

Furthermore, even if the Zenki/Ahrar offensive ends up in failure, other dangers remain. There exist serious rumors from pro-Zenki/Ahrar sources which report about a meeting of "Syrian tribes and clans" with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the end of February in Urfa. This meeting is supposed to have made the decision about the formation of "a council" and an "army" of the Syrian tribes and clans' members. According to these sources, this "army will soon be heading to Idlib" in order "annihilate Tahrir al-Sham". (15)

In any case, once Turkey has succeeded to conquer Afrin, it will have more resources to send to Idlib and to attack HTS. (16)

As we have explained before, this attack represents a mortal danger for the Syrian Revolution. If Turkey's agents would succeed in defeating the anti-Astana factions in Idlib – the last significant bastion of the liberation struggle against the Assad tyranny and its Russian and Iranian masters – it would represent most likely the end of the Syrian Revolution.

### For a United Front against the Astana Conspirators!

As we stated at the beginning of this civil war in Idlib, in such a conflict revolutionaries can not remain neutral. All those who reject the reactionary Astana conspiracy and who favor the continuation of the liberation struggle must defend HTS and its allies without lending any political support for their program.

We re-emphasize the RCIT's call for a united front of all anti-capitulationist liberation forces. The basis for such a united front is very simple but summarizes the immediate tasks of the hour:

\* *No to the counter-revolutionary Astana deal!*

\* *Continue the struggle against the Assad tyranny and its Russian and Iranian masters!*

\* *No to the Turkish invasion in Idlib!*

\* *All foreign powers – Russia, US, Iran, Turkey – out of Syria!*

Naturally, such a platform is very limited. It is certainly no replacement for a positive revolutionary program. (17) But such a platform could represent a starting point to push back the reactionary offensive aimed at the liquidation of the Syrian Revolution.

### Footnotes

(1) Our take on the current tragedy in East Ghouta: Michael Pröbsting: Syria: Assad's Massacre in East Ghouta and the Western Hypercritics, 23.02.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/assad-s-massacre-in-east-ghouta-and-the-western-hypercritics/>; RKOB: Hundreds Demonstrate in Vienna in Solidarity with East Ghouta, 23.2.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/rally-in-solidarity-with-east-ghouta-23-2-2018/>; Michael Pröbsting: Stop the Slaughter of the Syrian People in Al-Ghouta! (Video Statement), on 23 February 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/multimedia-1/stop-the-slaughter-of-the-syrian-people-in-al-ghouta/>

(2) On Turkey's support for Nour al-Din al-Zenki, Ahrar al-Sham and other anti-HTS factions see e.g. STRATFOR: Three Flashpoints in the Syrian Civil War, 23.2.2018, <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/syria-civil-war-turkey-afrin-idlib-damascus-rebel-ypg>; Charles Lister: Syrian upheaval on two fronts,



HTS militants fighting against Daesh/ISIS in North Hama (Source: Ebaa Agency)

<http://www.mei.edu/content/flash/2018-02-26>, Charles Lister : [https://twitter.com/Charles\\_Lister/status/961279302846369793](https://twitter.com/Charles_Lister/status/961279302846369793); Mariya Petkova: Where is al-Qaeda in Syria? Al-Jazeera,, 2018-03-01 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/03/al-qaeda-syria-180301152110387.html>; Alexander Clarkson: No Exit: Turkey's unexpected empire in Syria, March 05 2018, <https://ahvalnews6.com/turkey-syria/no-exit-turkeys-unexpected-empire-syria>; see as a background study from a pro-Western point of view: Charles Lister: Turkey's Idlib Incursion and the HTS Question: Understanding the Long Game in Syria, October 31, 2017, <https://warontherocks.com/2017/10/turkeys-idlib-incursion-and-the-hts-question-understanding-the-long-game-in-syria/>

(3) Michael Pröbsting: Syria: Turkey's hidden war against HTS in Idlib. On the character of the military offensive of Nour al-Din al-Zenki and Ahrar al-Sham against Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham, 25.02.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/turkey-s-hidden-war-against-hts-in-idlib/>

(4) There are various English-language sources which cover the regular developments of the civil war in Idlib. Among the useful and serious sources are the *Syrian War Daily* ([www.syrianwar-daily.com](http://www.syrianwar-daily.com)) and the *Syrian Observatory for Human Rights* (<http://www.syriaahr.com>)

(5) Many videos of people welcoming the advancing liberation forces are circulating on social media. Several of them can be viewed here: <https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/969336700597088257>, <https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/969327168261115904>, [https://twitter.com/syrian\\_revoo/status/969296969637167105](https://twitter.com/syrian_revoo/status/969296969637167105), <https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/969292836960178176>, <https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/970041747849007104>, <https://orbisnjus.com/2018/03/04/video-hayat-tahrir-al-sham-paradiert-nach-siegeueber-die-befreiungsfront-syriens-auf-den-strassen-von-hazanu-in-idlib/>

(6) On the RCIT's assessment of the Astana deal see e.g.: Michael Pröbsting: Syrian Revolution: The Moment of Truth is Approaching! Rally to defend the Syrian Revolution against the Imperialist conspiracy called the "Astana Deal"! 20.09.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-moment-of-truth-approaching/>; RCIT: Syria: Defend Idlib against the Great Powers! Down with the reactionary Astana Deal! Defend the Revolution against the butcher Assad, against Russian and US Imperialism and the local Allies! Victory to the Struggle of the Workers and Oppressed! 04.08.2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/defend-idlib-against-great-powers/>; Michael Pröbsting: Syria: The Astana-Deal Struggle Intensifies. Some Notes on Recent Developments in the Syrian Civil War and the Dangers for the Liberation Struggle, 28 July 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syrian-revolution-28-7-2017/>; 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/>

<wide/africa-and-middle-east/astana-deal/>

(7) Yasser Abdel Rahim illustrates the latest developments of "Astana 6" ... What he said about "HTS"? 15 September 2017, <http://www.aldorars.com/en/reports/35>

(8) Abu Muhammad al-Jolani: Their Plot Will Not Harm You At All. The speech is reproduced in English language here: Kyle Orton: Former Al-Qaeda Group Continues Its Efforts To Annex The Syrian Revolution, 17 January 2018, <https://kyleorton1991.wordpress.com/2018/01/17/jolani-speech-hts-trying-annex-rebels/#more-4664>.

In the same speech, Jolani also justified the enforced *modus operandi* he reached with the Turkish army when it started to enter Idlib in October 2017: "We looked to minimize the costs and prevent a war that would damage all of us. We reached a compromise with Turkey, which infuriated the Assad regime and its allies, who was counting on us to start a war against Turkey in Idlib. The enemies saw that this plan didn't work, so after that, they came up with a worse plan. In October, they used the Daesh *khawarij* members and weapons in the countryside of eastern Hama. The move by Daesh cost us several *mujahideen*, plus material losses."

While it is true that a fighting party can be forced to accept compromises and retreats in order to spare forces and to regain strength for another fight in the future (we remind readers of the Bolsheviks who signed the humiliating Brest-Litovsk treaty with German imperialism in March 1918), one has also to point out that the Jolani leadership did refrain from a political offensive against the Erdoğan regime and its political plans at that time. Worse, due to its petty-bourgeois Islamist and Arab nationalist program, it is unwilling and unable to oppose openly Turkey's war against the Kurdish people (albeit it is not participating in the Afrin operation nor has it joined the Euphrates Shield operation in 2017.)

On the HTS opposition against the Turkish occupation of north Syria see also Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham: The attack carried out by the factions on Idlib is a treason, 9 October 2017 <http://www.awdnews.com/index/hayat-tahrir-al-sham-attack-carried-factions-idlib-treason/>

(9) The HTS break with Al-Qaeda has been well documented, irrespective of the fact that the Assadist fools as well as the pro-Western friends of the Syrian deny it until now. See on this e.g. A comprehensive history – How Jabhat Nusra broke its ties with Al-Qaeda. A witness report by Shaykh Abu Abdullah Shaami – Abdul Raheem Attun (Senior Shura member of Hay'at Tahrir Shaam), <https://al-maqalaat.com/2017/12/01/7/>; Kyle Orton: Former Al-Qaeda in Syria Branch Arrests Members of Al-Qaeda in Syria, <http://henryjacksonsociety.org/2017/11/28/former-al-qaeda-in-syria-branch-arrests-members-of-al-qaeda-in-syria/>; Charles Lister: Profiling Jabhat al-Nusra, The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, Analysis Paper, No. 24, July 2016; Aymenn al-Tamimi: The Formation of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham and Wider Tensions in the Syrian Insurgency, in: CTC Sentinel, Volume 10, Issue 2 (February 2017), pp.



## 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

16-20; Charles Lister: Al-Qaida's Complex Balancing Act in Syria, in: Perspectives on Terrorism, Special Issue on Al-Qaida, Volume XI, Issue 6 (December 2017), pp. 122-129; Aymenn al-Tamimi: Success for al-Qaida in Syria? In: ibid, pp. 130-138; Sam Heller: The Strategic Logic of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, in: ibid, pp. 139-152; Charles Lister: How al-Qa'ida Lost Control of its Syrian Affiliate: The Inside Story, in: CTC Sentinel, Volume 11, Issue 2 (February 2018), pp. 1-9; Murtaza Hussain: Militant Leader Talks About Break With Al Qaeda and Possible Syrian Rebel Merger, Aug. 23 2016, <https://theintercept.com/2016/08/23/militant-leader-talks-about-break-with-al-qaeda-and-possible-syrian-rebel-merger/>; Kyle Orton: Whither Al-Qaeda in Syria?, <http://henryjackson-society.org/2017/08/15/whither-al-qaeda-in-syria/>; STRATFOR: For Al Qaeda in Syria, Success Has Its Downside, March 9, 2017, <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/al-qaeda-syria-success-has-its-downside>; Charles Lister: Al-Qaeda's Turning Against its Syrian Affiliate, May 18, 2017, <http://www.mei.edu/content/article/al-qaeda-s-turning-against-its-syrian-affiliate>

(10) See e.g. Paul Antonopoulos: New Al-Qaeda linked group established in Syria, declares multiple parties as enemies, October 9, 2017, Fort Russ News, <http://www.fort-russ.com/2017/10/new-al-qaeda-linked-group-established.html>; Jama'at Ansar

al-Furqan in Bilad al Sham (JAFBS), <https://www.trackinterrorism.org/group/jamaat-ansar-al-furqan-bilad-al-sham-jafbs>

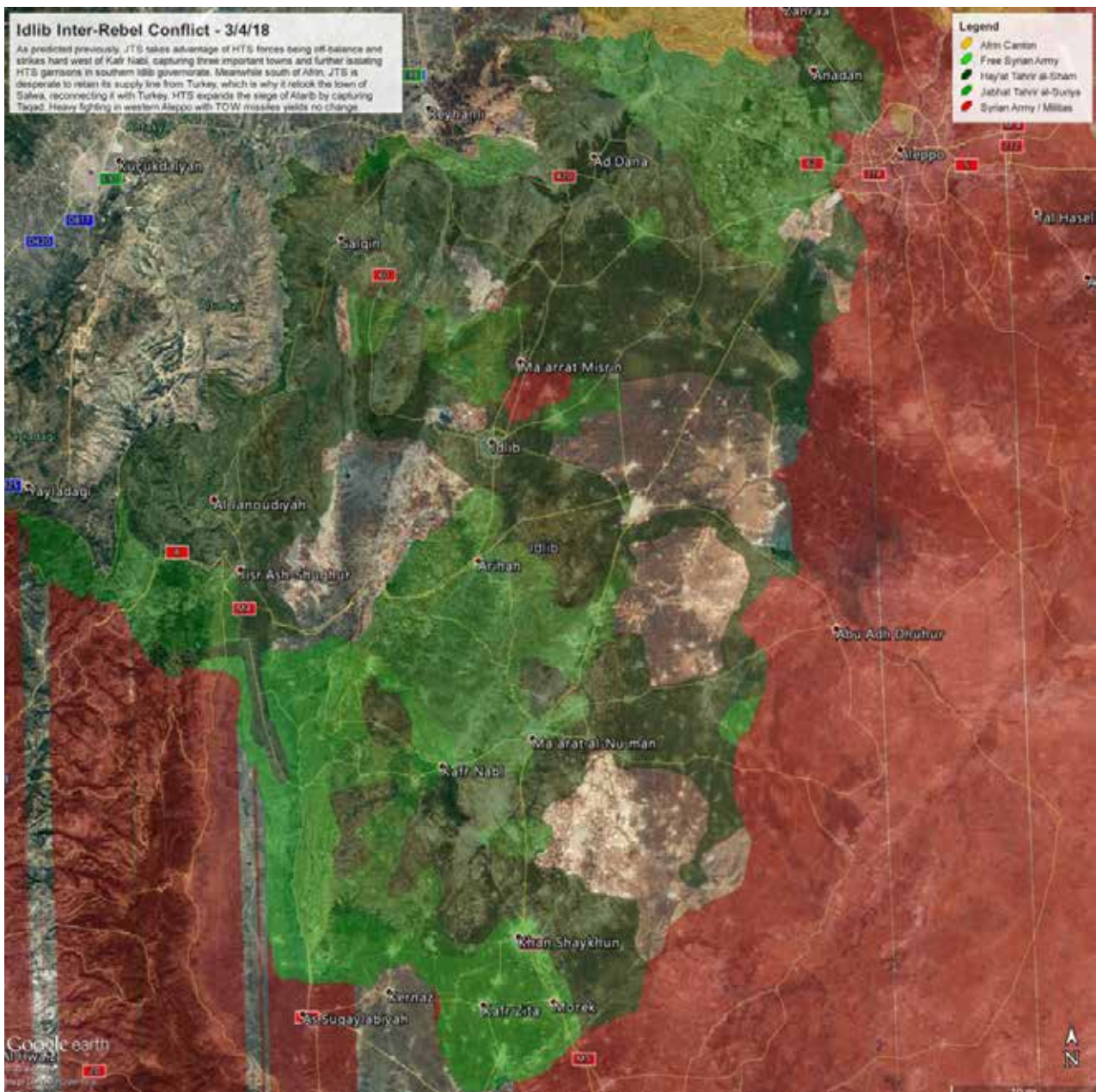
(11) Thomas Joscelyn: Jihadists form 'Guardians of the Religion' organization in Syria, March 4, 2018 <https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2018/03/jihadists-form-guardians-of-the-religion-organization-in-syria.php>; South Front: Seven Al-Qaeda-Affiliated Groups Form New Force In Northern Syria, 28.2.2018, <https://southfront.org/seven-al-qaeda-affiliated-groups-form-new-force-in-northern-syria/>

(12) Joško Barić: Syrian War Daily – 4th of March 2018, March 4, 2018, <https://syrianwardaily.com/2018/03/04/syrian-war-daily-4th-of-march-2018/>

(13) See on this our discussion of this issue in our recently published book by Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries, Chapter V. Middle East and North Africa: Reactionary Offensive, Wars and Popular Uprisings, 10 February 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/chapter-v/>

(14) In this speech, Abu Al-Yaqazan Al-Masri said: "O, People of Al-Sham, Allah has honored you to witness the fighting against the

### Map: Areas of Control in the North of Syria, 4 March 2018 (18)



Americans, the Russians, the apostates of Bashar Army, those who spread corruption in the lands, the Khawarij [this is the HTS designation for Daesh/ISIS, Ed.], and the corrupts [by this HTS means the pro-Astana rebel factions, Ed.].” (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: The fighting rages in Maarrat Al-Nu’man countryside within the abolition war and 16 fighters at least of Tahrir Al-Sham captured in the clash areas, 05/03/2018 <http://www.syriaahr.com/en/?p=86172>)

(15) Enab Baladi: Idlib’s Confrontations Continue Amidst Talks about Tribes’ Participation, 05/03/2018, <https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2018/03/idlibs-confrontations-continue-amidst-talks-tribes-participation/>

(16) Our assessment of the Turkish invasion is summarized in RCIT: Syria: No to Turkey’s Attack on Afrin! Defend the Syrian Revolution against Annihilation! The Syrian Revolution must reject sectarianism and strive to create multinational unity among Arabs, Turks and Kurds! Rally all forces against the Assadist-Iranian-Russian Aggression in Idlib! 22.01.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/no-to-turkey-s-attack-on-afrin/>

(17) The RCIT’ analysis of the Syrian Revolution and our political strategy can be read in numerous documents and articles which are collected in a special section of our website <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>. Our latest comprehensive analysis can be read in the recently published book by Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries, Chapter V. Middle East and North Africa: Reactionary Offensive, Wars and Popular Uprisings, 10 February 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/chapter-v/>; see also 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 Syr-

ian Revolution, 5 April 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syrian-revolution-not-dead/>

(18) Source: Peter Buccì: Idlib Rebel Civil War, March 4, 2018, <https://syrianwardaily.wordpress.com/2018/03/04/idlib-rebel-civil-war-4-3-18/>

\* \* \* \* \*

For the RCIT’s analysis, reportage and perspectives of the Syrian Revolution, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents which can be accessed at a special section of our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/collection-of-articles-on-the-syrian-revolution/>

Furthermore we refer readers to the following documents:

Michael Pröbsting: Syria: Turkey’s hidden war against HTS in Idlib. On the character of the military offensive of Nour al-Din al-Zenki and Ahrar al-Sham against Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham, 25.02.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/turkey-s-hidden-war-against-hts-in-idlib/>

Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings. Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries, Chapter V. Middle East and North Africa: Reactionary Offensive, Wars and Popular Uprisings, 10 February 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/chapter-v/>

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: Revolution and Counterrevolution in the Arab World: An Acid Test for Revolutionaries, 31 May 2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/theses-arab-revolution/>

# Books of the RCIT

## Michael Pröbsting: Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

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

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE*. The book’s subtitle is: *Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of organized Struggle for Bolshevism*. The book is in English-language. It contains four chapters on 148 pages and includes 42 pictures. 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.

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**

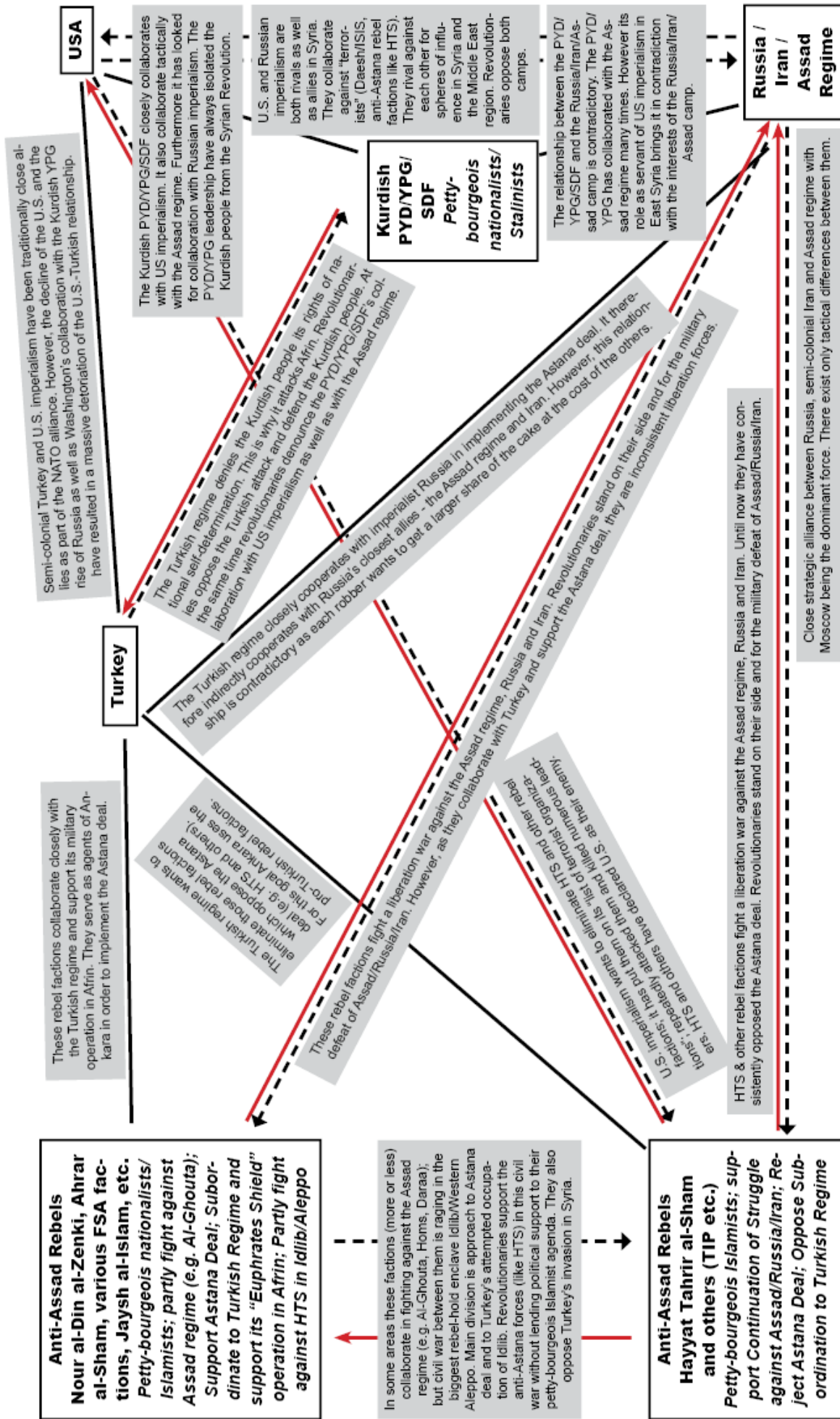
*Looking Back and Ahead after  
25 Years of organized Struggle for Bolshevism*



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

# Matrix: The Just Liberation Wars and the Reactionary Wars of Powers in Syria



## On Recent Guerrilla Attacks against Israeli Soldiers in the West Bank

*Statement by the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 22.03.2018*

If you listen or watch the Israeli news, you may get an impression that all of a sudden for no other reason other than hate for Jews, a Palestinian terrorist killed two innocent Israelis and wounded two others near Jenin.

The alleged terrorist action was a car-ramming attack by 26 years old Rattab-a-Latif Kabha who killed two Israeli soldiers. The last thing you can say about Israeli occupation soldiers is that they are but innocent victims of terror. The Israeli army is a brutal occupation force that provokes the Palestinians on a daily basis.

In strict technical legal terms, this was nothing short of a guerrilla action by an oppressed people against their armed oppressors – not corresponding with any of the myriad definitions of terrorism.

On Monday, March 12, Israeli troops used tear gas to disperse dozens of Palestinian villagers, including schoolchildren, in Burin village near the West Bank city of Nablus.

Yahia Kadous, head of Burin village's municipality, said that Israeli occupation forces entered the village, with the goal of informing the council of an Israeli decision to confiscate a parcel of land owned by a local secondary school. However, the council members refused to meet Israeli army personnel or receive any notifications.

"Afterwards, the soldiers started firing tear gas canisters at the school, terrifying students," he said, adding that the army sought to confiscate Palestinian land in the village on the pretext of "maintaining security". [1]

In recent years, Kadous asserted, the Israeli authorities had seized roughly 1,000 square meters of the school's property and now sought to confiscate more.

Israeli forces have also arrested 16 Palestinians in overnight raids across the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the army said in a Monday statement.

This week Hizmeh, a village of 7000 people, has had its entrances blocked for more than two months in a collective punitive action for alleged stone throwing at Israeli vehicles passing nearby.

In response to the killing of the two soldiers, the Israeli army has raided the Palestinian village of Bartaa, arresting the brother of a man who has killed the two Israeli soldiers.

"The Israeli colonialist army returned at 3am and raided other 30 homes in the village, leaving a series of threats to various members of our 8,000-member community," he said. Israeli forces have also suspended work permits of at least 100 members of the Kabha family as retaliation.

The killing of the soldiers was a part of the confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli occupation forces in several places in the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli state calls these protest terrorism, while from the moral point of view of the international working class these are action in the struggle for the liberation of the oppressed.

This is not the strategy or the tactics of the revolutionary working class, that among its methods of struggle are general strikes and mass armed uprising, but only hypocrites will condemn the actions of the oppressed people against the brutal oppression.

The oppression of the Palestinians will continue as long as the Zionist state will exist as an ethnocentric race-state. For this reason we keep holding on to the vision of a democratic and socialist red Palestine, where Arabs and Jews will live as true equals and the Palestinians refugees will return to their lands stolen by the colonialist settlers.

[1] <https://tinyurl.com/yqlqj4lg>



### NEW RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM!

## Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

*Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017*

**Introduction \* Foreign Exploiters – Out of Africa! \* The Wealth to Those Who Create It! Economic Freedom Now! \* Down with the Capitalist Dictatorships and Corrupt Pseudo-Democracies! \* Organize the Workers and Oppressed for the Mass Struggle! \* For a Government of Workers and Poor Peasants! For a Socialist Revolution! \* For Pan-African Unity! For the United Socialist States of Africa! \* For a United Front of Struggle! Overcome the Crisis of Leadership – Build a Revolutionary Party Nationally and Internationally! \* Appendix**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format*



## The Zionist War on the African Migrants

By Max Bonham, Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 11.03.2018

1. Israel has signed a secret treaty with a “third (i.e. not Sudan or Eritrea) African country” to extradite African refugees and migrants back to Africa while paying them 3500\$ to leave. The new regulations allow imposing a jail sentence on any migrant refusing to leave Israel - as opposed to the “voluntary departure” policy before. Several migrants have already begun serving sentences and approximately 700 went on hunger strikes.

This is, as usual, hypocritical as Israel pushed for the UN Refugee Pact in the 50's and in the 70's it loudly protested the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. In fact, it may violate the UN pact itself, according to UN experts.

*“[...] Israel has a legal obligation to ensure that no arbitrary or collective expulsions occur in its territory. Any policy of deporting people that fails to provide for due process safeguards, case-by-case risk assessments, and adequate protection measures is in violation of international law and potentially exposes individuals to further human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture,” [1]*

According to deported refugees, one of these “third African countries” is Rwanda, something which its government denies:

*“Israel has repeatedly declared that it has reached an arrangement with a third state that will protect the deportees and give them legal status and protection. It refuses to disclose the state or the agreement, even though it is known that the state is Rwanda. Rwanda denied Tuesday having signed such an agreement, and Olivier Nduhugirehe, a deputy foreign minister, tweeted Wednesday that his country's “Open doors policy only applies to those who come to Rwanda voluntary, without any*

*form of constraint.” Rwanda's vehement denials are worrisome and make it even more crucial for Israel to publish the agreement, assuming it exists. Israel cannot ignore the denials and send people to a state that has said it will not accept them. In the face of the government's unacceptable plans, the initiatives by ordinary citizens are a breath of hope. The wave of letters, petitions and demonstrations against deportation has been joined by pilots and crew members calling on airlines to refuse to fly asylum seekers against their will. Many have also undertaken to protect asylum seekers by taking them into their homes. Perhaps these efforts will lead Dery and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stop this folly at the last minute.” [2]*

The plan is set to go at full speed and include those who have applied for an asylum, a reversal of previous promises and possibly court decisions. [3]

Those migrants face daily harassment from the police and right-wing vigilantes. For example:

*“At first the two were both charged with killing the asylum seeker, but due to the difficulty in proving which one of them had caused his death with his kicks, they were sent to arbitration. There it was agreed to sign a plea bargain and amend the indictment, changing the minor's charge to causing bodily harm with grievous intent and mitigating Bershevit's penalty. Adham-Abdo's family in Sudan and his brother in Israel were briefed on the plea bargain, but were not given its exact content. The family expressed dissatisfaction and disappointment with the killers' punishment. “We know plea bargains are customary here, but my clients, the victims, feel they did not get their day in court to have their say, and they received no answers to their questions. They are left with an extremely unpleasant feeling, in addition*

## 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.

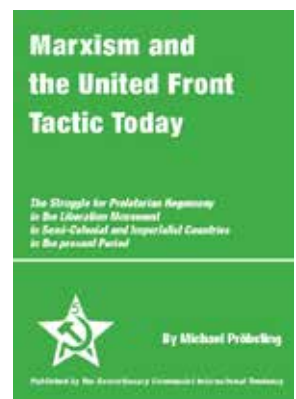
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



to the tragedy that has befallen them," said the family's lawyer Shalom Zadok." [4]

2. So far, the Palestinian Joint List has rightly opposed the deportations, with statements opposing coming both from Hadash and Balad.

3. Supporters of the Zionist left have also opposed it attending rallies and demonstrations, many of them driven by genuine anti-racist sentiments. However, the Zionist left leadership did not miss this chance to act opportunistically, as it only cares about Africans as a source of cheap labor and a cynical way to differentiate themselves from the Zionist right.

"Around 20,000 Israelis gathered alongside African asylum seekers in Tel Aviv to protest against the Israeli government's policy of deportations and imprisonment of the asylum seekers. The protest took place in south Tel Aviv, where most of the city's asylum seekers live, and local residents have long complained about their presence there. Protesters carried signs reading, "No to deportation," "We're all humans" and "Refugees and residents refuse to be enemies."" [5]

It is not difficult to notice the soft approach as none of the signs or slogans called for their inclusion as equal citizens with equal rights. To give another example, kibbutzim and restaurant owners (who employ refugees as a cheap, diminished rights and privileges, labor force) have sent letters opposing the deportations.

The weakness of the current left has driven the refugee leadership to adopt a pro-Zionist position, some are also looking to join the army, interviewing how proud are they to live in Israel, etc. This can lead down the road to suspicion of them from their obvious natural ally - the Pales-

tinian liberation movement, as they can be viewed as an extension of Israeli rule.

The white settler elite tried to integrate the Indians in South Africa in a similar way. However, Israel has enough Jews for its needs and the hard-line nature of Zionist will make it very difficult to accept any integration of Black groups (look at the Ethiopian Jews- *who are Jewish* - for example), so it will lead the refugee leadership to look to the Palestinian when the time comes.

4. This is why we challenge the ostancious "anti-racism" of the Zionist left leadership by adding a demand to unconditional citizenship to the migrants. In an attempt to expand the anti-racist opposition to the Zionist idea and movement, it is essential to tie this issue to the wider Arab revolution as well as Palestinian liberation. The divide and conquer tactics used by South African Apartheid must not come through unopposed under Zionist apartheid.

We demand:

- \* Stop the deportations and incarcerations!
- \* Unconditional and immediate citizenship to the African migrants as part of a free, red Palestine from the river to the sea!
- \* Imperialist Israel is just another of those responsible for the global refugee crisis! Stop the Israeli arming and training of African dictators and death squads!

#### References:

- [1] <https://tinyurl.com/yatvu8ya>
- [2] <https://tinyurl.com/y8rk2czw>
- [3] <https://tinyurl.com/y98t4yoc>
- [4] <https://tinyurl.com/ybojtfrrq>
- [5] <https://tinyurl.com/ycre2t5u>

## 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

# Brazil: Federal Intervention in Rio - A First Step towards Return of the Military?

Statement by the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR, (Brazilian Section of the RCIT), 18 February 2018

The news arrived in the country on the morning of February 16 when the illegitimate president Michel Temer decided for a federal military intervention in the state of Rio de Janeiro. Rio's Secretary of Security, Roberto Sá, was removed from office and in his place General Braga Netto was appointed to control all security until at least the end of the year.

The measure is a continuation and deepening of the military intervention in the streets of Rio de Janeiro that has been happening since the Olympics in 2016. In practice, the Armed Forces will occupy the streets of the city and replace the regular police. In practice the military will take control of the state.

The demonstrations of masses during the carnival celebrations strongly expressed the level of disapproval of the Brazilian population against the coup d'état and the regime of emergency. The most evident example was the parade of the *Tuiuti samba school* that shook the country showing all the effects of the coup d'état in live broadcast in national network and caused a political earthquake. The coup president was portrayed by *Tuiuti* as a neoliberal vampire who destroyed labor rights, among other things, and that image went around the world. This was devastating to the image of the government, which was almost ready to try to have a vote in Congress on the pension reform. The government had to try to react to minimize international humiliation. The Temer government's response came four days later when it declared military intervention in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

However, the Temer government justified the military intervention with the necessity to reduce the street violence, which supposedly would have increased in the last days in that same period of carnival. In reality the decree of intervention is not related to security, but to the

serious political situation of the country.

First, the Temer government was not able to fulfil the promise it gave to the financial capitalists to implement the neoliberal pension reform. It had to delay a vote in the Congress several times during the year 2107 due to insufficient support among congressmen. At the beginning of 2018 it appeared as semi-dead. In this crucial year at least half of parliamentarians did not want to risk their elections for a project rejected by 85% of the population. The popular rejection of the president in opinion polls now has reached more than 90% and, consequently, any candidate in the next elections that is very close to the president and his reforms runs the risk of not being re-elected.

The federal military intervention in Rio de Janeiro serves to solve a problem only of the president and not of the safety of the population. On the contrary, other military interventions in the state only served to protect the rich and middle class and increase oppression in the poor neighborhoods and communities of the city. The army soldier is trained specifically to kill, not to control urban violence. This is even worse when we think of popular demonstrations of workers' strikes and mobilizations of social movements. "Coincidentally" such a measure of the federal government came after several announcements of the communities living in the hills (favelas) in Rio de Janeiro appeared, saying "If they arrest Lula, the favela will come down the hills!" The reference of the masses to former president *Lula da Silva* reflects the mood of a population that does not see in the other candidates any hope of improvement of life after neoliberal reforms have been achieved. It is implicit in the message that the population of the favelas in the city will not go down the hill for samba parades.

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In short, this military intervention in the state of Rio is a first step towards a possible nationwide intervention of the Armed Forces, including the possibility of controlling the presidential elections in October, or even the cancellation of the elections and the installation of a harder regime than it is today.

So we in the *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (CCR) strongly condemn this military intervention and call on all the workers and oppressed to organize against these measures, just as we call on mass organizations and social movements to do the same. We call on CUT, MST, MTST, PSTU, the progressives sectors of PSOL, and other progressive organizations to support the mobilizations and the creation of action committees by any means necessary. This putschist regime governs every single day to advance new measures against the people. First with its tough economic measures, such structural reforms, and now with the rise of the repressive apparatus. We call for

the formation of neighborhood workers' committees to organize their own security committees against criminal violence and police violence.

*\* No to the criminalization of political demonstrations and the criminalization of social movements! Public safety is not the role of the Armed Forces! For the cancellation of federal military intervention in the state of Rio de Janeiro!*

*\* For the creation of committees of action in factories, unions, neighborhoods, favelas and peripheral regions in defense of our rights and against the government of the coup and against any military intervention! For committees of self-defense of the workers and poor in the neighborhoods and peripheries!*

*\* For the cancellation of the Pension and Labor Reform, the privatizations and the outsourcing!*

*\* Down with the constitutional provision that allows the army to intervene in political matters!*

*\* For a revolutionary workers' party – a new world party of the socialist revolution! For the Fifth International!*

# MARIELLE FRANCO, PRESENT! TODAY AND FOREVER!

*Statement of the Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (RCIT Section in Brazil), 16.3.2018*

The *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR*, Brazilian section of RCIT, expresses its regret and vehement repudiation of the murder of human rights activist and city councilor Marielle Franco (PSOL-RJ) and driver Anderson Gomes, in the center of Rio de Janeiro, (14).

To family, friends, companions of militancy, we express our solidarity in this moment of pain and consternation.

Recently, Marielle was named rapporteur of the commission that would have to monitor the military intervention in the public security of the state of Rio de Janeiro and was denouncing abuse of authority and violence by members

of the Military Police of RJ against residents of the slum Community named Acari in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

We demand a full investigation of this heinous crime and the punishment of the culprits. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all the Military Police from the favelas. We call the workers movement and popular organizations not to trust in the state authorities but to organize guards in order to provide security for its leaders.

The *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* convenes the workers to the acts and manifestations throughout the country in protest against the execution of Marielle.

Marielle Franco, Present! Today and always!

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- \* South Africa: Down with Ramaphosa!
- \* Ethiopia: No to the State of Emergency
- \* Liberia: 'Liberated' But Looted!
- \* Brazil: Presidential Elections 2018

## Mexico: “Women stand against the violence, fighting for justice and job!”

### Cultural-Political Event for Women’s Rights in Naucaplan (Mexico City)

Report (with Pictures) by Xóchitl Katari, Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (Mexican Section of the RCIT), 13 March 2018

Commemorating the International Workers Women Day the Agrupación de Lucha Socialista organized a cultural-political event on 10th March (view pictures below). The event – named “*Women stand against the violence, fighting for justice and job!*” – took place in Naucaplan, a popular area at the northwest of Mexico City with 850.000 inhabitants. It is also one of the most dangerous states in the country for the women.

The event denounced the extremely difficult situation for working women – in particular the precarity of the jobs, the low wages, the outsourcings which affects particularly

women, the lack of social security and how this become worse because the Structural Reforms of Peña Nieto. We also denounced the increment of violence against the women and the feminicide. We stated that the main responsibility for both is the impunity of the government.

The meeting was addressed by several speakers. It also had a cultural program. And we also presented a short documentation about the experience of the women that were part of the Naucaplan Solidarity Brigade which supported the earthquake victims of the 19th September last year.



Women activists holding speeches at the rally in Naucaplan (Mexico City) on 10 March

# Corbyn, Brexit and the Blairites' Call for a Second Referendum

By Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 20.3.2018

The decision to leave the European Union on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 is still causing shock waves amongst the two main political parties in Britain. Theresa May is determined to leave the European Union come what may, never mind the consequences. Discussions with the European powers have failed and May wants to leave.

Jeremy Corbyn, the left-reformist leader of the Labour party, has recently said that he wants a soft Brexit rather than a total separation. He has argued for the retention of a Customs union with Europe.

*"Jeremy Corbyn had to achieve three things in this speech. The first was finessing the party's position on the United Kingdom's customs relationship with the European Union in order to facilitate an opportunity to defeat Theresa May in the House of Commons. And it largely succeeded on all three counts. As far as Labour's point of disagreement with the government the gap between the two parties is not large though it is of vital importance as far as the Irish border goes. Both parties are seeking a bespoke arrangement after Brexit, but Labour are successfully leveraging the strength of two brands. The first is the party's overall reputation as a kinder and nicer party than the Conservatives means that "Brexit, but nicer" is a winning message for them politically even if it may stretch plausibility in policy terms."* [1]

The Blairites of course want a second referendum, reject the decision of Brexit and remain within the EU. They support a single European market and a single currency where Britain can compete on the European markets. They have no interest in protecting workers rights or defending migrants and the oppressed from racist and chauvinist attacks. Of course the majority of Blairite MP's refuse to resign their seats or lose their very lucrative parliamentary salary. Neither wing of the party concerns itself with the oppressed or migrants in Britain. Recently the Blairites have called for the introduction of identity cards – a most reactionary and racist suggestion

*"Identity cards and reforms to freedom of movement could stop a hard Brexit, says Labour's centrist pressure group Progress. More controversially, the editorial also calls for restrictions on EU workers that would see them register with authorities within days of entry and be asked to leave the UK if they haven't found employment within three months. Labour MP Anna Turley endorses the idea of revisiting ID cards and she suggests Jeremy Corbyn's call for digital citizen passports means he should back ID cards."* [2]

It has been reported that over 130,000 migrants are leaving Britain because of Brexit, immigration and the uncertainty of the situation.

The crisis of the May government continues over the question of the border with Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland voted to remain in the referendum showing clearly that they want a relationship with Eire, an EU member state, whereas the Tory government wants a fixed border ripping up the Good Friday agreement which brought the fighting between British Imperialism and the IRA to an end. Sinn Fein became part of the Northern Ireland executive together with the Democratic Unionist Party May's allies.

*"The Good Friday agreement was predicated on both Ireland and the United Kingdom being members of the European Union and the devolution settlement created a number of cross border institutions to facilitate political interaction in areas of com-*

*mon concern, both north and south. In the event of a Brexit such cross-border institutions would find it somewhat more difficult to work across the border and the sustainability of other existing EU programmes would need to be revisited. A Brexit would also deprive both the British and Irish governments of a regular and neutral venue, in the form of the European Council, whose meetings have provided the prime ministers of both Ireland and the United Kingdom to enhance Anglo-Irish relations and to discuss Northern Ireland."* [3]

Anna Soubry, a leading pro-European rebel, is proposing an amendment opposing Brexit. She has the support of 30 other Tory MP's. Corbyn is considering supporting her and this would defeat the May Government on a major confidence issue. This could mean the resignation of May and her government and a general election being called.

*"Jeremy Corbyn could use a key Brexit speech on Monday to pave the way for Labour to inflict a Commons defeat on the government, by backing a rebel Tory amendment seeking to keep Britain in "a customs union". With Theresa May expected to unveil her vision for departure from the EU next week, following eight hours of talks with key ministers, she now faces the prospect of Labour sabotaging the carefully choreographed process. The party has said for some months that customs union membership is a "viable" outcome but a series of interventions from shadow cabinet members in recent days, including Emily Thornberry and John McDonnell on Thursday, have suggested Labour is edging towards making it the preferred result."* [4]

The RCIT Britain took a revolutionary anti-imperialist position over the referendum. We called for abstention in Britain's EU Referendum. The RCIT Britain calls for maximum unity amongst socialists and revolutionaries and puts forward the following demands to resolve the crisis of leadership in the working class.

*\* Expel the Blairites from the Labour Party! No to Identity Cards!*

*\* No to Racism or any immigration controls! Open Borders and Free Movement of all peoples in and out of Britain! Fight to form councils of actions in defence of migrants and against Islamophobia! Close all immigration detention centres like Yarlswood in Bedford! End torture, sexual violence and racist abuse against Migrants and refugees!*

*\* For a United Ireland as a 32 county Workers Republic as part of a United Socialist States of Europe!*

*\* For workers defence guards to defend workers and migrants against police and fascist provocation!*

*\* For a general strike organized by the TUC to bring down this discredited and weak Tory government! For a workers government!*

*\* Join the RCIT! Let us jointly build a World Party for Socialist Revolution!*

## Footnotes

(1) <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/staggers/2018/02/jeremy-corbyn-s-coventry-speech-strikes-clever-balance-brexit-and-customs>

(2) <https://labourlist.org/2018/03/id-cards-could-stop-a-hard-brexit-says-progress/>

(3) <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/eureferendum/12161332/Could-Brexit-disturb-the-peace-in-Northern-Ireland.html>

(4) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/feb/22/jeremy-corbyn-could-back-remaining-in-eu-customs-union>

# 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!*

