



Shireen Abu Akleh: Murdered by the Zionist State!

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English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 134, June 2022

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Picture on the Cover: A demonstrator in London holding pictures of Shireen Abu Akleh, on May 14 2022 (Source: Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shireen_Abu_Akleh#/media/File:London_May_14_Palestine_Protests.jpg)

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

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Convoy and Conference on MayDay 2022 in Ukraine

Report by the Media Team of RCIT, 4 May 2022

The RCIT is an international revolutionary current which is in solidarity with the resistance of the Ukrainian people against the imperialist invasion by Russia. We oppose any interference by Western imperialist forces, be it the European Union, the United States, NATO or the United Nations. Since the beginning of the war, we have published a huge number of articles and comments in various languages on the topic which can be read here: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>

However, we have not limited ourselves in elaborating extensive written material but also organized practical campaigns in brisk pace under the banner of *International Workers Aid*.

The Sunflower Convoy from *International Workers Aid* was already twice on the road. In support of another Convoy and Conference, which was initiated by *International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles (ILNSS)* we organized the transport of donations collected by ILNSS from Warsaw to Lviv with our experienced team from Vienna. We arrived in Warsaw on the 28 April 2022 and drove to Lviv the next day. On the 30th April we participated on a meeting of feminists in Lviv and had two delegates from RCIT at the trade union conference on MayDay in Lviv. Together with activists from Brazil (*CSP Conlutas*), France (*Solidaire*), Italy (*ADL Cobas*), Lithuania (*G1PS*), Poland (*IP – Inicyatywa Pracownicza*) and Ukraine (*Social Movement*)

we discussed various topics of workers struggle.

Our international secretary, Michael Pröbsting, explained the positions of the RCIT at the conference in a passionate and powerful speech against imperialism. Further, Medina Gunic, organizer of *International Workers Aid* and spokesperson of RCIT gave an overview on the effects of the Bosnian war on the workers struggle in her home country.

In the vivid and positive spirit of the international conference, the RCIT delegates agreed on future close collaboration with the participating forces.

We will update this short report with links to reports from the various participating forces. Also, videos and pictures can be found below.

For now, we start with the report from the ILNSS here:

<http://laboursolidarity.org/The-International-Labour-Network?lang=fr>

The report from CSP Conlutas (Brazil), which can be read here:

<https://cspconlutas.org/2022/05/02/csp-conlutas-goes-to-ukraine/>

The Report from Solidaire (France) can be read here:

<https://solidaires.org/sinformer-et-agir/actualites-et-mobilisations/internationales/le-reseau-syndical-international-de-solidarite-et-de-luttes-se-rend-en-ukraine-avec-un-convoy-daide-aux-travailleurs-et-distribue-des-dons/>



Impressions from the Lviv Conference on May Day 2022. Medina Gunic (top left) and Michael Pröbsting (top right)

Support the Ukrainian People against Putin's Invasion!

Down with Russian and NATO Imperialism!

Let's build a strong left-wing international solidarity movement with the workers and oppressed in the Ukraine

Statement of the RCIT for the international conference of socialists and trade unionists in Lviv on MayDay 2022

The Lviv Conference of socialists and trade unionists from the Ukraine and several European and Latin American countries is an important opportunity to advance the building of a strong left-wing international solidarity movement with the Ukrainian people.

In order to organize such international solidarity, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) initiated *International Workers Aid* soon after the beginning of the war. In collaboration with Chechen migrants, this campaign did already sent the *Sunflower Convoy* from Vienna to Lviv two times. We brought humanitarian aid in coordination with "Social Movement" (Ukraine) as well as the organization of the Crimean Tatars. In the days around the Lviv conference, we helped with realizing another humanitarian transport - this time from Warsaw to Lviv – organised by the forces behind this conference.

We would strongly appreciate if other forces also join such international solidarity activities. We look forward to coordinate our future activities with them as much as possible.

Our practical solidarity activities are based on the RCIT's political characterization of the Ukraine War and the conflict between NATO and Russia. We are in unconditional solidarity with the courageous people in the Ukraine fighting against the barbarous invasion of Putin's troops. We call international workers and popular organizations to support this just war of defense against Russian imperialism. We call for material aid for the Ukrainian people

(including weapons) as well as for workers sanctions against Russia.

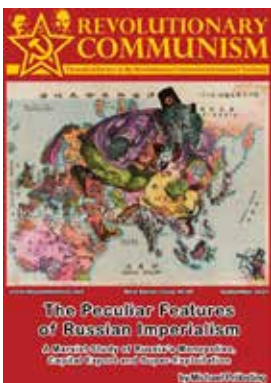
At the same time, the RCIT opposes all imperialist Great Powers (U.S., Russia, EU, China or Japan) and rejects collaboration with any of these. We do not support any form of diplomatic and economic warfare of one imperialist power against the other (like e.g. economic and financial sanctions). In any confrontation between Great Powers, the RCIT advocates the policy of *defeatism* in both camps.

The RCIT support the efforts of socialists in the Ukraine to strengthen independent and militant trade unions and to build an independent workers party. This is all the more necessary since the Zelensky government has a thoroughly capitalist and pro-NATO character. It is the enemy of the workers and popular masses and must be replaced by a workers government.

We also support the call for the cancellation of all foreign debts of the Ukraine. Open Europe's borders for all refugees from the Ukraine – irrespective of their passport and their skin color! We stand for an independent, free and socialist Ukraine with the right of national self-determination for all ethnic minorities.

The struggle for such a perspective must be integrated into the international struggle of the workers and oppressed to overcome the system of capitalist exploitation via a socialist revolution. The RCIT calls all those who share such a program to unite and to jointly build with us a *Revolutionary World Party!*

New Website of International Workers Aid: www.workers-aid.net



Publications of the RCIT

The Peculiar Features of Russian Imperialism

A Study of Russia's Monopolies, Capital Export
and Super-Exploitation in the Light of Marxist Theory

By Michael Pröbsting, August 2021

Introduction * Another Denial of Russia's Imperialist Character * The Methodological Failure of our Critics * Russia's Economy: Dominated by Domestic, not Foreign, Monopolies * Capital Export and the Problem of "Round-Tripping" Foreign Direct Investments * "Phantom FDI": No Russian Peculiarity but a Global Phenomenon * Russia's Leading Multinational Corporations and their Foreign Investments * Imperialist Super-Exploitation via Capital Export * Imperialist Super-Exploitation via Migration * Conclusions * Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A4 Format

May Day 2022: Forward in the Struggle for Socialism!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 25 April 2022

On the occasion of May Day 2022, we send revolutionary greetings to the workers and popular masses fighting for freedom and justice all over the world!

The RCIT states its unconditional solidarity with the courageous people in the Ukraine resisting against the barbarous invasion of Putin's troops. We call international workers and popular organizations to support this just war of defense against Russian imperialism. We call for military aid to the Ukrainian resistance as well as for workers sanctions against Russia.

At the same time, we emphasize that socialists must not support any imperialist Great Power (U.S., Russia, EU, China or Japan). We therefore oppose any form of diplomatic and economic warfare of one imperialist power against the other (like e.g. economic and financial sanctions). In any confrontation between Great Powers, the RCIT advocates the policy of defeatism in both camps.

We send our greetings to the heroic people of Palestine who are resisting against the Zionist butchers! In any confrontation with the Israeli state, we stand for the military victory of the Palestinian people and its resistance organizations and for the defeat of the Zionist enemy! Down with the Israeli Apartheid state – for a free, red Palestine from the River to the Sea!

The RCIT sends its greetings to the workers and poor peasants in Sri Lanka who are protesting against the rising living costs and the utterly corrupt and authoritarian re-

gime of the Rajapakse clan. We support the call for a general strike to bring down the regime and for the creation of a self-defense organization against the brutal police forces.

Likewise, we support the mass protests in Peru against the dramatic rise of energy and food prices. The fact that the "left-wing" President Pedro Castillo sent the police to brutally crack down demonstrations of workers and poor and even declared a state of emergency – all these shows once more the thoroughly capitalist character of "progressive" populism!

The RCIT also expresses its unconditional solidarity with the struggles of the laboring masses in Nigeria suffering under the corrupt capitalist regime of President Buhari. We also state our support for the national liberation struggle of the oppressed ethnic groups in the South of the country.

The struggle for freedom and justice can only be successful if the working class organizes for a socialist revolution in order to overthrow the capitalist system and to create a world federation of workers and peasant republics. The RCIT calls all those who share such a program to unite and to jointly build with us a Revolutionary World Party!

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Russia, Nigeria, Kenya, Britain, Germany, and Austria)



Impressions from our convoy bringing aid to the Ukraine (30.4.2022)

The Ukraine War and the NATO-Russia Conflict

See all RCIT documents on our website:

www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict

Sri Lanka: Popular Uprising force Prime Minister to Resign

Report by Chandimal Wijetatne, General Secretary of the Ceylon Independence Teacher Service Union,
with a Preface of the Editorial Board, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14 May 2022

Preface of the Editorial Board

Below we publish another report of comrade Chandimal Wijetatne, General Secretary of the Ceylon Independence Teacher Service Union. As the report shows, the popular uprising had already a first success and forced Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to resign. However, his brother – Gotabhaya Rajapakse – is still running the country as President. More importantly, the ruling class – while their institutions are shattered – still controls the economy as well as the state institutions.

As the RCIT has pointed out in past statements and articles, the central task now is to overthrow the government via an indefinite *hartal* (a general strike combined with a total shutdown of all public institutions) and to replace it with a *workers and poor peasant government*. In order to organize such a struggle, it is crucial to organize the working class and the rural masses in popular councils and militias. (See our statement <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/sri-lanka-organize-the-mass-struggle-to-bring-down-the-rajapakshe-regime/>)

The biggest problem is the lack of a strong revolutionary party which could win the masses for such a perspective and which could organize the vanguard on the basis of a socialist program. As a result, bourgeois opposition forces can maneuver and undermine the struggle as the report of comrade Chandimal demonstrates.

A revolutionary party would also be able to combat the reactionary influence of the JVP (*Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna*, English: People's Liberation Front) within the working class. The JVP is a petty-bourgeois party which originated in 1965 as an organization of revolutionary youth in the Guevarist tradition. It launched an important armed insurrection in 1971 which was brutally smashed by the regime. However, it later degenerated into a Sinhala chauvinist party joining the reactionary government in 2004 – ironically led by Mahinda Rajapaksa. This government intensified the war against the Tamil minority and finally crushed the Tamil Tigers, slaughtering more than 40,000 civilians in the last months of the civil war in 2009.

Today the JVP is an opposition party with strong influence within the trade union movement. It combines “Marxist” phraseology with petty-bourgeois policy of maneuvering and alliances with bourgeois forces. It is crucial to build a strong revolutionary party in order to combat their influence among the working class and the rural poor.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned from his post on the 9th May amidst strong public opposition. Prior to his resignation, he had summoned local leaders from across the country to his official residence, where he reportedly spoke provocatively to his supporters. Mahinda's supporters then stormed the *Gota Go village* in Galle Face (this is an area occupied by protestors which is close to the Presidential residence, Ed.). The prime minister has not yet resigned. Supporters from the PM's official residence vandalized all temporary shelters in the anti-government

Gota Go village while security forces watched.

As soon as this situation was reported, ordinary people in the city of Colombo took to the streets and retaliated against the Prime Minister's supporters. In addition, supporters of the Prime Minister returning from Colombo were attacked outside the capital.

“*Lankadeepa*” reports on the damage caused by the people's retaliatory attack on government supporters island wide after the government thugs attacked the ‘Gota Go village’.

“Gota Go Villege” in Galle Face Green and “Maina Go Villege” in front of Temple Trees were attacked by thugs in support of the Sri Lanka People's Front.

People set fire to more than 100 buses and other vehicles that had come to attack the villages of Gota and Maina. (Gota is President Gotabhaya Rajapakse. Maina is Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa)

As a result of the clashes, the houses of about 55 government ministers and MPs have been set on fire. 232 injured and hospitalized. Nine people were killed, including a government MP.

The government imposed an island-wide curfew on the 9th at 2 p.m. The prime minister then announced his resignation. Curfew lasts from 11.00 am to 07.00 pm. The curfew imposed at 2 pm on the 11th was in effect until 6 am on the 12th. Curfew was re-imposed on the 12th and 13th. Meanwhile, about 2,000 unions had decided to go on strike until President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa resigned.

However, after the resignation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the trade unions affiliated to the JVP decided to call off the strike. The reason given was that the strike was called off to avoid embarrassment to the people and to prevent the country from becoming anarchic. The end result was that other unions had to abandon the strike. This is because the JVP holds the majority in the trade union movement.

We think the *Frontline Socialist Party* and the Catholic Church are behind the “Gota Go Village” campaign in front of the Presidential Secretariat in Galleface. This is the only time the Catholic Church has been openly involved in politics in post-independence Sri Lanka.

The ‘Gota Go Village’ battle is likely to weaken as the JVP abandons its proposed strike until Gotabhaya steps down as president. Here are some of the reasons why. One of them is the attempt to attack the leader of the opposition who went to investigate the attack on the “Gota Go Village” by government thugs on the 9th by a group of people who are believed to be JVP activists. Their support for Gota Go village is being eroded as they try to attack the opposition leader, a popular and powerful figure among Colombo's urban slums and low-income earners. The other reason is that with Ranil Wickremesinghe becoming the Prime Minister, there is a good hope among the urban upper middle class who supported Gota Go village.

The new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has stated that he will bring about political reforms as well as economic reforms. Political reforms will be presented in two months. A number of capitalist countries, including

the United States, India and the European Union, have already pledged their support. The stock market was growing when he was prime minister. The rupee rose. India has stated that it will supply the required amount of urea to Sri Lanka in full. New Zealand provided \$ 500,000 in aid. The ambassadors of the above countries met with all the opposition leaders and asked them to support the new government. The national and international bourgeoisie believes that Ranil Wickremesinghe is the savior of the Sri Lankan

bourgeoisie. Otherwise, Ranil, who has only one seat in the 225-seat parliament, would not be prime minister.

It can be said that the JVP in the guise of Marxism was instrumental in re-establishing the domination of the bourgeoisie in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan bourgeoisie will not be able to breathe unless the strike is called off. This is what they did during the 1980 general strike. They can be likened to dragons preying on the working class in Marxist guise.

Sri Lanka: A Massive Hartal Brings the Country to a Standstill!

*Report by Chandimal Wijetatne, General Secretary of the Ceylon Independence Teacher Service Union,
with a brief Preface of the Editorial Board, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 7 May 2022*

Preface of the Editorial Board

Below we publish another report of comrade Chandimal Wijetatne, General Secretary of the Ceylon Independence Teacher Service Union. A few days ago, a massive *hartal* – a general strike combined with a total shutdown of all public institutions – brought the country to a standstill on 6 May.

This is an historic event as this has been the first hartal since more than four decades! It demonstrates the power of the working class defending their interests. It also shows that the working class and the popular masses seem to have overcome the terrible effects of the massive defeats in the past decades – most importantly the horrendous crushing of the Tamil liberation struggle and the slaughter of more than 40,000 Tamil civilians in the last months of the civil war in 2009!

However, the reactionary Rajapaksa regime tries to stay in power by imposing a state of emergency. This shows the real danger of a military coup d'état aiming at brutally suppressing the popular uprising.

The RCIT repeats the urgent necessity to unite the masses around a program of struggle in defense of the living standards, for the cancellation of foreign debts and for the nationalization of key industries and banks under workers control. At the same time, it is crucial to fight against the state of emergency.

Socialists work towards organizing the masses in popular councils so that they can overthrow the government and replace it with a workers and poor peasant government based on popular councils and militias. (See our statement <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/sri-lanka-organize-the-mass-struggle-to-bring-down-the-rajapakshe-regime/>)

* * * * *

The whole country is now paralyzed due to the hartal movement launched by the trade unions on May 06 to protest against the government. Public transport across the country has been completely disrupted. Trains will be closed after midnight on May 5 and private buses will not run. Banks have also been closed due to non-reporting of government and private bank employees. Many shops have been closed and black flags hoisted. Protests were held in front of the zones and financial trading centers were closed. All public and private schools were closed due to non-attendance of teachers and students. Universi-

ty professors, non-academic staff and students boycotted.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched and protested in various parts of the island. The whole state apparatus was paralyzed by this hartal. Parliament convened on Hartal Day. In the evening, inter-university students and locals cordoned off the entrance to the parliament. Locals carried brooms and waited for the MPs to arrive. Police were transporting the MPs along the by-roads.

The demand of the people is that the President and the 225 Members of Parliament should not be allowed. The government called an emergency cabinet meeting. The state of emergency was declared. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka has inquired into six reasons. A number of countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union, have expressed concern.

Sources say that Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is likely to resign on Monday (May 09). Meanwhile, trade unions and mass organizations have declared the week beginning on the 9th as 'Protest Week'.

Chandimal Wijerathna

General Secretary

Ceylon Independent Teachers' Service Union



Anti-Government Demonstrators in Sri Lanka

The evidence proving Israel assassinated Shireen Abu Akleh

Yossi Schwartz, *ISL the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 12.05.2022*

The journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, 51, was shot in the head while covering an Israeli army operation in the West Bank city of Jenin on Wednesday. The Palestinians blamed Israel for her death, while Israeli officials said Palestinian gunmen may have fired the fatal shot. Palestinian Minister Hussein al-Sheikh tweeted on Thursday morning that: "Israel has requested a joint investigation and to be handed over the bullet that assassinated the journalist Shireen, we refused that, and we affirmed that our investigation would be completed independently. All of the indicators, the evidence and the witnesses confirm her assassination by Israeli special units, al-Sheikh emphasized.

The troops from the Zionist elite Duvdvan unit have said that they did not see Abu Akleh or fire at her, the Walla news site reported, adding that troops responded with precise gunfire, which was determined by the number of rounds fired and their location." [1]

Yet if the story of the Zionist army was true why the Zionist army has not presented evidence from the soldiers' artificial intelligence devices they use?

"Last year's conflict between Israel and Hamas was described as the first "artificial intelligence war." However, after the death in Jenin of Palestinian-American Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, questions have been raised about why the technology used didn't prevent her death or at least document the circumstances of it. Last year the IDF said that "for the first time, artificial intelligence was a key component and power multiplier in fighting the enemy... We implemented new methods of operation and used technological developments that were a force multiplier for the entire IDF." Ostensibly this hi-tech method of war is being increasingly used by Israel's forces" [2]

Hours after the incident many pro-Israel voices were relying on a video of Palestinians shooting into an alley and saying that one soldier was injured and he is lying on the ground. No soldier was injured or killed and the only one who was hit was Abu Akleh. This according to Israel is as evidence that the Palestinian chaotic shooting was responsible for her death...

Others have geo-located the site of the chaotic shooting and the area where the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed and say they are two different places. [3]

The following is the evidence by another reporter Shatha Hanaysha who was with Shireen Abu Akleh when she was murdered in cold blood.

"Moments later, Shireen Abu Akleh arrived with her crew.

Here was the journalist whose reports I grew up imitating, from voice tone to hand gestures, and I dreamt of doing what she was always so good at doing. Here she was, going on the same missions as I was. "Good morning," Abu Akleh said, as she, I, two more reporters, and two cameramen got ready. I felt a strange aura around her at that moment. I can't find the right word to describe what I felt. She was floating. She was happy. We made ourselves visible to the soldiers who were stationed hundreds of meters away from us. We remained still for around 10 minutes to make sure they knew we were there as journalists... Out of nowhere, we heard the first gunshot.

I turned around and saw my colleague Ali al-Sammoudi on the floor. A bullet hit him in the back but his wound was not serious and he managed to move away from the fire. Al-Sammoudi is hit," Shireen shouted, standing right behind me, as we both stood with our backs to a wall to take cover. Right then, another bullet pierced Shireen's neck, and she fell to the ground right next to me. I called her name but she didn't move. When I tried to extend my arm to reach her, another bullet was fired, and I had to stay hiding behind a tree. That tree saved my life, as it was the only thing obstructing the soldiers' view of me, "Stay back, stay back!" my colleagues shouted, as bullets flew every time, I tried to check Shireen's pulse. Out of nowhere a camp resident managed to get to us with a car from an alleyway out of range from the Israeli soldiers. He quickly pulled me and Shireen's body in and drove us to the hospital." [4]

"What happened was a deliberate attempt to kill us. Whoever shot at us aimed to kill?

And it was an Israeli sniper that shot at us. We were not caught up in crossfire with Palestinian fighters like the Israeli army claimed.

There was no fighting at the time. The location of the incident was in a relatively open area, away from the camp where Palestinian fighters can't operate because they would be at a disadvantage there" [5]

"The type of gunfire is another indication. Palestinian fighters normally use semi-automatic rifles that spray bullets continuously. These bullets were different. They were sporadic and precise. They were only shot when one of us moved. One bullet at a time." [6]

"Al-Samoudi and other journalists at the scene said there were no Palestinian fighters present when the journalists were shot, directly disputing an Israeli statement referencing the possibility that it was Palestinian fire "We were going to film the Israeli army operation and suddenly they shot us without asking us to



Publications of the RCIT

The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

leave or stop filming," said al-Samoudi." [7]

Zionist Diaspora Minister and former Israeli military spokesperson Nachman Shai said on Thursday morning in a radio interview regarding the killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh that, "With all due respect to us, let's say that Israel's credibility is not very high in such events" [8]

There is a good reason Israel does not have credibility when it comes to murdering journalists. Israeli military spokesperson Ran Kochav told Army Radio. Kochav described Abu Aqleh as "filming and working for a media outlet amidst armed Palestinians. **They're armed with cameras, if you'll permit me to say so.**" [9]

On May 15, last year "an Israeli air raid flattened the 11-story al-Jalaa building housing residential apartments and the offices of news organizations, including Al Jazeera and AP, in Gaza. These Journalists were also armed with cameras". Israel denied that it bombed the offices of Al Jazeera and AP and claimed it bombed the offices of Palestinian terrorists.

The Zionist army killed Ahmed Abu Hussein and Yasser Mortaja, who were fatally shot by Israeli snipers while covering the Great March of Return protests in 2018. It shot Muath Amarneh and Nedal Eshtayeh, who were maimed by Israeli sniper fire in 2019 and 2015, respectively.

As a matter of fact, Israel attacked the American spy ship USS Liberty – which was bombed by an Israeli fighter jet and torpedo boats on June 8, 1967 in the eastern Red Sea. "Thirty-four American sailors were killed in the Israeli attack and many others were wounded. Israel was aware that it attacked an American ship. But Sir, It's an American Ship.' 'Never Mind, Hit Her!'. When Israel Attacked USS Liberty 'The Americans have findings that show our pilots were aware the ship was American,' a newly published document by the State Archives says. Though the United States refused to intervene on behalf of its ally, it was nevertheless eavesdropping on Israeli

military communications during the war. There, according to Bamford, lies the rub: Over the course of Israel's remarkable territorial acquisition and military victory, it allegedly committed a war crime by slaughtering Egyptian prisoners of war in the city of El Arish in the northern Sinai. Bamford argued in his 2001 book, "Body of Secrets," that the USS Liberty's proximity to the Sinai, and its ability to intercept Israel's motives and activities during the Six-Day War, might have prompted Israel's attack on the vessel." [10] [11]

Thus, if Israel can attack an American ship to prevent a report of a war crime what is the problem for Israel to kill in cold blood Palestinian reporters knowing that the US and EU will defend its war crimes?

Down with Israel's assassination of journalists!

Down with Israel's war crimes!

Down with the imperialists that commit and defend war crimes!

Down with the Zionist apartheid state!

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

Endnotes:

[1] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinians-refuse-joint-israeli-probe-into-reporters-death-wont-transfer-bullet/>

[2] <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-706431>

[3] Shireen Abu Akleh

[4] <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/shireen-abu-akleh-killing-al-jazeera-journalist-eyewitness-account>

[5] Ibid

[6] Ibid

[7] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/11/shireen-abu-akleh-israeli-forces-kill-al-jazeera-journalist>

[8] <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-minister-on-killing-of-al-jazeera-journalist-israel-s-credibility-not-very-high-1.10795057>

[9] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/veteran-al-jazeera-journalist-shot-dead-during-israeli-raid-in-jenin/>

[10] <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/but-sir-its-an-american-ship-never-mind-hit-her-1.5492908>

[11] <https://theintercept.com/2017/06/06/fifty-years-later-nsa-keeps-details-of-israels-uss-liberty-attack-secret/>

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People.

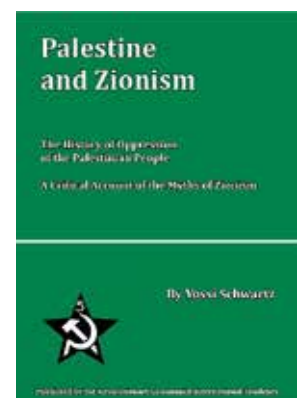
A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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/>



Palestine: Not only they kill but they also attack the funeral

Yossi Schwartz, ISL – the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 16.5.2022

On May 11 2022 the Zionist army murdered in cold blood the known and highly respected Palestinian-American Journalist Shireen Abu Akia. As soon as the Zionist army realized they killed a well-known American citizen and her murder which is an act of state terror and a war crime is damaging the image of the Zionist state in the USA and EU the Zionist propaganda machine began to spread lies. The main line of the lies is that it is likely she was killed by Palestinians' fire and the secondary line of lies is that she was killed by mistake by an Israeli sniper.

"The military on Friday released interim findings from its probe into the death of prominent Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, killed Wednesday amid clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen in Jenin. The Israel Defense Forces said it had not yet been able to determine who fired the fatal shot. But it said it had narrowed down the possibilities to two scenarios — one involving an instance of indiscriminate Palestinian gunfire, and the other a case of possible errant IDF sniper fire." [i]

In support of the secondary tier of lies: *"Israel has told the United States it cannot definitively determine who fired the shot that killed Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh in Jenin without examining the bullet removed from her neck, according to a Friday Israeli television report." The Israel Defense forces said earlier Friday that the Palestinians had rejected offers to be present and take part in the inquiry alongside an American representative."* [ii]

The Palestinian Authority has stated that it is ready to cooperate with any other country in the investigation except Israel. Indeed since when the suspected of murder is allowed to participate in the investigation of the murder?

Unfortunately for the Zionists there were other journalists near Shireen Abu Akleh who testified that it was the Israeli army who shot Abu Akleh and she was killed by a bullet from a sniper. Also, the facts are that the Palestinian fighters were 300 M away and those buildings obstructed their fire while the Israeli army was 100 M away and that nothing obstructed their fire.

Were Shireen Abu Akleh the only Palestinian journalist murdered by Israel, the Zionist's lies could be may be believed but the Zionist state has murdered at least 45 Palestinian journalist since 2000. You can see their name and the year they were murdered at the Al Jazeera website. So why don't you remember their names? Because they were not American citizens and the imperialists and their mass media did not denounce their murders by the Zionists.

Biden is not in a comfortable position. On one hand he wants to protect the Zionist state like the USA has done for

years. On the other hand, Shireen Abu Akleh was an American citizen. So he has chosen the easy way of condemning the murder without mentioning Israel and claiming that since Israel is not allowed to join the Palestinian investigation he does not know the facts. What a hypocrite, just compare the US reaction to the Russian war crimes.

The Zionist police attack on the funeral of Shireen Abu Akleh.

"The Zionist police added an additional crime by attacking the funeral As the New York Times reported, Israeli police officers had commenced "beating and kicking mourners" at the funeral procession in Jerusalem, thereby "forcing pallbearers to nearly drop the coffin". This, at least, was mercifully straightforward information coming from the same news outlet that had just days before opted to use the noncommittal phrase "Dies at 51" in its announcement of Abu Akleh's murder" [iii]

"More than 10,000 Palestinians showed up to pay their respects to Abu Akleh during the long, tense funeral on Friday that wound across Jerusalem from Sheik Jarrah to the Mount Zion cemetery. But the day was marred by scenes of police beating Palestinian mourners bearing her casket at the St. Joseph's Hospital" [iv]

The brother of Shireen Abu Akleh, slammed the Israeli police account of violence at her Friday funeral as "illogical and untrue" in an interview with The Times of Israel on Sunday.

It is not difficult to understand the behavior of the Zionist police. The hooligans in blue uniform are used to attack Palestinians and get the protection of the US and the EU for their brutality in the name of fighting Palestinian terror. They could not expect that this time their hooliganism would be criticized by their friends. Let us remember that the USA stood behind the crimes of the South African apartheid state and called the ANC terrorists until the late 1980's.

So, to cover for their brutality the Zionist police will investigate itself with the known result. The problem however is not with the police alone or even with the government but with the nature of Israel as a settler colonialist society and imperialist that its role is to repress the Arab Anti-Imperialist struggle and in particular the struggle of the Palestinians. Black South Africans who participated in the liberation struggle have testified that they are familiar with the police attacks on funeral of black people murdered by the racist whites. Settler colonialist societies create a privileged racist population that tends to be robbers, murderers, liars and mentally sick people. A society that does not have the internal forces for a revolutionary

The Rise of Russia as an Imperialist Great Power

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

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socialist change. The reformists like the Stalinists and the centrists like “Socialist struggle” and similar groups live in a world detached from reality when they expect that under the existing condition a Jewish Arab joint struggle can be materialized.

In the real world as part of its annual Zionist Independence Day survey, the Israel Democracy Institute asked Israelis their thoughts on the Temple Mount, Jewish sovereignty there, and the government’s handling of last month’s confrontations. Half of all respondents said Jews should be allowed to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosques (the so-called Temple Mount). Among those who want Jewish prayer at the Temple Mount, “most said their reasoning was not necessarily religious, but rather to demonstrate Jewish sovereignty”. [v]

In the real world how many Israelis have demonstrated against the murder of Shireen Abu Akleh or the police attack on the funeral? How many Israelis will try to stop the terror?

In the real world there are only two options: Either a Zionist apartheid state from the river to the sea or a Palestine free from the river to the sea as part of the Arab revolution.

This week is going to be a very eventful week. The right wing government of Bennett –Meretz is opening the Mosques in Old Jerusalem to the far right Zionists, it is the Nakba day and it will be the flag day. A day when the far right marches with Zionist flags in the Palestinians streets in the old city. A day that brings to mind the decorated stadium with thousands of participants and spectators gathered for the 1937 Reichsparteitag (Reich Party Day) at Zeppelin Field in Nuremberg and Adolf Hitler greeting the crowd from an open car. That does not mean that Israel is a Nazi regime it is an apartheid state with some elements that are familiar from history. The ruling class of Israel does not need a fascist regime as it has the support of most Israeli Jews who are deeply racist.

We already know that a large crowd of Arab students and

supporters rallied at Tel Aviv University to mark Nakba Day, when Palestinians mark the establishment of the State of Israel as a “catastrophe” and demand the right of return for Palestinian refugees. Demonstrators at the university waved Palestinian flags and chanted slogans. They carried a portrait of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. The demonstration was attacked by right wing Zionists protected by the police that arrested 3 demonstrators. The right wingers Nakba deniers shouted that the Nakba is nonsense that never happened. They are of course the twin brothers of the anti-Semites who are holocaust deniers. They are the fruit of the Zionist racist education system.

“Honaida Ghanim, the general director of the Palestinian Forum for Israeli studies, told Al Jazeera the Nakba is an ongoing injustice of erasing and fragmenting the Palestinian people. “It is the ongoing injustice where Jews from anywhere can come and live in Palestine whereas Palestinians refugees cannot even visit,” she said, speaking from Ramallah. There isn’t one Palestinian family that has not been impacted by the Nakba. Unfortunately we are transferring intergenerational trauma to our children. We wish we were commemorating what happened in 1948, but it is an ongoing feeling where you cross checkpoints and face the brutality of the military Israeli occupation through daily destruction, house demolitions, and ethnic cleansing.” [vi]

Endnotes:

[i] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/initial-idf-probe-of-reporters-death-proposes-2-scenarios-for-who-fired-fatal-shot/>

[ii] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-tell-us-it-cant-rule-on-reporters-death-unless-it-has-the-bullet/>

[iii] <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/5/14/israels-policy-kill-the-messenger-attack-the-mourners>

[iv] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/abu-aklehs-brother-slams-police-brutal-force-at-funeral-expresses-hope-for-peace/>

[v] <https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/jews-want-sovereignty-prayer-at-temple-mount/>

[vi] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/15/palestinians-commemorate-74th-nakba-day-live-updates>

Books of the RCIT

Yossi Schwartz: The Zionist Wars

A History of the Zionist Movement and Imperialist Wars

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz gives an overview about the process of Zionist colonialization of Palestine as well as the resistance of the indigenous Arab population. He deals in detail with the popular struggles of the Palestinians against their expulsion by the Zionists. *The Zionist Wars* elaborates in detail the character of Israel’s military campaigns in 1948 and the following decades which resulted in the expulsion of large parts of the Palestinian population. These wars were also crucial to implement the imperialist subjugation of the Arab countries.

However, as Yossi Schwartz elaborates, the Zionist state has passed its peak already some time ago which has been demonstrated by its failed military campaigns in Lebanon as well as in Gaza.

In *The Zionist Wars* the author also discusses in much detail the program of the communist movement on the Palestinian question. He shows the adaptation and finally capitulation of Stalinism to the Zionist project – culminating in massive arms shipments for the Israeli forces during the War of 1948.

In this book Yossi Schwartz elaborates the analyses and conclusions of Leon Trotsky and the Fourth International for the libera-

tion of Palestine. He also discusses the strength and weakness of his successors in dealing with the Zionist state and the Arab liberation struggle against it.

In *The Zionist Wars* Yossi Schwartz defends the national liberation struggle of the Palestinian people and outlines a socialist perspective.

The book contains an introduction and 20 chapters (136 pages) and includes 2 Tables and 4 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..

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Down with the reactionary regime in Iran! Down with U.S. imperialism!

ISL, the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 16.05.2022

A wave of protest against the reactionary regime and the economic conditions of the masses has continued in Iran on Sunday night, while the brutal Iranian security forces violently attack the protesters. According to the Jerusalem Post, a video shared on social media reportedly from Shahrekord, a city of about 150,000 people 512 km. southwest of Tehran, showed Iranian security forces violently cracking down on protesters, beating them and firing at them. Another video from the city showed demonstrators tearing down a banner featuring Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. [i]

Demonstrations were also reported in Khuzestan, Hafshejan, Farsan, Andimeshk and Dezful, among other locations. Protesters chanted slogans against the Iranian regime and burned banners and billboards featuring Khamenei. Isolated protests have also been reported in the Tehran area. In some locations, protesters have reportedly attacked and vandalized bases belonging to Iran's Basij paramilitary force, which has been used in the past to crack down on protests. At least two protesters have reportedly been shot and killed by Iranian forces during the demonstrations, with the *Independent Persian* reporting that four protesters have been killed. [ii]

The American imperialists, the enemy of the Iranian people, that want to restore a corrupted puppet government, have announced their support for the demonstrations.

"US State Department spokesman Ned Price responded to the protests on Sunday, tweeting "Brave Iranian protesters are standing up for their rights. The Iranian people have a right to hold their government accountable. We support their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression online and offline – without fear of violence and reprisal." [iii]

To win this important struggle it is necessary to organize action committees democratically elected in every neighborhood. Self-defense committees, councils of workers and poor peasants, to influence the simple soldiers and bring them to the side of the revolution, and to oppose US imperialist intervention.

Down with the reactionary regime in Iran!

Down with the imperialists!

Endnotes:

[i] <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-706813>

[ii] Ibid

[iii] Ibid

Lesbian Visibility Day: No to Lesbianphobia! For the Sapphic love for all!

Nao Hong (she/he), #RCIT supporter in Russia, April 26, 2022,

Since April 26, 2008 the day of lesbian visibility has been celebrated around the world, in recent years it has been included in the Lesbian Visibility Week at the end of April and the beginning of May. The purpose of this day is to show the various forms of discrimination and problems faced by the lesbian community.

Lesbianphobia is a form of discrimination against LG-BTQIA2S+ people, which is often coupled with misogyny and various forms of discrimination against non-binary and trans people. Various reports on the Russian Federation and the countries of the former #USSR note a high level of violence against lesbians both in the family and by the state. Unfortunately, lesbians are often subjected to forms of violence such as corrective rape (often carried out by family members), beatings, and systematic bullying in schools and educational institutions. It is difficult for lesbian women to find acceptance and get the necessary support from the community and the state.

However, the community itself has also suffered in recent years when some lesbians are using to be "accept" in a cisgender-normative society at the expense of other women and non-binary persons. Transgender and non-binary women in particular subjected to these attacks, as is evident in the rhetoric of the "radical" feminist, #TERF

and separatist lesbian communities. In Britain and the Anglo-Saxon countries this is represented by the so-called LGB Alliance (supported by the transphobic Tory Party). Unfortunately, such organizations include some lesbian feminists who promote a rhetoric of hatred against trans and non-binary persons. Similarly, this phenomenon is copied from Anglo-Saxon countries in the Russian Federation and a number of CIS countries.

Any socialist and progressive activists for sure oppose such ways of integrating into hetero-normative society and urge activists to fight such views and organizations, as well to reject the rhetoric of hatred against their sisters and brothers.

One of the symbols of the lesbian community is the poetess Sappho, who was one of the first recorded lesbians in queer culture. WLW is often referred as Sapphic love. This inclusive term is applied to cis, trans, and non-binary lesbians. We support such inclusive symbols because they include various forms of love and personal self-determination.

For the right of cis, trans and non-binary lesbians to love!

Against discrimination against lesbians and the #LGBTQIA2S+ community!

Nigeria: Form Armed Self Defence Militias in the North!

Defeat ISWAP & Boko Haram! For a popular uprising against the Buhari regime!

Emergency Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV) Nigerian Section of the RCIT, 31.03.2022

The raid of a local community in Zaria just last night is the latest in a string of virulent attacks in less than a week by terrorists. 48 hours after attacking Kaduna airport, 3 freshly reported terrorists attacks were confirmed in Kaduna within 24 hours. The first was the bombing of a passenger train with about 1000 passengers en route to Abuja from Kaduna killing at least 8 passengers with others kidnapped and at least 25 injured.

The second and third have occurred almost simultaneously on another rail line and the Kaduna-Abuja express road. It is important to say first and foremost that the residents of Kaduna must begin to form *armed self defense militia* in neighborhoods, workplaces, major roads and schools to fend off the marauding gangs of Fulani headed Wahhabi-Salafist raiders.

It goes without saying that the so-called security forces and government at all levels are complicit and therefore impotent in preventing this pillaging gangs from the non-stop blood-letting in the Northern and Middle-Belt regions of Nigeria. This has in turn deepened the struggle of various ethnic nationalities to free themselves from the hydra headed Fulani hegemony. In the South East this combination of factors has led to the emergence of the Eastern Security Network the self defense arm of the IPOB.

A Brief Background to all this ...

For proper context, the core of the Nigerian ruling class is situated in the North as a group of Wahhabi-Salafist Muslims who are in one way or another linked to the patriarch Uthman Dan Fodio and whose mission is the spread of this version of 'pure' Islam through conquest. The British colonisers passed on the reins of power to this group as proxies for the self-same purpose of perpetuating the eternal servitude of the peoples found in the artificial boundary they created to their exploitation.

All Heads of State, government officials and powerful politicians are either from this extract or affiliated to them. At worst, the powerful southern politicians are aligned

with and submit to them in one way or the other. Amongst this core Fulani power brokers are the northern oligarchs and big business men.

The base for this Fulani headed extreme Islamist class which now dominates the government are the terror groups such as ISWAP, Boko Haram and other fingerlings and splinters known as "bandits". This base it would seem is getting impatient with the delay of their elite in the government offices to implement the full and total conquest of Nigeria as an Islamic caliphate. So the Federal government has largely lost control over them. This would explain why the jumbo parties can use them to take power by promising them greater reach in their expansionist agenda.

If this were not the case, why then has no arrest been made despite revelations of sponsors and routes through which funds reach these groups. Why is Isa Pantami a confessed extremist still in position as Minister for Communication. Why are extremist killers after been arrested sent abroad for further studies and rehabilitation. Why has no perceptible action being taken after the ground breaking reveal by award winning journalist David Hundeyin about the clear links of a deep state Wahhabi-Salafist movement starting with Ahmadu Bello (First Premier of Northern Nigeria) and using NASCO Foods as a conduit for moving terrorist funds within and outside Nigeria.

2023: A power grab, a coup or a terrorist takeover

No matter how liberal and left-wing activists try there is no wishing away of the national question which has simply seeped into electioneering for 2023. In a surprising and shameful feat of betrayal large swaths of activists, intelligentsia and social media influencers who played a more or less active role in the EndSARS protests drift off to PDP, the second but thoroughly bourgeois and equally reactionary jumbo party in Nigeria. This they do in opposition to the APC while calling for a Southern or South Eastern presidency. Like the idealist who cannot perceive that it is the material world that forces him to see the world the

China's transformation into an imperialist power

A study of the economic, political and military aspects of China as a Great Power

By Michael Pröbsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)

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way he does, this “One-Nigeria” co-travellers actually interpret their call for a Southern most especially South Eastern presidency as national unity, oneness etc.

The accentuation of terrorist attacks however makes it highly unlikely that this would happen in 2023 or any time for that matter. You see the ruling class is in a conundrum. Their core is divided into more hostile camps. The president at the head of the northern officialdom and Federal government, on the one hand, versus their base terror groups and followers of extreme islamists, on the other. With the latter having the upper hand the only option for the former moving forward is to at least pacify their base with another president from their breed or a totally domesticated southern lapdog.

With this the ambition of Bola Ahmed Tinubu to become president in 2023 is next to impossible not just because he is a Southerner but also because he is the most powerful politician of the South Western section of the ruling class. The same goes for all Southern prospective candidates depending on the role they play amidst the southern ruling class.

This will not be without blowback, the crescendo of which can be the unification of all forces in the South and Middle Belt against the North to finally split the country. Add to this the possibility of a mass uprising as the living conditions continue to deteriorate with fuel price jumps; dramatic rise in food prices; police brutality; spiking crimes rates and of course, terrorist attacks.

The northern ruling class know this so they may explore other more drastic options. Many petty bourgeois political analysts and liberal cum left ideologues like to delude themselves by dismissing the possibility of a coup in Nigeria. This was their reaction to the alarming trend of coup d'états in neighbouring West African countries. They conclude that since the government officials and heads of parastatals in Nigeria rake in billions from the national budget as security votes for fighting terrorism, a military takeover, is improbable as it will stop the flow of such illicit wealth.

This kind of thinking only shows how in love with their cozy nests these people are to the point of being incapable of objectiveness. The coup plotters in other West African countries must surely find acceptable reasons for their actions and it has always been to “curb the menace of armed groups” even if it is merely a power grab. For the northern ruling class any coup would be to smash the Southern section of the ruling class and the masses with one stroke.

Furthermore, not all coups are military takeovers. The Tunisian people have had a long drawn and bloody face off with the dictator Kais Saied who took over powers by dissolving the parliament and sacking key ministers that are in the opposition. A similar attempt is to nullify the victory of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2019 elections and input the People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate who is also a northerner of Fulani extraction as president. The court proceedings for this case has already been revived.

A theocratic state set up in the image of a caliphate should not be written off as fantastical since not only have such happened in recent times but many such states have been sustained under modern capitalist conditions for decades. While we acknowledge fundamental differences between the Taliban of Afghanistan and ISWAP/Boko Haram we

maintain that the Federal government may handover to the present set of terrorists.

It is historically proven that in times of crisis, the ruling class lets the most reactionary and backward parts take the wheels so that they can use the state as a means to destroy any and all revolutionary momentum. This is how fascists rose to power in Spain and Italy in the late 1920's and early 1930's. The same can be said of Nazi Germany.

As has been said, the further we move away from the EndSARS protests and towards the 2023 elections many so called activists find themselves crystallized into either of the two main reactionary parties — PDP&APC. The more leftwing or socialist milieu retreat to their cocoon of bourgeois electioneering or orientation to the labour bureaucracy. As a whole they try to prevent any mass uprising despite events that can lead to social explosions recurring. In fact, a good number of agitators for liberation of Biafra seem to have been bought over with promises of an Igbo presidency. What they will succeed in doing is alienating themselves from the masses more and more until this social explosion occurs.

Unlike this group, the ruling class especially the Northern faction knows that this is an inevitable prospect and are willing to take any measures to retain power even if it means a civil war. To wit, those forces which retain their stance against the continuance of the colonial contraption called Nigeria remain the objectively revolutionary forces. Of course, this forces comprise a motely combination of groups even from bourgeois circles yet what is most important is the historical role which they play.

In the immediate, we call for the constitution of *armed self defence militias* in the villages, schools, neighborhoods and workplaces to destroy ISWAP and the rest of the arch reactionary gangs of raiding Islamists. In Southern Kaduna, in Bornu state and other parts of the north west and north east these people based militias have become a necessity. Such militias cannot have long lasting success unless backed by a popular uprising to bring down the Buhari regime along with all factions of the capitalist ruling class.

It is important for such militias to be independent of the military, police and other Federal government forces. Increased agitation should, amongst the military corps, be of strategic importance in the coming periods in order to tear away lower infantry men from their corrupt and compromised superiors and generals who sacrifice them to the terrorists in order to maintain their position in the state apparatus.

At the very least, honest discussion should begin around whether it is wise to carry on elections given the fact that the north is the proxy of imperialism to hold the ethnic nationalities at bay for neo-colonial exploitation. This can be reflected in things like the 1999 constitution. For us, attention should be focused more on this rather than any elections. Hence we support groups and bodies calling for the boycott of the elections on this bases such as the IPOB, ESN and IOO.

While we reject any and all forms of political support for any section of the Nigerian ruling class including the Southern. We are sure that only by ending dismantling the Northern hegemony can there truly be freedom for the average person living in the geographical area called Nigeria since this is the path to freedom from imperialism!

A Step Forward in the Necessary Unity of Revolutionaries

Formation of a Liaison Committee between MTC and RCIT

Joint Declaration of the Movimiento de Trabajadores y Campesinos (Costa Rica) and the RCIT, 5 April 2022

The *Movimiento de Trabajadores y Campesinos* (MTC, Costa Rica) and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) have decided to launch a joint *Liaison Committee* in order to carry out a common experience in the class struggle and to analyze – in the future – the possibility of deepening this great step of unity among consistent revolutionaries.

The War in Ukraine and the tensions between the powers that dominate the capitalist world push us to advance in this direction, because we agree on the need to support the just and heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people against the invasion of Russian troops. Starting from this position, which is based on principles, we draw lines with the Yankee and European imperialists, who are trying to take advantage of the war to gain ground. Nothing good will come from the hands of the owners of the world!

We stand in solidarity with the workers' and popular mobilizations that are taking place against the invasion, but we also reject the imperialist sanctions, since the main vic-

tims of these will be the workers and poor people of Russia, who have nothing to do with the imperial ambitions of Putin and his gang. We are part of *International Workers' Aid* and the *Sunflower Convoy*, which will make contact with the most combative sectors of the Ukrainian people.

From the Liaison Committee we will spread the campaign for the end of the persecution against the labor activist Carlos Andrés Pérez and the leader of the MTC Orlando Barrantes. The collaboration that we have initiated has the objective of advancing in the direction that the current circumstances demand, uniting those of us who fight for a fairer world, a society governed by those from below, in the most democratic way, a socialist society.

Movimiento de Trabajadores y Campesinos (Costa Rica)
Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, Pakistan, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Russia, Nigeria, Kenya, Britain, Germany, and Austria), www.the-communists.net

Brazil: Public Workers in Diadema Announce Indefinite Strike

Report by the Revolutionary Communist Current (RCIT Section in Brazil), 22 May 2022

The workers of Diadema, a municipality governed by the Workers' Party-PT, occupied the streets of the city center on Thursday morning, May 19th, in a big one-day strike for the adjustment of wages to inflation and against wage cuts.

The rally with hundreds of municipal civil servants left the headquarters of the Union of Diadema public workers and walked along Antonio Piranga Avenue to the Diadema City Hall. In the afternoon, the whole labor force of Diadema's public sector occupied the City Council to put pressure for the negotiations with the mayor, José de Filippi.

The administration, however, did not signal any willingness to meet the demands of the workers and proposed a new meeting only for May 31. Neither did it make any proposal for the compensation of salary losses.

Inflation during the current municipal government administration (2021-2022) is 17.69% (inflation from March 2020 to February 2021 was 6.22%) and inflation from March 2021 to February 2022 was 10.8%.

The 2021 Wage Campaign agreement, contrary to what the Municipal Administration has announced, restored only part of the losses due to inflation. In fact, the wage

losses until March 2022 did reach 8%. The workers can't give in, even more so in a scenario of the current high inflation.

A workers assembly held at the City Hall on May 19 therefore rejected the proposal of the City Hall to meet the Permanent Negotiating Table only on May 31. Faced with the intransigent opposition of the PT administration, the workers decided to strike indefinitely from the 25th of May.

João Evangelista, a representative of the *Revolutionary Communist Current* (RCIT Section in Brazil), made a strong and well-received speech at the assembly demanding that the PT administration be consistent with the speeches and the party's program during the 2020 election campaign when, at the time, the candidate Filippi defended the valorization of public workers in the city and the adjustment of wages to the rising inflation, but in practice he has the same traditional policy of rightists parties of lowering wages, privatization and outsourcing.

You can watch the speech of João Evangelista here: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0bwT8MeLaN8pt62dbiT9uwjZhiFdkYAKynhdeob2xDrdySrxS779wM1bGz4f3LH42l&id=100008108617275

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Sweden and Finland Seek NATO Membership: Down with all Imperialist Powers!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 17 May 2022

1. The governments of Sweden and Finland are seeking NATO membership. This is a historic shift that comes after centuries of military nonalignment in these Nordic countries. If these countries join NATO, it will enlarge this imperialist alliance in a geostrategically important region and transform Scandinavia into another potential battleground between Russia and the West.

2. The Turkish government has raised objections against these countries joining NATO, albeit not on progressive grounds. Ankara claims that Sweden and Finland would provide shelter for "Kurdish terrorists". In reality, the Erdoğan government hopes to gain (again) from its skillful policy of balancing between NATO and Russia. It is therefore doubtful that Ankara's political game will stop Sweden and Finland becoming members of the NATO alliance.

3. The RCIT considers the decision by the ruling class of Sweden and Finland to seek NATO membership as utterly reactionary which socialists have to unconditionally oppose. Progressive forces in these countries should mobilize protest actions on the streets.

4. The position of some reformist "left-wing" parties in these countries reveals, once more, their thoroughly bourgeois and social-imperialist character. Sweden's social democratic party (S/SAP) has dropped its long-time support for the country's neutral status within a few weeks and advocates now joining NATO. The same is the case with their Finnish sister party.

5. Even more remarkable is the coward political capitulation of Finland's *Vasemmistoliitto* (Left Alliance) which is a member of the "Party of the European Left" (PEL). The latter is the federation of various left-reformist, ex-Stalinist parties with a presence in national as well as the European parliament. The most prominent of these parties are the LINKE (Germany), PCF (France), PCE and IU (Spain) and SYRIZA (Greece). *Vasemmistoliitto* is part of the government coalition since 2019. The party leadership has not officially announced its position on NATO membership until now. However, it has already decided (by a large majority) that it would not leave the government even if Finland applied for membership! We shall note that the Spanish parties affiliated to PEL are also part of the government since two and a half years – despite the fact that Spain is a NATO member state. All this demonstrates once more that also the left-reformist, (ex-)Stalinist forces are social-imperialist lackeys of the ruling class – "socialists" in words but servants of imperialist states in deeds.

6. The RCIT denounces any form of support for joining NATO. This is a long-standing military alliance which represents the interests of American and European imperialism. The powers which dominate NATO have waged a series of reactionary wars of aggression in the past decades – the Korea War (1950-53), the Vietnam War (1965-73), more recently the wars against Afghanistan and Iraq, the French military intervention in Sahel – to name only the most prominent examples.

7. The governments of Sweden and Finland refer to Putin's invasion in the Ukraine as justification for their decision. There is no doubt that Russia's aggression has an utterly reactionary character. This is why the RCIT and all authentic socialists support the Ukrainian people and their resistance against the invasion of imperialist Russia. However, opposition against Russian imperialism does not justify in any way support for Western imperialism!

8. Hence, socialists have to oppose *both* camps in the ongoing inter-imperialist rivalry between the Great Powers – Russia as well as NATO. We call for the dissolution of all imperialist alliances like NATO and the Russia-dominated CSTO. Authentic socialists defend semi-colonial countries (like the Ukraine, Iraq or Afghanistan) against an imperialist aggression, but they can never defend an imperialist state (like Sweden or Finland) in a conflict with a rival.

9. It would be only permissible to defend such countries if the working class has overthrown the capitalists before and created a workers' republic. Hence, in case of a military conflict between Russia and Western imperialist states, socialists advocate the program of *revolutionary defeatism*. This means that socialists will not support "their" imperialist governments, will not aid their military efforts, and will not stop advocating the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie. They will utilize the difficulties of "their" ruling class in order to speed up its revolutionary overthrow.

10. At the same time, the RCIT warns against any illusion in pacifist conception like the reformist idea of an "alternative security structure". Such phrases can only disorientate the workers and oppressed. We can achieve a world without violence and war *only* if we eliminate all imperialist Great Powers and capitalist monopolies, i.e. if we *overthrow the capitalist class system and create an international socialist order*. As long as the workers and oppressed have not achieved this, the world will be dominated by Great Powers and monopolies – irrespective of the formal existence of alliance – and their rivalry against each other which will inevitably result in wars and crisis. Hence, socialists need to unite and strengthen their forces to fight against the roots of violence and war – capitalism!

The elections in France

Yossi Schwartz, ISL the section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine, 26.04.2022

In the presidential elections in France, both Macron and Le Pen counted on far-left votes. Jean-Luc Mélenchon had a strong support in the first round, winning 22% of the vote.

To win, Macron must secure the support of a large chunk of the 7.7 million who voted for Jean-Luc Mélenchon. Most of those voters detest Macron's policies and most of them abhor his persona. The latest figures on the eve of the second round showed that 42% may vote for him, but 25% may choose Le Pen and 33% may abstain. In the words of some Mélenchon voters, it is a case of "*choosing between plague and cholera*" [i]

Hours after he fell short of making it into the final phase of France's presidential election, Mélenchon had a message for his supporters: they should not give "a single vote" to far-right candidate Marine Le Pen in the second round. While he did not call directly to vote for Macron, his call implied it.

Indeed, Macron won the second round with the voters for Mélenchon in the first round. Nationalist Marine Le Pen lost the second round to Macron by 58.5 to 41.5 percent – but reduced his lead by half compared to their previous face-off in 2017. More than one in three voters did not vote for either candidate. Turnout was just under 72%, the lowest in a presidential run-off since 1969, and more than three million people cast blank votes. The cost-of-living crisis facing millions of French people became the number one issue of the election campaign, and the president's opponents accused him of arrogance and acting as a president of the rich France, voters complained of being arm-twisted into choosing "the lesser of two evils", while students took to occupying university campuses in protest at the choice of finalists. Macron's government had alienated many young voters with its rants against "woke" ideas and "Islam-leftism" in academia. Brutal police clamp-downs on protesters also blurred the line between the far right and mainstream, encouraging the spread of the slogan, "*Neither Le Pen, nor Macron*". [ii]

Macron's critics argue also that his policy shift to the right and style of government are partly to blame for the rise of the far right. He has given free rein to members of the government who have used far-right rhetoric, and he has supported the adoption of repressive policies on Islam, immigration and law and order. [iii]

"Mélenchon for one has explicitly pitched himself as a candidate

for Macron's prime minister if he can somehow gain a parliamentary majority. This would mark a return to "cohabitation", the system which kicks in when the president lacks majority support in the National Assembly and so picks a prime minister from the winning party, creating a program based on compromise between the two" [iv]

To say it in other words Mélenchon's politics is the old reformist Popular front which began in France in 1882 with the split of the French Workers Party (POF), that Jules Guesde and Paul Lafargue, Marx's son-in-law, formed two years before. This was the Paul Brousse's Possibilities split. A controversy arose in the French socialist movement and in the Second International concerning "*socialist participation in a bourgeois government*", a debate which was triggered by independent socialist Alexandre Millerand's participation in the Radical-Socialist Waldeck-Rousseau's cabinet, which also included the marquis de Galliffet, best known for his role as repressor of the 1871 Commune. While Jules Guesde opposed this participation, Jean Jaurès defended it.

This reformist politics of the class collaboration return in 1936 with the government of Leon Blum with the support of the Stalinist Party (SFIC, also known as the French Communist Party) and the Radical Progressive Republican Party – a bourgeois party This government blocked the class struggle and led to demoralization of the working class and to the rule of the pro- Nazi Marshal Henri Philippe Benoni Omer Pétain in 1940 as the head of the Vichy regime. In 2017, Jean-Luc Mélenchon called not to vote Le Pen without explicitly calling on his supporters to vote for Macron against Le Pen in the final. He did the same for the 2022 run-off. This popular front policy can only demoralize the workers and youth that voted for him in the first round.

For a policy of class war!

For a workers' government in France!

Endnotes:

[i] <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/23/france-vote-le-pen-macron-tv-debate-far-right>

[ii] <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20220424-macron-beats-le-pen-again-as-france-rallies-once-more-again>

[iii] <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/23/france-vote-le-pen-macron-tv-debate-far-right>

[iv] france24.com/en/france/20220426-le-pen-melenchon-want-third-round-win—but-macron-favoured-to-win-parliamentary-majority

Revolutionary Struggle for Women's Liberation

See all RCIT documents on Women's Liberation

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

Britain: Climate Change Protester Faces Prison over Damage to a Government Building

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 10 May 2022

A Leader of Extinction Rebellion is on trial for damage to a government building during protests against the Tory governments' refusal to adopt policies to lower emissions and have a free carbon policy for energy, involving getting rid of nuclear and other fossil fuels which directly affect the planet. There is strong evidence that the planet is overheating producing extremes of climate like forest fires, drought and excessive rainfall. Extinction Rebellion and other Eco warriors have been campaigning to save the planet through direct action including demonstrations and protests on a number of motorways in Britain.

"The trial of Gail Bradbrook, who is accused of damaging the Department for Transport building during a protest in 2019, was due to start on Monday. Attorney General, Suella Braverman, asked for the advice around the Bristol case to be reviewed. Because of this, Ms Bradbrook's trial has been delayed until November. The 49-year-old appeared at Isleworth Crown Court on Tuesday accused of causing £27,500 in damage to the Department for Transport building in Westminster by smashing a plate-glass window during an environmental protest in London on 15 October". [1]

In fact, the trial was suspended because Bradbrook is using as her defence human rights which were used in the case of the Colston 4 who smashed and toppled the statue of Edward Colston, a slave owner in the 17th century.

Extinction Rebellion and other climate change protest groups have been very prominent in showing the effects of how the climate is changing and the planet is in danger of overheating and causing massive manmade disasters which could result in the deaths and destruction of all species on the planet including humankind.

Forest fires in the United States and unbearable heat in India

News outlets like *Reuters* have recently reported on extremes of climate in the southern part of the hemisphere leading to deaths either from forest fires or excessive heat.

"India's western state of Maharashtra has registered 25 deaths from heat stroke since late March, the highest toll in the past five years, with more fatalities likely elsewhere in a country sweltering in temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius. Scientists have linked the early onset of an intense summer to climate change, and say more than a billion people in India and neighbouring Pakistan were in some way vulnerable to the extreme heat." [2]

"Hundreds of households in the historic New Mexico city of Las Vegas were told to evacuate on Monday as fierce winds and drought pushed the largest active wildfire in the United States closer to town." [3]

While the Climate Change affects all continents, it is clear that the peoples in the poor countries of the South suffer the most. Countries like Indonesia, the Philippines and India – capitalist semi-colonies which are exploited by imperialist monopolies and Great Powers since centuries – have only very limited resources to combat the effects of climate change.

Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter Join Forces to oppose new Police Bill

The reactionary Tory Government has introduced a new Police Bill to restrict rights to demonstrate against these new powers of the state. It will lead to incarcerations, arrests and a move towards a authoritarian bonapartist state. The RCIT has already identified this development during the period of Lockdowns – the COVID Counterrevolution.

Both Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter have come together to oppose this basic attack on democratic rights. Black Lives Matter broke the restrictions imposed by the COVID Counterrevolution unlike many leftist and centrist groups who adhered to a Zero Covid policy and capitulated to the bonapartist state.

"This Saturday 3rd April at 1pm, a large coalition of groups collaborating to oppose the Police, Crimes, Sentencing and Courts Bill will unite around the country to march for the right to protest. Groups include Extinction Rebellion, United for Black Lives, Black Lives Matter local groups and many more. In London people will meet at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park for 1pm to march through the streets in a celebration of unity, diversity and protest and in direct opposition to the Policing Bill that seeks to stifle them". [4]

Extinction Rebellion versus Shell PLC

Both groups have been demonstrating openly either through direct action, sit down and refusing to move or other protests most notably against big energy conglomerates like Shell PLC. Many Extinction Rebellion supporters have been arrested demonstrating outside Shell PLC.

"Seven people – including two Extinction Rebellion co-founders – charged with £25K worth of criminal damage at Shell's London HQ will appear at Southwark Crown Court in London for a jury trial. Dubbed the 'Shell 7', this is the second jury trial of an Extinction Rebellion related case and comes almost two years to the day since Shell was the focus of nonviolent direct action when Extinction Rebellion's April Rebellion in 2019 began. During the protest – which lasted over 24 hours – activists poured fake oil, glued themselves to the windows and blocked the doors. They cracked several windows, climbed onto a roof, dropped banners and painted the exterior with 'Shell Knew', 'Climate Criminals' and 'Lies'. The activists also sprayed 'Stop Ecocide' and 'For Polly' on the wall of the building. Polly Higgins was founder of the Stop Ecocide campaign and passed away six days later." [5]

There have been recent protests by a group called *Insulate Now* which calls the government to introduce insulation in all homes in order to reduce energy costs. They have been closely allied with Extinction Rebellion and have taken direct action to new levels by blocking on motorways.

"Nine Insulate Britain protesters have been jailed for illegally blocking traffic on the M25. The campaign group began a wave of protests two months ago, blocking major roads and motorways in England. The group has blocked a number of major roads in and around London, including around Parliament."

Insulate Britain has also targeted the M25 near the Dartford Crossing, the Old Street junction and the Blackwall Tunnel - where there were angry exchanges with drivers. The government has taken out a number of court injunctions to try to prevent further action, and new powers targeting such protests have been announced. These include four injunctions granted to National Highways, banning demonstrations on the M25, around the Port of Dover and on major roads around London, and one to Transport for London.” [6]

The struggle for future of the planet

The RCIT in its manifesto puts forward a programme of action against climate change. We show that without the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism it is impossible to secure the future of humanity.

“Step by step, the big monopolies – mostly based in the imperialist states – destroy the climate and, with it, the natural living conditions for increasingly larger sectors of humanity. If we do not stop them, they will make the planet as a whole inhabitable. According to the latest data, 2020 ended of the warmest decade on record. It is likely the oceans are now at their hottest for 1,000 years and heating faster than any time in the last 2,000 years.

Only a radical reversal of the energy and environmental policy can save our planet and our future. The RCIT warns against any illusions in capitalist governments and their “climate summits”. The only way to combat climate change is the formation of a global mass movement fighting for an international emergency plan. The struggle for necessary environmental reforms must be combined with the aim of overthrowing capitalism, because only then can such an emergency plan be implemented fully and

permanently”. [7]

** For a united front with all forces fighting climate change including Extinction Rebellion and the Insulate Now groups!*

** Convert the energy and transport system - global phasing out of fossil fuels and nuclear energy production!*

** Massive research into the use of alternative forms of energy such as wind, tidal and solar power! For a program for global reforestation!*

** Nationalization under workers' control of all energy companies and all companies that are responsible for basic supplies such as water and agricultural products as well as the airlines, shipping and rail facilities!*

Footnotes

1) [Extinction Rebellion co-founder's trial delayed by Colston review - BBC News](#)

2) [Extreme heat kills at least 25 in India's Maharashtra state \(msn.com\)](#)

3) [Dangerous New Mexico wildfire menaces historic city | Reuters](#)

4) [3 April United for our right to protest: Extinction Rebellion, United for Black Lives and others collaborate in national day of action against the Policing Bill - Extinction Rebellion UK](#)

5) [Extinction Rebellion versus Shell: Crown Court trial begins today - 'Shell Knew' - Extinction Rebellion UK](#)

6) [What is Insulate Britain and what does it want? - BBC News](#)

7) [The Fire of Revolution Will Burn Down Catastrophic Capitalism! - RCIT - Revolutionary Communist International Tendency \(thecommunists.net\)](#)

Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

