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Nigeria: For a Mass Uprising against the Buhari Regime!

- * Ethiopia: Reactionary Civil War
- * Nigeria: Police & Army on the Streets
- * Western Sahara: Morocco Starts War
- * Saudi Arabia persecutes Al-Ikhwan
- * Britain: Labour before a Split?
- * Indonesia: New Omnibus Labour Law
- * South Korean Marxists Publish Booklet
- * RCIT Leader on Al Jazeera & Arabi21

English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 113, January 2021

Revolutionary New Year Greetings for 2021	p.3
We Denounce the Assassination of Iranian Scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh by Israel!	p.4
India: Victory to the “Dilli Chalo” Uprising!	p.5
Cambodia: Mass Arrests by the Hun Sen Regime	p.7
France: Bring Down Macron and his ‘Police State’ Law!	p.9
France/Egypt: Heil Sisi?	p.10
Brazil: Brutal Racist Murder of Joao Alberto Freitas	p.12
Nigeria: Indefinite General Strike to Kick-Out APC/PDP!	p.14
Nigeria: Take the #BringBackOurBoys Campaign to the Streets!	p.16
Nigeria: Bring Down the Buhari Regime through a Mass Uprising!	p.18

Picture on the Cover: Participants of the Revolution Now Rally in Lagos (Nigeria) on 5.8.2020

Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in South Korea, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Nigeria, Kenya, Britain, Germany, and Austria.

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Revolutionary New Year Greetings for 2021

In the midst of a global counterrevolutionary offensive of the ruling class and heroic mass struggles, revolutionaries must join forces!

An Open Letter from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 28.12.2020

Dear Comrades, Brothers and Sisters!
The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends its warmest New Year greetings to all fighters for liberation and justice!

Behind us lies the most tumultuous year in world politics since 1945. There can be no doubt that future historians will view the year 2020 as a historic watershed. Already in the second half of 2019, the capitalist world economy had entered its Third Depression – a crisis which dramatically accelerated with the Global Lockdown a few months later. Against the background of capitalist decay the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – in particular the U.S. and China – could not but accelerate. And at the same a global wave of popular uprisings since autumn 2019 – from Hong Kong to Chile, from Iraq to France – shook the capitalist world order.

In such a situation the ruling class – in East and West, North and South – had to wage a massive counterstrike in order to safeguard their system. The *Corona Virus Pandemic* offered them a redeeming opportunity and they fully exploited it. Hence, the *COVID-19 Counterrevolution* has become the most dangerous global offensive against democratic rights since the end of World War II. All over the world, governments exploit the pandemic in order to massively expand the chauvinist bonapartist state apparatus, restrict or abolish democracy and increase control over people's daily life. At the same time this reactionary policy offers massive business opportunities for monopolies in pharmaceutical industry, IT, retail, security and other sectors.

Such a gigantic counter-revolutionary offensive – full-heartedly supported and co-executed by the *Lockdown Left* (social democrats, Stalinists, Bolivarians and Trotsko-Revisionists) – inevitable resulted in a temporary setback of the global class struggle in spring 2020. However, the heroic masses in the U.S., in Chile, in Palestine, Syria, Nigeria, India, Thailand, France, and other countries have already renewed their struggles since summer.

The RCIT is convinced that the following developments will characterize the year 2021:

* *Economic depression* – against which revolutionaries need to advance a program of public employment and expropriation of the big corporations in industry, finance and agriculture!

* *Great Power rivalry* – against which Marxists need to advance a program of revolutionary defeatism against all Great Powers!

* *COVID-19 Counterrevolution* – against which revolutionaries need to advance a program of defense of democratic rights and for the expansion of the public health sectors under workers and popular control!

* *Global mass struggles and revolutionary uprisings* – for which revolutionaries need to advance a perspective of general strikes and armed insurrections via building fighting mass organizations and councils of action!

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! Never before has the cri-

sis of leadership been felt so painfully! The masses are taking the streets and rise up spontaneously but the revisionist “left” are confused and paralyzed (in best case) or aid the counterrevolution by supporting the Lockdown policy or by siding with one or the other Great Power (e.g. the EU, China or Russia) against its rivals.

Overcoming such a crisis of leadership is the most urgent task of the hour! Revolutionaries must aid the vanguard of the workers and oppressed in finding a correct orientation and organization. In order to advance this task, revolutionaries need to join forces.

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! Do not wait for others or fate. Aesop teaches that “*heaven helps those who help themselves.*” And so it is!

The RCIT appeals to revolutionaries around the world to join us in the struggle to build a *Revolutionary World Party* with sections in each country! Such a party should be based on a program of struggle for the period ahead, a program which combines each and every struggle with the strategic goal – the socialist world revolution! Comrades, brother and sisters, in order to meet the great tasks ahead, we must overcome routine, national-centeredness and complacency!

We can not and we do not wish to pre-determine the concrete road to achieve such a goal. It is quite possible that revolutionaries might first create blocs and alliances before uniting in a single organization. Life will tell us how to do it best. But we must act and not wait!

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! If the outgoing year was breathtaking, imagine what we will experience in the next 12 months! We have no time to lose! Let us jointly tackle the great tasks of the year 2021! Join forces with the RCIT and let us march forward!

Unity – Struggle – Victory!

International Bureau of the RCIT

* * * * *

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! The struggle for liberation must be based on dedication and knowledge! Read and study the analysis and program of the RCIT! You will find numerous statements, pamphlets and books on our website www.thecommunists.net. In particular we refer you to the RCIT's program – the “*Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation*” (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit-program-2016/>) – as well as our *Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today* (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/6-points-for-a-platform-of-revolutionary-unity-today/>).

We Denounce the Assassination of Iranian Scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh by Israel!

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 30.11.2020

The ISL, the section of the RCIT in Israel (Occupied Palestine) condemns the assassination of the Iranian top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh on Friday by the Israel. There can be no doubt that it is this imperialist settler state which has been behind this murder. *"The world should thank Israel for killing the father of Iran's nuclear weapons program, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a senior Israeli official told the New York Times on Sunday, citing the global threat such arms would pose."* (1)

This is another assassination in a chain of Israel attacks on Iran whether in Syria or Iran itself. *"The list of Iranian scientists assassinated by Israel has grown longer and Iran's security organisations feel pressured to retaliate in order to keep the psychological balance and make a political reprisal."* (2)

On January 12, 2010 Israel assassinated Senior Iranian nuclear scientist Prof. Massoud Ali Mohammadi. On October 29, 2010, Prof. Majid Shahariari, and another nuclear scientist were assassinated by Israel. On July 23, 2011, a physics professor involved in the Iranian nuclear program was. On January 11, 2012, a chemistry expert who also served as deputy director of the Natanz enrichment facility was assassinated. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was leading the Iranian's military nuclear program until it was disbanded in 2003.

These war crimes were aimed at forcing Iran to retaliate in response, which will give the government of Netanyahu the excuse to further attacks on Iran hoping to restore pro-Shah forces to power.

It is clear that Israel acted with a green light from Trump in his last days as the president of the USA. *"The assassination on Friday of Iran's leading nuclear scientist has heightened suspicions that Donald Trump, in cahoots with hardline Israeli and Saudi allies, may be trying to lure the Tehran regime into an all-out confrontation in the dying days of his presidency. Trump's four-year-long Iranian vendetta is approaching a climax – and he still has the power and the means to inflict lasting damage."* (3)

Israel is afraid that Biden will renew its agreement with Iran rather than joint military actions against Iran. Foreign Minister of Iran Javad Zarif, said on Twitter that Israel was likely behind the attack. *"Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice – with serious indications*

of Israeli role – shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators." (4)

"According to Diako Hosseini, a senior researcher with the Center for Strategic Studies, the research arm of the Iranian president's office said that Iran is unlikely to pursue a military response in the short term, but that does not mean the assassination of Fakhrizadeh will go unpunished." (5)

It is also possible that Iran will resume developing its nuclear military program. That wouldn't be surprising since it is known that Netanyahu was planning to go to a war with Iran already in 2012.

As Israel is the front line of the imperialists in the region it will not face a trial by the International Criminal Court, an imperialist forum.

While we want to see the toppling of the Iranian reactionary regime by a working class-led revolution, we oppose the imperialist attacks on Iran. In a case Israel will go to a war with Iran we will side with Iran without giving it political support.

Iran has the right to develop nuclear weapons as the imperialists are armed with such weapons and other weapons for mass destruction. Let us not forget: The USA is the only state that has used atomic bombs on civilians!

Footnotes

- 1) www.haaretz.com/israel-news/senior-israeli-official-to-nyt-world-should-thank-us-for-killing-of-iranian-nuclear-1.9334361?utm_source=Push_Notification&utm_medium=web_push&utm_campaign=General
- 2) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/28/harsh-revenge-how-will-iran-respond-to-scientists-killing>
- 3) <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/28/was-scientists-killing-the-opening-act-of-a-trump-led-war-on-iran>
- 4) www.haaretz.com/israel-news/senior-israeli-official-to-nyt-world-should-thank-us-for-killing-of-iranian-nuclear-1.9334361?utm_source=Push_Notification&utm_medium=web_push&utm_campaign=General
- 5) <https://inversezone.com/2020/11/28/hard-revenge-how-will-iran-react-to-the-murder-of-a-scientist-middle-east/>



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format

India: Victory to the “Dilli Chalo” Uprising!

Poor peasants are waging the largest struggle in modern history against the reactionary BJP government

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 22.12.2020

1. India's *kissans* (peasants) are waging a massive *Bharat Bandh* (as a national shutdown or general strike is called in India) against three neo-liberal agricultural laws of the Modi government. These *kali kanoon* (black laws, as the peasants call it) are basically aimed at liberalizing trade with peasants' products by undermining the *Agricultural Produce Market Committee* mandis which guarantees peasants a minimum support price and also sets limits to retail prices. In addition to repealing the three new laws, the peasants demand making minimum support price and state procurement a legal right, assurance of continuation of conventional procurement system, implement MS Swaminathan formula of price of produce at 50% additional to the cost of production, reduction of diesel price for agriculture purpose by 50% and abolition of electricity ordinance 2020.

2. The new agricultural laws are a massive attack on the interests of India's poor peasants. The liberalization of agricultural trade only serves the interests of big monopolies. Unsurprisingly, some of the country's most powerful capitalists like Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani are

strong advocates of the reform and make their influence felt as Modi's closest corporate allies. All this demonstrates once more that the Modi government is “populist” in words only but, in deeds, it is a servant of the super-rich and an enemy of the people!

3. The peasants' mass struggle has been launched under the historic slogan “*Dilli Chalo*” (Let's go to Delhi) which was invented by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who played a leading role in India's liberation struggle against the British colonial occupation. The largest protests have taken place in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh but demonstrations were also reported in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Kerala and other states. A high point has been the one-day general strike of 250 million workers and peasants across India on 26 November 2020 in opposition to both the farm laws as well as proposed changes to labour law. This has been the largest general strike in the history of humanity. Since then about tens of thousands of peasants – sometimes hundreds of thousands – have created camps and blockade roads around New Delhi. Another mass strike was waged on 8 December. Clashes and street



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences

What are the background and the nature of the tensions between China and India in the Sikkim border region? What should be the tactical conclusions for Socialists and Activists of the Liberation Movements?

A Pamphlet by Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format

Introductory Remarks * I. Recent Developments * II. The Struggle for Domination of Bhutan * III. The Background: Accelerating Rivalry between China and India in a Period of Capitalist Decay * China's Belt and Road Initiative * India's OCOR as an Alternative to OBOR? * India's Increasing Ties with US and Japanese Imperialism * How are the chances in a military confrontation between India and China? * IV. China as an Emerging Great Imperialist Power * China's Monopolies * Super-Exploitation of the Working Class * China's Capital Export * China as a Military Power * V. India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power * A Brief Historical Review * The Characteristics of India's Semi-Colonial Economy * India's Economic Elites: Many ... and at the same time Few * The Parasitic Nature of the Indian Bourgeoisie * India as a Regional Power and an Oppressor State * Brief Remarks on an Historic Analogy: The Ottoman Empire * VI. Revolutionary Tactics in the China-India Conflict * Appendix: Imperialist vs. Semi-Colonial State: Some Theoretical Considerations * 1. What are the Respective Characteristics of an Imperialist vs. a Semi-Colonial State? * 2. Is a Transition from Being One Type of State to Another Possible? * 3. Is the Category of “Sub-Imperialism” Useful? * Footnotes

battles between the peasants and police take regularly place. The peasant activists are withstanding freezing weather with temperatures dropping to 2-3 degree Celsius. Nearly 30 people have already died, several of them as a result of freezing weather.

4. It is a remarkable feature of the struggle that female peasants play a key role. They suffer from double oppression as they are not only discriminated as poor peasants but also because of their gender. According to *Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch*, an Indian forum that campaigns for the rights of female farmers, 75% of all farm work is conducted by women yet they own only 12% of the land!

5. The “*Dilli Chalo*” uprising is the most serious challenge to the reactionary Modi government since 2014. With nearly 60% of the Indian population depending on agriculture for their livelihoods, the growing rebellion has attracted wide support. Trade unions, major opposition parties like Congress and the Communist Parties, state governments and figures like former Miss Universe Gul Panag support the protests. Public pressure has become so strong that even India’s Supreme Court expressed concern that protests could spread across the country and suggested suspension of the three laws until a committee of farmers, agriculture experts and officials work out a solution.

6. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the peasant uprising! As the government wants to hold out and demoralize the peasants due to bad weather conditions, it is urgent to widen and escalate the struggle. It is necessary to organize another *Bharat Bandh* but not only for one day but for so long until the government accepts the protesters demands!

7. Revolutionaries should call the workers trade union to join the struggle so that they can both repel the proposed changes to labour law as well as help the peasants to realize their demands. In order to avoid a sell out by the bureaucratic leadership of the unions, it is urgent to create a leadership (with a significant proportion of women) based on delegates elected by the rank and file peasants. Likewise it is important to build *self-defense committees* defending the masses against the police.

8. Revolutionaries should also agitate among the peasants against all forms of chauvinism in order to build solidarity with the Muslim minority as well as with the oppressed people of Kashmir. This is particularly important as both have been major targets of the reactionary Hindutva chauvinist Modi government. They should also explain that the only lasting solution is a popular insurrection to overthrow the government and to create a *workers and poor peasants government* based on popular committees of action. Such a government would expropriate the capitalist class and move forward towards a rationally planned socialist society.

9. In order to implement such a perspective, revolutionaries need to unite in building a *revolutionary party* as part of a *Revolutionary World Party!* We urge activists to unite on the basis of a program of socialist revolution and international solidarity with the struggles of workers and oppressed in other countries. Join the RCIT in tackling this great task!

International Bureau of the RCIT

RCIT Publications on Kashmir & India

- * **“Azadi Kashmir”: Marxists and the independence of Kashmir**
- * **The Kashmir Question and the Indian Left Today**
- * **India: A Prison House of Nations and Lower Castes**
- * **India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony in the Role of a Regional Power**

Written by Michael Pröbsting
(International Secretary of the RCIT)

Order them via our contact addresses



Cambodia: Mass Arrests by the Hun Sen Regime

For an indefinite General Strike to remove the Hun Sen Bonapartist Clique!

Article by Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britian, December 2020

Last month over 121 Human Rights activists and former members of the *Cambodian National Rescue Party* were arrested and charged with treason. The CNRP have been banned and outlawed. They face long terms of imprisonment. Many have fled the country to avoid imprisonment and their leader Sam Rainsy is still in exile. The Bonapartist clique that is the government of Cambodia is controlled by the *Cambodian People's Party* (an ex-stalinist party) presided over by Hun Sen, the Bonapartist leader who runs the country as a police state. Human rights abuses have been reported by many and the Government of Cambodia is reviled with its democracy abuses and dictatorial methods.

"A Cambodian court has begun hearings in the treason trial of more than 100 members and backers of Cambodia's opposition and then deferred proceedings until next year, delaying a case widely condemned as a move by long-serving premier Hun Sen to crush his political rivals.

A total of 121 defendants, all tied to the forcibly dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), were summoned to appear on Thursday, but just 34 showed up, with many in exile, convinced they would not get a fair hearing. Virtually all the defendants have been charged with conspiracy to commit treason and incitement to commit a felony, which together carries a maximum penalty of 12 years in prison, according to defence lawyers and human rights activists.

Among those who were seen arriving in court were former opposition senator Thach Setha and Cambodian-American human rights activist and lawyer, Theary Seng.

"I have done nothing wrong... it's a sham trial. It's political

theatre. It is a political circus," Seng told reporters outside the courtroom" [1].

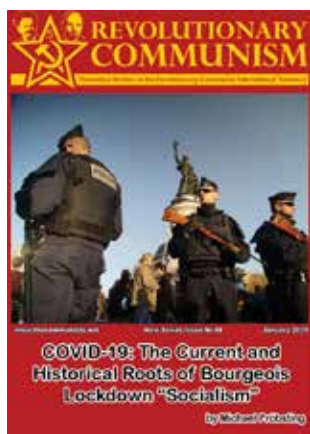
The crisis of the Bourgeois capitalist regime in Cambodia is reflected by the emergence of the third great depression and inter-imperialist rivalry between China and the United States. Hun Sen, a close ally of imperialist China is beset with debt and huge economic crisis and is reliant on China to bail it out. Cambodia is a semi-colonial country with agriculture as its main industry. The Regime has been shunned by the western imperialists because of its human rights abuses and violations and extreme political repression. However, it is obvious that the Western imperialist hypocrisy shouldn't be the measurement for democracy. It is rather an indicator if a certain semi-colonial country is more of an ally to Western or to Eastern imperialism.

The Cambodian National Rescue Party

The bourgeois opposition party, the *Cambodian National Rescue Party*, has been outlawed with its leaders and members jailed but it still continues to fight the human rights abuses. As a bourgeois party it appeals to western imperialists to support their demands for democratic and human rights.

"Outside a Cambodian provincial court late last month, Kong Moulyly pleaded with journalists and civil society to help secure her father's release.

Just minutes before, Kong Sam An had been among five opposition supporters sentenced to seven years in prison for allegedly plotting to overthrow Cambodia's government. My father is not



Publications of the RCIT

COVID-19: The Current and Historical Roots of Bourgeois Lockdown "Socialism"

Police State, Universal Basic Income & a new version of "War Socialism" of 1914

By Michael Pröbsting, January 2021

Introduction * 1. An Overview of the Policy of the Lockdown Left * 2. A Marxist Critique of Lockdownism and Universal Basic Income * 3. The Bourgeois Ideology of the "Caring State" (The Capitalist Handout State) * 4. The Objective Basis for Lockdown Socialism: Changes within the Political and Economic Physiognomy of Capitalism * 5. A Historical Analogy: The Mobilization of the Imperialist State for World War I * 6. War Socialism in 1914: The Social-Chauvinist Lensch-Cunow-Haenisch Group in German Social Democracy * 7. Lenin and other Marxists Declare War on War Socialism * 8. The Lockdown Left: A Worthy Successor of Social-Chauvinist War Socialists * 9. Once Again, the State Question: Marxism versus the Opportunist Left

A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format

guilty. Please, NGOs help us," Moulyly, 31, pleaded in a video released on social media. Next to her, Moulyly's 65-year-old mother Eab Sour held her hands together and begged: "Please help us."

Such cries of desperation are becoming increasingly common in Cambodia, where long time leader Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party appear to be pursuing an unrelenting campaign to wipe out all opposition to their rule. The main opposition party – the Cambodian National Rescue Party – was dissolved in 2017, and its members and supporters have been targeted by authorities ever since.

Kong Sam An and his co-defendants were among more than 140 CNRP activists arrested as of the end of September. Officials in the governing party have made it clear it is determined to completely eradicate the organization." [2]

"A Cambodian court has begun hearing the cases of nearly 130 opponents and government critics charged with treason for taking part in non-violent political activities over the past three years, in what one of them described as a sham trial.

Most of those being tried by the Phnom Penh municipal court are former members or supporters of the Cambodia National Rescue Party. As the sole opposition party in parliament, it had been expected to offer a strong challenge to the prime minister Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's party in the 2018 general election. But in late 2017, Hun Sen launched a sweeping crackdown on his opponents. Virtually all critical media were pressured to close or tone down their coverage, and the Cambodia National Rescue party was forced by the high court to disband and its lawmakers were removed from parliament. Many people believe the court acted to ensure that Hun Sen's party won by sweeping all the seats." [3]

Hun Sen was able in the 2018 election to win but as he had outlawed and banned the main opposition - the Cambodian National Rescue Party - he was sure of victory in an election that was fixed by Hun Sen and his government. Even basic bourgeois democratic rights are banned and outlawed in his Bonapartist state.

For a New Workers Party

The RCIT has commented on the Hun Sen government previously. The RCIT advances a struggle for proletarian power and an insurrection to remove Hun Sen and his government. The first step is to campaign for a new workers party of the proletariat in alliances with the poor peasants in order to take power. Hun Sen has been in power for over 40 years, an ex-stalinist and commander of the Khmer Rouge he was installed into power by the stalinists during the Vietnam War and like many former stalinist regimes, Cambodia gravitated to a capitalist country with mass poverty, deprivation, austerity and massive economic underdevelopment.

"His repressive and autocratic regime has jailed thousands of opponents killing protesters and banning political parties who are a threat to him. Hun Sen rose to power in 1979 when the Vietnamese Stalinists installed him into power after the Cambodian civil war. Hun Sen was a battalion commander of the Khmer Rouge. After the fall of the Khmer Rouge, Hun Sen was well placed with the support of the Vietnamese military to take power. In the 2013 general election Hun Sen came close to defeat. He won only a narrow majority against a background of voting irregularities. Again arrests and attacks on political opponents were used by Hun Sen to prevent political opposition from chal-

lenging him for power. Hun Sen's government has been marked by suspending and banning political parties for any reason whatsoever. There were protests in Phnom Penh Cambodia is a very poor semi colonial country with a largely agricultural economy. It has a poverty rate of at least 40%. Hun Sen and the Cambodian People's Party have opened up the country to foreign investors. Cambodia is heavily influenced by imperialist powers like China which invest heavily in the country and exploit the workforce who are paid low starvation wages. Hence, instead of supporting the CPP or the CNRP, socialists should strive to build an independent Workers Party. Such a party should, in our opinion, become part of a new Workers' International.

Such a Workers' Party would put together a revolutionary program which includes the expropriation of big business – including the imperialist corporations – and the nationalization of the banks under workers' control. Another important task would be to rally the poor peasants for a program that expropriates the big landowners and foments an agrarian revolution. However, in doing so, the Workers' Party has to patiently explain to the workers and poor peasants that sustainable democratic reform and social improvement can only be achieved if the working class takes power and creates a government of workers and poor peasants, based on councils and popular militias of armed masses". [4]

The RCIT has analysed the inter-imperialist rivalry of the great powers where the emerging imperialist powers of China and Russia are challenging the United States, Japan and the European Union for Hegemony.

The start of the Third World Depression is leading to more and more erosion of democratic rights and bourgeois democracy and the strengthening of Bonapartist cliques like the Hun Sen regime. Only a correct Marxist method can resolve the crisis of working class leadership, overthrow Bonapartism and Imperialism and establish socialism.

The RCIT puts forward the following programme to unite all pro-democratic forces, the working class and the urban poor to establish a workers government based on the urban and rural poor.

* For Protests and Strikes up to an Indefinite General Strike to remove the Hun Sen Government!

* Establish a Revolutionary Constituent Assembly where plans can be discussed to prepare the masses for the implication of proletarian power!

* Armed Self-defense guards and units must be set up to defend workers, the poor and the dispossessed from Police and State attacks!

* For the expropriation of all Multinational Corporations! Nationalize them under workers control without compensation!

* For the cancellation of all financial debts in Cambodia to all financial institutions including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund!

* For a New Workers Party based on a Revolutionary Program! For the construction of a truly International Workers Organization - the 5th International!

Footnotes

(1) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/26/cambodia-treason-trial>

(2) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/17/cambodias-opposition-enters-its-darkest-hour>

(3) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/26/cambodia-mass-trial-begins-of-130-government-critics-charged-with-treason>

(4) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/organize-the-struggle-against-the-hun-sen-government-in-cambodia>

France: Bring Down Macron and his 'Police State' Law!

Workers and Oppressed: Unite against Police Violence, Racism and Imperialism!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30.10.2020

1. Two shocking examples of police brutality have provoked public outrage in France. On 23 November police attacked a short-lived tent camp of refugees on the Place de la Republique in eastern Paris in the night, merciless kicking and beating anyone resisting. A few days later, Michel Zecler, a Black music producer, was brutally beaten up and racist abused by several French police officers. Such examples of police violence happen nearly every day but as they were recorded on video this time and went viral in the internet, they have provoked massive protests.

2. These events also caused public outcry since in these days the Macron government wants to push through a new 'police state' law which shall supposedly "protect" the police. In fact, this law makes it a crime to publish images of officers "with intent to cause them harm", which in reality means that it is forbidden to document police violence. Under the proposed law, those who post videos of police abuses online may be put on trial, where they would face up to a year in jail and a 45,000-euro (\$53,000) fine.

3. In response, a wave of mass demonstrations has started. Last Saturday, hundreds of thousands of people went on the streets in Paris, Bordeaux, Lille, Montpellier, Nantes and many other towns. There were also violent clashes with the police. These protests are particularly remarkable as they have taken place despite the draconic Lockdown laws of the Macron government which forbid mass assemblies under the pretext of COVID-19. Even football stars like Samuel Umtiti, Kylian Mbappé and Antoine Griezmann have expressed their outrage. Public pressure has become so strong that even Macron has been forced to admit that the images of police violence were "shameful". In addition, two of the officers are in jail while two others, also under investigation, are out on bail.

4. As these incidents are only the latest examples of a long series of police violence, they show once more:

- a) Racism is deeply entrenched in the police – in France as well as in many other countries;
- b) The police is an anti-popular force – serving the ruling class against the workers and oppressed.

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly welcomes the mass protests against police violence and the new 'police state' law. They are all the more important since the Macron government current-

ly is making a determined push to create a chauvinist bonapartist state with some elements of bourgeois democracy remaining. This has become evident from several political initiatives of Macron in the recent past.

- a) The martial declaration of war against Islam and the Muslim world resulting in massive repression against Muslim migrants as well as an imperialist foreign policy against Turkey as well as in Northern and Western Africa;
- b) The new 'police state' law;
- c) The Lockdown policy imposing curfews for the whole population, restricting democratic rights and expanding the police and surveillance state.

In fact, Macron's push is not only relevant for France but for the whole of Europe as he attempts to advance the formation of the EU as a reactionary Great Power on the lines of such an Islamophobic and authoritarian policy. The Austrian government has already started to copy such an anti-democratic offensive with mass arrests and banning of demonstrations against Islamophobia.

6. It is of utmost importance that revolutionaries in France oppose *all* these features of Macron's authoritarian inward and outward imperialism. They have to point out that these attacks – the war against Muslims, the 'police state' law, the Lockdown policy – *are all related with each other* and part of one and the same political project: *creating a chauvinist bonapartist state in the service of the French monopoly bourgeoisie.*

7. Revolutionaries in France should call the workers movement and mass organizations of migrants to mobilize against Macron and his 'police state' law. Socialists should link the current protests with the struggle against Islamophobia, against imperialist interventions in the Eastern Mediterranean and Africa, as well as against the anti-democratic Lockdown policy. They should call for the formation of *committees of action* – uniting Muslims and non-Muslims – in workplaces and neighbourhoods in order to drive forward the struggle independent of the bureaucratic leaderships.

8. Most importantly, revolutionaries should unite – in France and internationally – on the basis of a revolutionary program. We call all militants who share such an outlook to join the RCIT in building a *Revolutionary World Party!*

International Bureau of the RCIT

Comunismo Revolucionario

Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

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France/Egypt: Heil Sisi? Right-Wing Extremist Le Pen Praises Egypt Military Dictatorship as “Model” for Dealing with Muslims

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 21.12.2020

Marine Le Pen, the French leader of the far-right *Rassemblement national*, has publicly praised the dictatorship of General Sisi as a model for fighting so-called “radical Islam”. In an interview with Egyptian state media, Le Pen stated that the military regime “sets an example to the rest of the world, including France, of how to deal with poisonous ideologies”.¹

Likewise, she denounced the Muslim Brotherhood as a “terror organisation” and urged the global community to “confront them and their ideas”. She also called France to take action against Turkey and Qatar and advocated collaboration with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Greece for such purpose. “We have to develop an action plan to isolate and deter our enemies to thwart their plans.”

All that does not come as a surprise. Le Pen is the leader of the most extremist right-wing party in France, she is a well-known hate-monger against migrants in general and Muslims in particular. She has been also one of the most outspoken defenders of the racist magazine *Charlie Hebdo*² and she praised the racist teacher Samuel Paty.³ Her father was not only the founder of her party but also a lieutenant in the French army during the colonial occupation of Algeria. He is known to have tortured Arab prisoners to death.

In other words, it is only logical that such a figure admires the dictatorship of General Sisi which overthrew the only democratically elected government in July 2013, crushed all resistance forces, killed former President Mohamed Morsi, slaughtered thousands of activists and keeps more than 60,000 people in prison. Surely, she would like to deal with Muslim migrants – and probably all opponents – in France in a similar way.

However, it is worth noting that Le Pen is not an isolated figure and what she says does not cause any public outcry in France. Why? Because she is only expressing explicitly what others are doing or thinking anyway. France President Macron, who has imposed a draconic lockdown against his own people (under the pretext of COVID-19)⁴, is riding on the same road as Le Pen. In the last few months Macron waged an aggressive war against Muslims – in France as well as global. Since then, many Muslims have been arrested, mosques and cultural associations have been closed and Macron advocated the public presentation of the racist caricatures of the Prophet Mohamed. Unsurprisingly, this has provoked a global campaign to boycott French products.⁵

In addition, France has sent thousands of troops to Mali in order to combat an Islamist-led insurgency.⁶ Paris is also engaged – together with Egypt, Israel, the UAE and Greece – in sable-rattling against Turkey as it wants to get control over the huge gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean.⁷ As part of this policy Macron has also rolled out the red carpet for Sisi at his visit in early December and even awarded him the *L'ordre national de la Légion d'honneur* – the highest French honor – during a closed-door ceremony.⁸

We see, Le Pen and Macron are heading towards the same

direction. The one might use a more provocative – one could also say more explicit – language than the other but essentially they are on the same page. Essentially they agree on a policy which can be summarized in the formula “Heil Sisi!”

It is worth noting that there are also a number of so-called “socialists” who essentially share a lot with the anti-Muslim and anti-democratic outlook of Le Pen and Macron. The “Communist” Party of Egypt, pseudo-Trotskyists like Alan Woods’ IMT, the PSTU/LIT and others shamelessly hailed the military coup of General Sisi in July 2013.⁹ And many “socialists” in France aided Macron’s Islamophobic campaign by joining the public appraisal for *Charlie Hebdo* and Samuel Paty.¹⁰

What can we learn from this? Well, it is pretty clear: Don’t look at the superficial (ideological) clothes, look at the inner (political) values. There have been Christians who praised Hitler and others who died fighting against his terror-regime. There are “Muslims” who serve Arab tyrants and there are Muslims who stand up against them. And there are “socialists” who sympathize with reactionary politics of governments and there are socialists who fight such and stand together with the oppressed. There are “socialists” who support one or the other imperialist Great Power (e.g. the EU, Russia or China) and there are socialists who oppose *all* Great Powers. The RCIT and all authentic revolutionaries know which side to take!

Footnotes

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Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan.
A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting analyses the accelerating rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers – the U.S., China, EU, Russia, and Japan. He shows that the diplomatic rows, sanctions, trade wars, and military tensions between these Great Powers are not accidental or caused by a mad man in the White House. They are rather rooted in the fundamental contradictions of the capitalist system. This rivalry is a key feature of the current historic period and could, ultimately, result in major wars between these Great Powers.

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry demonstrates the validity of the Marxist analysis of modern imperialism. Using comprehensive material (including 61 Tables and Figures), Michael Pröbsting elaborates that a correct understanding of the rise of China and Russia as new Great Powers is crucial for assessing the character of the current inter-imperialist rivalry.

In *Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry* Michael Pröbsting critically discusses the analysis of modern imperialism by a number of left-wing parties (left social democrats, Stalinists, Trotskyists and others). He demon-

strates that most of these organizations fail to understand the nature of the Great Power rivalry and, consequently, are not able to take an internationalist and revolutionary stance.

The author elaborates the approach of leading Marxist figures like Lenin, Trotsky and Luxemburg to the problems of Great Power rivalry and imperialist aggression against oppressed peoples. He outlines a Marxist program for the current period which is essential for anyone who wants to change the world and bring about a socialist future.

The book contains an introduction and 29 chapters plus an appendix (412 pages) and includes 61 figures and tables. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

The Factors behind the Accelerating Rivalry between the U.S., China, Russia, EU and Japan
A Critique of the Left's Analysis and an Outline of the Marxist Perspective

By Michael Pröbsting



Published by the Revolutionary Communist International (RCI)

Brazil: Brutal Racist Murder of Joao Alberto Freitas

Transform indignation into popular revolt!

Statement of Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (Brazilian section of the RCIT), 27 November 2020

On 19 November – the day before the national holiday called “black awareness day” (1) – João Alberto Silveira Freitas, a forty-year-old black man, was beaten to death by two security guards at a hypermarket store of the French multinational corporation Carrefour in the neighborhood in the city of Porto Alegre. These two guards, Magno Braz Borges and Giovane Gaspar da Silva, are a former soldier respectively a temporary military police officer, were hired by the outsourced private security company *Vector*. Gaspar da Silva was not authorized to work as a security guard.

The two security guards led the man to the unit’s parking lot and beat him brutally while people filmed quietly, asphyxiating him for four minutes until death. According to witnesses, João Alberto asked for help and pleaded saying that he could not breathe. Security guards prevented other people from intervening, even with screams that they were killing the man. A delivery man who was on the scene and filmed the murder reported that the killers tried to delete the video and threatened him. Security guards were preemptively arrested on charges of triple-qualified murder: for futile reasons, for asphyxiation, and for using means that prevent the victim’s defense.

The striking scenes immediately brought to our memories the death by asphyxiation of George Floyd in the USA. The repercussion was strong, not only because of the savagery, but because it happened on the eve of the *Black Awareness Day* holiday.

The global CEO of Carrefour, *Alexandre Bompard*, stated the day after the tragedy that “first of all, I would like to ex-

press my deepest feelings, after the death of Mr. João Alberto Silveira Freitas. The images posted on social networks are unbearable (...) our company does not accept racism and violence “and asked the Carrefour Brasil Group to carry out a” complete review of the training actions of employees and partners in outsourcing.”

In the following days, many thousands of people showed up in front of the Carrefour stores in various capitals of the country; São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Recife, Salvador, etc. In São Paulo, one of the Carrefour stores was partially set on fire by protesters who shouted the famous slogan “black lives matter”.

In the face of several protests spreading across the country, President Bolsonaro made a statement calling protesters against racism as “trash.” Meanwhile, Vice President *Hamilton Mourão* made the most grotesque statement saying that “in Brazil there is no racism.”

Carrefour is considered the second largest retailer in Brazil and the second largest wholesale in the country and has links with the powerful Itaú Unibanco, the largest private bank in Brazil, which almost 49 years ago acquired 49% of the shares of Carrefour Soluções Financeiras.

Senator *Paulo Paim* (PT), chairman of the *Senate Human Rights Commission*, said he invited Carrefour to a meeting. Based on a list made by the senator, the *Estado de Minas* newspaper gathered six cases of racism and extreme situations that happened at Carrefour:

1) In August 2020 in Recife, the dead body of a man identified as Moisés Santos, 53, was covered with umbrellas and surrounded by boxes so that the store could continue to

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.

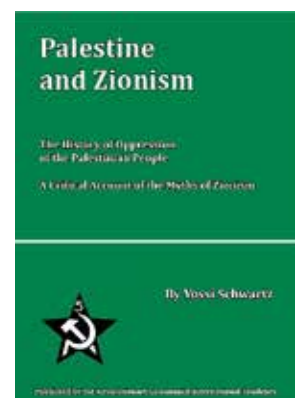
A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz provides a critical analysis of numerous Zionist myths about the Jews as well as about the Palestinians. He demonstrates that the Zionist claim that Palestine is the historic homeland of the Jews lacks any serious basis. *Palestine and Zionism* shows that the history of Zionism in the 20th century is a history of colonialism in the service of the Great Powers and directed against the native population – the Arabs. In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz deals with key events – the “Nakba” in 1948, the wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, more recent events like the Lebanon War, etc. – which were decisive for the expulsion of most Palestinians from their homeland. Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analysis the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership by signing the Oslo Agreement in 1993. In *Palestine and Zionism* Yossi Schwartz defends the right of national self-determination for the Palestinian people and outlines

a socialist perspective. He emphasizes that the only solution is the right of millions of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland and to replace the Zionist entity with one democratic state from the river to the sea – a *Free Red Palestine* with equal civil rights to the Arabs and the Israeli Jews.

The book contains an introduction and 7 chapters (112 pages) and includes 7 Tables and 3 Maps. The author of the book is Yossi Schwartz, a leading member of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency and its section in Israel / Occupied Palestine..

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



function. The body remained in place, between 8 am and 12 pm, until it was removed by the *Legal Medical Institute*.

2) In September, in Rio de Janeiro, Nataly Ventura da Silva, 31 years old, was surprised to find the phrase “*just for the whites to wear*” written on an apron.

3) In 2019, the 5th Labor Court in the city of Osasco, São Paulo, identified conditions considered degrading for the company’s employees. That’s because Carrefour was controlling the employees’ going to the bathroom.

4) In December 2018, a dog that was in the parking lot of one of the company’s stores in Osasco, died after being poisoned and beaten by an employee.

5) In 2018, company employees in São Bernardo do Campo, in ABC Paulista, attacked Luís Carlos Gomes because he opened a can of beer inside the store. Despite the customer reiterating that he would pay for the item, he was chased by the unit manager and a security guard and then cornered in a bathroom, where he received a rear naked choke.

6) In 2009, Carrefour security guards attacked the electronics technician Januário Alves de Santana, 39, in the parking lot of a unit in Osasco. He was accused of being a thief who wants to steal a car. In fact, he could prove that

he was the owner of that car.

This murder is not episodic or casual. There is no capitalism without racism, especially at this time of deep crisis. In addition, in making numerous racist speeches and provocations, president Bolsonaro is the main supporter of racist violence.

The extremely conservative and mostly white bourgeoisie in Brazil has no interest in ending racism. It is a historical process of 500 years of exploitation and oppression not only with the black people, but also with the mestizos, indigenous people and millions of poor whites. Basically, it is not just a problem of skin color, but of social class, it is the class struggle. It is the capitalist system that incorporates racism resulting in super-exploitation of black people.

We from the CCR call for a strong mobilization of the mass movement, the organized workers, the trade unions and progressive parties to give support to the resistance of the black people against our historical structural racism and oppression. We need to convert our indignation in a popular uprising!

1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Awareness_Day

Brazil: Debate about the 2nd Round of Municipal Elections 2020

Report (with Video) on a Facebook and YouTube Meeting on 05 November 2020

A representative of the *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária* (Brazilian section of the RCIT) participated in a public meeting on 05 November which debated the municipal elections in Brazil. The meeting can be viewed on Facebook and You Tube. The meeting was characterized by a highly interesting debate about the municipal elections in Brazil and the poor performance of the leftist parties. It was addressed by speakers from different

groups including the teacher Joao Evangelista who represented the RCIT section.

Below are the links to the video of meeting which lasted about 1 hour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGe2-L2v72g>

<https://www.facebook.com/emancipacaodotrabalho/videos/829442131187309>

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.

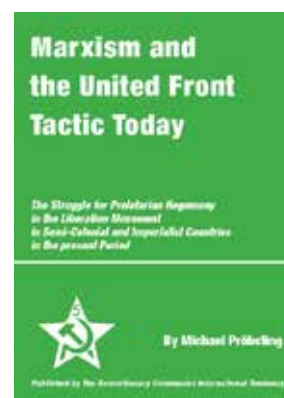
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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.



Nigeria: Indefinite General Strike to Kick-Out APC/PDP! Launch a “Wabba Must Go” Campaign! Fight for the Democratic Labour Unions!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigerian Section of the RCIT), 18.12.2020

The audacious rampage of Boko Haram and ISWAP has and will definitely embolden the rise of more decadent gangs ready to devour society through the use of arms, if not for anything, for the fact that BH/ISWAP has had a free ride to perpetuate the most vicious mayhem since 2009/10. So just two days ago, there were reports of abductions in other parts of the country.[1] Many highways and interstate routes have now been declared unsafe because of the activities of kidnappers and bandits. At least one person from all walks of life, including high-ranking members of the police and military, has had some experience with armed gangs of abductors or bandits who collected some form of ransom if they did not kill their hostages.

In any case, the rise of these violent gangs cannot be blamed solely on the activities of Boko Haram since as we have recently stated Boko Haram is an excrescence of the sustenance of the colonial model of running Nigeria coupled with anti-people policies that has left the economy in a continuum of degradation for decades which, in turn, only translates to extreme and multidimensional poverty for the overwhelming majority of Nigerians. As we speak, the already worse living conditions for the poverty capital of the world is about to become more ominous. Just imagine the chief of Army Staff, Tukur Buratai claiming that terrorism will persist in Nigeria for the next two decades![2]

In the immediate, the naira-dollar rate has sky-rocketed causing pocket tearing inflation in the price of goods and services. This is further exacerbated by the steady increase in the pump price of PMS and other petroleum products by the Buhari regime since May this year. Add to this the crazy electricity bills for unstable Power supply. Experts announced late last month that Nigeria had just entered a new economic recession but in the experience of many Nigerians the economy has never been fruitful. A study shows that almost 8000 bank workers were laid off in the first nine months of this year.[3] This is while the Nigerian corrupt ruling class continues to obtain loans from China and the World Bank for their white elephant projects such as building oil refineries abroad or in neighboring countries and allocating humongous quotas of the annual National budget to beautifying the National Assembly and other government houses so that they can siphon money by awarding contracts to family and friends. All these happen without any reduction in the jumbo salaries and numerous allowances of representatives and law makers.

However, for people to be kept in penury an iron-hand of stiff state repression is required and this can be seen most visibly in the mass murder of protesters through out the country during the END SARS protests. As the END SARS protests were coming to a halt governments at different levels launched a man-hunt for protesters and dissenters. In Rivers state, governor Nyesom Wike immediately deployed police and military forces to invade the homes of supposed IPOB members at Obigbo, these forces dragged scores of their targets out of their homes and murdered them in cold blood.[4] A similar occurrence took place

in the sub-urban or rural areas of Lagos state where local authorities, after the razing of police stations by angry youths, mobilized thugs from the Oduduwa People’s Congress (OPC), a reactionary sect which poses as a national liberation organization of the Yoruba people, on a search and kill mission of supposed looters during the protests, the people in those local government areas still fear that the harassment of this group will continue.

Several individuals and groups of protesters have been charged to court, detained or restricted from freely moving by the confiscation of their international passports. About 14 bank accounts have been frozen on accusations of allegedly funding the END SARS protests. Mr Nicholas Makolomi, the man who was instrumental in spreading the video where SARS officers brutally a young man sparking the explosion of the END SARS protests has been rearrested while DJ Switch who did a live coverage of the Lekki massacre on instagram is currently in asylum in Canada.[5]

Towards the tail end of the protests the federal lawmakers tried to resuscitate the social media bill which they had twice failed to push through because of the public outrage, there were even talks of banning Twitter in Nigeria by presidential aides. The attempts to impose draconian censorship on social media has only lost attention now because of the recent terrorist attacks. All of these occur amidst unabated police brutality as a roadside newspaper vendor was killed by men on the security detail of the speaker of the house representatives, Femi Gbajabamila, when his convoy was passing by.[6] Another man, this time a tricycle driver was killed by police for refusing to pay bribes. While other reports similar to this abound many often go unreported. There are also trace considerations amongst the ruling class to return the people to the repressive lockdowns.[7]

The governors of other Northern states like Jigawa, Zamfara and Kaduna have ordered the shut down of secondary schools in response to the recent abduction of 300 school boys in Kankara. The premonition is that more Northern states will follow suit. This happens as the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) have threatened to call for a strike should the worsening state of security persist especially regarding institutions of learning.[8] Recall that almost all universities across the nation have been paralysed by the strike of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) which demanded the payments of owed allowances and salaries of academic staff coupled with increased funding of the education sector with scrapping the austerity scheme, IPPIS. Similarly, the many branches of the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) have sustained their strike which began to spread from May during the lockdowns.

In the face of this deluge of capitalist attacks, the reactionary and corrupt bureaucracy at the head of the trade unions have kept mum. They have capitulated to all imposition of austerity measures turning a blind eye to the burning questions of insecurity as they show indifference to the shrinking democratic space in the nation. These

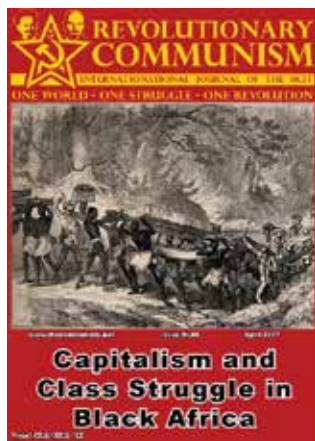
compromised bureaucratic leaderships must be driven out of the labour unions at all levels and divisions; in the sister unions as well as in the mother unions. Concretely, Ayuba Wabba and Quadri Olaleye of the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress respectively must be kicked out and replaced with truly democratic organs of workers decision making in the Labour movement.

No doubt, this is impossible without fighting for full internal democracy in the unions, that is, fighting for the unions to be democratically run by its members through regular or periodic meetings to determine the steps to take at every point in time. All decisions made by the NLC and TUC must be the summation of discussion amongst rank and file members of the labour unions even from the lowest levels. No secret meetings with the government! All meetings with the government must not be without first a congress of workers. We propose the slogan; "WABBA MUST GO" to drive in the campaign for a the dismissal of the corrupt trade union bureaucrats leading the movement and the restoration of democratic decision making in the unions.

The already striking workers union such as ASUU and NARD must lend their voice in unison to fight against insecurity and clampdown on democratic rights. It makes absolutely no difference if *truly* about 340 recently kidnapped boys have been released since this was the same thing that happened with over a hundred girls in Dapchi. More so two of the abducted students have already lost their lives in a cross fire between state forces and the captors. What is more disturbing is that there is every probability that hundreds of school boys are still in captivity since the actual number of abducted students have hardly been established, some reports put the figure at 500 while other say 600 students were abducted [9]

The popular masses must be ready to defend themselves against state sponsored thugs in uniforms and marauding gangs of armed raiders in our collective fight for emancipation from all these attacks. However, arms are meant for the sustenance or the defeat of a state. No state can exist likewise be defeated without arms. That is why all attempts by the workers and oppressed masses to rescue the abducted students must be combined with a general strike to fight all anti-people can anti-democratic attacks as well as gain freedom from the tight grip of APC/PDP!

- [1] <https://punchng.com/delta-robbers-who-didnt-find-cash-abduct-10-year-old-two-killed/>
- [2] <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/429388-terrorism-may-persist-in-nigeria-for-another-20-years-tukur-buratai.html>
- [3] <https://www.ft.com/content/ea70f0b4-5f13-423b-b1ed-6d6c424d1b91>
<http://venturesafrica.com/weekly-economic-index-nigerias-economy-enters-a-full-blown-recession-in-q3/>
- [4] <https://guardian.ng/news/banks-sack-7957-in-9-months/>
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<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54791650>
- [5] <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/12/police-re-arrest-man-behind-ughelli-viral-video-that-sparked-endsars-protest/>
- [6] <https://punchng.com/video-newspaper-vendors-protest-colleagues-killing-by-gbajabiamilas-dss-detail-in-abuja/>
- [7] <https://dailypost.ng/2020/12/15/govt-orders-immediate-closure-of-schools-reopens-isolation-centres/>
- [8] <https://twitter.com/SaharaReporters/status/1338943425899585536?s=19>
- [9] https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/nigerian-boy-tells-of-abduction-by-extremists-and-his-escape/2020/12/17/b9f49db6-4066-11eb-b58b-1623f6267960_story.html
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/17/hundreds-of-nigerian-schoolboys-released-local-governor-says>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/16/nigeria-student-attack-17-pupils-rescued-from-boko-haram>



PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

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

Nigeria: Take the #BringBackOurBoys Campaign to the Streets!

Turn this Campaign into a Popular Uprising to Bring Down the APC Regime!

Form Armed Militias to Rescue the Students and Defeat Boko Haram!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (Nigerian Section of the RCIT), 15.12.2020

1. Over 300 school boys were kidnapped by Boko Haram in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina state, north western Nigeria last Saturday. This occurs while the nation is still reeling from the agony of the massacre of dozens of rice farmers in cold blood at Zabarmari less than three weeks ago.[1] As expected the abduction has sparked the regular theatrics between sections of the Nigerian ruling class respectively the so-called Legislative and Executive arms of the Nigerian government. The National Assembly (NASS) has issued a presidential summons for Gen. Muhammadu Buhari to answer for the macabre state of security in the North after the killing of the rice farmers but the president has been a “no show”. What is more interesting is that the president was on a visit to his home town, Daura, just 200km away from Government Science Secondary School where the kidnapping took place yet he has failed to visit the school even 3 days after the event occurred![2]

2. While all of these has rightly sparked new rounds of outrage and alarm amongst liberals, left wing intellectuals and the masses at home even beyond the shores of Nigeria, the truth is that since the killing of peasant farmers in Zabarmari the attacks from BH/ISWAP has been without cessation. For instance, ISWAP terrorists kidnapped ten soldiers, killed one and seized some armoured vehicles and weapons afterwards.[3] These attacks have given more impetus to the call for the replacement of the service chiefs which many left groups such as TIB, RevolutionNow have supported actively. Other leftists and intellectuals find themselves engrossed in a rather verbose debate on whether or not the National Assembly has the right to summon the president especially since the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) decried publicly the right of NASS to seek accountability from his boss.[4]

3. Many socialist organizations limit their analyses and ways forward to the fact that only a workers and masses government can solve the problem of insecurity in the country. Others deride such left organizations for refusing or failing to expose the links between the Nigerian government and the armed insurgents. While both points are very valid these tendencies fail to call for an armed workers and peasant militia to fend off attacks and vanquish Boko Haram and ISWAP once and for all. If the solution to the problem of National insecurity, in fact all problems facing mankind, is a revolutionary workers government then why do these organizations not encourage the formation of armed militia by this same workers. Surely if the Buhari regime is complicit in the sustenance of these terrorist groups then the solution must be a people’s militia comprising of workers, peasants, students and the masses at large formed, although not as a rule, through their organs such as the trade unions, students unions and civil society organizations which must not collaborate with the state forces of the Nigerian government.

4. The failure of these “socialist” organizations to call

for the armament of the people as a means of defence is largely due to their characterization of police, military and other forces of state cohesion as workers. This can be seen in their intransigent call for increase in police wages; better welfarism for police and military personnel. Some even go as far calling for police unions.* Meanwhile Marxists have always maintained that the scientific yardstick for defining a worker lies not solely in the fact they earn a wage but that they create value in production of commodities or rendering of a service. Only by this means can the mode of exploitation inherent the capitalist system be scientifically explained and hence placed at the foundation of all misnomers in human society. Our leftists ignore this fact and subsequently ignore the fact that in the US and other imperialist countries where these forces are better paid or live under better conditions their attitude is no less racist (even now black people like Casey Goodson have been recently killed indiscriminately by police in the US) and anti-people which is a proof that their fundamental essence is to maintain the capitalist system. This is the background which restrains their most active campaign to the replacement of service chiefs.

5. The call for the replacement of the service chiefs is a genuine and popular cause amongst the masses, it possesses the potential to weaken the Buhari regime as it is a means through which the people vent their frustration at the regime but it is a demand borne out of illusion of the mass in the system. That is why failing to call the people to arms is tantamount to treacherous reformism which surrenders the people as guinea pigs for slaughter in the politics of “left-wing” forces to take power through bourgeois elections.

6. This kind of leftism also leads to a non-existent or a careless characterization of armed insurgents. In our previous piece on this issue we stated: “the Nigerian government for decades has through its neo-liberal policies which have translated to abject poverty and feudal backwardness in the Northern region been culpable in the rise of such groups as the foot soldiers of these armed insurgents are mostly paupers from the lowest rung of society”, and “BH/ISWAP are products of the deterioration of British colonial policy which granted independence on the basis that Nigeria will remain subservient to Western imperialism” [5] but this doesn’t mean all Islamic insurgents can be lumped into one category of “terrorism” as is often done by Western imperialist media. There are groups that are actually anti-imperialist such as the Tuareg rebels in Mali which revolutionaries must give military support without giving any political approval to their reactionary leaderships.

7. BH/ISWAP are of the Wahhabi-Salafi Islamists, a type of reactionary Takfiri sect that counts as enemies every other party which does not share its ideology including other muslims and is very much similar to Daesh (ISIS). This group(s) must be isolated and defeated. To not carefully characterize these groups, that is, to not estimate their concrete role in society, is to feed the propaganda which

justifies the US, Russian and EU imperialist aggression in the Middle-East; the genocide of the Israeli apartheid state in Palestine; or fanning the flames of Islamophobia by which Arab and African migrants are repressed and denied their democratic rights cum freedoms.

8. For this cause, we denounce all forms of “anti-terrorist” intervention of any Great Power whether from the Western camp (US, EU, Japan) or from the East (China, Russia). We say that all imperialist forces and military bases in Africa like the one in Mali must be driven out of the continent. Also we seize this medium to call for the dissolution and defeat of the AMISOM.[6] For us in the Vanguard, no trust must be had in the International Criminal Court (ICC), it is a puppet structure that most times bends to imperialist whims, at other times it is used as a tool of Great Power rivalry. This time bodies like the ICC claim to “investigate” just to pacify the anger of the people leading the morphing revolutionary mood to a miscarriage. Likewise, no collaboration with the native bourgeoisie—the executioners of imperialist directives, and their body guards—police and military.

9. We support the #BringBackOurBoys campaign, albeit the campaign is limited in its online form. It must be transformed into street protests and subsequently a popular uprising to bring down the Buhari regime. We reiterate that no victory over armed insurgencies can be complete without the defeat of the Nigerian capitalist elite and the freedom of the nation from the caprices of imperialism. That is why any attempt to restore tranquility to the north or any other part of the country must be combined with the struggle against economic attacks and anti-democratic attacks on the people. This uprising should have equal priority for all progressives irrespective of the region of domicile be it SW, SS, SE etc. as the propensity for armed insurgency is not limited to the north alone.

10. A mass based fighting force which is armed both ideologically and physically formed through the workers’ unions; students unions and youth organizations; and other mass based organizations; remains the only body that can quell the threat of armed insurgency as well as ascertain justice for our brothers and sisters massacred in Lekki, Obigbo and throughout the END SARS protests. [7] If these unions or organizations prove too weak by the reason of their reformist or corrupt leaderships the masses must form this force without the approval of their leaderships. In the formation of such a force caution must be taken concerning all those left-wingers who still classify the apparatus of state repression as part of the oppressed as such position can lead to betrayal in the struggle against

the capitalist system. In the end, the life-span and success of any such force of the oppressed is dependent on a revolutionary international workers party which is what the RCIT is fighting for!

* For an armed workers and peasant militia to conduct the search and rescue mission of the abducted students! Defeat Boko Haram and ISWAP through an armed peoples militia! Down with the Buhari regime! No trust in the ICC, UN or any intervention of the Great Powers!

* For the immediate end of imperialist military interventions in Africa such as MINUSMA in Mali and AMISOM in S. Support the campaign of the Arab Muslims against Islamophobia! Stop the aggression against muslims in France!

* For food, employment and housing program for the Northern poor! No discrimination against the Alimajirai!

* For a revolutionary workers party! Join the RCIT to achieve this goal!

Footnotes

* Police have protested in the past and can still protest for whatever reason but this doesn’t change the class characterization of the protesters or have major consequences for the approach of Marxists towards them just the same way the class characterization of the pro-Trump supporters now out on the streets has not changed because they are protesting for a Trump presidency.

For more on the subject of Boko Haram/ISWAP see our previous statement:

Bring Down the Buhari Regime through a Mass Uprising!

Form Armed Workers and Peasant Militias to Defend the Northern People but no “Anti-terrorist” or “Security” Collaboration with State Forces!

<https://revolutionarysocialistvanguard.wordpress.com/2020/12/07/bring-down-the-buhari-regime-through-a-mass-uprising/>

[1] https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/nigeria-kidnapping-attack-katsina-boys/2020/12/14/3be256f6-3de7-11eb-b58b-1623f6267960_story.html

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/15/boko-haram-claims-kidnapping-of-hundreds-of-nigerian-students>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/13/nigerian-police-hundreds-pupils-missing-gunmen-attack-secondary-school>

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ISWAP Terrorists Kidnap Soldier, Kill 10 Others in Borno

[4] <https://www.thecable.ng/breaking-national-assembly-has-no-power-to-summon-buhari-says-malami>

[5] <https://revolutionarysocialistvanguard.wordpress.com/2020/12/07/bring-down-the-buhari-regime-through-a-mass-uprising/>

[6] <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-down-with-french-neo-colonialism-in-west-africa/>

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[7] <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/how-obigbo-killings-affected-igbo-nation/>



Publications of the RCIT

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

Nigeria: Bring Down the Buhari Regime through a Mass Uprising!

Form Armed Workers and Peasant Militia to Defend the Northern People!

Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV) [Nigerian Section of the RCIT], 07-12-2020

1. As is widely known dozens of peasant farmers were butchered by the armed Islamist group, Boko Haram in Zabarmari village of Borno state, north-eastern Nigeria, on 28th November. Dozens other were kidnapped on the same day. This group alongside its 2016 splinter ISWAP, is responsible for the death of 30,000 Nigerians (other sources put the number at 36,000) and the displacement of over 2 million people in the Northern part of the country since 2009. The attack of Saturday was not the first but the one with the highest number of civilian casualties this year as insurgency in Northern Nigeria is fast becoming a norm. To mention only the most recent events similar to this, the convoy of the Borno state governor has been attacked twice in the past couple of months.[1] Beyond the insurgency of Boko Haram/ISWAP the security status of the nation has plumb new depths and still does so with alarming speeds with the Northern part of the country being the hot spot for more or less organized form of armed raids;

“bandits armed with guns move from house to house to harass and extort money and food from hapless people. Armed bandits go to markets to make transactions. They sack villages unchallenged. They kill farmers on their farms like what happened in Zabarmari in the northeast. In recent times, a number of farmers have been killed by bandits in Katsina State, the home state of the President. Some local government areas in the state are reportedly more of ungoverned spaces than secure parts of the polity. Similar heart-rending stories are told about Zamfara, Kebbi, Kaduna and other states in the zone.”

“The sad stories of farmers being levied by bandits as a condition to return to their farms are told by Nigerians as if these are normal things. Nigerians seem to be losing their sense of outrage at horrific news. Major highways and inter-state roads all over the country have become extremely unsafe due to the activities of kidnappers and armed robbers. Even policemen have been reportedly kidnapped by the criminals. The impunity is such that payment of ransom is freely advertised. In a number of incidents, policemen and soldiers have been killed like the people they are supposed to protect. Any honest survey of the security situation will show that no part of Nigeria is really safe. While farmers are killed by bandits in the villagers, city dwellers are kidnapped for ransom by criminals. You can only talk of the relative enormity of the problem as you move from one state to the other.”[2]

2. So to add to the long list of armed insurgents of northern Nigeria which include Boko Haram, ISWAP, Fulani herdsmen are the so called Bandits. Even if the characterization of these groups are hardly the same there still lies serious profound connections that has led to their collective or individual emergence. For instance, though there could have been some changes in the component or sponsors of Boko Haram, it was founded by Mohammed Yusuf, a Muslim scholar and a kind of local/regional elite. In like manner, the pockets of bandits, or other armed insurgents have a core consisting of some sort of strongman/strongmen, just as killer herdsmen are often times nomads in the service of some northern oligarch. Armed herdsmen have been known to attack people of the Middle Belt specifying a different ethnicity cum religion, so has the other groups mentioned above to varying degrees and at different times attacked people of different tribes or ethno-religious descent such as people from other regions; Christians or

even ethnic minorities in the north. Also, the rise of strongmanist groups and hordes of bandits is engendered by the prolonged activities not only of larger armed groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP but also of Hisbah, Myetti Allah and other pro-Sharia Islamist groups in Nigeria. Hence the question of armed insurgency in Nigeria cuts across class, national and religious lines.

3. The growing perception is that for these armed groups, especially Boko Haram/ISWAP, to have lasted for so long (since 2009) the Nigerian government is in cahoots with them. In fact in the past Gen Muhammadu Buhari has expressed sympathies for Islamic insurgency and the Islamic caliphate which suggests that he might in one way or the other be in league with BH/ISWAP irrespective of his recent verbal reactions to the attacks. It is true that the Buhari regime and the Nigerian ruling class are complicit in the sustenance of the activities of these groups but such complicity takes many forms. More so, those forms have varying consequences which must be properly understood if revolutionaries must formulate correct positions concerning the present ordeal. First, it is simpler to comprehend that the Nigerian government for decades has through its neo-liberal policies which have translated to abject poverty and feudal backwardness in the Northern region been culpable in the rise of such groups as the foot soldiers of these armed insurgents are mostly paupers from the lowest rung of society. So their fight is in a way against the present system.

4. As a poorly industrialized semi-colony or a neo-colony, unemployment, poverty, female subjugation are consequences of deliberate policies meant to keep the country underdeveloped for the super exploitation of imperialist nations. However the inner mechanisms of the execution of these policies require the sustenance of some Islamist hegemony or the preservation of a kind of oligarchy functioning under the auspices of some feudal aristocracy with strong religious (Islamist) inclinations. In short, the democratic cum national struggle is far from complete. Under such conditions the people are subjugated to the rule of the native bourgeoisie who in turn serve the imperialists. So we have the case of a faction of the Northern power elite with more or less strong sympathy for extreme Islamism while at the same time the Nigerian government which is strongly represented by the Northern bourgeoisie oscillates between the fight against the armed groups and making concessions to them for without some elements of Islamist tight grip they cannot control the North. Albeit, this Islamist forces must not be left unrestrained as they pose the threat of upsetting the mode of extraction of super-profits for the imperialist nations (which can mean a long period of hostility towards the imperialists) or they may even replace the ruling elite so that they now have direct contact with or are directly controlled by the imperialists.

5. In this light, the observations of other political analysts become clear when they say that Boko Haram and its other splinters serve either the partisan interest of APC against PDP or vice-versa meaning that ruling class factions not in government tend to be more friendly or even give material aide to the terrorists as a political tool against their

opponents. Only that when they take power they are constrained to serve the imperialists and play ball with factions of the ruling class from the South failing to advance the cause of the extremists as they may have promised. In a nutshell, the peculiar backwardness in the Northern region is what serves best imperialist interests as long as the relative balance of forces between the Islamists and the Nigerian government does not see a qualitative change. This is further confirmed by the rather unenthusiastic contributions of the imperialists to the so-called fight against terrorism in Nigeria as opposed to how it is done in Iraq and now Syria. The minister for information even blames the continued existence of these armed groups on what he calls the refusal of world powers to sell weapons to the Nigerian government. [3]

6. Of course, there can exist circumstances in which revolutionaries side with or form a military alliance with armed anti-government/anti-imperialist forces while, at the same time, not giving their reactionary leaderships political approval.* We see such conditions today in Syria, Afghanistan or Somalia. However, such conditions do not exist currently in Nigeria. The policy of BH/ISWAP is thoroughly reactionary and anti-popular. BH/ISWAP rather serve one or another faction of the ruling class or is in alliance with counterrevolutionary Takfiri ISIS. Revolutionaries must refuse any kind of support or any alliance with these forces. Likewise, no support or alliance with the army and other state forces is permissible. The workers and masses must form independent armed militias to defend themselves (Christians, people of other religions, ethnic minorities, oppressed nationalities) from attacks and undue aggression from them.

7. No real success can be gotten from efforts to defeat political Islamism without first destroying the imperialist tight-grip on Nigeria respectively demolishing the native servants of imperialism—the Nigerian capitalists. In this regard, even if BH/ISWAP is vanquished by the Nigerian state this would most likely occur by the intervention of an imperialist power, as it is there are already indications that the Buhari regime will turn to Chinese imperialism for help against Jihadi extremists meaning they wish to begin the cycle again without solving the economic basis of the problem instead worsening it. BH/ISWAP are products of the deterioration of British colonial policy which granted independence on the basis that Nigeria will remain subservient to Western imperialism so long as the north is kept stagnated so that it can continue to oppress other regions. Hence we reject all anti-terrorist intervention of any Great Power, be it US or Chinese imperialism. At this juncture it becomes imperative to state that all calls to replace the service chiefs barely scratches the surface of the problem and they constitute populism for all those left-wing forces supporting the call. Even the National Assembly's call for this is due to the international outrage sparked by the killings not a genuine desire for change.

8. Revolutionaries intransigently oppose all forms of tribalist policy. We fight for the unity of the workers and poor peasants across tribal and national lines. However, this does not mean that we consider the current borders of African states – which often have been drawn up by colonial powers – as sacrosanct. We support the largest possible unity of all national, ethnical and tribal groups within and across the current borders of Africa. At the same time, we insist that such a unity must take place – indeed, it is only sustainable – if it is based on voluntary agreement by all sides and if it includes full equality (e.g. cultural, language

rights). Such a perspective can only be realized if the workers and poor peasants succeed in liberating the continent from the grip of imperialist powers, overthrow the capitalist class and open the road to a socialist future! In other words, self-determination and equality can only be achieved by creating the United Socialist States of Africa.

9. We are against the killing of innocents, hence, we strongly condemn the massacre of the rice farmers in Zabamari and call for the defeat of BH/ISWAP by armed militia of the workers and popular masses. But no “anti-terrorist” or “security” collaboration with the henchmen of imperialism in Nigeria—police and Army. A warning: no illusion should be had that armed insurgencies are restricted to the north as the same economic conditions that enabled BH/ISWAP is very much prevalent in the Middle belt, SW, SE and SS but these insurgents may not come under a religious cloak. In the final analysis what is missing is a truly international Revolutionary Socialist Party that will fight imperialism on the international level and capitalism on the national scale. Such a party is what the RSV and our international organization the RCIT is fighting for!

** For a popular insurrection to bring down the Buhari regime! Authentic revolutionaries must form with the popular masses sincere progressives, trade unionists a publicly governed workers and peasant armed militia to defeat the capitalist regime in Abuja and defend the Northern people!*

** No joint effort with police and Army to “fight terrorism”! Remember these are the terrorists who killed 37 protesters in Lekki and others throughout the country!*

** For an end to Sharia Law! Release with immediate effect and without condition Bala Mubarak, Aminu Sharif and all persons arrested or detained by Sharia courts. Free all persons imprisoned & cancel all sentences imposed by Sharia Law! Drop all charges against El-Zakzaky and all detained Shi'ites!*

** For a national/ethnic program in which all ethnic groups/nations will have the right to self-determination and freedom of cultural expression through language, association!*

** For a food and housing program for the poor, homeless and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) in the North and all over Nigeria. This program must be funded with the taxes of the rich. Occupy all unused estates and edifices of the rich!*

** Fund education and healthcare properly with at least 26% and 15% of the budgetary allocation. Expropriate the big private firms in the oil and energy industry. Put the commanding heights of the economy and the big banks under workers and popular control. For a democratically controlled nationwide employment program planned and determined by the workers and popular masses!*

** For an international Revolutionary Workers Party! This is what the RCIT is fighting for! Join the RCIT!*

* In paragraph 6 we add as an aside that it is immaterial if BH/ISWAP is being giving material support or funding from this or that strongman; or this or that opposition party or even international Jihadist like ISIS or any other pro-Islamist government. What is important is their concrete role in concrete situations.

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/29/at-least-110-civilians-killed-in-gruesome-nigeria-massacre>

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[2] <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/12/02/the-zabamari-massacre/>

[3] <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/12/01/fg-laments-foreign-powers-refusal-to-sell-arms-to-nigeria/>

