



## **Defend Iran against Israel! But No Support for the Mullahs!**

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Picture on the cover: Mass demonstration in London in solidarity with Gaza (Source: Stop the War Coalition, <https://www.stop-war.org.uk/article/the-pro-palestine-movement-has-exposed-the-cynicism-of-political-elites-where-will-that-energy-go-next/>)

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

# May Day 2024: Revolutionary Unity in the Struggle against Imperialism!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 24 April 2024*

On the occasion of May Day 2024, the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) sends greetings to all militants fighting against capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression! We call socialists around the globe to join forces on the basis of a platform of struggle against the most important attacks which the workers and oppressed are facing in the current world situation.

*Support the Palestinian people and its heroic resistance forces! Down with the Zionist Apartheid and Terror state!* Our brothers and sisters in Gaza experience a horrible genocide as the Israeli army has slaughtered at least 34,000 people and displaced nearly the whole population. The RCIT and its comrades in Occupied Palestine are active in the solidarity movement all over the world and our International Secretary, Michael Pröbsting, is standing trial in Austria because the state considers our support for the Palestinian resistance as “*incitement to commit terrorist offenses*”. While we do not lend political support to Hamas or other factions, we unconditionally support the military struggle against the Zionist aggressor! Likewise, we welcome the courageous solidarity activities of the Yemeni Houthis against Israel and its allies. For a Free and Red Palestine from the River to the Sea as part of a socialist federation of the Middle East!

*In all regional confrontations: for the defeat of Israel!* As Israel is becoming increasingly isolated and politically

weakened, it tries to expand the war against Lebanon and Iran. Hence, the daily bombardment of Lebanon and the unprecedented attack against the Iranian embassy in Damascus – acts, which provoke regular responses from Hezbollah as well as an unprecedented counterattack by Iran which send more than 300 drones and missiles against Israel. In all these conflicts we side with the opponents of Israel. However, we do not support in anyway the reactionary Mullah regime which oppressed the workers, women and national minorities in Iran, and which helps Assad the tyrant to slaughter the Syrian people.

*Solidarity with the Ukrainian people and its war of national defence! Down with Russian imperialism!* The RCIT and its comrades in Russia and the Ukraine are united in condemning Putin’s invasion and defending the right of national self-determination. At the same time, we reject any political support for the bourgeois and pro-NATO Zelen-sky government. We denounce the nearly totalitarian bonapartist Putin regime and call for the release of all victims of political repression like Boris Kagarlitsky and Azat Miftakhov.

*Down with all imperialist Great Powers in East and West!* As we are living in a period of accelerating inter-imperialist rivalry, socialists can only possess a correct understanding of the tasks in the class struggle if they recognize the imperialist character not only of the old Great Powers – the U.S., Western Europe and Japan – but also of new

## 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.

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





powers like China and Russia. In conflicts between such Great Powers, socialists have to take an internationalist and anti-imperialist position of *revolutionary defeatism* in the tradition of Lenin and the Bolsheviks and oppose each and every of these powers. At the same time, they need to support the struggles of oppressed nations against any of these imperialist oppressors (e.g. the peoples in the Middle East against Israel and the U.S., the Chechens in Russia, the Uyghurs in China, the Syrians against Russia).

*Down with the reactionary Milei government in Argentina! For a socialist Latin America, independent of all imperialist powers!* The RCIT and its comrades in Argentina support the mass struggles against the right-wing, pro-US and pro-Israel government of Milei. We denounce the minimal “resistance” organized by the trade union bureaucracy and call for the formation of grassroots committees in factories and neighborhoods so that the masses can control the mass struggle themselves. Our comrades in Brazil and Mexico reject any political support for “pink” populist governments like those of Lula or AMLO. We fight for a socialist Latin America which is free from domination by any Great Power – the U.S., Western Europe, China, or Russia!

*Kick out the U.S. and France from Sub-Sahara Africa! But no support for Russia and China!* The RCIT and its comrades in Nigeria welcome the mass protests in Niger which have resulted in the expulsion of the French and now also the U.S. troops. At the same time, we warn against illusions in Eastern imperialist powers and the replacement of the old colonial masters by new ones. Likewise, we warn against any support for coup d'états as the task is not to change the personal at the top of the state but to bring the labouring masses to power.

*No to the military provocations of the U.S. and the Yoon government on the Korean Peninsula!* The RCIT and its comrades in

South Korea strongly oppose the repeated imperialist aggression against North Korea, a capitalist semi-colony. We have no political sympathies whatsoever for the Stalinist-capitalist dictatorship of Kim Jong-un but in any military confrontation we defend North Korea!

*Neither Biden nor Trump!* The RCIT opposes both imperialist parties of the ruling class in the U.S. – the Democrats as well as the Republicans. We welcome any serious attempt by progressive forces to break with the Democrats and take steps in building a new Labor Party – a working-class party independent of all capitalist factions.

*Support the mass strikes in Europe and transform them into political struggles!* We have seen an impressive rise of economic strikes of workers in Western Europe in the recent past – mostly for higher wages and against cuts. Socialists fully support these struggles and advocate the creation of grassroots action committees so that the masses can expand these strikes despite the obstructions by the union bureaucracy. At the same time, socialists need to explain the importance to combine such struggles with crucial political issues like the increasing attacks of the ruling class against democratic rights or the shameful support for Israel and its genocidal war against the Palestinians.

The struggle against the bosses and Great Powers can only be successful if the working class organizes for the overthrow of the capitalist system by means of socialist revolution. In the current period of capitalist decay – full of crisis and catastrophes – the only way to avoid regression into barbarism is the *international socialist revolution* and the creation of a *global 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!*

## Austria: Trial against Pro-Palestine Activist Michael Pröbsting on 2 May

*Report from the RKO BEFREIUNG (Austrian Section of the RCIT), 30 March 2024*

As we previously reported, several pro-Israel forces in Austria have filed criminal charges against Michael Pröbsting, the International Secretary of the RCIT. ([https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/pro-israel-forces-lay-criminal-complaint-against-michael-proebsting/#anker\\_1](https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/pro-israel-forces-lay-criminal-complaint-against-michael-proebsting/#anker_1))

After an initial police interview took place, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office of Vienna has now filed a criminal complaint and initiated legal proceedings. The trial against Michael will take place on May 2nd in the Regional Court of Vienna.

Michael is charged with “*incitement to commit terrorist offenses and approval of terrorist offenses in accordance with Paragraph 282a, Section 2 in conjunction with Section 1 of the Criminal Code.*”. If found guilty, he could receive a prison sentence of up to two years.

As previously reported, the indictment is based on statements by Michael Pröbsting in which he expressed the RCIT's support for the Palestinian freedom struggle and its rejection of the Zionist apartheid state.

The court case against Michael Pröbsting shows that the

supporters of the apartheid and terrorist state of Israel are still trying to criminalize and suppress solidarity with Palestine. But we will not be silenced!

*Solidarity with Michael Pröbsting! Solidarity with the Palestinian freedom struggle!*



## Nigeria: Report on the #CallItFemicide March

By Raimi Akegbejo, International Liaison Personnel of Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard, Nigerian Section of the RCIT. 6.4.2024

The #CallItFemicide march organised by DOHS Cares Foundation for Women and Children took place on the 4th of April, which was aimed at codifying femicide into Nigerian law as a separate crime from murder or to for stiffer penalties in case of femicide over cases of murder or as a new aspect of homicide. The march commenced at Allen Roundabout, Ikeja, where all the demonstrators converged and terminated at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Alausa, Ikeja after a draft bill on femicide was submitted.

The DOHS is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that probably gets funding from Western imperialist countries, as is the case with many NGO's in Africa. This factor is responsible for the pacifism of an otherwise vibrant group of individuals who participated in the march. For one thing, signs that the organisation had some gate-keeping tendency includes the low level of publicity the rally was given on social media when such a crucial issue could have been well publicised on social media platforms.

Another is the fact that the march was fixed on April 4th, weeks away from International Women's Day when it should be ideally held, and after the whole month of March, which is Women's History Month. Nonetheless, the general crises in the capitalist system made for some interesting displays of militancy by students from Yaba College of Technology (Yaba Tech).

The founder of the group, Ololade Ajayi, is a little known

feminist (in my evaluation) in Nigerian feminist circles. Her definition of femicide is "the intentional killing of women and girls by men, which is characterised by a history of domestic violence and social abuse."<sup>1</sup> While this definition is acceptable in the general sense, it limits the meaning of femicide in a way, to domestic violence and intimate partner violence or cases where other forms of sexual abuse like rape are involved. A more appropriate definition would have been simply the murder of a woman since one cannot separate the circumstances and experiences of a person's life from their death, and for women, it is that of patriarchal oppression.

The group also had on placards the names of popular victims of femicide who were yet to receive justice such as *Bamise Ayanwole, Sarah Adesanya, Barakat Bello, Obiageli Anajekwu, Augusta Osedion, Damian Okoligwe, Ogochukwu Anene, Ndubuisi, Nana Fadimatu, Esther Aja, Ovyo Yakubu, Evelyn Alifiya, Itunu Chigozie, Mercy Samuel, Osinachi Nwachukwu, Bimbo Ogbonna.*

As socialists it is our duty to participate in events like this in order expand and deepen these campaigns so that we can win genuine change-seekers over for a revolutionary women's liberation movement.

[1] <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/683378-group-stages-walk-against-femicide-submits-draft-bill-to-lagos-assembly.html>



**RCIT documents on Women's Liberation**

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



## For the Oppressed – Against All Imperialist Powers!

*Declaration of Fraternal Relations between the Anti-War Committees in Solidarity with the Struggles for Self-Determination (USA) and the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 18 April 2024*

1. The *Anti-War Committees in Solidarity with the Struggles for Self-Determination* (AWCS) and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) have agreed to establish fraternal relations. The AWCS is a collective of activists which is focused on solidarity activities with the struggles of oppressed peoples including the defense of undocumented migrants. The RCIT is an international Trotskyist organization with sections and activists in 10 countries.

2. We agree on the necessity to support the struggles of the oppressed peoples in Palestine, Syria and the Ukraine: in the first case, against US imperialism and the ethno-nationalist state of Israel; in the second, against the Assad regime, backed by Russian imperialism and the dictatorship of Iran; and in the last, directly against Russian imperialism.

Our support is for the struggle for self-determination of oppressed peoples, not for the leaderships that through unprincipled alliances and misplaced “loyalties” compromise those struggles: Hamas does not advance the Palestinian struggle by tying it to the same Iranian regime that represses women and youth, workers, and ethnic minorities; Erdogan has repaid the support of Syrian opposition leaders by callously using Syrian Arab refugees as bargaining chips and as scapegoats for the economic crisis he oversees, even as he continues Turkey’s long-standing repression of the Kurds; while we defend Ukraine’s right to secure arms from whomsoever it can, Zelensky’s public displays of support for Israel and US imperialism grievously harm the Ukrainian struggle by alienating it from the oppressed in struggle against these same oppressors and by contributing to confusion in the US and European anti-war oppositions.

The struggles for self-determination take place in the real world – divided up by competing imperialist powers; we denounce the pretentious purism of “anti-imperialists” who do not recognize the right of the oppressed to negotiate with these powers, something which can often be necessary if the relation of forces call for such. At the same time, we state categorically that no struggle for self-determination can triumph by being shackled to an imperialist power or through opportunistic alliances that compromise

solidarity with the struggles by other oppressed peoples. History is replete with the stories of local “leaderships”, elites ready to cut deals for themselves at the expense of the struggles they lead. An oppressed people cannot win freedom by helping to forge the chains for others, nor by accepting the burdens of super-exploitation and debt peonage in a weak state “protected” – imprisoned – by an imperialist power.

3. We recognize that we are living in a period of accelerated Great Power rivalry between the old as well as new imperialist powers (U.S., China, Russia, Western Europe and Japan). In any and all conflicts between these powers, be these trade “wars”, the jockeying for access to exploit resources and people in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, or the Great Power “wheeling and dealing” that cripples urgently needed efforts to confront the causes and consequences of global warming, as well as the buildup of terrifying destructive military forces and the grave threat of direct, armed confrontation, as internationalists we must oppose the imperialist ambitions of our own ruling class as well as those of other imperialist ruling classes.

Compelled by competition for world domination, the imperialist powers continuously prepare for war; their bloody ambitions are only held in check by the fear that war could trigger mass opposition in the streets, opening political crises that threaten their rule. Illustrative examples are at hand, while Netanyahu seeks war with Iran, Biden frets and urges moderation, even though Iran and its allies cannot hope to match the military power of Israel and US imperialism. Obviously, Biden is not concerned about human suffering – he aids and abets genocide in Gaza; Biden is afraid, he fears the popular outrage such a war could unleash, in both Europe and the United States.

We embrace the strategy of “*revolutionary defeatism*”, which means that as consistent internationalists we accept our responsibility to humanity to build opposition to our respective imperialist ruling classes and to collaborate and build solidarity with anti-imperialist, anti-war struggles in other imperialist centers, to challenge militarist budgets and the criminal waste of the arms race, and to organize for the defeat of these policies in times of “peace” and war.



Website of “Socialist Tendency” (RCIT Section in Russia):  
[www.socialisttendency.com](http://www.socialisttendency.com)

### Ukraine War and Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

Check out more than 200 documents of the RCIT in English as well as many other languages on a special sub-page on our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/global/compilation-of-documents-on-nato-russia-conflict/>

4. We reject the “campist” politics of the main anti-war coalitions in the US and Western Europe (UK Stop the War, ANSWER, UNAC, etc.). These forces oppose their own ruling class in conflicts with Russia or China, but, at the same time, support the imperialist policy of the Kremlin or Beijing. We categorically refute such sham “anti-imperialist” politics. A pro-Eastern social-imperialism or “*inverted social-chauvinism*” is not a real alternative to western chauvinism and social-imperialism.

The violent repression, war crimes and mass atrocities openly committed on orders from Moscow and Beijing against Syrians, Chechens, Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars and Uyghurs, are just as inexcusable as Washington’s history of genocides and arming murderous regimes, including the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Precisely because the apologetics for Russia and China are unprincipled, these campist “anti-war” leaderships cannot mobilize the solidarity necessary between hundreds of thousands, even millions, of working people, who will be needed to win the fight to defeat the imperialist and militarist policies of the US and European powers, as well as those of Russia and China. Worse still, the campist support of the reactionary regimes in Russia and China is effectively support for the repression of fighters for democratic and workers’ rights, and of anti-militarist and anti-war activists in those countries – campism betrays the international collaboration of internationalists in the struggle against imperialist war!

5. The crisis of the imperialist world order is directly revealed in the disastrous and deepening global humani-

tarian crisis: millions of human beings have been driven from their homes by relentless bombing campaigns (v.gr. as carried out by the Assad regime and Russia in Syria, and by Israel in Gaza), other millions flee the repression and social and economic collapse brought on by decades of colonial and semi-colonial rule, and tens of millions more flee environmental catastrophes that are the direct result of the ruthless pursuit of profit by multinational corporations.

Far-right and fascist forces use these crises to promote repressive chauvinist policies, from closing borders to refugees and immigrants, to mass arrests and deportations of migrant workers. We defend the right of migrants to cross borders to the U.S. and all other imperialist countries (“*Open Borders*”). We fight for the full equality of migrants (citizenship rights, right to use their language in public administration and education, cultural and religious rights, etc.). We advocate full integration of migrants in the labor movement where they must have a strong position in all ranks – including the leadership.

6. We are committed to seeking further agreement and to practical collaboration along the lines of the principles outlined here, to take up the struggle to build international solidarity for and between the oppressed as the only alternative to imperialist wars, humanitarian crises and genocide. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our political agreements with all principled activists and fighters, and we proudly announce our collaboration in the spirit of unity in action based on agreement on principle!

## Spalakh (Ukraine) Joins the RCIT!

*Joint Statement on the Fusion of Spalakh (Ukraine) and the RCIT, 4 April 2024*

1. Since the end of November 2023, *Spalakh* (Ukraine) – a group of young revolutionary activists – and the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) have been engaged in a period of intensive discussion and collaboration. This process resulted in programmatic agreement of a number of documents (listed in our declaration of fraternal relations, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/fraternal-relations-between-spalakh-ukraine-and-rcit/>) as well as the elaboration of a national platform by the *Spalakh* comrades. (<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/national-platform-of-spalakh-ukraine/>). Consequently, we have decided to merge our forces so that *Spalakh* becomes the Ukrainian section of the RCIT with a representative in its international leadership.

2. The RCIT strongly welcomes the fusion with *Spalakh* – not only because it expands our presence and activities to an additional country. We also consider the Ukraine as an important country, not least because of the fact that the war following Putin’s invasion in February 2022 and the accelerating inter-imperialist rivalry between NATO and Russia have put the country in the focus of the world situation.

3. Furthermore, we strongly appreciate the steadfastness of the Ukrainian comrades who are operating under the most difficult circumstances which compel them to a kind of semi-legal existence (war, impoverishment, the increasing authoritarian policy of the reactionary Zelensky government, growing right-wing chauvinism, etc.). De-

spite these difficulties, the comrades advocate a consistent internationalist and anti-imperialist position of defending the Ukraine against Russia without lending any political support to the *Bankova* and without siding with any Great Power in their inter-imperialist rivalry. We also agree that a direct intervention of Western imperialist powers in the war would obligate revolutionaries to change their tactics and to take a dual-defeatist position. Likewise, we appreciate *Spalakh’s* clear demarcation against opportunist tendencies within the Ukrainian “left” – be it pro-Russian positions by the Stalinists or pro-Western positions by social democrats.

4. The RCIT is proud to have now sections both in the Ukraine as well as in Russia (*Socialist Tendency*) who agree on a common program of consistent internationalism and anti-imperialism. In fact, the *Spalakh* comrades became aware of the RCIT via our comrades in Russia with whom they were in contact already before. It was the steadfast position of *Socialist Tendency* which impressed the Ukrainian comrades and which showed them that the RCIT is a revolutionary organisation not only in abstract documents but also in its tactics and its day-to-day practice.

5. We call all socialists in the Ukraine and internationally who share the principles of our perspective to join us in building a revolutionary party – nationally as well as internationally!

# Latin America between the Conservative Right and Social Chauvinism

Two political factions subservient to imperialism fight each other

By Jorge Arboleda, CCRI Mexico, April 10, 2024

On April 5, the Ecuadorian police invaded the Mexican embassy in Quito, which ended in the capture of Jorge Glas, who was an official during Rafael Correa's period and who requested political asylum in December 2023. Glas' arrest occurred because he was facing corruption charges, in addition to the fact that he had already been imprisoned for the Odebrecht case. However, this operation violated the Vienna convention on the immunity of embassies, which is why the Mexican government, as well as several other countries in the region, the White House and the OAS condemned said operation.<sup>1</sup>

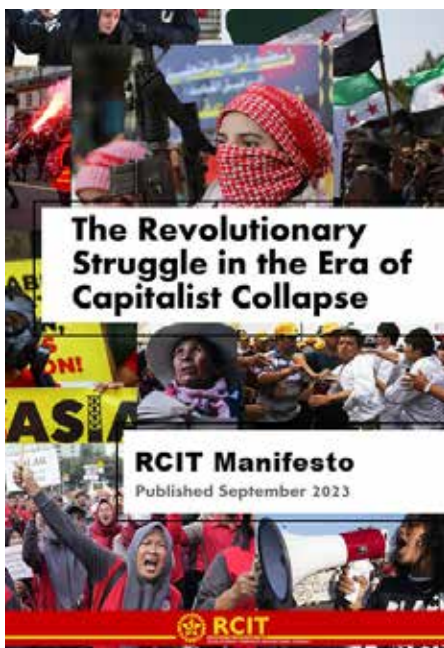
The tension between Mexico and Ecuador began when AMLO, in one of his daily conferences, decided to question the legitimacy of the Ecuadorian government led by Daniel Noboa, alluding that the assassination of candidate Fernando Villavicencio favored the current president in said election.<sup>2</sup> From that moment on, the Ecuadorian government declared the Mexican ambassador to Ecuador persona non grata, and asked the Mexican embassy to hand over Glas.

Why did AMLO claimed those statements in the first place? López Obrador is completely ignorant of politics in other countries, and never imagined that his statements would be refuted by Fernando Villavicencio's own daughter, who rejected the Mexican president's suspicion. "Wash your mouth López Obrador before talking about my father. Fernando Villavicencio was murdered by the gangsters that he always investigated. Some of them asylum in your embassies and in your country. "What a lack of decency of you to give such mediocre and inhuman statements",<sup>3</sup> declared Amanda Villavicencio on her social networks, and also recalled that her father wrote about AMLO's alleged collaboration with organized crime: "In Sinaloa/Mexico, President Manuel López Obrador, gets out of the car and approaches to gently greet Consuelo Loera, mother of drug trafficking kingpin Joaquín Chapo Guzmán. The State on its knees before organized crime. Is that what they are looking for

in Ecuador?"<sup>4</sup> The reality is that it is very easy for Obrador to talk about politicians from other countries as if they were nationals. Obrador believes that the world is divided into two factions: Liberals and Conservatives, and that he is on the liberal team to whom he has to provide support, while he has to attack the conservative team. This logic has led him to take sides in favor of characters like Evo Morales, whom he rescued in 2019, or Pedro Castillo, whom he defended after being removed from the presidency of Peru. However, we know that in AMLO's imagination other members of his team have been Biden and Trump (!),<sup>5</sup> while Lula's penchant for Chinese imperialism has meant more of a rivalry for Obrador than a friendship.<sup>6</sup>

However, despite his ignorance, it works very well for AMLO's narrative to be part of a progressive faction that fights against another conservative faction, while his followers, as well as political analysts and journalists who sympathize with him, interpret these alliances differently. The most common interpretation is that the conservative wing of Latin America is a faithful servant of gringo imperialism, while the progressive faction fights against US dominance. A nonsense that we have already debated on several occasions,<sup>7</sup> since the political, economic and military alignment with the United States is evident in the government of Mexico as in that of other "progressive" governments. But beyond the falsehood of this narrative mentioned above, it works for López Obrador to position himself as the moral and political leader of the region, and it is possible that it will also serve to protect himself in the future, since he has already mentioned his suspects that once he leaves the presidency, his opponents will seek to put him in jail, so he may think that some government will give him asylum if something like this happens, in reciprocity for his actions during his term.

Despite the falsity of this narrative, what is true is that there



## New Program of the RCIT

# The Revolutionary Struggle in the Era of Capitalist Collapse

Adopted at the IV. World Congress of the RCIT in September 2023

- \* Introductory Note
- \* An Era of Catastrophes, Wars and Revolutionary Struggles
- \* Wars of Oppression and Wars of Liberation
- \* Capitalist Civilization Threats and the Struggle to Save Humanity
- \* Capitalist World Economy and the Struggle for a Decent Living Standard
- \* Their War of Ideas and Ours
- \* The Struggle for Power to Open the Road to a Socialist Future

A RCIT Pamphlet, 20 pages, A5 Format



is evident political polarization in Latin America, which has no longer only adopted a national form, but now also a regional one. Milei's victory in Argentina fell like a bucket of cold water on the members of the so-called Sao Paulo Forum (the convention of leftist politicians in Latin America) just as happened with Bolsonaro's victory in Brazil in 2018, since this group of opportunists with leftist discourse are incapable of self-criticism about why they are not as popular among the masses as they would like, and why the people continue to vote "against their own interests," and Milei has taken advantage of his brief moment of popularity to attack the presidents of other countries such as AMLO and Petro,<sup>8</sup> generating tension between the different governments in the region, which now threaten each other with diplomatic and economic sanctions.

As oppressed classes, we must reject these disputes between Latin American countries, but above all we must exhibit the bourgeois and pro-imperialist nature of these governments, and recognize that none of these political currents represent our interests. We also emphasize the absurdity of contradictions such as the fact that, through statements and insults, governments threaten others with sanctions and breaking diplomatic relations, while none of them have wanted to do the same with Israel, after 6 months of committing genocide against the Palestinian people.

#### Footnotes

1 See on this Fidel Gutiérrez, Heather Chen and David Shortell: 'Outrage against international law': Mexico breaks diplomatic ties with Ecuador over embassy raid, April 7, 2024, [https://edition.cnn.com/2024/04/06/americas/ecuador-vice-president-arrest-mexico-em-](https://edition.cnn.com/2024/04/06/americas/ecuador-vice-president-arrest-mexico-em-bassy-diplomatic-tensions-intl-hnk/index.html)

[bassy-diplomatic-tensions-intl-hnk/index.html](https://edition.cnn.com/2024/04/06/americas/ecuador-vice-president-arrest-mexico-em-bassy-diplomatic-tensions-intl-hnk/index.html)

2 See on this Alexandra Valencia: Ecuador declares Mexico ambassador persona non grata, orders her to leave, April 4, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/ecuador-declares-mexico-ambassador-persona-non-grata-2024-04-04/>

3 See on this Frida Mendoza: Tensión en Ecuador: hija de Villavicencio explica su respuesta a AMLO, April 6, 2024, <https://m-x.com.mx/entrevistas/tension-en-ecuador-hija-de-villavicencio-explica-su-respuesta-a-amlo/>

4 This was written on Fernando Villavicencio's Twitter account in July, 2022, <https://twitter.com/VillaFernando/status/1543371130894950401>

5 See on this David Agren: Mexicans for Trump? Amllo supporters have unlikely pick in US election, October 30, 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/30/mexicans-donald-trump-andres-manuel-lopez-obrador>

6 See on this Augusto Taglioni: Lula respalda el gobierno de Boluarte en Perú y marca una diferencia fuerte con López Obrador, January 19, 2023, <https://www.lapoliticaonline.com/internacionales/la-crisis-en-peru-enfrenta-a-lula-con-amlo/>

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## March 24 and the Political Crisis in Argentina

*Report by Damián Quevedo, Convergencia Socialista (RCIT Section in Argentina), 04.04.2024*

March 24 is a date of utmost political importance in Argentina, it is the date on which the last dictatorship is remembered and repudiated. On that day there are always demonstrations and mobilizations throughout the country. However, this year, March 24 had particular characteristics because it occurred in the midst of the terrible adjustment carried out by the right-wing populist government of Javier Milei.

On this day, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated throughout the country, something which has not happened for years. They were marching not only in repudiation of the last dictatorship but against the economic policy of the current government.

The main demonstrations were called in the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, which is located in front of the government house. Formally, there were two demonstrations – one organised by Peronist forces and the other by the left. However, because of the huge participation of the masses both demonstrations mixed and became a sea of people who had come to, first and foremost, to repudiate the government.

This clearly demonstrates that the Argentine government suffers from astonishing an astonishing weakness. It is going through a chronic political crisis since it took office because in less than four months it suffered defeats in all its initiatives, two in parliament with the fall of the bill that intended a structural reform, the presidential decree

that sought to grant Milei extraordinary powers and the repressive protocol of the Minister of Security, Patricia Bullrich.

These failures were accompanied by an enormous fragmentation among the bosses' parties, among the governors who confronted the national government and who voted against it in parliament, not because they have differences with Milei's program, but because the crisis is so great that the adjustment also reaches them and hits even a fraction of the local bourgeoisie.

The weakness of the Argentine government is also seen by Yankee imperialism, which sent none other than the head of the CIA and the general in charge of the southern command of the US army – the department which deals with Latin America – to guarantee the political and commercial relations with the Argentine government and to fundamentally make it clear that it must break all ties with China.

This puts Argentina in a more complicated situation, because in addition to the internal crisis it is going through, it becomes a loot and area of dispute in the trade war between the US and China.

In this context, the left and the workers must promote, not only the struggle against the government, but also a strategic struggle to break ties with all imperialist powers, East and West.

## Iran Retaliates against Israel's Aggression

### Defend Iran against Israel and the U.S.! No political support for the reactionary Mullah Regime in Teheran! Victory to the liberation struggles of the Palestinian people!

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14 April 2024 (UTC: 07.30)*

1. Last night, Iran has retaliated against Israel's attack on its consulate in Damascus which killed seven people, including two generals of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). According to the Israeli military, more than 300 drones, ballistic missiles and cruise missiles were fired at Israel. They also say that while most projectiles were intercepted outside the country's borders, with help from US and UK forces, a "small number of hits were identified", including at a military base in southern Israel. There were no reports of fatalities. Iran's mission to the UN said it considered the matter of Israel's raid on its consulate in Syria "concluded" and warned of a "considerably more severe" response "should the Israeli regime make another mistake". Furthermore, special forces of the IRGC navy have seized an Israeli-linked commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz on the same day.

2. Unsurprisingly, Israel and Western imperialist powers expressed hypercritical outrage about this attack while they failed to condemn the Zionists' deadly attack on Iran's diplomatic facility in Syria. While Teheran's attack didn't kill any Israeli, it has certainly been a political shock for the country. It is the first time that Iran has launched direct attacks against the Zionist state. Explosions were heard in cities across Israel, including Tel Aviv and West Jerusalem, and air raid sirens sounded in more than 720 locations as Israeli forces sought to shoot down the Iranian projectiles. Israel's Home Front Command had issued an order for Israelis to stay near bomb shelters. It remains to be seen if and how Israel and U.S. imperialism – its protecting power without which Zionist entity would no longer exist – will react to the Iranian attack.

3. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) reiterates its internationalist and anti-imperialist position: in any conflict between Iran and Israel resp. the U.S., we side with the former and call for the defeat of the latter. Iran is an advanced capitalist semi-colony while the U.S. and Israel are imperialist powers – the latter, in addition, is also a reactionary and illegitimate settler state.

4. At the same time, we lend no political support to the capitalist Mullah regime in Teheran which oppresses the workers and oppressed peoples in Iran, and which has helped the tyranny of Assad to slaughter the Syrian people since 2011. Likewise, Iran aids imperialist Russia with drones killing the Ukrainian people. We fully support the

Syrian rebels if they try to utilize the current difficulties of the Mullah regime to advance against their enemy.

5. The RCIT even more sides with Iran in its conflict with Israel and the U.S. as the current escalation takes place in the context of the genocidal war which the Zionist monster has waged against the Palestinian people in Gaza and which has already killed tens of thousands of people – most of them women and children. Every strike is welcome which weakens the Apartheid and Terror state, and which aids the heroic Palestinian resistance!

6. We reiterate our call to the international workers and popular movements to double their support for the Palestinian people. They must intensify their campaigns to boycott the Zionist state, making sure that neither weapons nor goods reach Israel. The Arab and Muslim governments – corrupted servants of capitalist monopolies and imperialist powers – must be forced to cut all relations with Israel, to boycott the Zionist state and its Western allies, and to send weapons to the Palestinian resistance. Socialists – particularly in Europe and the U.S. – must fight to expel the supporters of Zionism from the workers movement. We call those who share such a program to intensify collaboration in order to advance the construction of a *Revolutionary World Party!*

*Victory to the Palestinian resistance! Defeat Israel!*

*In any confrontation: Support Iran and other resistance forces against Israel and the Western imperialists!*

*Expel the U.S. forces from the Middle East!*

*For a global boycott movement against the Terror and Apartheid state Israel!*

*For a single democratic and secular Palestinian state from the river to the sea with cultural and religious rights for the Jewish minority which should be a workers and poor peasant republics in the Arab countries as part of a socialist federation of the Middle East!*

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

## The Gaza War 2023-24

**See all relevant RCIT documents on our website:**

**<https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/compilation-of-articles-on-the-gaza-uprising-2023/>**

## Is Israel on Its Way Out of History?

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT section in Israel/Occupied Palestine)*, 16.04.2024

In retaliation to Israel's provocation against Iran by criminally attacking the Iranian embassy in Damascus. Iran's Revolutionary Guard seizes a container ship near the Strait of Hormuz - a ship partly owned by Israeli capitalist Eyal Ofer. In addition, Iran has launched hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel in its first direct attack on Israeli territory, an assault that wounded a seven-year-old girl and caused minor damage at an Israeli military facility. With help from the US, France, Jordan, and UK forces, it intercepted the vast majority of 300 drones and missiles launched by Iran.

With the missiles and drone attack, Iran's mission to the United Nations said it now deemed the matter "concluded" and warned Israel of a "considerably more severe" response should the "*Israeli regime make another mistake. Clearly, Iran is not seeking a war with the barbarian Zionist state.*"

That does not mean that the government of Netanyahu does not seek a war with Iran. However, Israel will not dare to open a new major front without dragging the US and/or other Western imperialists.

*"There are reasons to believe that the Iranian attack on Israel was simply a show. The United States seems to have had some contact with Iran before this attack took place. Some of this may well have been choreographed to a degree" [i]*

In Prime Minister Netanyahu's whole career, his primary enemy has been Iran, so this is a massive test for him. Can the Biden administration restrain Israel? If Israel decides to respond, can they make sure it's just a response for

show rather than something that causes more deaths?

Biden's politics is schizophrenic. On the one hand, he wants to prevent a major regional war that may lead to WWII. On the other hand, he has declared time and again that the US stands behind Israel and provides Israel with military items for wars.

However, it seems that the US will not join Netanyahu's manipulation and tricks; the Biden administration, while not condemning Israel publicly, was not at all happy about the Iranian consulate attack in Damascus because it knew Iran really had no alternative but to come up with some response.

And if Netanyahu decides to send Israel alone against Iran, it could be the end of Israel. A major attack by Israel on Iran will force Iran to produce nuclear weapons. Such a war, according to experts, will cost the lives of more than 8 million Iranians and one million Israelis. Such an outcome will cause every Israeli who can to run away.

In addition, the protests against Netanyahu are growing. Yesterday, some protestors called to end the war in Gaza and accept Hamas's terms.

*Put an end to the Zionist monster!*

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

### Endnotes

[i] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/4/14/israel-s-war-on-gaza-live-blasts-sirens-as-iranian-missiles-intercepted?update=2835432>

# 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.

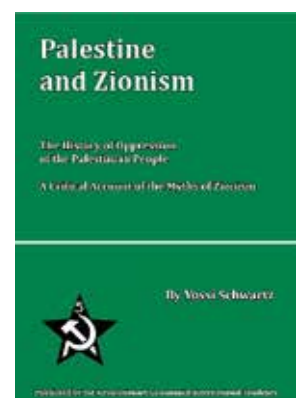
Yossi Schwartz also shows that the Palestinian people have heroically resisted against the occupation resulting in two Intifadas as well as the successful defense of Gaza against the Israeli aggression in three wars (2008/09, 2012, 2014). The author also analyzes the shameful betrayal by the PLO leadership 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/>





# EU and IMF Prop Up Egypt's Dictatorship of General Sisi

By Michael Pröbsting, *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)*, 8 April 2024

A few weeks ago, the European Union (EU) announced another deal with Egypt's military dictatorship of General Sisi. This deal includes a massive funding package worth \$8 billion to support Egypt's struggling economy. Around the same time, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also announced a \$8 billion IMF package for Cairo.<sup>1</sup>

Why are imperialist powers so eager to give billions of U.S. Dollars to Egypt's regime? The answer lies in the nature of dictatorship – a bonapartist capitalist regime which serves the interests of imperialist and regional powers.<sup>2</sup> General Sisi came to power via a military coup in July 2013 when it overthrew the government of Mohamed Morsi whose "*Freedom and Justice Party*", a bourgeois Islamist party, had won the first and only democratic elections after the victory of the revolution in January in 2011.<sup>3</sup>

Since this coup, Egypt has destroyed all democratic rights and created one of the worst dictatorships in the Arab world which bloody suppresses any form of opposition. It has killed thousands of oppositional activists – most famously the Rabaa massacre on the 14 August 2013 when up to 2,600 people were slaughtered on a single day. It currently keeps more than 70,000 people in prison for political reasons – including for such "crimes" as putting a critical comment against the regime on Facebook!<sup>4</sup>

## Imperialist interests

Sisi's dictatorship has received massive political, economic and military support both by imperialist powers as well as by the Gulf monarchies of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). These powers are supporting the military regime because it serves their interests.

Concretely, the imperialist powers consider Sisi as an useful lackey for several reasons:

1) With 111 million people, Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world. Furthermore, it links Africa and Asia and, particularly important, it controls the Suez Canal, one of the most important maritime transport routes of the capitalist world economy.<sup>5</sup>

2) Sisi's regime has played a crucial role in aiding Israel's blockade against the Palestinian people in Gaza as it controls the only non-Israeli entry in the south of the strip. Egypt's support for the Zionist occupation of Gaza has become even more important since Netanyahu started to wage a genocidal war against the Palestinians in October 2023.<sup>6</sup>

3) Egypt plays a key role in controlling migration from Africa and the Middle East to Europe. While the European capitalists desperately need migrants as young and cheap labour force which they can profitably exploit, they want to control the process of migration so that no unwanted migrants enter the "Fortress Europe". Unsurprisingly, EU state leaders have repeatedly called Egypt a "*strategic partner*".

4) Finally, Egypt with its sizeable middle class and industry is a profitable market for imperialist corporations. European arms manufactures have made big deals with Cairo. Siemens is building power plants and a high-speed

rail system connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. And Italy's Eni has made big investments in the oil and gas sector.

The massive economic and military aid for Egypt's dictatorship by Western-led institutions like the IMF and the imperialist EU demonstrates once more the hypocritical nature of the so-called "Western values". These guardians of "democracy" and "human rights" unconditionally support Israel's genocide as well as the brutal regime of General Sisi!<sup>7</sup>

## Economic crisis

However, despite all such support from global and regional powers, Egypt faces a deep economic and social crisis. Inflation reached a high of 36% in February this year and Egypt's statistics agency CAPMAS also revealed that food prices have risen by 50% in the last year. Since 2022, Egyptians have witnessed their currency lose value from EGP 15.7 to the dollar to EGP 49.4 to the dollar. According to official statistics, about 30% of the population are living below the poverty line but the real figure is substantially higher.

Egypt's ruling class could finance its vast military spending and its mega projects only by substantially increasing public debt. Its external debt has risen to \$164.73 billion (the equivalent to 49% of GDP) in 2024 – Egypt is the second largest-debtor to the IMF – and total central governmental debt was 93% of GDP in 2023. Budget deficit is expected to rise at 10.1% of GDP this year.<sup>8</sup>

Sisi's only instrument to pay for his debts to the imperialists is, on one hand, to cut welfare spending, to increase the exploitation of the workers and poor and to privatise state-owned enterprises. On the other hand, the regime sells out its country – not only in a metaphoric sense but also literally. Cairo did already sell the Tiran and Sanafir islands in the Red Sea to Saudi Arabia.<sup>9</sup> Likewise, it wants to sell the Mediterranean town of Ras el-Hikma to UAE investors.<sup>10</sup>

## Socialist solution

The military dictatorship in Egypt is a servant of the imperialist and regional powers, in particular the Zionist state as well as of the local ruling class. Consequently, it is an enemy of the workers and popular masses of Egypt, of Palestine and the whole Arab world.

Hence, it is hardly surprising that the regime is hated by the popular masses as anti-social and anti-national. However, given the brutal repression against all forms of opposition, Sisi has managed to stay in power until now. However, as the latest protests against the regime's complicity with the starvation of Gaza have shown, it becomes increasingly difficult for the regime to silence popular opposition.<sup>11</sup>

The struggle of the workers and oppressed in Egypt is by its very nature closely connected with the Palestinian liberation struggle and the Arab Revolution. Sisi, the monarchies of Saudi Arabia and UAE and Israel depend

on each other – they must be jointly fought. Such a struggle must also aim to liberate the region from domination by any imperialist power. This can only be achieved via a permanent revolution which combines democratic and socialist tasks, and which brings the working class and the poor peasantry to power.

### Footnotes

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4 See on this e.g. Shehab Center for Human Rights: Human Rights Situation. Enforced Disappearances, Violations of Prisons and Places of Detention, 2021; Against Torture. A human rights report in the International Day of Support for Victims of Torture, monitors the methodology

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6 See on this e.g. Atef Said: Egypt Has Betrayed Palestinians in Their Time of Greatest Need, Truthout, March 31, 2024, <https://truthout.org/articles/egypt-has-betrayed-palestinians-in-their-time-of-greatest-need/>

7 We refer readers to a special page on our website where all RCIT documents on the 2023-24 Gaza War are compiled, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/compilation-of-articles-on-the-gaza-uprising-2023/>.

8 Pascal Devaux : Egypt: Rising pressure on public finances, BNP Paribas, 02/13/2024, <https://economic-research.bnpparibas.com/html/en-US/Egypt-Rising-pressure-public-finances-2/13/2024,49350>

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## 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

## USA: Rally for a Ceasefire in Gaza, to denounce Biden's complicity and AM General's profits from arms sales to Israel

Report from a Rally in South Bend, Indiana, USA, on March 30, 2024, by an independent activist on invitation from the RCIT

On March 30th, in the town of South Bend, Indiana, USA, a little over a hundred activists gathered to protest in front of the offices of AM General, which is on record for selling military equipment (Humvee vehicles) to Israel. Three demands were raised: for Israel to cease fire, for Biden to stop supplying Israel with arms, and for AM General to stop profiting from supplying arms for genocide.

The initiative was launched by an ad-hoc group of activists from local churches, the *Green Party* and the *Anti-War Committees in Solidarity with the Struggles for Self-Determination* (AWCS, of which this writer is a member). These activists, from northwest Indiana, collaborated with the coalition *Michiana Friends of Palestine*, based in northeastern Indiana and Michigan, which has been successfully organizing rallies in South Bend.

Though modest in size, in comparison to recent mass marches in New York City and nearby Chicago (about a 3-hour drive from South Bend), the rally was significant for bringing together activists from many towns and communities, together with labor activists.

The action started with a spontaneous and spirited march through several blocks of South Bend, which is home to the University of Notre Dame. Participants chanted for a ceasefire, denounced AM General and Biden's complicity with genocide, against militarism, and in solidarity with the oppressed, from Palestine to Mexico.

The lead speaker at the rally was a representative of the *United Auto Workers Labor For Palestine caucus* (UAWL4P). She informed us that Palestinian trade unionists have called for a global picket line to stop weapons shipments to Israel. This call set the tone for the rally, and many of the speakers followed up in an impromptu discussion of

how to engage the workers at AM General's manufacturing facility, who are UAW organized, and at other companies, such as Caterpillar, in nearby Illinois. This discussion continued after the rally, involving other activists from UAWL4P and young independent activists interested in this approach to building solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.

The speakers from *Michiana Friends of Palestine* were activists from the Palestinian American community. They held Biden directly responsible for the genocide in Gaza and denounced US imperialist interventions worldwide. The energy and enthusiasm these activists brought to the event is particularly noteworthy, leading us in chants until our voices were hoarse.

Activists from *COSECHA* (Spanish for harvest), which organizes for rights for undocumented workers, took the microphone to express solidarity with the Palestinian people, with all oppressed peoples, and to invite activists to support their struggle to win the right to secure drivers' licenses in the state of Indiana.

An activist from the AWCS gave a prepared speech that presented our organization's condemnation of Biden and the US ruling class for its complicity with genocide in Gaza, our demand for a free secular democratic Palestine as a home for both the Palestinian and Jewish communities, with respect for the Al Aqsa mosque and for the Right to Return of all Palestinians displaced by Zionism, and our belief that to confront wars, genocide and fascism we must build solidarity with the popular democratic struggles for self-determination, against all reactionary dictatorships and imperialist powers (speech available upon request).

An activist from the *Illiana Muslim Association* gave an emotionally moving appeal for solidarity that centered on





the inhumane cruelty of the suffering imposed on the Palestinian people.

The speaker for the *Green Party* took up the need for building support among working people for opposition to militarism and US wars abroad, and to confront the climate crisis. He explained that he is a veteran labor activist and knows first-hand the challenges to this work.

There was also a brief exchange about Ukraine between the speaker for the Green Party and another for the AWCS: with the former holding the US responsible for instigating the tragic conflict and the later emphasizing the Ukrainians' right to self-determination. Both speakers will soon participate in an organized debate on the issue, which is obviously directly relevant to building a movement against militarism and US imperialist wars.

The rally closed with more chanting and finally a mov-

ing rendition of Bob Marley's Redemption Song by a local artist.

Finally, on appeal from this writer, the activists gathered for a group photo in solidarity with Syrian detainees, in particular for Dr. Majd KamAlmaz and Rania Alabbasi and her family, held by the Assad regime.

Even after the rally, discussions continued among activists. I heard two people exchanging opinions about how to characterize the Houthis and what positions our movement should take towards them, a pragmatic alliance or to maintain a political distance because of their shared responsibility (i.e., shared with the US, Saudi Arabia and the GCC) for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

The path forward is long and will require unity in action even as we discuss complex political issues.

## Arab Satellite Channel WATAN TV Reports about Trial against Michael Pröbsting

Report by the RCIT's Media Team, 8 April 2024

The Arab-language channel WATAN TV has aired a report about the upcoming trial against Michael Pröbsting, the International Secretary of the RCIT. As we did report, Michael is a long-time activist in solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle. Since 7 October, he spoke at numerous pro-Palestine demonstrations for which he is now charged with "incitement to commit terrorist offenses and approval of terrorist offenses.". If found guilty, he could receive a prison sentence of up to

two years. (See [https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/petition-no-to-criminal-complaint-against-pro-palestine-activist-michael-proebsting/#anker\\_9](https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/petition-no-to-criminal-complaint-against-pro-palestine-activist-michael-proebsting/#anker_9))

WATAN TV is a prominent satellite TV channel which airs its shows in many countries.

The report about Michael Pröbsting's trial is from minute 34:23 to 37:04.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqOT6rvNLc0>

# Books of the RCIT

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

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

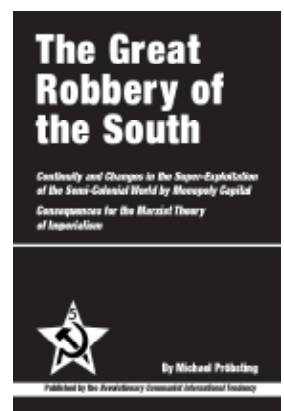
In *The Great Robbery of the South* Michael Pröbsting analyses the super-exploitation and oppression of the semi-colonial world (often referred to as the "Third World") by the imperialist powers and monopolies. He shows that the relationship between the small minority of rich capitalist countries and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

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

In *The Great Robbery of the South* Michael Pröbsting argues that a

correct understanding of the nature of imperialism as well as of the program of permanent revolution which includes the tactics of consistent anti-imperialism is essential for anyone who wants to change the world and bring about a socialist future.

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## Israel Has Failed to Provoke a Regional War

By Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT section in Israel/Occupied Palestine)*, 16.04.2024

Councilwoman Rossana Rodriguez, who represents Chicago's 33rd district, was slammed by the Israeli consulate after she posted "Free Palestine" on X as Iran launched an attack on Israel on the Zionist apartheid state on Saturday night.

*"We condemn in the strongest terms this Chicago Alderwoman's celebration of Iran's unprecedented attack on Israel," the consulate shared online. "This is the same Alderwoman behind the highly controversial "ceasefire" resolution. We see a pattern – not aiming for peace but for Israel's destruction. This is the same Alderwoman behind the highly controversial "ceasefire" resolution. We hope @ChicagosMayor will speak out this time. [i]*

The ceasefire proposal referenced by the Zionist consulate post, Ceasefire Resolution R2023-0005730 submitted by the Chicago Progressive Staffers, called for the release of Israeli hostages and also demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners arrested by Israel, describing them as "arbitrarily detained Palestinians," according to a copy shared by CBS News.

The resolution included the note, *"We cannot remain silent as we hear a groundswell of Chicagoans who reject the notion that the United States must continue to use its geopolitical position to enable a genocide" and "It is not antisemitic to want an end to the Israeli imposed Palestinian apartheid we see many of our Jewish siblings in Chicago echoing this same call."* [ii]

The truth is that the Zionist state is committing genocide in Gaza by bombing and starvation. In an attempt to ex-

pand the war to a regional war, possibly leading to WWII, it provoked Iran by bombing Iran's embassy in Syria. No country in the world will not retaliate when its embassy is attacked, and Iran retaliated.

Netanyahu hoped to drag the US to war against Iran. Still, Biden has faced powerful opposition to his policy of supporting Israel's genocide of the Palestinians who refused to participate in a war against Iran. Still, the US, France, Britain, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia participated in shooting down the missiles and rockets fired by Iran.

Not only this, but the attack by Iran was a show agreed upon with Biden, according to information provided by Al Jazeera.

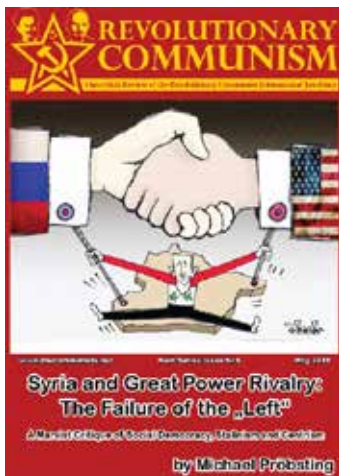
Thus, Netanyahu has failed in Gaza and in his attempt to open a regional war to save his position as PM rather than send him to jail. There is still a slim chance that the Zionist government will attack Iran alone, but this will be the end of the Zionist Monster. In the meantime, Israel continues to bomb Gaza.

*Down with the Zionist apartheid from the river to the sea!  
For Palestine red and free from the river to the sea!*

### Endnotes:

[i] #Chicago #StandWithIsrael" in <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-797063>

[ii] Ibid



## Publications of the RCIT

### Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the „Left“

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

*The bleeding Syrian Revolution and the recent Escalation  
of Inter-Imperialist Rivalry between the US and Russia –  
A Marxist Critique of Social Democracy, Stalinism and Centrism*

Introduction \* The liberation struggle of the Syrian people against Assad retains its just character \* Against all imperialist aggressors! \* Old and new Great Powers \* The Ex-Stalinist turned social democrats: "God save the United Nations" \* The Stalinists (and some caricatures in Trotskyist camouflage): social-imperialist servants of Assad and Putin \* The Morenoite LIT, UIT and FLTI: the heart on the right place but not their brains \* CWI and FT: failure to understand the imperialist nature of China and Russia \* CWI / SWP(UK) / FT: refusing to support the Syrian Revolution \* Conclusion \* Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

## Britain: Rishi Sunak Declares War on the Working Class and the Oppressed

By Laurence Humphries, RCIT Britain, 7th March 2024

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March in a speech outside Downing Street Rishi Sunak said that the pro-Palestinian marches taking place were extremists and descending to mob rule. He also referred to extremism in Britain as a direct attack on democracy and democratic structures in Britain. He also referred to right-wing commentators who are attacking Muslims and engaging in Islamophobia.

*"Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has warned police chiefs of a "growing consensus that mob rule is replacing democratic rule". He wants more robust police responses that he says are needed to protect politicians and democratic processes. This includes an "immediate response" from police to intimidatory protest at MPs' homes. But human rights group Amnesty International says the PM "wildly exaggerates the issue". Mr Sunak was speaking the day after the Home Office announced a £31m package aimed at protecting MPs, stating it was in response to the impact of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict". [1]*

*"Rishi Sunak has claimed extremist groups in the UK are "trying to tear us apart", in a hastily arranged Downing Street statement that came hours after George Galloway won a by-election in Rochdale. Standing outside No 10 late on Friday, the prime minister condemned what he called "a shocking increase in extremist disruption and criminality" after the 7 October massacre by Hamas and the Israeli invasion of Gaza. He also claimed democracy itself was a target, as he condemned the election of Galloway, who easily won the seat in Rochdale on a platform*

*that focused on anti-Israel sentiment over Gaza. However, in a sometimes rambling and seemingly contradictory 10-minute address, Sunak made points likely to anger MPs on the right of the Conservative party such as Suella Braverman and Robert Jenrick, who have sought to frame recent tensions as almost entirely the responsibility of Islamist extremists." [2]*

As the RCIT has analysed in a number of articles the capitalist system is in meltdown. Since 2019 when the great depression and slump happened it has shown that the anarchic system of capitalism is characterised by a contradictory clash between the productive forces and the nature of production as Karl Marx explained in *Capital*. The main feature of world imperialism is the intense rivalry between the Great Powers leading to inter-imperialist rivalry chiefly between the USA, Europe and Japan against China and Russia. This has revealed itself in conflicts in the South China Sea and the war in the Ukraine which Russia invaded.

Islamophobia is widespread in Britain and during the last four Tory governments there has been a campaign of intimidation and outright racist oppression of Black, Asian pupils who are followed and investigated under the Prevent programme in schools. Under this program, police officers come into schools in order to interrogate Muslim students with no evidence (often it is male officers who interrogate female Muslim students).

## Books of the RCIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Great Power Rivalry

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International of Workers



It has recently been proved that the Metropolitan police are both racist and there is a high intensity of domestic violence perpetrated by police officers. The recent case of Sarah Everard stalked by a serving police officer Wayne Cousins who killed her confirms this assessment. Research has shown that black or Asian youth are more likely to be searched and detained by the police under these prevent regulations. The official reason for the Prevent strategy is that these pupils may be susceptible to being recruited by ISIS and other radical Islamic organisations according to the government. suppression of freedom of speech together with racist profiling is endemic in Britain today. But Sunak will certainly not address this form of extremism perpetrated by the state!

### The Gaza War and the pro-Palestine mass movement

The reason for Sunak's attack is because of the war between Israel and the Palestinian resistance which started on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Britain and the USA have continually supported the state of Israel arming it to the teeth. Without their support they would not be able to prolong the conflict. Israel is an imperialist outpost in the Middle East and hated by the Arab masses. It is a colonial apartheid state committing murder, assassination and now genocide with its murderous assault on Gaza. Condemned by the International Court of Justice the Zionist entity will not stop until it has driven all Palestinians out of their land. To date 30,000 Palestinians have been killed including women and children, aid convoys have been attacked and hospitals bombed.

However, a mass movement in solidarity with Palestine has emerged – in Britain as well as globally – which is putting pressure on the governments. That is why Sunak condemns the marches for Palestine because of their support for the Palestinian resistance. His defence of democracy is false as his government has enacted legislation to reduce and ban protests completely.

### The by-election results in Rochdale

The by-election results in Rochdale shocked both the Labour party and the Tory party. These are extraordinary times when both of the main parties end up 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in the result. The dominant issue was, of course, Palestine and the Gaza War where demands for a ceasefire have been raised by a number of semi-colonial countries and the masses in Britain – but not by western imperialist powers like the U.S. and Britain.

Both Sunak and Keir Starmer are opposed to a ceasefire. Starmer, the pro-capitalist leader of the Labour party, disowned his candidate at Rochdale because of perceived anti-Semitic remarks (which were in fact anti-Zionist remarks). *“The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, appeared to back the prime minister's message calling for unity in the country. He said: “The prime minister is right to advocate unity and to condemn the unacceptable and intimidatory behaviour that we have seen recently. “It is an important task of leadership to defend our values and the common bonds that hold us together. Citizens have a right to go about their business without intimidation and elected representatives should be able to do their jobs and cast their votes without fear or favour.” [3].*

George Galloway stood for a ceasefire in Gaza and re-

ceived overwhelming support from the Muslim population in Rochdale. The RCIT has serious political differences with George Galloway but nevertheless he was speaking up for the Palestinians and for everyone who is opposed to the Zionist slaughter taking place in Gaza.

### The failure of reformism and the trade union bureaucracy

Keir Starmer, the pro-capitalist leader of the Labour party, has since the beginning of the genocide in Gaza taken up a position in support of Israel and in opposition to a ceasefire – despite the fact that this demand is supported by the majority of Labour party members. Many black and Asian members have either left or been suspended from the Labour party. Diane Abbott and Jeremy Corbyn are both suspended MP's as are a number of others. Starmer has stated that he is a faithful Zionist and proud of it. At the beginning of the war, he stated that Palestinians particularly women and children should go without water and electricity.

The situation in Gaza is dominating British politics, but it had gone beyond that. At the beginning of Ramadan, Palestinians living in Gaza face annihilation. Starmer is determined to drive the last vestiges of socialism and humanity out of the Labour party in order to defend the imperialist entity Israel in the Middle East. In fact, his politics is indistinguishable from the Tories.

The trade union bureaucracy meanwhile is tied inextricably to the parliamentary party and remains the privileged and conservative layer which dominates the trade union movement. Its role during the Gaza War has been to follow the imperialists in their desire to murder, annihilate and destroy the Palestinian people. The bureaucracy is an unelected clique which has slavishly followed every decision of Starmer and his ilk. Not one of these leaders has come out publicly to support the call for a ceasefire – despite the fact that the *Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions* has written to all the affiliates of the TUC seeking their support. There has been little or no support and most of the bureaucracy fail to speak or support the marches in Britain demanding a ceasefire.

The RCIT described the labour aristocracy in this way: *“Furthermore, we also need to take into account the labour aristocracy, the uppermost part of the working class (e.g., certain sectors of the highly-paid skilled workers, etc.). It is the sector of the proletariat which is literally bribed by the bourgeoisie with various privileges. In the imperialist countries, this layer constitutes a much larger proportion of the working class than it does among the semi-colonial proletariat. The financial sources to pay off the labour aristocracy in the imperialist countries, and thereby undermine its working-class solidarity, are derived precisely from the extra profits which the monopoly capitalists so readily obtain by super-exploiting the semi-colonial countries as well as migrants in the imperialist metropolises. Without any smoke or mirrors, monopoly capital uses part of these extra profits to gain the support of sectors of the working class in the imperialist countries, for it is at home that the capitalists need stability first and foremost. Thus, the “bought off” labour aristocracy can be a much smaller sector of the proletariat in the semi-colonial world. Together with this, the labour aristocracy – along with its twin, the labour bureaucracy – plays a dominating role inside the trade unions and the reformist parties in the imperialist*

countries". [4]

This shows that both – the trade union bureaucracy and the labour aristocracy – have an affinity with the pro-capitalist policy of the Labour party. The middle and lower sectors of the proletariat – many of them migrant workers – and are the most oppressed section in Britain and therefore more open to revolutionary ideas and actions.

### Crisis of centrism

The most notable feature of centrism in this period is its reluctance to understand the national question. Throughout its history, it has shown hostility to anti-imperialist movements and movements outside the official Labour movement. These groups – in particular those coming from the Ted Grant tradition – have always opportunistically adapted to the labour bureaucracy. They claim that nothing will change without the role of these conservative organisations who have a complete disregard for migrant workers who are often not in trade unions but form their own organisations to fight for their views.

One of the leading centrist organisations in Britain is the Socialist party – the section of the CWI – originally led by Peter Taaffe but now by other leaders. Their opportunist adaptation to the labour bureaucracy in the present Gaza War is reflected in their support for a two-state solution (i.e. a small Bantustan-like Palestinian state alongside Israel) – in contrast to the long-standing demand of the Palestinian liberation movement and their supporters to fight for a Palestine from the river to the sea. *"An independent, socialist Palestinian state will be possible, alongside a socialist Israel, with guaranteed rights for all minorities, as part of a voluntary socialist confederation across the Middle East"*. [5]

The RCIT believes that such a one-state solution is the most democratic solution. However, we advocate a *Red Palestine* from the river to the sea, i.e. a workers and fellahin republic, in which Jews will be a sizeable minority with full cultural and religious rights.

### For a revolutionary solution

The recent period has shown the weakness of capitalism and the bankruptcy of reformism. At the same time, we see an unprecedented mass movement independent of the labour bureaucracy. This polarised situation offers an excellent possibility for revolutionaries to intervene in the labour movement and to split the progressive, anti-imperialist sectors – i.e. not the cynical bureaucrats but the

numerous rank-and-file members who still understand themselves as socialists – away from Starmer & Co. It is crucial to bring such a left wing of the Labour party together with the militant sectors of the pro-Palestine movement (not some liberal figureheads but rather the hundreds of thousands of activists).

Revolutionaries need to explain to these activists the importance of a new party of the workers and oppressed. In our view, such a party should not have a left-reformist or populist program as it is advocated by Corbyn or Galloway. It should be rather based on a fighting program which links the struggle against capitalist attacks and imperialist wars which transitional demands aimed at overthrowing the bourgeoisie. Naturally, communists must not have a sectarian attitude in case their program does not find support by the majority. In such a case they to work within such a party as a revolutionary minority and continue to argue for their ideas.

Such a new workers party, which organises the oppressed independent of the pro-imperialist Labour party, would be a tremendous step forward. However, it can only be a interim stage in the process to build a revolutionary workers party committed to the goal of smashing capitalism and opening the road to a socialist future!

The RCIT in Britain puts forward the following demands in support of the Palestinian resistance and for a military victory of Hamas without political support for their leadership.

*\* Call on the trade unions including their leaderships to follow the example of the offshore workers in Oakland California who refused to load or unload military hardware bound for Israel. We call for the dockers, rail workers and transport workers to refuse to load or unload shipment to Israel.*

*\* Support the boycott movement against Israel!*

*\* For a Free Red Palestine from the river to the sea!*

*\* No to Islamophobia and racism! For open borders, no to immigration controls or deportation to other countries!*

### Footnotes

- 1) [Protests descending into mob rule, Rishi Sunak warns police - BBC News](#)
- 2) [Extremists trying to tear us apart, says Rishi Sunak in impromptu No 10 speech | Rishi Sunak | The Guardian](#)
- 3) [Extremists trying to tear us apart, says Rishi Sunak in impromptu No 10 speech | Rishi Sunak | The Guardian](#)
- 4) [Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today - RCIT - Revolutionary Communist International Tendency \(thecommunists.net\)](#)
- 5) [Mass democratic struggle for Palestinian national self-determination and socialism - Socialist Party](#)

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