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Picture on the Cover: The contingent of Defensorías de Géneros at a women's demonstration (Buenos Aires, 24.10.2021)

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# Martinique & Guadeloupe: General Strike and Popular Uprising against the COVID Counterrevolution!

**This is the road which the mass protests in Europe should take!**

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 26.11.2021

We might see a harbinger of the future. Bourgeois governments in Europe and other parts of the world escalate their reactionary bonapartist pandemic policy. Instead of expanding the public health sector and working towards a rational response to the pandemic, they spread panic about the “most deadly virus in history” and impose, once again, draconic lockdowns putting the whole population under a kind of semi-house arrest. In addition, these governments introduce the so-called “Green Pass” and begin to make vaccination compulsory for certain professions or even for the whole population.

This policy of capitalist governments is part of the COVID Counterrevolution – the reactionary program of the ruling class all over the world which exploits a pandemic for political and economic goals. This policy is not directed at overcoming a health crisis and reducing the number of victims of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It primarily serves the interests of the monopoly bourgeoisie to expand the bonapartist police and surveillance state as well as to increase the profits of the largest corporations – in particular those which are part of Big Pharma, Big Finance, Big Tech and Big Data. At this place, we will not elaborate our analysis of this counterrevolutionary offensive and refer readers to the numerous documents which the RCIT has published on this issue since February 2020.<sup>1</sup>

In response to the latest escalation of the reactionary

bonapartist attacks, mass protests have taken place in several European countries in the last two weeks.<sup>2</sup> In the Netherlands, youth fought vicious street battles with the police which shot several demonstrators.

However, the highest form of class struggle against the COVID Counterrevolution currently takes place outside of Europe. Since more than one week, Martinique and Guadeloupe, two Caribbean islands which are colonies of French imperialism, are experiencing popular uprisings resulting in revolutionary situations. As French colonies, both islands are affected by the restrictions as well as the mandatory vaccination for health workers which have been imposed by the reactionary Macron Administration in Paris.

In response the workers and oppressed on both islands have entered the streets, hold mass demonstrations, set up burning barricades and looted shops. In Martinique, 17 trade union organizations launched a general strike. There have been also incidents where police came under gunfire. In addition to ending the vaccination obligation, protesters have been calling for salary increases and lower petrol prices.<sup>3</sup>

The Afro-Caribbean majority population on both islands strongly opposes the compulsory vaccination which they rightly associate with their tragic history of slavery.

We shall add at this point, that another country – the Solomon Islands (in the Pacific) – also experiences currently a

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution

**What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle**

In *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* Michael Pröbsting analyses the dramatic events in spring 2020 which have opened a new historic era. A triple crisis has shocked the world. The Third Depression has begun, characterized by a devastating economic slump of the capitalist world economy which is certainly no less dramatic than the crisis which started in 1929.

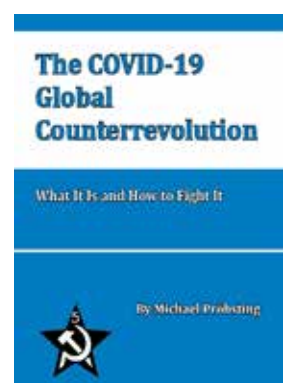
In addition, there is a wave of anti-democratic attacks of a scale which has not been seen in the imperialist countries since 1945. This has triggered a global turn towards Chauvinist State Bonapartism and the creation of a monstrous Leviathan-like state machinery.

And finally, the world faces COVID-19 – a pandemic which endangers many lives and which is exploited by the ruling classes in order to spread fear, to deflect attention from the capitalist causes of the economic crisis and to justify the turn towards chauvinist state bonapartism.

*The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* also shows that large sectors of the reformist workers movement and the

so-called left fail to understand the meaning of this triple crisis. Similar to the situation in 1914 after the beginning of World War I we can observe a gigantic wave of opportunist capitulation by many self-proclaimed socialists as they support or at least do not denounce the global lockdown and the suppression of democratic rights which the ruling classes are imposing in the name of combat against the pandemic. *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution* offers a Marxist analysis of this historic crisis and elaborates a revolutionary perspective for the struggles ahead.

The book contains an introduction and 6 chapters plus an appendix (176 pages) and includes 5 figures and a diagram.





popular uprising, albeit this is not directly related to COVID restrictions. In order to quell the uprising, Australia sent police forces which effectively occupy the capital city Honiara.<sup>4</sup>

The current events are a powerful confirmation of the Marxists' prognosis. In our analysis of the COVID Counterrevolution we have repeatedly explained that this attack is a result of the historic crisis of the capitalist system. Its decay accelerated in autumn 2019 when the Great Depression of the world economy began, in combination with a global wave of popular uprisings. While the COVID Counterrevolution in spring 2020 succeeded temporarily to shock and paralyze the masses, in the end, it only deepened the inner contradiction of this rotten system. As a result, we currently see a new global wave of militant class struggles resulting in a pre-revolutionary situation.

For Marxists, these developments do not come as a surprise. In April 2020, when most were still shocked by the sudden and gigantic wave of media-hyped panic and state bonapartist offensive, the RCIT published a book called *"The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It."* In this book, we explained, among others, that the massive expansion of the authoritarian state apparatus makes it necessary for the working class and the oppressed to prepare for a popular uprising to bring down the bonapartist ruling class. Hence, we concluded: *"For all these reasons we consider the following slogan as an appropriate summary of the strategic line for the coming period: 'Conversion of the State of Emergency into a Popular Uprising'."*<sup>5</sup> What we currently see in Martinique and Guadeloupe is a row and spontaneous implementation of such a perspective by the masses.

The task of revolutionaries is to relate to these spontaneous forms of class struggle and to provide them with leadership and program. The current mass protests in Europe against the new authoritarian attacks by the capitalist governments demonstrate that such resistance is not limited to semi-colonial countries. Socialists need to support such protests, combat against the influence of reactionary forces within these movements and work towards advancing the struggle towards general strikes and popular uprisings which we currently see in elementary forms in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

As a matter of fact, 99% of the so-called left is incapable to do this as it has shamefully capitulated to the COVID Counterrevolution and its policy of lockdowns, Green Pass, compulsory vaccination, etc. Those socialists who refuse this opportunist course of self-humiliation should join the RCIT in building such a leadership!

## Footnotes

1 The RCIT has analyzed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published about 100 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special subpage on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>. In particular we refer readers to two RCIT Manifestos: COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive. We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes, 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover->

[for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/](https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/); "Green Pass" & Compulsory Vaccinations: A New Stage in the COVID Counterrevolution. Down with the chauvinist-bonapartist police & surveillance state – defend democratic rights! No to health policy in the service of the capitalist monopolies – expand the public health sector under workers and popular control! 29 July 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/green-pass-compulsory-vaccinations-a-new-stage-in-the-covid-counterrevolution/>; In addition, we draw attention to our book by Michael Pröbsting: *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle*, RCIT Books, April 2020, Chapter V, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/>. See also our very first article on this issue by Almedina Gunić: *Coronavirus: "I am not a Virus"... but WE will be the Cure!* The chauvinist campaign behind the "Wuhan Coronavirus" hysteria and the revolutionary answer, 2 February 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/wuhan-virus/>. Almedina Gunić and Michael Pröbsting: *On Some Ideological Features of the COVID Counterrevolution. Comments on an interesting interview with a German liberal historian*, 14 November 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/on-some-ideological-features-of-the-covid-counterrevolution/>; See also a number of Spanish-language articles of our Argentinean comrades: Juan Giglio: *La izquierda de la "Big Pharma", dejó de defender las libertades*, 1.10.2021, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/10/la-izquierda-de-la-big-pharma-dejo-de.html>; Juan Giglio: *¿Por qué la izquierda no cuestiona las políticas de la OMS?* 8.9.2021, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/09/por-que-la-izquierda-no-cuestiona-las.html>

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3 See on this e.g. *Unrest continues in Martinique, Guadeloupe as some talks begin*. Protests that began over COVID restrictions have grown into call to address longstanding issues in French territories, 25 November 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/25/unrest-continues-in-martinique-guadeloupe-as-some-talks-begin>; Authorities take over some Martinique fuel stations amid protests. Protests against COVID-19 curbs, including mandatory jabs for health workers, are hitting Caribbean island territory, 24 November 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/24/authorities-take-over-some-martinique-fuel-stations-amid-protests>

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5 Michael Pröbsting: *The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It*, p. 87

# Martinique & Guadeloupe: A First Victory against the COVID Counterrevolution!

## Popular uprisings forces the French government to delay the implementation of compulsory vaccination and to offer talks about autonomy

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 28.11.2021

**A**s we reported in an article two days ago, the Caribbean islands Martinique and Guadeloupe – both French colonies – have been rocked by general strikes and popular uprisings against the draconic COVID attacks.<sup>1</sup> These mass protests were a response to the new Lockdown restrictions as well as the mandatory vaccination for health workers and firefighters which the Macron Administration has imposed in France as well as in all colonial territories. In addition, demonstrators have been calling for salary increases and lower petrol prices.

These protests reflect an extraordinary militancy of the masses. According to official reports, ten police officers were injured in Martinique on Thursday, including five by gunfire. In other words, the uprising was starting to transform into an armed insurrection.

Fearing the beginning of a civil war in some of its colonies (with Presidential elections ahead in a few months' time), Paris decided to make first concessions hoping to pacify the militant uprising. In a statement on Friday, the French health ministry said the implementation of the vaccination requirement would be pushed back until 31 December "to allow for dialogue".<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the French government offered negotiations about granting autonomy to Guadeloupe. Sebastien Lecornu, France's minister for overseas territories, said in a video address to islanders late Friday. "Some elected officials have raised the question of autonomy ... According to them, Guadeloupe could better manage itself. The government is ready to talk about this. There are no bad debates as long as these debates serve to solve the real problems in the daily lives of the people of Guadeloupe."<sup>3</sup>

Of course, one should not overestimate the meaning of these concessions. Paris conceded only to *delay* the implementation of the COVID attacks until the end of the year. Socialists, however, demand their *complete abolition*. Likewise, the Macron Administration only offered "talks about autonomy". In contrast, socialists – as intransigent fighters against all forms of imperialism – call for the *immediate and unconditional end of colonial occupation* and the *independence* of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Nevertheless, it is important to recognize the fact that general strikes and popular uprisings forced the French government to make first concession – something which they have not done anywhere else until now. This confirms what the RCIT has emphasized many times: the popular masses can defeat the COVID Counterrevolution only with the *methods of militant class struggle*. Key among these methods are general strike, popular uprising, and self-organization with methods of direct democracy. We repeat once again that the strategic line for the coming period should be: "Conversion of the State of Emergency into a Popular Uprising." The recent events in Martinique and Guadeloupe are a powerful confirmation of our perspectives.<sup>4</sup>

The task now is to spread this experience. The RCIT calls all socialists who have not capitulated to the gigantic and poisonous wave of COVID Counterrevolution to join the mass protests in Europe and all over the world. It is crucial to advocate the perspective of general strike and popular uprising to bring down the capitalist COVID regime!

### Footnotes

1 Michael Pröbsting: Martinique & Guadeloupe: General Strike and Popular Uprising against the COVID Counterrevolution! This is the road which the mass protests in Europe should take! 26 November 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/martinique-guadeloupe-popular-uprising-against-the-covid-counterrevolution/>

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3 Paola Tamma: France 'ready to talk' about autonomy for Guadeloupe. Caribbean territory hit by rioting over vaccines, 27 November 2021, <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-ready-to-talk-about-autonomy-for-guadeloupe/>

4 The RCIT has analyzed the COVID-19 counterrevolution extensively since its beginning. Starting from 2 February 2020 we have published about 100 pamphlets, essays, articles and statements plus a book which are all compiled at a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>. In particular we refer readers to two RCIT Manifestos: COVID-19: A Cover for a Major Global Counterrevolutionary Offensive. We are at a turning point in the world situation as the ruling classes provoke a war-like atmosphere in order to legitimize the build-up of chauvinist state-bonapartist regimes, 21 March 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/covid-19-a-cover-for-a-major-global-counterrevolutionary-offensive/>; "Green Pass" & Compulsory Vaccinations: A New Stage in the COVID Counterrevolution. Down with the chauvinist-bonapartist police & surveillance state – defend democratic rights! No to health policy in the service of the capitalist monopolies – expand the public health sector under workers and popular control! 29 July 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/green-pass-compulsory-vaccinations-a-new-stage-in-the-covid-counterrevolution/>; In addition, we draw attention to our book by Michael Pröbsting: The COVID-19 Global Counterrevolution: What It Is and How to Fight It. A Marxist analysis and strategy for the revolutionary struggle, RCIT Books, April 2020, Chapter V, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/the-covid-19-global-counterrevolution/>. See also our very first article on this issue by Almedina Gunić: Coronavirus: "I am not a Virus"... but WE will be the Cure! The chauvinist campaign behind the "Wuhan Coronavirus" hysteria and the revolutionary answer, 2 February 2020, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/wuhan-virus/>. Almedina Gunić and Michael Pröbsting: On Some Ideological Features of the COVID Counterrevolution. Comments on an interesting interview with a German liberal historian, 14 November 2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/on-some-ideological-features-of-the-covid-counterrevolution/>; See also a number of Spanish-language articles of our Argentinean comrades: Juan Giglio: La izquierda de la "Big Pharma", dejó de defender las libertades, 1.10.2021, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/10/la-izquierda-de-la-big-pharma-dejo-de.html>; Juan Giglio: ¿Por qué la izquierda no cuestiona las políticas de la OMS? 8.9.2021, <https://convergenciadecombate.blogspot.com/2021/09/por-que-la-izquierda-no-cuestiona-las.html>

# Austria: Lockdown and Compulsory Vaccinations are the Road to Police State & Apartheid

## Austria: Fight back against those horrible attacks on bodily autonomy!

*Statement by the RKO BEFREIUNG (Austrian Section of the RCIT), 19.11.2021*

1. The Austrian Government announced a new lockdown for all, starting with Monday, 22 November for 10 days with the option to extend it for another ten days. In addition, it decided to impose compulsory COVID-vaccination for each and everyone, enforced with February 2022. This makes Austria the first country in Europe to explicitly implement compulsory COVID vaccinations, once again showing to be a true reactionary vanguard of Bonapartism. The RCIT and its section in Austria opposed the anti-democratic attacks under the cover of fighting against a (real) pandemic from the very beginning. Just recently, we published a statement against the short-lived “lockdown for unvaccinated” – something the Austrian government was also enforcing as the first country in Europe. However, the concrete plans and starting point for compulsory COVID vaccinations for all is a new, horrifying level of undemocratic attack. The RCIT and its section in Austria – the RKO BEFREIUNG – reject the compulsory COVID-vaccinations by all means. We call all progressive forces to organize protests, rallies and strikes against this invasion of our bodily autonomy!

2. The reactionary coalition of ÖVP (the main, conservative party of the bourgeoisie) and the Green Party have never hesitated to attack our basic democratic rights. A kind of Green Pass has been enforced for the workplace (i.e. only workers who are vaccinated, recovered or tested are allowed to work) with the unsurprising result of a collapse of testing facilities. In addition, only vaccinated respectively recovered individuals were allowed to enter cafes, restaurants, cultural buildings like museums and operas, as well as shops (except for grocery and drug stores). Unsurprisingly, police forces – normally anything but hesitating to attack the workers – have opposed to do police checks against unvaccinated people, describing such as a logistic nightmare.

3. However, the interior ministry has enforced the police checks, resulting in approximately 150(!) administrative penalties for unvaccinated out of a pool of approximately 2 million unvaccinated people. Those numbers reflect how hesitating even the reactionary police force was to really implement the new rules, knowing very well that both the resistance of people will be very high AND that bourgeois constitutionalists could rule out the legitimacy of the so-called “lockdown for unvaccinated” anyway. The fact that the repression apparatus was unwilling to fully implement the recent attacks of the government shows the deep crisis in which the reactionary coalition maneuvered itself into.

4. At the same time as the government announced the mandatory vaccinations as the next step in the COVID Counterrevolution, the parliament has ruled that the immunity of former ÖVP chancellor Sebastian Kurz is lifted in order to investigate the corruption scandals in which Kurz and the leading circle of his party are involved. Readers of this statement shall be reminded that the current government is in power since January 2020, after the last coalition of the same ÖVP and the rightwing, racist *Freiheitliche Partei*

(FPÖ) imploded thanks to the so-called Ibiza affair.

5. The current chancellor Alexander Schallenberg, who is a close ally of Sebastian Kurz, has claimed since weeks that no restrictions for vaccinated will be decided and that the pandemic is over for those who received the vaccinations. Unsurprisingly, the vaccine was and is not the game changer in the pandemic as Big Pharma and Bonapartist governments want us to believe. Today, the seven-day incidence is at its highest numbers and doctors from various ICUs have already both started to postpone surgeries and to map out a plan for drainages. Schallenberg’s claims that the pandemic will be over for vaccinated have been proven very wrong. To save his own credibility and those of his strongest allies, the mandatory vaccination was decided together with the general (as he called it “truly last”) lockdown for all. It is quite possible that the current government will collapse in near future similar to the former coalition as parts of the bourgeoisie are not amused by the mix of bonapartist attacks with hesitations to implement those attacks consistently.

6. In the eyes of monopoly bourgeoisie the claim that there will not be another general lockdown taken back that fast, the de facto boycott by police to implement the controls, the ongoing investigations on corruptions, and the change of political decisions at such short notice makes the government and its chancellor looking weak. Monopoly capital is eager for a strong and consistent bonapartist regime, with a ruthless repression apparatus - one that does not hesitate and that does not stumble when faced with bourgeois-democratic constitutionalists. This is the true meaning behind the decision to establish mandatory COVID vaccines and only naïve fools or (hidden) agents of social-bonapartism believe otherwise.

7. Facing the biggest recession since the 1920s and 1930s, monopoly capitalists have no patience for bourgeois politicians who pussyfoot instead of forcefully ruling the new era. Austria has already gone through such political situations in the past. Before the infamous Nazi regime was established in 1938, so-called *Austro-Fascism* has ruled for more than 4 years preparing the ground for Hitler. Before that, Austria’s ruling class had decided to turn its back away from global economy and establish protectionism combined with massive propaganda against migrants, ethnic and religious groups like the Roma/Sinti people and the Jewish peoples – mainly those from Eastern Europe. Fascism did not happen out of the blue, it was well prepared over a long period. It was also enabled by the reformist leaders of the Social Democratic Party and the so-called Austro-Marxists who betrayed the revolutionary class struggle plenty of times. So far, it is no surprise that also today, nearly all reformists and their centrist friends fully support the bonapartist policy of the Austrian government like general lockdown, green pass, “lockdown for unvaccinated” or mandatory vaccinations. It is their political tradition to betray the interests of the oppressed and to support bonapartism – this time not under the pretext



of protecting holy motherland but protecting holy health. 8. While the pandemic is real and corona means the death of many people, the medical solution of this health crisis would have been: the massive expansion of health facilities, the development of both vaccines *and* medications in case of infection, massively higher wages for health staff as well as a recruiting campaign to train far more, well paid health workers and, as one of the most important steps, a general improvement of the living conditions especially of the poorest people, prone to have a more severe forms of infection. Last but not least, it would have been no problem to establish steps like self-quarantine and strong hygienic measures for those who want and demand it for themselves *without* forcing it to all people as a general rule (up to lockdowns), irrespective of their own wish. Unsurprisingly, none of these medical solutions have been offered because the agenda of the bourgeoisie is not to protect our health but rather to protect their wealth. They need to systematically reduce bourgeois democratic elements in order to implement a new era of bonapartism fit enough to smash future protests against the deepest economic crisis that capitalism has so obviously entered.

9. As long as capitalism exists, humanity will not be able to get rid of deceases without paying a horrendous price – like living in a virtual reality with absolutely no real contact to the outside world (a.k.a. Metaverse) while the poorest of the workers are enslaved to supply food and daily goods to society. Social distancing, lockdowns, mandatory vaccinations, wearing masks in every social setting...all of

this shall prepare us to stop existing as social beings. Austria is one of those countries wealthy enough (build on the back of exploiting the poorer countries in Eastern Europe and the migrant workers here) to head towards such dystopic scenarios.

10. We as RKO BEFREIUNG, in total agreement with the RCIT, repeat that we reject the compulsory COVID vaccinations. We stand in unconditional solidarity with all people who reject this specific medical procedure. We defend the right of all people to decide about their own body by themselves. We warn everybody to not blindly follow and trust what is claimed as medically proven by the bourgeois institutions not because we do not believe in science. But because we do know that those doctors and scientists promoted and pushed by the bourgeois governments, represent only one camp of scientists who are happy to align themselves with the political agenda of monopoly capital. It is highly time to take the streets and to fight back against yet another attack on our fundamental democratic rights! It is time to proof that learning from history means to stop it from repeating itself. Austria was a vanguard in establishing close relations with Apartheid state Israel, a vanguard in attacking our Muslim brothers and sisters, a vanguard in keeping bourgeois politicians in power even after scandals – it shall not become a vanguard in forcing medical procedures against the will of people. All true socialists, all honest, progressive fighters for democratic rights – let us unite against this ugly Bonapartist monster!

## Argentina: Revolutionaries at the Forefront of Women's Struggles

*Report about the latest activities of Defensorías de Géneros and CS (Argentinean Section of the RCIT), 4 November 2021*

One of the priorities of the political work of our Argentinean comrades in *Convergencia Socialista* (CS) and *Defensorías de Géneros* (DdG) is the struggle against women's oppression. *Defensorías de Géneros* is an organization fighting for the liberation of women and other socially oppressed layers, in close collaboration with *Convergencia Socialista*.

One important recent event of the comrades' women's work was participation at the 24th Regional Meeting of women, lesbians, bisexuals, transvestites, trans, intersex and non-binaries at Tigre on 24 October 2021. The CS/DdG contingent constituted a militant and highly visible part at the demonstration and the following conference and advocated a socialist, working-class based perspective.

Another important campaign, which the comrades did in the last weeks, was the expulsion of a pedophile rapist from a working-class barrio (poor neighborhood) in the southern zone of Buenos Aires. The rapist, Sergio Velázquez, was well-known for abusing girls with a pistole in his hand. While he got sentenced, he had to spend only a few months in jail and was the released by a judge to house arrest on 28 October, for "humanitarian reasons"!

Our comrades of *Convergencia Socialista* and *Defensorías de Géneros*, together with the *Madres Protectoras contra el ASI*, immediately started a campaign for the expulsion of this rapist from the barrio. They successfully mobilized the neighborhood via direct actions and soon the police were forced to evacuate the rapist.



Pictures from the contingent of *Defensorías de Géneros* at a women's demonstration (Buenos Aires, 24.10.2021)

# Vienna: Gigantic Mass Mobilization against Compulsory COVID-Vaccinations and Lockdowns

## Huge Mass Protests took the Streets while the Left stayed at Home

Report by Almedina Gunić, RKO BEFREIUNG (Austrian Section of the RCIT), 22 November 2021

The Austrian government, eager to play the role of a Bonapartist vanguard in Europe when it comes to implementing draconic rules under the pretext of the COVID health crisis, decided to enforce COVID vaccinations by February 2022 and another general lockdown for at least 10, if not 20 days. As a response to this attack, Vienna (the capital of Austria) has seen its biggest demonstration against the Bonapartist COVID rules on 20 November. Police claims that 40,000 people (however, double size of this underestimation seems more realistic) took the streets, nearly all ignoring the draconic social distance rule as well as the mandatory FFP2-masks.

The character of this mass demonstration was extremely interesting and must be analyzed and understood by authentic Marxists in its whole complexity. The absolute majority of the participants were working class people and lower middle-class people, coming from a non-academic and non-wealthy background. For many participants it was the very first demonstration in their lives and furthermore the very first political experience. Only a small portion were migrants, especially migrants from Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and few Turkish respectively Arab migrants as well. The overwhelming part was participating with friends respectively family members or colleagues at the demonstration. Therefore, it was quite easy to spot the social nuclei which gave the demonstration its main dynamic. The political character was first and foremost unorganized, politically unexperienced popular mass elements, honestly angry to be restricted in social and democratic rights at such a basic level and spontaneously mobilized to the demonstration.

Unsurprisingly the main tools were self-organized protest placards with slogans like “my body, my choice”, “Vaccinated – Unvaccinated. We are not divided, we are united”, and very popular: “when injustice became law, resistance became duty” (In the German speaking countries this quote is broadly attributed to the socialist working-class poet and writer Berthold Brecht albeit historically not proven). Some were written in a far more explicit language. Some of the protestors organized small megaphones, mostly the type used by soccer fans, for their social group. This became obvious as the chanted slogans were both quite creative and not very skillful in rhythm.

### Betrayal of the Masses by Reformists and Centrists

Unsurprisingly, again the trade unions as well as most centrist and reformist organizations rejected to participate at the mass protest. This is the consequence of their political approach to fully support the lockdown policy (some are even demanding zero-covid as a strategy) by the capitalist state as well as their hatred against the popular masses who are not willing to obey to the Bonapartist attacks, slandering them as primitive and even stupid. Dominated by the middle-class intelligentsia, the term that is broad-

ly used by those reformists and centrists to describe the mass elements on the demonstration is “Schwurbler” (i.e. somebody who speaks without real meaning and content, somebody without any intellectual sophistication).

In the eyes of the reformist bureaucrats those popular masses are the threat. They describe them as a threat for health, but in reality, they fear that their own money and status is threatened. The role of the trade union bureaucracy and the social democrats in Austria is to keep the working class away from class struggle. This is something they are openly proud of, that first and foremost negotiations with capitalists are led while protests and strikes are not used as a tool to fight for workers’ rights in this country. This political tradition is deeply rooted in Austria, as even in times when working class militias organized to fight back against Austro-fascists, the leaders of the Social Democratic Party like Otto Bauer demobilized them “to stop the outbreak of a civil war”, enabling many years of first Austro-Fascism and then Hitler-Fascism. This is just one example to understand how far the bureaucracy is willing to go in their betrayal of revolutionary class struggle to save their own position in capitalist society. However, monopoly capital is not happy if the bureaucrats do not control the class struggle from below and is willing to get rid of them fast enough. Both, the social democrats as well as the reformist leadership of the trade unions are *well* aware of this and don’t want to jeopardize their own privileges.

Most reformists and centrists today orientate their politics by the leadership of the trade union bureaucracy and the Social Democratic Party. While it would be wrong to claim all reformist and especially centrist cadres to receive money and status the way the established bureaucratic apparatus in the trade unions and the Social Democratic Party does, it is true that many of them establish a career in certain structures provided by the bureaucrats. Be it well paid jobs as writers for trade union newspapers, academic experts or regular staff of social and welfare institutions, receiver of scholarships for public projects, and so on – the benefit and with-it dependency force them to stay in the goodwill of bureaucracy in plentiful ways.

The masses on the demonstrations were not controllable by the bureaucrats because they have not been integrated in their structures. While most participants at the demonstrations were from a working-class background, they have not been politically organized and have not seen a reason to change this until now. To a certain degree it is a product of the low level of class struggle in Austria. Many years in a row, the average of strike-minutes (workers’ strikes) were 0 minutes. The trade union bureaucracy is very proud about this low level of class struggle as they claim it to be a result of their negotiation skills and the high living standard of Austrian workers. There is a certain number of workers in this country who have therefore not seen any reason to get organized in trade union work. Their impression is that they could not have influence in



the trade unions anyway and that it is also not necessary to get organized as negotiations are led by the bureaucrats.

### Obvious Radicalization

The masses on the streets have shown a healthy reaction to the Bonapartist attacks: they reject them forcefully. This makes them far cleverer and more developed in their working-class conscious than the self-proclaimed Marxists from reformist and centrist organizations who bent their knees immediately in service of Big Pharma, Monopoly capital in general and the Bonapartist state monster when the pandemic started. However, as stated above most participants at yesterday's demonstration have no or very little political experience. Many might turn away from political activism if they are ignored for too long. Some might turn towards individual terrorist acts. An example for this: Just some days ago two teenagers have been arrested for burning down a police car after COVID controls against them. After arrest, they explained that their original goal was not to burn down the police car but rather to set the policemen on fire. Some parts have the potential to become foot soldiers for fascists in future if they are betrayed and attacked by reformists often enough and not won as allies by socialist revolutionaries.

Consequently, the ignorance of the left enabled right wing forces including fascists to utilize the media presence as an arena for their own contingent. While 99% of protesters have not even gotten to see any of those right-wing respectively fascist elements, the bourgeois media was happy to present them as the main organized force at the

protests. The pro-lockdown left will be satisfied to claim themselves as progressive for hating the demonstrating masses as the bourgeois media seems to ratify what they wanted to believe in the first place. However, it is true that the organized strength that the neo-fascists shown is obviously dangerous. They can become very dangerous for the working-class vanguard in near future.

### A New Populist Party in Action

However, it would be one-sided and alarmist not to deal with another potential development: the formation of new popular forces that may also swing to the left. This might even result in the formation of a new left populist party comparable to PODEMOS in Spain.

Interestingly enough, a big part of the demonstrators was cheering the presentation of a new party in Austria, the so-called MFG ("*Humanity, Freedom, Civil Rights*"). They view themselves as a party which rejects the Bonapartist attacks under the pretext of fighting COVID. It seems to us that the *current* political character of the MFG is that of a *new, populist, progressive-democratic (albeit not left-wing), petit-bourgeois party*. In addition, it is important to understand that the MFG is a *party in flux*. There is a lot of different ways in which this new party might develop in future, especially as they experience an impressive grow in numbers of their supporters.

Yesterday, this party organized a rally in Linz. This is an important working-class city in one province of Austria with 250,000 people. For decades this was the heart of Austria's large steel industry which is why Linz has been



Pictures from the mass demonstration against COVID restrictions; left top: Almedina Gunić during an interview (Vienna, 20.11.2021)

called in Austria the “steel city”. The organizers expected 600 participants. However, nearly 10,000 people showed up – one of the largest demonstrations in this city for long. Not even the MFG leaders have been expecting that their new party would become that popular ... and so quickly! It is obvious that mass elements who do not want to support the only established parliamentary party who has rejected the COVID attacks (the ultra-racist and right wing *Freiheitliche Partei*), chose to orientate towards this new (not-right-wing) MFG party.

All in all, with one of the biggest mass demonstrations in Austria’s recent history and the general upswing of class struggle against the bonapartist attacks in several other European countries (like Belgium, the Netherlands, France, etc.), with the crisis of the ÖVP-Green Party government and the rocket start of the new populist force MFG – authentic socialists in Austria and beyond need to orientate towards the building of new revolutionary party capable to lead the masses in their fight against Bonapartism.

### Revolutionaries at the Mass Protest

The RKO BEFREIUNG as the Austrian section of the RCIT has utilized the possibility to intervene in the mass demonstration yesterday together with activists from *Democracy and Civil Rights* (a left-wing platform) and the *Freie Linke Österreich* (“Free Left Austria”). Our leaflet which we distributed to thousands of demonstrators was very well received and especially the slogan for *Expropriation of Big Pharma under workers’ control* was highly popular. Furthermore, several interviews with protesters gave us the possibility not only to get a good insight in the character of this mass demonstration but also to get close contact with workers who are politized by one of the most coordinated counterrevolutionary attacks against our class.

This is an important new generation of activists in the making. We conclude the report with a number of quotes from our interviews to give international readers the possibility to truly understand the dynamic of the protest movement.

Karin: “What’s that? Political Slogans, okay. Oh, I like the part with expropriation of Big Pharma! Why do people follow the lead of multi-national corporations anyways? It is so obvious what their interests are! That makes me really angry.”

Anna: “I was a nurse until recently. Politicians said that people shall cheer for us, clap for us. Now, I don’t have a job anymore because I rejected to be forced into vaccination. And you know what? I’m happy I decided this way. It was my civil right that

*I stand up for. The funny thing is, that I really don’t care to be vaccinated. I just don’t want to see anybody forced into it.”*

Wilhelm: “Oh, you know it is the bullshit called capitalism that led to this situation. It is them on the one side and us on the other. We shall not let us control by their plans and wills. Without my daughter, I don’t know. I would just leave the country to find a place in peace or...well, start to blow things up ...”

Sara: “Big Pharma...what does expropriation means?” (explained by us) “Really, that is a great idea. You need to get this out to as many people as possible. This must be organized! Spread this, everybody should learn about these ideas!”

An older man: “Take the leaflet back, I don’t like socialists.” His younger companion: “Well, it says revolutionary socialists. And just look at the slogans...that’s really good. It is what we are thinking put on a paper. Give me some more of them. I want to distribute them...”

Grete: “What das RKO stands for? Revolutionary Communists...so not like Rendi-Wagner (editor’s note: leader of Social Democratic Party in Austria) but communists. Well, your demands are on point. It is important that you are showing up here. I hate it when they call us right-wing. Some even dare to slender us as Nazis! None of my friends here are right-wing, hell, we work in the Kindergarden. We fear that they will force the children to receive the vaccinations even if it doesn’t make sense. They have already forgotten to take the needs of children into account, and it gets worse and worse.”

Petra: “Thanks for the leaflet...but one is enough, we are a couple” (showing to her companion, then taking a look at the leaflet) “Wait, we need another one. I want one for myself! This is great, really great. I should print it on my shirt...this is so different to the things they say in the media. This should be on TV.”

A young Muslim woman: “Yes, we should not let divide us. They did it always. Attacking Jews and later refugees...now they started with unvaccinated. Only for the sake of profit and politics. I really hope we can change the things, that we stop them. Inshallah.”

Another young woman: “This is my very first demonstration. I never was into social causes or political actions. I was so invested with myself. But this new policy to force people against their will...it is too much! I was invested with myself for too long. I should have...you know do something against injustice sooner. There is so much injustice going on. It is kind of stupid that I am just starting to realize this now. We see it all the time, we know about it. But it seems far away, that it is not really happening here. Like when they killed this black man in America and it was on video? Terrible...but I thought the police here would not be like this. That they are...you know...tame. I just looked away. This was stupid...”

## Revolutionary Struggle for Women’s Liberation

See all RCIT documents on Women’s Liberation

on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/oppressed/>



## Poland/Belarus: Open the Borders for Refugees!

### Down with the imperialist Fortress Europe! No to the Great Power rivalry between the EU and Russia! Solidarity with the Arab Revolution!

*Joint Statement of Russian, Syrian, Austrian, German and British Members of the RCIT, 20 November 2021*

1. Thousands of refugees – many coming from countries of the Middle East – are trapped at the Belarusian-Polish border in freezing conditions because the European Union cynically denies them entry. The right-wing Polish government has declared a state of emergency and brutally attacks the refugees with tear-gas and water cannons. Likewise, the Belarusian police beats refugees who attempt to get back. In response, refugees desperately try to defend themselves.

2. The imperialist EU has sent troops in order to “defend” its borders against unarmed and impoverished refugees who have been forced to flee their countries. Poland deployed 15,000 soldiers to the border and Lithuania as well as Latvia also sent troops. In addition, the EU’s Frontex as well as Britain have also sent military contingents. Furthermore, they have started to build hundreds of kilometers of 3-meter high razor wire walls.

3. The conflict is fueled by the EU sanctions against the Belarus dictatorship of Alexander Lukashenko as well as the Great Power tensions between Western and Russian imperialism.

4. As internationalist members of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) we strongly denounce the reactionary chauvinist policy of all states involved and call for international solidarity with the refugees.

5. Likewise, we state our ongoing support for the liberation struggles against dictatorships and foreign occupation in Syria, Yemen and other countries!

\* *Immediate and unconditional opening of the border for the refugees!*

\* *We call the workers and popular mass organizations in Europe to declare their support for the refugees and their rights and to organize corresponding activities!*

\* *No imperialist sanctions against Belarus! Solidarity with the popular protests against the Lukashenko regime!*

\* *Neither EU nor Russia! Down with the imperialist Great Power rivalry!*

\* *Long live the ongoing liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the Assad tyranny! Solidarity with the national resistance of the Yemeni people against the Saudi-led invasion!*

\* *For international solidarity of the workers and oppressed!*

## Syria: Rally in Solidarity with the Political Prisoners

*Report (with Pictures and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 21 November 2021, Austrian Section of the RCIT*

About 50 Syrian migrants held a rally in the centre of Vienna to show their solidarity with the political prisoners in Syria. The Assad tyranny keeps hundreds of thousands of people in prison where they face unspeakable suffering at the hand of the regime’s tortures. Many have been killed and numerous have just “disappeared” with their families fearing for their lives. Comrades of the Austrian section of the RCIT participated in the rally. We sold copies of the latest issue of THAWRA - the RCIT’s Arab-language paper. Our comrade Michael

Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, was asked to address the rally. Comrade Pröbsting denounced the Assad tyranny and stated our unconditional solidarity with the political prisoners. He also emphasized our support for the ongoing Syrian Revolution.

*See pictures of the rally and a video clip of Michael Pröbsting’s speech here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/syria-rally-in-solidarity-with-the-political-prisoners-21-11-2021/>*



Pictures from the rally in solidarity with political prisoners in Syria; on the left: Michael Pröbsting (Vienna, 21.11.2021)



## Russia: Down with Russian Imperialist Monopoly Price War!

Statement by Russian Supporters of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 24 October 2021

1. Current events in the world demonstrate the approaching of a “*Dark Winter*”. It is an event caused by an unprecedented surge in fuel prices and caused by the Covid-19 counterrevolutionary lockdown and protectionist war. According to some reports from Bloomberg shipping prices during pandemic tripled and doubled by data from major freighter operators with some insignificant lowering during last weeks. [1] Prices on major fuels like gas, coal, and oil are rocketing, causing a significant cost increase for the over global debt economy [2]. Coal is a significant source of energy for the biggest world manufacturer China. During last months the price went from 50\$ to 220-230\$ for metric ton. All this led to significant pressure on the economy and reserves, which can lead to significant fuel shortage and a so-called “*Dark Winter*”.

2. Disruption of energy and fuel supply opens a window of opportunity for global economies like Russia, which has a significant presence at the energy market. Russian corporations like Gazprom, Rosatom, Rosneft, Lukoil represent a significant energy sector on the global market. In 2019 Russia was the second oil producer with a share of about 12,9% and gas production around 18%. Russian export on the European market constituted a share of around 40% of total imports in 2018, showing slow growth. While it is a significant share that is even bigger for countries like Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Sweden, and Finland, it is challenging for Russia to maintain its position due to competition with Qatar and other gas-producing states. [4] Hence, it is natural for Russian capital to exploit “*Dark Winter*” and to push its own agenda.

3. Recently Russian state finished the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which Gazprom would definitely exploit to accomplish its own domination on the energy market, even if it would cost the lives of millions. [5] Already, the Russian state threatens Moldova with “gas terror” and subjugation to its monopolist interest. [6] Thus, Russian imperialism demonstrates that its monopolies play a significant role on the global market with the ability to threaten via price control other even imperialist nation. This also, by the way, teaches a lesson for various Stalinists and centrists who defend Russia as a “non-imperialist country” by characterizing it as a semi-colony or semi-periphery.

4. After another falsified election, going hand-in-hand with social conservative politics, the oligarch regime is aware that global waves of dissatisfaction with capitalism are increasing. Putin, the so-called «*leader of the nation*», made it explicit in a meeting in the reactionary Valdai discussion club when he spoke about the deep crisis and decay of capitalism, combined with usual conser-

vative remarks. As usual, during a political or economic crisis like in early 2011 with laws against “*propaganda for homosexuality and suicide*” and other made-up nonsense, Putinism pursues the way to play on Russians’ homophobia, transphobia, fear of «*aggressive-subculture youth*», i.e. claiming that patriotism is threatened by “*homosexuals, anime, furry, and emo*”. All this is combined with the fear of a repetition of the disastrous 1990s. [7] This trend, together with rising Russian militarism, revanchism, and censorship, represents an attempt to redirect the masses’ attention from oligarchs and to conserve a backward political consciousness of the masses.

5. The RCIT and its Russian supporters reject all this reactionary nonsense, defends discriminated groups and their democratic rights, and defends their right to self-expression. We defend the rights of oppressed groups like national-oppressed groups who experience their inequality due to Russian settler-colonialism. Likewise, we defend LGBTQIA2S+ persons who experience attacks by backward, conservative culture associated with tsarism, Stalinist reaction, and prison-culture. Such state attacks have the purpose to preserve the backward consciousness of masses and to subjugate their will to the oligarchy and its imperialist foreign politics. We also defend the right of LGBTQIA2S+ groups and nationally oppressed to organize their self-defense units and committees to protect themselves against reactionary attacks. We also defend anime or K-Pop fans, furry or various subcultures like emo, goth, etc., for their rights to consume media they enjoy or self-express without the interference by the state. We defend democratic rights regardless of such groups’ preferences with self-expression.

6. Furthermore, the RCIT rejects the Russian state lockdown. Right now, the oligarchy plans to impose a very strict lockdown from 30 October with holidays until 7 November. Anyone with ears and eyes is aware that we have currently the biggest spike and usually during dates close to the day of the anniversary of the October Revolution, politically active people – from right-wing to left-wing forces – march on the streets. Obviously, only blind would believe that state «suddenly» started to be concerned about national health in such «random days». Imposing a state of emergency in Russia – like it happened during the football world championship in 2018 (which was at the time when the regime pushed through the pension reform) or now – is definitely not done in interest to defend masses but rather to provide means to curb protest activities.

7. As a revolutionary communist organization, we call for the takeover of all energy corporations under workers and popular control in Russia and other na-

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tions. Our goal is to establish a global working-class dictatorship. Such a dictatorship in the form of international workers and peasants federation would provide genuine self-determination for nations oppressed by imperialist and settler-colonialism to engage in their desired political forms of autonomy, state, and confederation. One of the tasks of such a global federation of workers and peasants' republics would be to ensure global planning of fuel and food distribution. Workers of oppressed nations would actively engage in such planning, avoiding any future "Dark Winters", food and fuel shortages without existing colonial hierarchy, which puts oppressed nations at the last priority or, like Russian corporations, exploit crisis for their profits. Thus, only a socialist revolution would realize the expropriation of the decadent oligarchy all over the world.

8. The Russian supporters of the RCIT call all political conscious workers and oppressed to unite and to build a revolutionary party as part of a new International. Building such a party can take place around the struggle for survival of workers and oppressed the era of the "Dark winter" threat:

\* *Expropriation of multinationals under workers and popular masses' control! For the formation of price control committees to combat inflation and ensure distribution of essential commodities.*

\* *For organization and inclusion of every person into cooperatives system based on expropriated supply and various retail corporations' capacities to centralize the distribution of goods under masses control.*

\* *Program of full employment and organization of public work to reconstruct and reestablish broken supply chains and malfunctioning infrastructure.*

\* *Conglomeration and unification of all significant capitalist firms with finance institutes to ensure their central control by a workers' government.*

\* *Replacement of police force by workers and popular militia*

*from oppressed masses with special inclusion formation of women, LGBTQIA2S+, national minorities to ensure their representation and defense.*

\* *Implementation of sliding wage with sliding hour rate which would adjust to inflation rates and provide everyone with wages sufficient to buy necessary commodities.*

\* *Housing for all! Expropriation of empty houses and flats. For providing of empty living spaces for the homeless and persons in their need!*

Based on such demands, a revolutionary organization would be able during the crisis to use them to mobilize and to create the cadres for future worker's parties as sections of the New International!

[1] Brendan Murray: Supply Lines Container Shipping Rates Drift Lower After a Record-Setting Climb, Bloomberg, October 11, 2021

[2] <https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/natural-gas>, <https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/crude-oil>, <https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/coal>, on 23 October 2021

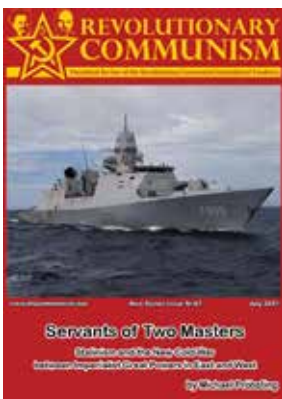
[3] <https://www.rbth.com/business/330435-russias-energy-explained>

[4] Vladimir Kutcherov, Maria Morgunova, Valery Bessel, Alexey Lopatin: Russian natural gas exports: An analysis of challenges and opportunities, Energy Strategy Reviews, Volume 30, 2020

[5] Max Seddon and David Sheppard: Putin says Russia could deliver 10% more gas if Nord Stream 2 approved, October 21 2021, <https://www.ft.com/content/e5f74353-73e5-4273-ae13-cc3d0985e606>

[6] Alexander Tanas and Vladimir Soldatkin: Gazprom may cut off gas to Moldova if contract not signed by December, <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/moldova-pm-says-russia-gas-talks-still-divided-govt-declares-emergency-2021-10-23/>

[7] <https://ria.ru/20211022/putin-1755819146.html>



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

# Servants of Two Masters

*Stalinism and the New Cold War*

*between Imperialist Great Powers in East and West*

*by Michael Pröbsting*

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

**Introduction** \* **The New Inter-Imperialist Cold War** \* **A View on the Military Strength of the Great Powers** \* **The Main Point of both Statements: Siding with Chinese and Russian Imperialism** \* **Stalinist Fantasies Shredded in the Light of Reality: The Rise of Chinese Imperialism** \* **The KKE's "criticism" and its fraternal bonds with the Chinese CP** \* **Beside the Servants of Assad the Butcher - Who Signed the KKE-initiated Joint Statement?** \* **The Xi Fan Club: Signatories of the CPUSA-initiated Joint Statement** \* **The Concept of Multilateralism and Peaceful Coexistence: A Reactionary Illusion** \* **"Socialism in One Country": The Historical Roots of the Stalinist Concept of "Peaceful Coexistence"** \* **Serving Two Masters: The Eastern Imperialists as well as Sectors of the Domestic Bourgeoisie** \* **A Note on the tight-lipped "Trotskyists" (CWI, IMT, ISA)** \* **Conclusions** \* **Footnotes**

## U.S.: On the Kyle Rittenhouse Shooter Case

By Adam Smith, ISL in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 22.11.2021

There is no doubt that is court victory is a boost for the right wing, it has nothing to do with self-defense. The latest alt-right star has already been offered internships, and in the next round of Black Lives Matter protests, there is no doubt that it will encourage more right-wing vigilance violence towards Black Lives Matter protesters. There is also no doubt that a black man would be treated very differently.

For example, just a few days ago, *“Stitt’s announcement came after Jones’ supporters staged days of protests in advance of his scheduled execution, which was to take place at 5 p.m. ET Thursday at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester. Jones, 41, has maintained his innocence for more than two decades in the 1999 slaying of Paul Howell, a businessman in the affluent Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond.... State and county prosecutors have said the evidence against Jones is overwhelming. Trial transcripts show witnesses identified Jones as the shooter and placed him with Howell’s stolen vehicle. Investigators also found the murder weapon wrapped in a bandana with Jones’ DNA in an attic space above his bedroom. Jones claims the murder weapon was placed there by the actual killer, who visited Jones’ house after Howell was shot.”* [1]

When the Black Panther Party members carried guns, Reagan decided to implement gun control in California. [2]

There are also no doubt that far-right elements cooperate with the police: *“He was able to leave the scene even though, as caught on video, he walked toward police with his hands up as protesters yelled that he had shot people.*

*The relationship between Rittenhouse and police has drawn particular scrutiny in the wake of video interactions captured earlier in the night...*

*One viral Facebook post on Aug. 26 said “video showed police thank him & give him water prior to the killings.” Later in the nearly two-hour video, Rittenhouse tells the man shooting the video, “People are getting injured, and our job is to protect this business, and part of my job is also to help people. If there’s somebody hurt, I’m running into harm’s way. That’s why I have my rifle, because I need to protect myself obviously. But I also have my med kit.”*

*About 90 minutes into the livestream at 11:30 p.m. — 15 minutes before the fatal shooting — the following exchange with police occurs as Rittenhouse and another armed man walk outside a business.*

**Police officer (over a loudspeaker):** *“You need water? Seriously. (unintelligible) You need water?”*

**Rittenhouse, raising his arm and walking toward the police vehicle:** *“We need water.”*

**Police officer:** *“We’ll throw you one.”* [3]

There is no need to speculate what would happen in the reverse situation, as it has already happened (the result? He is killed by cops without a warrant, and Trump brags about it):

*“Danielson’s shooting was caught on videoby Justin Dunlap, who was livestreaming the demonstration on his Facebook page. He told The Oregonian/OregonLive, “I saw the victim pull something up from his hip with his right hand and a big cloud of mace goes in the air. And then half a second later, there were two pops.”*

*Danielson can be seen stumbling two or three steps before col-*

*lapsing on Southwest Third Avenue, south of Alder Street.*

*In the Vice News report, Reinoehl appears to admit to the shooting, saying, “I had no choice.” He then added, “I mean, I, I had a choice. I could have sat there and watched them kill a friend of mine of color, but I wasn’t going to do that. ...*

*“I am confident that my friend and I’m sure I would have been killed because I wasn’t going to stand there and let something happen,” Reinoehl said.*

*“I realized what had happened,” he told the interviewer. “I was confident that I did not hit anyone innocent. And I made my exit.”* [4]

Also, if anyone has an illusion about the role of police in society, even the cops admit they have no duty to protect civilians!

**“City says cops had no duty to protect subway hero who subdued killer:** *He says he put his life on the line to stop a killer — and claims cops sat back and watched.*

*But city lawyers are arguing that the police had no legal duty to protect Joseph Lozito, the Long Island dad stabbed seven times trying to subdue madman Maksim Gelman — a courtroom maneuver the subway hero calls “disgraceful.”*

*A judge is currently deciding whether Lozito, who sued the city last year for failing to prevent the attack, will get his day in court.*

*The drug-fueled Gelman had fatally stabbed three people in Brooklyn and killed another with a car during a 28-hour rampage when he entered an uptown No. 3 train on Feb. 12, 2011.*

*Police officers Terrance Howell and Tamara Taylor were part of a massive NYPD manhunt. They were in the operator’s cab, watching the tracks between Penn Station and 42nd Street for any sign of the fugitive. Lozito was seated next to the cab.... The city routinely settles such litigation but is playing hardball with Lozito, insisting his demand for unspecified money damages be tossed because the police had no “special duty” to protect him or any individual on the train that day.*

*“Under well-established law, the police are not liable for such incidents,” said city lawyer David Santoro. “That doesn’t detract from the Police Department’s public safety mission — or the fact that New York is the safest big city in America.”* [5]

**A rigged trial:**

The US justice system is very harsh, unless it is about protecting its own. For example, the judge, while normally judges play along with the prosecution resulting in a very high conviction rate, forbade the victims from being called victims in court, and instead they could only be called “rioters” or “looters”. Not to mention he also had an expensive defense team and a bond that cost over 2 million dollars, and they ran two mock trials, with and without crying at the end to see which one will give better results! The judge also forbade the jury from seeing his Facebook posts in which he wrote about wanting to shoot protesters, crucial evidence in proving that this was premeditated! While allowing him to say one of the victims was a pedophile-this is not relevant to the case, just plain irrelevant *ad hominem*, as he obviously did not know that when he shot him (in fact, if he knew that before, that would have made the case for the shooting being premeditated!).

*“But that law also allowed minors to possess long guns for hunting as long as the barrels were at least a foot long. ... But when he acknowledged that Rittenhouse’s rifle’s barrel was longer*



than 16 inches, the minimum barrel length allowed under state law, Schroeder dismissed the charge" [6]

Apparently, when a while wannabe cop carries a gun with a large barrel, it becomes a "hunting rifle", so the case can be dropped (also crossing state lines, carelessness, etc., everything was thrown out). Physics! Later, he went on a second and third shooting (even the first one wasn't justified), which are also seen as "self-defense".

There are many ways to manipulate the juries. In the US there is a jury system (and elected judges), a remnant of elements from the bourgeois democratic revolution of the American colonists against British rule. However, an all-white, easily manipulated, jury along with a conservative judge is no guarantee for a fair trial. Any democratic principle can be twisted and turned for nefarious means (for example fake referendums in Russia/Hungary as a tool to bring legitimacy to the current leaders). While we support the right to trial by jury, as we believe that the law should be accessible to anyone, we can't support a manipulated jury and trial (as described above), in the same way that just because most British voters voted for Brexit, doesn't

mean can we support it.

*Down with the police!*

*Down with the bourgeois court system!*

*Support Black Lives Matter movement!*

*For creation of self-defense squads!*

#### Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/oklahoma-governor-commutes-julius-jones-death-sentence-hours-planned-e-rcna6011>

[2] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulford\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulford_Act)

[3] <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/fact-check/2020/08/29/fact-check-video-police-thanked-kyle-rittenhouse-gave-him-water/5661804002/>

[4] <https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2020/09/man-sought-in-the-fatal-downtown-portland-shooting-reported-to-have-been-killed-by-officers-in-wa.html>

[5] <https://nypost.com/2013/01/27/city-says-cops-had-no-duty-to-protect-subway-hero-who-subdued-killer/>

[6] <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/explainer-judge-drop-rittenhouse-gun-charge-81285031>

## General Strike in South Korea (20 October 2021)

*A Report (with Pictures) by Local Correspondents, Composed by the International Editorial Board of the RCIT, 24 October 2021*

The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) has staged an important one-day general strike on 20 October 2021. About half a million workers participated in the strike according to the organizers.

Among the slogans of the KCTU general strike were the following:

*\* Breaking down inequality! A great change towards an equal society!*

*\* Abolish discrimination against non-regular workers at workplaces with less than 5 employees!*

*\* For the rights of all workers to unionize!*

*\* Expand the care, health, education, housing, and public transport sectors!*

Rallies were held in a number of cities throughout the country in which about 30,000 people participated. (See below some pictures) Comrades of the RCIT South Korea point out: "What is significant is that despite the government's

restrictions on the rallies, the organizers were able to carry on their public protests. Due to the police's crackdown on rallies, it was not possible to hold a regular rally in one place. Instead, the demonstration had to move around, assembly repeatedly and then to disperse."

The Korean comrades of the RCIT also explain that the general strike reflected some serious weakness. Only half of the official membership of the KCTU (one million) participated in the strike. "The strike was mainly focused on the non-regular workers' sectors. None of the union branches at regular large workplaces, which are the main pillars of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, participated in the strike."

Nevertheless, the general strike in South Korea is an important step forward. It demonstrates the combat readiness of the working class in the current period of capitalist offensive!



Pictures from the mass demonstration of South Korean trade unionists (Seoul, 20.10.2021)

# China's Superrich Have A Really Good Time!

## Following the Latest Report of the Hurun China Rich List

By Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 8.11.2021,

The 2021 issue of *Hurun China Rich List Report* has been published recently.<sup>1</sup> The *Hurun List* regularly covers the developments in the world of China's superrich. It includes all those Chinese capitalists who have a net worth exceeding 2 billion yuan (\$312.75 million).

The *Hurun List* is published in China and is the country's equivalent to the American *Forbes List*. While the *Hurun Research Institute* is not an official state institution, its findings are regularly reported by official Chinese media. The latest issue, for example, has been reported by *Global Times* – the English-language mouthpiece of the Stalinist-capitalist regime in Beijing.<sup>2</sup> This reflects that the regime accepts the results of *Hurun* as authentic and draws the attention of the world public to it.

The authors of the latest report write that “the *Hurun Rich List* grew by 520 individuals or 22% to 2,918 individuals, triple that of a decade ago. Total wealth rose 24% to US\$5.3tn, six times that of a decade ago.”

Among the top figures of this list are well-known Chinese capitalists like TikTok founder Zhang Yiming, Pony Ma of Tencent, Jack Ma of Alibaba, ‘Bottled Water King’ Zhong Shanshan, Electric Vehicle makers Wei Jianjun & Han Xuejuan of Great Wall Motor and Wang Chuanfu of BYD, solar makers Liu Hanyuan of Tongwei and Luo Ligu of Hesheng Silicon.

The latest issue of the *Hurun List* covers Chinese monopoly capitalists irrespective if they are living in mainland China or outside. However, the vast majority resides in mainland China. Only 151 live in Hong Kong (which is in fact also part of mainland China), 87 in Taiwan, 19 in the U.S. and 12 in Singapore. The report adds: “The Top 3 cities with the highest concentration of entrepreneurs on the list were Beijing, Shenzhen and Shanghai, followed by Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Suzhou.”

We have reported several times in the last years about the massive growth of China's capitalist class.<sup>3</sup> The latest issue of the *Hurun Rich List* demonstrates once more that China is a fully developed capitalist country. It also shows how rapid this growth has been in the past decade. As the study notes, the number of Chinese billionaires has tripled since 2011 and their accumulated wealth increased even sixfold!

Not only this, as we did show in various works on this subject, China has meanwhile the largest number of monopoly capitalists and corporations in the world. This development reflects the rapid growth of China's politi-

cal, economic and military power. In fact, as the RCIT has demonstrated in various studies, China experienced the restoration of capitalism in the early 1990s and later became an imperialist Great Power.<sup>4</sup>

How bizarre are the claims of various Stalinists and Bolivarians who consider China as a “socialist” state! The claim by various pseudo-Trotskyists – like Altamira and the Argentinean PO or the Stalinophile Spartacists and their splitters – that China would still constitute a “deformed workers state” is not much less silly!

The RCIT considers it is impermissible for socialists to glorify China as a “progressive” state and to support it in the Cold War with the U.S. and other “old” imperialist powers. We say that the only legitimate, i.e. Marxist, approach is the program of consistent anti-imperialism and internationalism!

*For the revolutionary overthrow of China's Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship and the establishment of a workers and poor peasants government! Expropriate the Chinese monopoly bourgeoisie!*

*Workers and Oppressed: Defeat the Great Powers in East and West! Neither Washington nor Beijing! In any conflict between imperialist Great Powers: no support for any side! For revolutionary defeatism against all imperialist rulers!*

*Forward in the international struggle for socialism!*

### Footnotes

1 Hurun China Rich List 2021, Hurun Research Institute, 27.10.2021, <https://www.hurun.net/en-US/Info/Detail?num=MHVMV3QV61L9>

2 Global Times: 2,918 Chinese entrepreneurs have net worth of over 2 billion yuan: Hurun, Oct 27, 2021 <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1237417.shtml>

3 See e.g. Michael Pröbsting: China is Definitely the Place where You Want to Be (If You are a Billionaire), 8.3.2021, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-is-definitely-the-place-where-you-want-to-be-if-you-are-a-billionaire/>; by the same author: China's Billionaire Lawmakers. A telling comparison of extremely wealthy Chinese lawmakers with their peers in the US Congress, 9 March 2019, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-s-billionaire-lawmakers/>; by the same author: China: A Paradise for Billionaires. The latest UBS/PwC Report about the Global Super-Rich Delivers another Crushing Blow to the Stalinist Myth of China's “Socialism”, 27.10.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-is-a-paradise-for-billionaires/>; China's “Socialist” Billionaires. Following the Latest Report about the Global Super-Rich, 16.11.2015, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/china-s-billionaires/>

4 See on this numerous RCIT documents on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>.

# China's Transformation into an Imperialist Power

Three Pamphlets by Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

Order the pamphlet via our contact address: [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)



## Sri Lanka: On the Current State of the Teachers' Struggle

Report by Chandimal Wijetatne, General Secretary of the Ceylon Independence Teacher Service Union, with a brief Preface of the International Editorial Board of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 2 November 2021

**B**elow we publish a brief update on the struggle of the Sri Lankan teachers by comrade Chandimal Wijetatne, General Secretary of the *Ceylon Independence Teacher Service Union*. After more than three months of strike, the bureaucracy of the main trade union federations agreed to a contract which did not result in a meaningful increase of wages.

However, several more militant trade unions have agreed to join forces so that they continue to fight for the interests of the teachers.

The sell-out of the struggle by the union bureaucrats shows once more that this layer has close relations with the capitalist state apparatus, in fact it is integrated into the state. The rank and file teachers must not rely on such leaders but rather fight for their interests by organizing democratically and independently of the state.

Of course, this must not result in ultra-left conclusions such as a refusal of the united front tactic towards the mainstream trade unions. They must be called and pressurized to join the struggle as they still have a lot of influence among the teachers. However, such calls need to be

combined with warning about the character of the bureaucracy and their harmful role in the struggle.

\*\*\*\*\*

The struggle waged by teachers in Sri Lanka was abandoned by the traditional teachers' unions on the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Subsequently, the National Coalition Against Teacher-Principal Salary Anomaly, formed by other teacher unions, decided to hold a continuous satyagraha. Accordingly, on October 26, the Satyagraha was launched by the Government Teachers' Association, a partner organization.

The Ceylon Independent Teachers' Service Union joined the Satyagraha on November 2 to support it.

From left to right in the photo below are Jeevika Abeysekera, President of the Guru Maga 'Association, Dayaratne Patabendi, Secretary of the Guru Maga' Association, Shehan Dissanayake, Secretary of the Government Teachers' Association and Chandimal Wijeratne, Secretary of the Ceylon Independent Teachers' Service Union.



## RCIT Publications on Kashmir & India

- \* **“Azadi Kashmir”: Marxists and the independence of Kashmir**
- \* **Kashmir & the Indian Left Today**
- \* **India: A Prison House of Nations and Lower Castes**
- \* **India: A Peculiar Semi-Colony**

Written by Michael Pröbsting

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## No Tears for a Zionist Soldier Executed by Palestinians

*Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League, (RCIT section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 22.11.2021*

An Israeli Paratrooper in the Zionist army who recently moved to Israel from South Africa, was executed amongst three others: an Israeli settler, and two Zionist police officers were injured. The Palestinian who used a sub machinegun and a knife, 42-year-old Fadi Mahmoud Abu Shkheidem, a teacher resident of Jerusalem's Shuafat refugee camp, was killed. Hamas said in a statement Abu Shkheidem was politically affiliated with the Gaza-based armed movement that governs the occupied Gaza Strip. [i]

It is not difficult to understand why a white person will leave South Africa to Israel. After all Israel is the twin sister of South Africa in the time it was under apartheid. Thousands of right wingers participated in his funeral. We of the ISL do not have one tear for the dead while we see Fadi Mahmoud Abu Shkheidemas a resistance fighter. The Zionist call the killing of soldiers and policemen terror while we see it as an act of resistance to oppression.

The occupied oppressed nations have the right to fight with weapons against their oppressors even according to bourgeois international law. According to international humanitarian law, wars of national liberation have been expressly embraced by UN General Assembly resolutions that recognize the "*legitimacy of the people's struggle for liberation from colonial and foreign domination...by all available means*".

While the Palestinians have the right to resist with arms the occupation and the systematic repression by the Zionist state and its agents, like the settlers the police and the army, are guilty of crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution.

Israel has used military rule over the Palestinian population for all but six months of its 73-year history. It did so over the vast majority of Palestinians inside Israel from 1948 and until 1966. From 1967 until the present, it has used military rule over Palestinians in the West Bank and has put the people in Gaza under siege that turned Gaza to the biggest ghetto in history. On this the Human Right Watch stated:

*"The international community has over the years detached the term apartheid from its original South African context, developed a universal legal prohibition against its practice, and recognized it as a crime against humanity with definitions provided in the 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid ("Apartheid Convention") and the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)." [ii]*

That Israel is an apartheid state is recognized by many. Even the conservative Zionist, "*Former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni warned at Haaretz-UCLA national security conference that Israel, even after replacing Netanyahu as prime minister, was moving farther away from a two-state solution toward an anti-democratic "one-state reality"*" [iii]

She is wrong of course; Israel is not moving in the direction of one apartheid state but is an apartheid state already and always was.

In its typical response to the execution of the soldier the Zionist oppression forces have arrested 50 Palestinians allegedly connected to Hamas.

The Palestinians themselves in spite of their heroic strug-

gle are not powerful enough to win the struggle for their self-determination. The Israeli Jewish workers cannot develop a revolutionary struggle because they are prisoners of the Zionist ideology. The formula of "two states" is simply a cover that allows the Zionists to take over more Palestinian lands, build more settlements and prevents a real solution to the oppressed Palestinians. The local Arab rulers have betrayed the Palestinians and served the imperialists including Israel. The PA is also a servant of the Zionist state and an obstacle on the road of liberation. The only force that can bring the solution are the armed Arab and Iranian workers and poor peasants by the Arab revolution that will begin as a democratic revolution but will become in the same process a socialist revolution as part of the world revolution. In this process a section of the Israeli workers can break with Zionism and join the revolution. This is the strategy of Trotsky's permanent revolution.

Various centrists in the world that call themselves Marxists and even Trotskyists like the ISA and its section in Palestine "*Socialist Struggle*" recognize the right of self-determination of the Israelis and call for a two "socialist" states solution. They argue that unlike South Africa where the blacks are a large majority, the Palestinians are not a big majority and therefore should join forces with the Israeli working class that will not join the Arab revolution unless the Israeli workers will be granted their right to their own state.

This scheme has nothing to do with reality nor with scientific Marxist theory and everything to do with tailing the existing Zionist consciousness of the Jewish workers. Reformists as well as centrists are unable to think as internationalists. They cannot see beyond the borders of the state they live in. It is true that the Palestinians are not a majority in Israel and the 1967 occupied lands (which is the result of an undemocratic process, so this argument by itself lends credibility to the Zionists, because if it weren't for the Nakba, the Palestinians would be a majority), but the Arab and the Iranian workers and peasants are the majority in the region. Why should the Palestinians join the Zionist workers that see them as an enemy and not the Arab and Iranian majority? Since the Palestinians are Arabs, they are part of the majority in the region, and the Arab revolution, when won, will be much stronger than the Zionists. This will likely force some of the Israeli workers to break with Zionism and join the Arab revolution. The interest of these workers will be to support one state from the river to the sea, as part of a socialist revolution, not another separate state. Under the working class rule the larger the state, the more efficient it is. Of course, the nationality of this state will be Palestinian while the Jews who will support it will have full equal democratic civil rights.

The ISA is unable to learn from the mistakes they do, like supporting the imperialist democratic party in the USA, not to speak about learning from the mistakes of others. For example, the failures of Israeli Socialist Organization (Matzpen was the name of the journal published by them) that broke from the Israel Communist Party in 1962. They stood for the de-Zionization of Israel and thought that af-

ter this step Israel will be part of a socialist Federation of the Middle East. For this mistake they fell apart and disappeared. Before them existed the Revolutionary Communist League led by Tony Cliff when he was in Palestine. They also thought that the solution is Jewish and Palestinian Arab workers unity against the British, the Zionist capitalists and the Palestinians nationalist leadership and failed to see that the solution has been the Arab revolution and one socialist state from the river to the sea that will promise the Jews who accept this solution equal civil rights but not the right to form another state. Their failure led Cliff to leave Palestine and form another centrist organization – the British SWP.

Thus, from a working-class internationalist perspective Trotsky's method for South Africa is applicable to Palestine from the river to the sea, while the ISA's scheme is very close to Stalin's scheme of socialism in one country.

In 1933, Trotsky wrote: *"The example of our South African friends again confirms the fact that in the present epoch only the Bolshevik-Leninists, that is, the consistent proletarian revolutionaries, take a serious attitude to theory, analyze the realities, and are learning themselves before they teach others. The Stalinist bureaucracy has long ago substituted a combination of ignorance and impudence for Marxism. The overthrow of the hegemony of British imperialism in South Africa can come about as the result of a military defeat of Great Britain and the disintegration of the Empire. In this case, the South African whites could still for a certain period – hardly a considerable one – re-*

*tain their domination over the blacks.*

*Another possibility, which in practice could be connected with the first, is a revolution in Great Britain and her possessions. Three-quarters of the population of South Africa (almost six million of the almost eight million totals) is composed of non-Europeans. A victorious revolution is unthinkable without the awakening of the native masses. In its turn, that will give them what they are so lacking today – confidence in their strength, a heightened personal consciousness, and cultural growth.*

*Under these conditions the South African Republic will emerge first of all as a "black" republic; this does not exclude, of course, either full equality for the whites, or brotherly relations between the two races – depending mainly on the conduct of the whites. But it is entirely obvious that the predominant majority of the population, liberated from slavish dependence, will put a certain imprint on the state". [iv]*

*Release all Palestinian political prisoners!*

*Down with the Zionist apartheid state!*

*For Palestine red and Free from the river to the sea!*

*For a socialist Federation of the Middle East!*

#### Endnotes:

[i] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/21/jerusalem-shooting>

[ii] <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

[iii] <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/israel-is-heading-toward-a-one-state-reality-we-cannot-accept-it-1.10405615>

[iv] Leon Trotsky Letter to South African Revolutionaries (April 1933) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1933/04/safrica.html>

# Books of the RCIT

## Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

### The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.

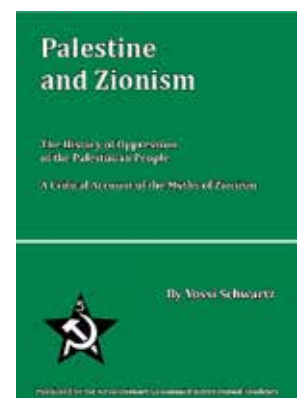
### A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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/>



## We Can Hear the Drums of a New War in the Middle East!

By the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine), 01.11.2021

Today we were informed that Israel is carrying out a major drill as it expects that in the coming war against Hezbollah the Lebanese organization will fire 2,000 rockets a day causing internal strife. The drill is simulating a large-scale war in which civilians are evacuated from the northern border. Israel expects that the Israelis will hide inside bomb shelters for an extended length of time. According to a 2020 Zionist State Comptroller report, millions of Israelis do not have basic protection means near their homes. The drill will also deal with the ability of hospitals to handle a large number of wounded soldiers needing urgent care, as well as the moving of patients to hospitals in the center of the country. [i]

This drill raises the question of why to prepare a war against Lebanon at this time? Iran is saying that the killing of protesters in Lebanon a week ago by the Christian defense forces was sedition backed by Israel. Some forces are pushing for a civil war in Lebanon and it is likely that it is Israel or its Arab allies.

*"Iran believes that the people, the government, the army, and the resistance in Lebanon will successfully overcome seditions backed by the Zionist entity," the IRNA news agency quoted the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh.* [ii]

While we do not necessarily believe the Iranian regime this claim makes sense. As we write in this article not only the tension between Israel and Hezbollah is growing but the tension between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia is growing and also Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have expelled Lebanon's ambassadors in recent days.

*"We are facing a crisis created by one of the countries in the region, which is waging a brutal war against another Arab country," said Mohammed Raad, head of the Hezbollah faction in the Lebanese parliament "... "The Hezbollah official said: "One of the ministers of the Lebanese government (Minister of information George Kordahi) stated support of the right of the Yemeni people to protect themselves against the aggressor coalition that has invaded their country, before assuming the post of minister in this government."* [iii]

In recent weeks, Israeli war Minister Benny Gantz has spoken a few times of Israel's readiness to attack Iran to prevent it from advancing its nuclear program. *"I do not rule out the possibility that Israel will have to take action in the future to prevent a nuclear Iran," he said at a briefing of foreign ambassadors and envoys. And as though to add to the alarmist mood, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of General Staff Aviv Kochavi claimed that the "progress in the Iranian nuclear program has led the IDF to speed up its operational plans"* [iv]

We do not know whether Iran is advancing its nuclear energy program for economic reasons as Iran says or for creating nuclear weapons as Israel claims. In any case, Iran has the right to develop nuclear weapons as Israel has nuclear bombs according to the foreign mass media. The USA has such weapons and so its allies like Pakistan and furthermore the USA is the only state that used atomic weapons, dropped on Japan in WWII. It is clear that a non-imperialist state that does not possess such a weapon is a potential victim of imperialist aggression. Iraq that did not possess weapons for mass destruction by 2003 and was attacked and occupied by the USA and its allies and they

do not dare to attack North Korea that has such weapons.

*"Israel wants to sabotage any chance for a US-Iranian deal similar to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "It is unlikely that Israeli politicians will voluntarily cease to fan the flames of tension with Iran as they usually capitalize on fear-mongering in their domestic politics. That could make successful nuclear talks harder to achieve."* [v]

Israel by itself is unable to win a war against Iran and Hezbollah. It may rely on the right-wing Christian defense forces in Lebanon that are close to Israel to open civil war in Lebanon while together with the Arab states that are partners to the Abraham accord to attack Iran.

The Abraham Accords are a series of treaties normalizing relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, arranged by the U.S. Administration between August and December 2020. Those Arab states joined Egypt and Jordan in making "peace" with Israel. As we saw in the Zionist war against Lebanon in 1982 before the Zionist state attacked Lebanon it made "peace" with Egypt.

Even so, without the assistance of the USA, Israel and the local ruling classes of the Arab states will find it difficult to go to a full-fledged war against Iran and its allies. The USA imperialists are focusing on the growing conflict with imperialist China. However, it has not fully relinquished its control in the Middle East and may provide Israel with new destructive weapons. The chances that the US will attack Iran are almost zero. That does not mean it will not provide Israel with more destructive weapons like the new 5,000 pound GBU-72 bombs. Meanwhile the U.S. Air Force said Sunday it flew a B-1B strategic bomber over the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil traded passes. Fighter jets from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, and Saudi Arabia flew alongside the bomber. The USA may be applying pressure on Iran and its nuclear energy program, but we have seen in history that such exercises can lead to a very real war.

We can hear the drums of a new horrible war in the Middle East where millions of people will die. In such a war the oppressed Palestinians may join in a new intifada against the Zionist state. In a case of such a war, the interest of the international working class is the revolutionary defeat of Israel and its allies as Israel is an imperialist state of settler colonialists that functions as the front line of the imperialists in the region. Iran is a regional power with a reactionary regime but is not an imperialist state. As Lenin said, for humanity to live imperialism must die.

*Down with the Imperialists! Down with Zionism  
For red and free Palestine from the river to the sea!  
For a socialist federation of the Middle East!*

### Endnotes:

[i] <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/home-front-command-rahel-to-carry-out-joint-war-time-drill-starting-today-683587>

[ii] <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iran/iran-claims-shooting-at-hezbollah-protesters-was-backed-by-israel-1.10297291>

[iii] <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/hezbollah-saudi-crisis-deepens-and-could-impact-israel-analysis-683596>

[iv] <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/09/17/israel-isnt-strong-enough-to-attack-iran/>

[v] <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/an-escalating-israel-iran-conflict-could-sink-the-jcpoa/>



## What is Behind the Ban of Six Palestinian NGOs?

By Yossi Schwartz, ISL the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 1.11.2021

Gantz, the Zionist minister of war that was responsible for the killing of more than 2000 Palestinians in 2014 has been relying on a right-wing Zionist organization calling itself “NGO Monitor” to ban six Palestinian NGOs. He claims they are fronts for the PFLP. In this article, we want to deal with the super reactionary political nature of the “NGO Monitor” and what is behind Gantz’s decision. For us the PFLP (The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) is a national liberation organization while Israel uses state terrorism. Oppressed nations have the right to use the armed struggle. Nevertheless, it is important to deal with the facts.

The “NGO Monitor” was founded in 2001 by Gerald M. Steinberg under the control of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. It claims that it became a legally and financially independent organization in 2007. It has been financed by the Wechsler Family Foundation, most likely a fictitious organization. It is a private foundation in New York founded in 2003 and most recently had \$7,419 in revenue and no employees. [i] Nina Rosenwald (New York) has used her millions to cement the alliance between the pro-Israel lobby and the Islamophobic fringe [ii] and Newt Becker (Los Angeles), a right-wing Zionist philanthropic. While “NGO Monitor” claims that it receives no governmental support it did receive money from The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), a quasi-governmental agency. [iii]

While it claims that its financial information is fully disclosed with the Registrar for Non-Profits, Uri Blau in Haaretz, who examined the NGO Monitor’s finances, discovered that “the organization sought to block the publication of one contributor and to get hundreds of thousands of Shekels from anonymous sources[iv], these donations were channeled through the Jewish Agency for Israel”. In the same article he referred to the “NGO Monitor” as McCarthyism in Israel. In simple words its financial backing reveals that is a far-right Zionist organization in the service of the Zionist state. Of course, this is not a surprise for us but it is necessary to reveal the facts.

**Its function is to attack human rights organizations that criticize Israel all over the world.**

In 2010 it attacked the EU and alleged that they secretly finance human rights organizations in Israel. Michael Sfar, a lawyer specializing in international human rights law said Steinberg “invents demons and then chases them... All the data about the donations of foreign countries to Israeli human rights organizations are published on the Web sites of the organizations, as required by law” [v]. Haaretz wrote on this issue: “After four years of legal battles, the European Court of Human Rights rejected the request of the right-wing organization NGO Monitor to receive documents regarding the funding of 16 projects of human rights organizations in Israel. NGO Monitor is a right-wing group that keeps track of the activity of left-wing non-profit organizations, to point out “foreign intervention” in Israeli affairs. Over the years, the group has issued reports containing information and analysis of the activity of these Israeli organizations.” [vi]

In 2013 this organization was awarded the Menachem Begin Prize. Menachem Begin was a right-wing terror-

ist and later a Prime Minister of Israel. Natan Sharansky the right-wing settler who was the Chair of the Executive of the Jewish Agency from June 2009 to August 2018 and who formulated the IHRA that defines opposition to racist Zionism as Anti-Semitism said: “NGO Monitor is the leading organization defending the State of Israel and the Jewish people.” [vii]

Ilan Baruch, Israel’s former ambassador to South Africa, said in a report from 2018 that The Jerusalem-based group, “disseminates misleading and tendentious information, which it presents as factual in-depth research” (27 September 2018) [viii]

In August 2006 Human Rights Watch in a report that said: “Israel’s Indiscriminate Attacks Against Civilians in Lebanon,” are war crimes.”

The “NGO Monitor” accused Human Rights Watch and Kenneth Roth its executive director, whose father fled Nazi Germany of blood libel. It also claimed that “central in the strategy” of Amnesty International is “to delegitimize Israel.” Human Rights Watch said that those like NGO Monitor “who want selective exemption of Israel from the rules of war may not have faced the implications of getting what they wish for”. [ix]

Ten days have passed since Gantz banned the six Palestinian NGOs and Gantz the liar who claimed that he has solid proof that the six are fronts for the PFLP has not shown one single proof, hoping that everyone will forget the issue. He is not aware of course that at a certain point in the historical process the transformation of changes in quantity into quality. Israel is where its twin sister the South African apartheid state was in the early 1980’s.

We can go on and on and show that this right-wing organization like the ADL accuse all human right organization that dare to speak of the Zionist’s crimes of Anti-Semitism. By doing so it further isolates the Zionist apartheid state. Last week Israel’s ‘terror’ designation of Palestinian NGOs sparks furious international backlash. This week the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-CSI) and Global Union Federations (GUF) condemn the designation by Israel of six Palestinian human rights groups as terrorist organizations. Of course, this condemnation will not change the class and political nature of Israel, but the isolation of Israel will help the revolutionary struggle of the Arab revolution against it and its Arab reactionary regimes that are friendly to Israel.

There is no doubt that this right-wing organization has tried to silence all Palestinian human rights organizations since it was created in 2001, so one question is why now Gantz decided to ban them? The International Criminal Court’s decision to probe war crimes by the Zionist state can be behind it as the court in Hague relies among other things on the reports of the Palestinian NGOs. The Zionist state wants to show its supporters that the ICC is another anti-Semite forum like the UNHRC. However, Israel is aware that the ICC does not have the power to punish criminals unless its decisions are backed by the UN Security Council. The US will block any measures against Israel. It is more likely that Gantz is simply appealing to the right-wing voters who voted for Bennett and are mov-

ing away from him.

*Israel hands off the Palestinians NGOs!*

*Down with the Zionist apartheid from the river to the sea!*

*For Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!*

#### Endnotes

[i] <https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/wechsler-family-foundation,043533126/>

[ii] Max Blumenthal, The Sugar Mama of Anti-Muslim Hate <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/sugar-mama-anti-muslim-hate/>

[iii] The Amutah for Financial Responsibility (R.A.) Financial Statements as of December 31, 2010; The Amutah for NGO Responsibility (R.A.) Financial Statements as of December 31, 2011. [https://web.archive.org/web/20130921183319/http://www.ngo-monitor.org/articles.php?cat\\_](https://web.archive.org/web/20130921183319/http://www.ngo-monitor.org/articles.php?cat_)

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[iv] Uri Blau (10 February 2012). [NGO Monitor: The association that tracks organizations of the Left does not want you to know who contributes to it]. Haaretz (in Hebrew). <https://www.haaretz.co.il/magazine/1.1636887>

[v] Chaim Levinson (25 December 2012). "EU court rejects NGO Monitor petition to release details on Israeli rights groups" Haaretz "

[vi] <https://www.haaretz.com/eu-court-tosses-case-on-ngo-funds-1.5281552>

[vii] Continuing Menachem Begin's legacy, Jerusalem Post, 28 November 2013 <https://www.jpost.com/magazine/features/continuing-menachem-begins-legacy-333321>

[viii] <https://euobserver.com/foreign/142973>

[ix] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/29/AR2006082901045.html>

## The Growing Isolation of the Zionist Apartheid State

By Yossi Schwartz, ISL the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 12.10.2021

While still some of the declining imperialist states like the USA, Britain and the right-wing regimes in Europe support Israel diplomatically, military and economically the isolation of the Zionist Apartheid state is growing daily. On Monday, 11.10.21, the United Nations Human Rights Council which is composed of 47-members passed a pro-Durban resolution 32-10, after the United Kingdom demanded a roll call vote, preventing the text's expected consensus passage.

The Durban Resolution, (DDPA) was "adopted by consensus at the 2001 World Conference against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa. It is a document that proposes concrete measures to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance." (1) It condemns Israel as a perpetrator of racism and an apartheid state. The Geneva resolution on Monday reaffirms support for the Durban Declaration of 2001.

The ten states that opposed the resolution are Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. The US and Israel are no longer members of the UNHRC and did not vote. The pressures Israel used to persuade more UNHRC members to vote against the resolution have failed.

In a typical hypocritical statement that confuses anti-Zionism with Anti-Semitism British envoy Simon Manley stated: "The Racism should be tackled in all its forms and, regrettably, for far too long, the UN has downplayed the scourge of anti-Semitism." (2)

It is not surprising to hear the statement of British imperialism. After all it was British imperialism that supported the Zionist colonialist project in Palestine after WWI.

At the same time a growing number of trade unions,

students, city councils like in Ireland, and poor peasants around the world fully support the UNHRC resolution. Now we hear of famous authors that support the cultural boycott of the Zionist state. Sally Rooney, a bestselling author won't allow her recently published novel, "Beautiful World, Where Are You?" to be published in Hebrew because she supports a cultural boycott of Israel.

"In July, soon after the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, Rooney was one of thousands of artists to sign a letter accusing Israel of apartheid and calling for its international isolation. The letter called for "an end to the support provided by global powers to Israel and its military; especially the United States," and for governments to "cut trade, economic and cultural relations." (3)

"Rooney is not the first prominent author to refuse to publish a book in Hebrew. In 2012, Alice Walker, who also supports the movement to boycott Israel, would not allow "The Color Purple" to be translated into Hebrew." (4)

The Zionists cannot see it of course but Israel stands in the same place that its twin sister, South Africa's apartheid was in the early 1980s. The boycott of Israel by itself will not end the Zionist apartheid but it is an effective auxiliary tactic. It is especially effective when it used by trade unions to boycott Zionist military goods.

*Down with the Zionist apartheid! Boycott Israel!*

*For Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!*

#### Endnotes:

(1) [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Durban\\_text\\_en.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Durban_text_en.pdf)

(2) <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/un-human-rights-council-approves-durban-resolution>

(3) <https://www.jpost.com/international/sally-rooney-wont-let-her-new-novel-be-published-in-hebrew-681708> (4) Ibid

# Marxism against the COVID Counterrevolution

You find about 100 RCIT documents on this issue here:

<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/collection-of-articles-on-the-2019-corona-virus/>

## Release All Palestinian Political Prisoners!

by the Internationalist Socialist League (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 17.10.2021

Since the escape and capture of the six Palestinian political prisoners last month from the Gilboa prison, the Zionist state has used punitive measures against all 4600 Palestinian political prisoners, including 35 women and 200 children, and most of all against the 400 prisoners who belong to the Islamic Jihad. A number of prisoners belonging to the Islamic Jihad were transferred to solitary confinement, and leaders of the movement were transferred to interrogation cells for torture.

A number of Palestinian prisoners are already on hunger strikes in Israeli prisons. At least two prisoners are in serious condition. The hunger striking prisoners included Zakaria Zubeidi, one of the prisoners who escaped from the Gilboa Prison. Kayed Fafous, Muqdad Qawasmeh, Alaa Aaraj, Hesham Abu Hawwash, Rayeq Besharat, Shadi Abu Akr, Akram Abu Bakr and Ratib Haribat are on hunger strikes as well. Some of the prisoners are protesting against their administrative detention, while other prisoners are protesting against measures implemented like denial of family visits. [1]

*“Administrative detention is incarceration without trial or charge, alleging that a person plans to commit a future offense. It has no time limit, and the evidence on which it is based is not disclosed. Israel employs this measure extensively and routinely, and has used it to hold thousands of Palestinians for lengthy periods of time. While detention orders are formally reviewed, this is merely a semblance of judicial oversight, as detainees cannot reasonably mount a defense against undisclosed allegations. Nevertheless, courts uphold the vast majority of orders”* [2]

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement has announced the start of a mass hunger strike by its prisoners held in Israeli jails, against the punitive measures imposed on them.

Israel is violating all the international conventions relating to prisoners. According to a report by the EU parliament: *“Nearly five thousand Palestinians are held by Israel in a ‘parallel’ justice system reserved for those accused of offenses against the state. Instead of entering the Palestinian legal system, these prisoners are tried by Israel’s military courts and often held in Israel, in conditions that violate international humanitarian and human rights conventions. Children and elected officials are among them, subject to ill-treatment — including prolonged solitary confinement, abuse and a lack of due process — by Israeli military authorities. (...) While the United Nations and other international bodies have condemned Israel’s systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners as a blatant violation of international law, the situation has only recently attracted widespread international calls for action. The European Union has expressed its concern, but action is now required.”* [3]

In spite of this report the EU states support the Zionist apartheid state as they did in the case of the South Africa’s apartheid almost until the end of that regime. For them the accusation of violation of human rights is used against regimes in the semi colonies that oppose imperialist domination. Israel is in the front line of the imperialist control of the Middle East and they will support the Zionist apartheid until its last stages, hypocritically they accuse those who oppose the crimes of the Zionist apartheid as Anti-Semites, using this accusation to silence Palestinian activists in states like Britain. For example, Dr. Issam Hijjawi

Bassalat is a Palestinian political prisoner in British jails. He has been targeted for his commitment to international solidarity and as a political means of repressing both the Palestinian and Irish movements alongside his fellow detainees, the Saoradh 9, he was detained in “Operation Arabacia,” a series of political arrests carried out by British imperialists. [4]

The hypocrisy of the imperialists is even clearer when they ignore the leading role of Zionists in the far-right racist movements and parties. For example, the leading far-right figure in France is Éric Zemmour, a Zionist Algerian Jew who has been convicted for inciting racial hatred. Another Zionist Marcel Yaron Goldhammer, a dual German-Israeli citizen and a former soldier in the Zionist army was running in the last elections on the ticket of AfD, or Alternative for Germany, a far right-wing Islamophobic Populist Party.

The imperialist ruling classes have been using the fake allegation of Anti-Semitism to attack even left-wing reformists like Jeremy Corbyn and the left in the British labor party, or the liberal wing in the US Democratic Party. An attack motivated by the capitalist’s agenda of attacking the democratic and social gains of the working class and the popular classes while pushing for a WWII. Defending Zionism is the flag of the reactionaries of our time.

At the same time the imperialists and the reactionary regime and movement support not only the theft of Palestinian lands but the brutal attacks of the settlers in the West Bank backed by the Zionist army of the Palestinian peasants in order to prevent them from working on their lands. The settlers steal land and are backed by the Israeli state who wants to steal on the ground that these lands are not cultivated by the peasants (using the Ottoman land code of 1858!).

*“Masked settlers allegedly attacked a home on the edge of the Palestinian West Bank village of Burin with stones and set fire to a nearby field on Saturday, according to video evidence published by the left-wing organization Yesh Din. The video showed young men with cloth head coverings that covered their faces. One young man in jeans could be seen setting fire to grassland, while a brush fire rages behind them on the parched hillside. Another young man in the video could be seen throwing a stone at the direction of a Palestinian home in Burin, which is located in Area B of the West Bank near the Palestinian city of Nablus. At one point in the video, an Israeli soldier could be seen standing with the group”* [5]

*Release all Palestinian Political Prisoners!*

*Down with the Zionist State of Pirates and War Criminals from the River to the Sea!*

*For Palestine Red and Free from the River to the Sea!*

### Endnotes

[1] <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/palestinian-prisoners-hunger-strike-as-tensions-rise-in-israeli-prisons-681576>

[2] [https://www.btselem.org/topic/administrative\\_detention](https://www.btselem.org/topic/administrative_detention)

[3] [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EXPO-AFET\\_SP\(2013\)491484](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EXPO-AFET_SP(2013)491484)

[4] Samidoun Network, [samidoun@samidoun.net](mailto:samidoun@samidoun.net)

[5] <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/yesh-din-israelis-stone-palestinian-home-light-brush-fire-nearby-682200>



