



REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM

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ONE WORLD - ONE STRUGGLE - ONE REVOLUTION



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Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria.

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The Syrian Revolution and the Assassination of the Russian Ambassador to Turkey

Joint Statement of the International Secretariat of the RCIT and Sınıf Savaşı (Section of the RCIT in Turkey), 21.12.2016

1. Russia's ambassador in Turkey, Andrey Karlov, was shot and killed on 20 December by Mevlut Mert Altıntaş – a 22-year-old, off-duty Turkish policeman. After the attack, the man shouted religious slogans in combination with slogans like *"Don't forget Aleppo, don't forget Syria!"* expressing his rage about the involvement of Russian imperialism in the slaughter of the Syrian people in Aleppo.

2. The RCIT stands in the tradition of Marxism and Trotskyism and thus rejects individual terrorism as a useful instrument to fight against oppression and exploitation. While we do not approve of the assassination of the Russian ambassador, we share no sympathy with this man. He was part of the imperialist Putin machinery which is responsible for the mass murder of the Chechen as well as the Syrian people. However, we contend that such attacks don't really weaken the imperialist system, but rather legitimize it to conduct more repression and persecution. Our approach has been well formulated by Leon Trotsky, co-leader of the socialist October Revolution in 1917 together with Lenin and founder of the Fourth International, who wrote as early as 1911: *"If we oppose terrorist acts, it is only because individual revenge does not satisfy us. The account we have to settle with the capitalist system is too great to be presented to some functionary called a minister. To learn to see all the crimes against humanity, all the indignities to which the human body and spirit are subjected, as the twisted outgrowths and expressions of the existing social system, in order to direct all our energies into a collective struggle against this system – that is the direction in which the burning desire for revenge can find its highest moral satisfaction."*

3. Nonetheless, it is necessary to point out that such desperate attacks are an unavoidable result of the

tremendous barbarity which has and is being perpetuated in Syria by the brutal Assad regime and its backers in Moscow and Teheran. Thousands upon thousands of Syrians have been slaughtered in East-Aleppo during the past weeks. It is hardly surprising that people all over the world direct their hatred against representatives of the regime responsible for these autocracies. In fact, we can expect more such attacks. The assassination awakes memories to the act of Herschel Grynszpan, a young Polish-German Jew who shot a Nazi Foreign Service officer at the German Embassy in Paris on 7 November 1938 in protest against the barbaric oppression of the Jews by Hitler. At that time Trotsky remarked: *"We Marxists consider the tactic of individual terror inexpedient in the tasks of the liberating struggle of the proletariat as well as oppressed nationalities. A single isolated hero cannot replace the masses. But we understand only too clearly the inevitability of such convulsive acts of despair and vengeance. All our emotions, all our sympathies are with the self-sacrificing avengers even though they have been unable to discover the correct road."*

4. While the Putin regime directly participated in the bloody massacre in Aleppo, the Erdoğan regime shares a central responsibility for the defeat which the revolutionary masses in Syria suffered in the country's once largest city. As a result of its latest rapprochement with Putin, the Turkish regime now supports the liquidation of the Syrian Revolution while keeping the butcher Assad in power. Russia and Turkey already successfully collaborated in arranging the 13 December surrender agreement between rebel groups in East Aleppo and Assad. On 20 December, representatives of Turkey, Iran and Russia met in Moscow to advance their counter-revolutionary plans. This demonstrates once again that the Syrian popular



Marek Hangler, a leader of the Austrian Section of the RCIT, speaks at a public meeting in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution

resistance must not place any trust in the Erdoğan regime.
 5. The RCIT affirms its support for the ongoing Syrian Revolution, despite the terrible defeat in Aleppo, along with our hostility towards all Great Powers and lesser, regional powers who all share the desire to liquidate the Syrian Revolution. However, to persevere and to revitalize the revolution, the workers and peasants must draw the lessons of past defeats:

- * No trust in and no collaboration with any Great Power!
- * No to sectarianism! For multi-religious and multi-national unity in the struggle against the Assad dictatorship! For full national self-determination for all national and ethnic minorities!
- * No trust in the official rebel leaderships!
- * For the formation of popular councils and popular militias!
- * Most of all: For the building of a revolutionary party in Syria as part of a new revolutionary International!

Pictures and video clips of the latest solidarity activities with the Syrian Revolution:
<https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/aleppo-soli-15-dez-2016/>

For a selection of RCIT statements on Syria see:
 Michael Pröbsting: The Looming Kerry-Lavrov Agreement – A Great Power Conspiracy against the Syrian Revolution, 06.10.2016, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/syria-kerry-lavrov/>; Joint Statement: Solidarity with Aleppo! Hands off Syria! 4 October 2016, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-aleppo/>; Syria: For an Independent Revolutionary Road! Down with the Bombing and Siege against Aleppo! Stop the Turkish Invasion and Occupation! No to the Imperialist Conspiracy against the Syrian Masses! Joint Statement of the RCIT and Sinif Savaşı (Turkey), 25.09.2016, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/defend-aleppo/>; Yossi Schwartz: The Revolution in Syria won a Tactical Victory! Down with Assad the Butcher! 21 August 2016, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/aleppo-victory/>; The Imperialist Counterrevolution Threatens the Syrian Revolution! Down with the Great Powers' Wars! Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution against the Assad Dictatorship! For a Socialist Federation in the Maghreb and Mashreq! Joint Statement of the Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (ALS) and the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

(RCIT), 07.12.2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/imperialist-counterrevolution-syria/>; RCIT: Great Powers Aim to Liquidate the Syrian Revolution! Mobilize for International Solidarity with the Syrian Liberation Struggle against the Assad Dictatorship! Stop the US, Russian and French Air Strikes! No to Daesh/IS-Terrorism! 18.11.2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/great-powers-syria/>; RCIT: Revolution against Russian Imperialism! Stop the US, UK and French Air Strikes! Smash the Assad Dictatorship! 9.10.2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/defend-syria-against-russia/>; RCIT: Revolution and Counterrevolution in the Arab World: An Acid Test for Revolutionaries, 31 May 2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/theses-arab-revolution/>; RCIT: The Arab Revolution is a central touchstone for socialists! Open Letter to All Revolutionary Organizations and Activists, 4.10.2013, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/open-letter-on-arab-revolution/>. For many more RCIT documents on the Arab Revolution see on our website: <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>

For our analysis of Russia as an imperialist power see:
 Michael Pröbsting: Lenin's Theory of Imperialism and the Rise of Russia as a Great Power. On the Understanding and Misunderstanding of Today's Inter-Imperialist Rivalry in the Light of Lenin's Theory of Imperialism. Another Reply to Our Critics Who Deny Russia's Imperialist Character, August 2014, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialism-theory-and-russia/>; Michael Pröbsting: Russia as a Great Imperialist Power. The formation of Russian Monopoly Capital and its Empire – A Reply to our Critics, 18 March 2014, in: *Revolutionary Communism* No. 21, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialist-russia/>; Michael Pröbsting: Russia and China as Great Imperialist Powers. A Summary of the RCIT's Analysis, 28 March 2014, in: *Revolutionary Communism* No. 22, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/imperialist-china-and-russia/>; Michael Pröbsting: More on Russia and China as Great Imperialist Powers. A Reply to Chris Slee (Socialist Alliance, Australia) and Walter Daum (LRP, USA), 11 April 2014, in: *Revolutionary Communism* No. 22, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/reply-to-slee-on-russia-china/>; Michael Pröbsting: The Uprising in East Ukraine and Russian Imperialism. An Analysis of Recent Developments in the Ukrainian Civil War and their Consequences for Revolutionary Tactics, 22.October 2014, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/ukraine-and-russian-imperialism/>

Order RCIT Document's on the Arab Revolution via our Contact Address!

The image displays four covers of the journal 'Revolutionary Communism', an English language journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT). Each cover features a red star with a hammer and sickle in the bottom left corner and the slogan 'WORKERS AND OPPRESSED UNITE!' at the bottom.

- Cover 1 (July/August 2013):** Headline: 'Down with the Military Coup in Egypt! History: Israel's War in 1967 plus: Pakistan, Syria, Brazil, Venezuela, ...'. Image: A cartoon of a man with a rifle and a speech bubble saying 'Free at last!' next to a large green sphere labeled 'SCAF'.
- Cover 2 (September 2013):** Headline: 'The Military Coup in Egypt Analysis, Program & the Failure of the Left'. Image: A cartoon showing a figure in a military uniform being crushed by a large red hammer.
- Cover 3 (March 2015):** Headline: 'Arab Revolutions at the crossroad'. Image: A woman wearing a white headscarf and a red scarf, looking forward.
- Cover 4 (June 2013):** Headline: 'Palestine: Al-Nakba and the 1948 War Permanent Revolution today plus Open Letter for Revolutionary Unity'. Image: A black and white photograph of a group of people, possibly refugees, carrying belongings.

Austria: Successful Meeting in Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution

Report (with Pictures and Videos) of the RKO LIBERATION (Austrian Section of the RCIT), 18.01.2017

The Austrian section of the RCIT organized, together with Syrian solidarity activists, a successful public meeting on the ongoing struggle of the Syrian people against the dictatorship of Assad. More than 40 people listened to the introductions and participated in the following discussion.

Among the panelists were Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, Haysam Hamoui und Badran Farwati (both are leaders of the Syrian community in Austria), Leo Gabriel (member of the International Council of the World Social Forum), Hermann Dworzak (a long-time member of the Mandelist Fourth International) and Stefan Beig (Journalist). The meeting was chaired by Marek Hangler, a spokesperson of the Austrian section of the RCIT.

The discussion focused on the perspective of the Syrian Revolution after the tragic defeat in Aleppo. Comrade Pröbsting explained that the Syrian liberation struggle can

only win if the activists draw the lessons of the failures in the past. The resistance must not look for support to any of the Great Powers or local regimes (like the one of Erdoğan in Turkey). Neither must they allow the official leaderships to speak for the Syrian people. Pröbsting advocated a socialist perspective and emphasized the necessity to overcome religious sectarianism as well as nationalism. He stressed that the Syrian workers and peasants must organize their own independent militias and struggle for the overthrow of the Assad regime and the creation of their own government.

Comrade Hangler also handed over to the Syrian community a donation which was collected amongst Austrian workers.

To view pictures and videos of the rally, follow this link: <https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei-syrien-veranstaltung-13-jan-2017/> (scroll down)



Pictures of the public meeting in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution in Vienna on 13.1.2017

Austria: Ongoing Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution!

Report (with Pictures and Videos) from several Rallies in Vienna by the Austrian Section of the RCIT, 22.12.2016

During the days of the tragic fall of Aleppo, a number of rallies took place in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution as well as the popular resistance in Egypt. Since the first rally of Syrian refugees on 15 December, on which we already published a report, four more rallies took place. The Austrian section of the RCIT participated actively in all these rallies and was invited to address three of them.

On Friday, 16 December, 1,500-2,000 people participated in a rally in front of the Austrian parliament. This rally was organized by some petty-bourgeois civil society Austrian activists. Hence, while the majority of the participants were migrants, the organizers kept the rally as a silent manifestation without any speeches and with people only holding candles. Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT participated and distributed flyers summarizing our main conclusions and slogans for the continuation of the struggle against the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad.

On the next day, up to 3,000 migrants – most of them from Turkey – hold a rally in the inner city of Vienna. Several speakers from the Turkish community, a representative of the Syrian community as well as Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, addressed the rally. Comrade Pröbsting denounced in his speech the hypocrisy of the Great Powers and called for the solidarity with continuation of the Syrian Revolution. He also denounced the racist migration policy of the European Union and the Austrian government and called for the opening of the borders for refugees.

On Sunday, 18 December, the Egypt community organized a rally in which the organizers called for solidarity both with the people in Syria as well as in Egypt. The Egypt community is organizing solidarity activities without interruptions since the military coup in July 2013. As it has been the case in the past years, the Austrian Section of the RCIT was invited to address the rally and comrade Pröbsting hold a speech.

Finally, on Monday 19 December, the Syrian community organized another rally. A few hours before the start of the rally, the Austrian police told the organizers that they were not allowed to hold their rally in front of the Russian embassy (where most rallies took place in the past). Hence, the organizers had to redirect people in the last minute to the new place of the rally. Nevertheless, more than 200 people turned up. Again, the Austrian Section of the RCIT was invited to speak and comrade Pröbsting addressed the participants.

The Austrian Section of the RCIT has supported the Arab Revolution from its beginning in early 2011. We affirm our support for the ongoing Syrian Revolution, despite the terrible defeat in Aleppo, along with our hostility towards all Great Powers and lesser, regional powers who all share the desire to liquidate the Syrian Revolution. However, to persevere and to revitalize the revolution, the workers and peasants must draw the lessons of past defeats. Amongst the most important lessons are:

** No trust in and no collaboration with any Great Power!*

** No to sectarianism! For multi-religious and multi-national*

unity in the struggle against the Assad dictatorship! For full national self-determination for all national and ethnic minorities!

** No trust in the official rebel leaderships!*

** For the formation of popular councils and popular militias!*

** The international workers movement must rally to support the Syrian Revolution! For a workers aid campaign for the Syrian people – as it was done in solidarity with the Bosnian people in 1992-95!*

** The international workers movement must organize a campaign to boycott the regime of Bashar al-Assad and his capitalist business friends! For workers actions against the imperialist forces attacking the Syrian people!*

** Open the Borders for the Syrian Refugees!*

** Most of all: For the building of a revolutionary party in Syria as part of a new revolutionary International!*

It is symbolic that in these days, the German-language department of the international VICE magazine published an article exclusively about the Austrian Section of the RCIT (<https://www.vice.com/alps/article/antiimperialisten-rkob-antisemitismus-islamismus>). Unsurprisingly, the article is hostile in its characterization of our organization, refers negatively to our collaboration with Muslim migrant communities and repeats the slanderous accusation that we are “Anti-Semitic” because of our opposition to Zionism (to “prove” this denunciation they quote several hard-core pro-Zionist “academics” which claim to have studied the Austrian Section of the RCIT.)

As revolutionary communists we are not surprised about the accelerating hostility of our political opponents as well as of bourgeois media. It simply reflects the ongoing political polarization, the accelerating racist Islamophobia and the increasing public profile of the Austrian Section of the RCIT. Obviously, our opponents are increasingly worried by our successful work. Good!

Aleppo has fallen – the Syrian Revolution will continue!

See pictures and video clips of the RCIT's speeches at the following link (scroll down below the article):

<https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/aleppo-soli-dez-2016/>

Alternatively you can go to the RCIT's YouTube Account and watch the speeches here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0mX4EKv8j4&feature=youtu.be>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMvdp2x_C0k

See pictures and video clips of the RCIT's speeches at the rally on 15.12.2016:

<https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/aleppo-soli-15-dez-2016/>

After the Fall of Aleppo: Militant Protest of Syria Refugees

Report (with Pictures and Videos) from a Rally of the Syrian Community in Vienna on 15 December 2016
by the Austrian Section of the RCIT, 15.12.2016

In face of the fall of Aleppo, more than 1.000 Syrian refugees demonstrated in front of the Russian embassy in Vienna to express their outrage about the ongoing massacre. The demonstrators showed their unwavering solidarity with the ongoing liberation struggle against the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad and against the military aggression of the Great Powers. Given the ongoing tragedy in Aleppo, the mood at the demonstration was particularly militant. Several more demonstrations are planned for the next days.

The organizers of the demonstrations invited the Austrian Section of the RCIT to participate in the rally and asked our comrades Michael Pröbsting and Almedina Gunić to hold speeches at the rally.

In his address Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, expressed the RCIT's unconditional solidarity with the Syrian Revolution (see the link to the video below). He also denounced the reactionary intervention of the Great Powers in Syria. Comrade Pröbsting emphasized that the defeat in Aleppo demonstrates that it is crucial to draw lessons in order to continue the revolution. He said: "First: No trust in the U.S. and the EU. The resistance must not trust that Obama or Merkel would really give assistance. No collaboration with the Great Powers! Secondly: No to sectarianism! Irrespective of religion, of ethnical origin – we have to unite and to fight against the dictatorship of Assad! Thirdly: The leadership of the resistance must be put under control. No one must be allowed to speak unilaterally for the Syrian people but they must be controlled. No militia must act unilaterally but must be put under the control of the people! If we are going this way we can make up for the defeat in Aleppo! Then it is possible to continue the revolution – until Assad is overthrown, until

the working people in Syria have achieved freedom and taken power!"

Comrade Gunić, leader of the Austrian section of the RCIT, emphasized in her speech the desperate necessity to continue the international solidarity with the Syrian Revolution. Both speeches were met with enthusiastic response. Both comrades were also asked for interviews by several TV stations (including Al-Jazeera). (See the link to the videos below)

The RCIT has supported the Syrian Revolution from its beginning in March 2011. We call the workers movement, in particular the trade unions, to organize an international solidarity campaign for the oppressed Syrian people and at the same time to oppose any military aggression of the imperialist Great Powers – be it Russia, the US or the European Union. We will continue this solidarity work despite the increasing obstacles in the struggle for the successful liberation of the Syrian workers and peasants!

Aleppo has fallen – Aleppo will rise again!

See pictures and video clips of the rally's speeches at the following link:

<https://www.rkob.net/wer-wir-sind-1/rkob-aktiv-bei/aleppo-soli-15-dez-2016/>

Reports about the RCIT's intervention at the demonstration on Al-Jazeera and in Turkish media:

<https://www.facebook.com/aja.europe/videos/1885943314970465/>

<http://m.haberler.com/avusturya-da-halep-protostosu-viyana-9067110-haberi/>

<http://aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/avusturya-da-halep-protostosu-707331>



Rally in solidarity with the Syrian Revolution in Vienna on 15.12.2016

Turkey: Immediately Release All Arrested HDP Leaders!

Freedom for all political prisoners! National self-determination for Kurdistan!

Down with Erdoğan's police state!

Statement of *Sınıf Savaşı* (Section of the RCIT in Turkey), 06.11.2016

During the night between the 3rd and 4th of November, the Turkish state arrested 11 Members of Parliament from the *Halkların Demokratik Partisi* (HDP, Peoples' Democratic Party) – including its chairman, Selahattin Demirtaş, and chairwoman, Figen Yüksekdağ – for the absurd charges of “terrorism.” The HDP has been a target for Erdoğan's police state because of its close ties with the Kurdish masses and with the most progressive and radical layers of the working class in general. In May this year, the immunity of nearly all HDP-MPs was lifted by the Turkish parliament.

Sınıf Savaşı (the section of the RCIT in Turkey) strongly condemns these arrests as yet another attack by the Turkish state against democratic rights, against political freedom, and against the rights of the Kurdish people. More generally, this is part of the overall attack against political enemies of Erdoğan's dictatorial police state.

We in *Sınıf Savaşı* consider the HDP to be a left-reformist, petty-bourgeois party. However, even this pale shadow of a consistent, authentically revolutionary party is perceived by the Erdoğan regime to be a sufficient threat to undermine basic democratic rights. Although we politically criticize the HDP for its non-consistent political struggle, we defend every member and sympathizer of the HDP against *real* terrorism – that of the Turkish state!

How ironic it is that the Turkish state, which is occupying the north of Syria and Iraq to undermine the liberation

struggle of the Kurdish people; which offers its military bases to imperialism to bomb the masses in Iraq and Syria; which has killed and tortured hundreds of Kurdish and revolutionary activists in the last years; and which recently renewed diplomatic relations with the terrorist state of Israel; that such a state accuses the HDP of “terrorism.”

The PKK, which has loose ties to the HDP, is considered as a “terrorist organization” by the Turkish state and western imperialism. We unconditionally defend the petty-bourgeois-nationalist PKK against such charges which are a product of its national liberation struggle for the Kurdish people. However, we also state unequivocally that we disagree with the strategy of the PKK and its guerrilla tactics and individual bomb-attacks. What is needed is a mass-struggle of the workers and poor in the cities and workplaces!

As revolutionaries we also know that the biggest terrorist organization in the region – which is responsible for the murder of millions of people – is the imperialist alliance NATO. As a matter of fact, Turkey has been a member of this terrorist alliance since 1952, i.e., nearly since the formation of this alliance. We in *Sınıf Savaşı* demand the immediate exit of Turkey from NATO and the expulsion of all NATO forces from our country.

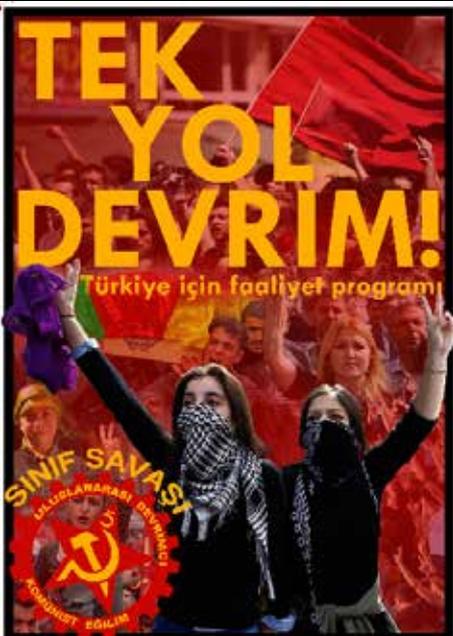
Erdoğan is facing huge difficulties in “pacifying” Turkey – this is why he needs to jail his political opponents. It is a sign of his objective weakness, not his strength. It is important that we prepare for great battles in Turkey. Given the instability of the political situation, the work of revolutionaries in organizing workers and oppressed today can pay dividends in the near future!

Sınıf Savaşı stands side by side with the masses of the Kurdish people in their liberation struggle. It is important that revolutionaries engage in a united front with the HDP and try to win over its rank and file to a consistent revolutionary struggle.

Our central task is to organize the workers in a multi-national revolutionary party to combat every injustice that is inflicted upon us by the state and its ruling class. What is necessary now is mass-protest and solidarity-strikes against the undermining of democratic rights of the Kurdish people.

Only Revolution can liberate us!

Action Program
on Turkey
in Turkish Language



Following the Murder of Mousine Fikri: Solidarity with the Mass Protests in Morocco!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 06.11.2016

1. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) expresses its full solidarity with the mass protests taking place in Morocco. These protests began on 28 October in Al-Hoceima after social media spread the tragic story of Mousine Fikri, a fishmonger crushed to death inside a garbage truck as he tried to block the destruction of a truckload of his fish confiscated by police.

2. As a result, the *February 20th Movement*, which emerged during the spring of 2011, sprang back to life and has taken the lead in organizing the protests, which have spread to 40 cities. Protesters chanted "*Mouhcine is a Martyr*" and "*Down with the Makhzen*," referring to the "deep state" in Morocco which is centered on the king and consists of royal notables, top-ranking military personnel, landowners, security service bosses, civil servants and other well-connected members of the establishment.

3. The killing of Mousine Fikri by the police is a symbol for the authoritarian and oppressive nature of the Moroccan regime. Morocco's regime of King Mohammed VI is a reactionary monarchy governing a capitalist semi-colonial country which has been one of the most stable and reliably loyal allies of the US and European imperialist powers in the Middle East. For example it has supported the military intervention of France in Mali since 2013.

4. King Mohammed VI rules the country with the help of the bourgeois Islamist *Justice and Development Party* (PJD), which has governed the country since 2011, as well as other bourgeois parties like the *Authenticity and Modernity Party* (PAM) and the *Istiqlal (Independence) Party*.

5. The regime also receives the support by so-called left-wing parties like the social democratic *Socialist Union of Popular Forces* (USFP) as well as the ex-Stalinist *Party of*

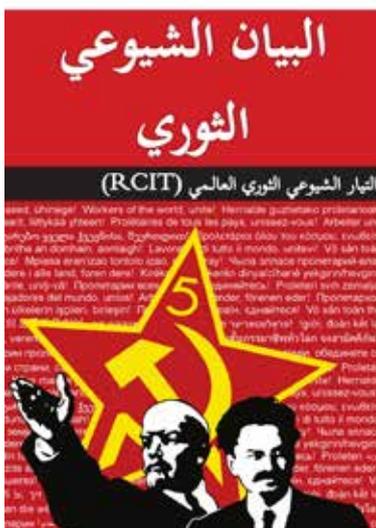
Progress and Socialism (PPS). Both of these latter parties are represented in the parliament and have repeatedly been part of the king's governments during the last two decades. With full justification both of these parties can be dubbed "*His Majesty's Socialists*." The Moroccan workers and youth should put no trust in such parties, as they will only *tactically* support any protests in order to improve their positions in the power-game inside the *Makhzen*.

6. Like in other countries of the region, capitalism is incapable of offering any perspective to the workers and poor of Morocco. While the official unemployment rate stands at 9–10%, in fact only around 42% of the working age population has a job. According to official statistics, 38.8% of urban youth had no job in June 2016!

7. Unsurprisingly, unrest is simmering in Morocco for quite some time. While the regime managed to pacify the mass protests in 2011 with constitutional reforms, the country saw a successful one-day general strike against the pension reform in February 2016 which was organized by the UMT, the CDT and two other trade union federations and which was joined by nearly 85% of the private and public sector workers. Another reflection of the popular resentment against the *Makhzen* is the weak turnout at the parliamentary election in October – only 43% of the electorate voted.

8. The recent upsurge of protests is also inspired by the long-standing discrimination of the *Rifian Berbers* (also called *Amazighen*) in the north of the country. In an interview with Al Jazeera, Faysal Awssal, a member of the *Moroccan Association for Human Rights* said: "*We want them [the authorities] to know that the children of this region want to end the oppression. People here want respect for the people of Al-Hoceima. People are [politically] aware. We want*

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an investigation that determines what happens.”

9. The Rifian Berbers have a long standing tradition of resistance – most famously represented in the heroic liberation struggle of *Muhammad Ibn 'Abd el-Karim El-Khattabi*, an Islamist tribal leader who led an popular uprising against the Spanish and French colonial powers from 1921 to 1926 and which was enthusiastically supported by the Communist International.

10. The current mass protests are a powerful confirmation of the RCIT's assessment that the period of the Arab Revolution which started in 2011 has not ended. Despite a number of setbacks – as a result of the cul-de-sac in which the petty-bourgeois secular and Islamist leaderships led the popular struggles – the workers and peasants in the region are continuing their struggle against authoritarian regimes and social injustice.

11. In order to avoid repression and exhaustion of the mass protests, activists should build local action committees in the workplaces, schools, universities and neighborhoods which organize the workers, youth and poor in regular assemblies. These assemblies should elect delegates in order to create an acting leadership for the struggle. These delegates should also coordinate the struggle nationally.

12. At the same time, activists should put pressure on the trade union as well as the leaderships of opposition parties, forcing them to support these protests with their significant material resources. Activists should, however, be careful not to hand over the control of the movement to

these forces. Instead, activists should call for a united front of all forces which are ready to support the protests.

13. The RCIT calls upon activists to link the protests against the murder of Mousine Fikri with the perspective of the overthrow of the reactionary regime and for a workers' and peasant government based on popular councils and militias. They should also link the struggle in their country with the ongoing popular struggles against dictatorships and injustice in other countries. We see the resistance of the Moroccan people as part of the ongoing Arab Revolution along with the heroic struggle of the Syrian people in its revolution against the tyrant Assad, the resistance of the Egyptian people against General al-Sisi, the steadfast struggle of the Palestinian people, as well as many other examples.

14. The RCIT sends its greetings to all Moroccan revolutionaries and calls them to join forces with us in the international struggle for a socialist future!

** For the forming of action committees in the workplaces, schools, universities and neighborhoods!*

** For a united front of all forces to protest against the murder of Mousine Fikri!*

** For a workers' and peasant government based on popular councils and militias*

** For a single Intifada of the workers and peasants – from Al-Hoceima, Rabat, Aleppo, Tripoli and Cairo to Jerusalem!*

International Secretariat of the RCIT

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today.

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – MARXISM AND THE UNITED FRONT TACTIC TODAY. The book's subtitle is: The Struggle for Proletarian Hegemony in the Liberation Movement and the United Front Tactic Today. On the Application of the Marxist United Front Tactic in Semi-Colonial and Imperialist Countries in the Present Period. It contains eight chapters plus an appendix (172 pages) and includes 9 tables and 5 figures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

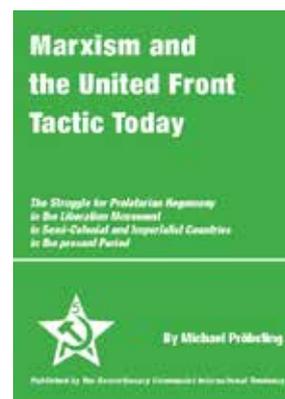
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

The united front tactic is a crucial instrument for revolutionaries under today's circumstances in which the mass organizations of the working class and the oppressed are dominated by social democratic, Stalinist and petty-bourgeois-populist forces.

The purpose of this document is both to summarize the main ideas of the Marxist united front tactic while at the same time explaining its development and modification which have become necessary due to political changes which have transpired in the

working class liberation movement since the tactic's original formulation.

In this book we initially summarize the main characteristics of the united front tactic and elaborate the approach of the Marxist classics to this issue. We then outline important social developments in the working class and the popular masses as well as in their political formations in recent decades. From there we will discuss how the united front tactic should be applied in light of a number of new developments (the rise of petty-bourgeois populist parties, the decline of the classic reformist parties, the role of national minorities and migrants in imperialist countries, etc.). The eight chapters of the book are accompanied by nine tables and five figures.



Once Again - the True Face of the Zionist State is Exposed, but is this Fascism?

by Yossi Schwartz (Member of the RCIT and Central-Israel Branch of Balad), 1 February 2017

If in our previous article, on the cold blooded murder of Yacoub Abu al-Qiyan in Um al Hiran, we thought that the police murdered this teacher, by now it has been confirmed that he was driving his car slowly and cautiously until bursts of gunfire were fired by the police. He was injured in his knee and his chest and lost control over the car. After the shooting the car accelerated down the steep slope and hit the police. He bled to death while the police prevented any medical care.

Thus, this case is even worse than the one of Elor Azaria who murdered Abed al-Fattah al-Sharif, 21, in cold blood and as he lay overpowered on the ground, after he tried to stab some Israeli soldiers in Hebron. The case was filmed by activists from the Israeli B'Tselem human rights group. Azaria was found guilty of manslaughter by the military court and he is likely to receive three to five years instead of twenty reserved for Arabs who kill Jews. However, calls by leaders from both left and right wing of the Zionist spectrum to pardon Azaria, might mean that he would be released altogether.

This lack of any moral compass, political or any other, this brutal disregard of basic rights, this profoundness of racial hatred, of institutionalized racial hierarchy of discrimination, leads Palestinians as well as many other supporters of democracy and social justice in the world to use the term Fascist, when they refer to the Israeli state or regime. While we have deep sympathy for those who use this term, we see it as both inaccurate and disorienting.

Liberals and even some people who consider themselves Marxists, have developed a habit of using the word fascist very loosely. They use it as an epithet and political swearword against right-wing figures whom they particularly despise, or against reactionaries in general. The liberals describe fascism as a dictatorship, mass neurosis, anti-Semitism, unscrupulous propaganda, the hypnotic effect of a mad-genius orator on the masses. As a matter of fact the same description is used by the Social Democrats, the Stalinists and the former Stalinists who had a lot of influence in the 1930s.

Fascism is not simply the use of brutal force by nationalists and racists. It is a specific phenomenon that

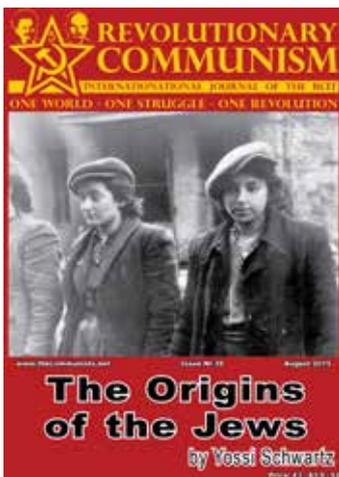
should be understood scientifically in order to know how to fight it and destroy it. Fascism in power has the capacity to atomize the labor movement. Something no other repressive regime can do. We can see the difference in Egypt under Sisi. It is a cruel, reactionary dictatorship, that serves the imperialists and Israel, yet this is not a fascist regime, as it is unable to atomize the working class movement.

It is necessary to study the Italian and German fascism in order to understand what is fascism and how to fight it.

Benito Mussolini came to power in 1922. It was a revolutionary period. The bourgeois dictatorship, using their parliamentary method, no longer could hold society in a state of equilibrium as it could not provide the minimum necessities of life. The sharp class struggle was openly on the rise. The working class was ready to carry out a socialist revolution and a spontaneous movement occupied factories in 1920.

What was missing was a revolutionary leadership of the working class to take power. However, the leaders of the Social Democrats were afraid of losing their privileges, the crumbs thrown to them by the imperialists from the robbery of the colonies, so they blocked the revolution. The fascists mobilized the masses of the crazed petty bourgeoisie and the bands of the lumpen-proletariat whom finance capital itself led to despair and frenzy against the organized working class.

They began their terror in Bologna, on November 21, 1920. The social-democratic councilmen, victorious in the municipal elections, came out from city hall to present the new mayor, the fascist opened fire killing 10 wounding and 100. The fascists continued with the killing in the countryside. The Black shirts in vehicles supplied by big landowners, took over villages, beating and killing leftist peasants and labor leaders, wrecking radical headquarters, and terrorizing the populace. Then after they did the same in the big cities. Instead of organizing the working class to defend itself and smash the fascists, the social democrats did their best to prevent the workers from defending themselves telling them to rely on the capitalist state and the king to defend them. This opened the road for



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?

Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:

Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism

Mussolini, who marched on Rome.

In Germany the working class was ready to carry out socialist revolutions in 1918-1919 in 1921 and in 1923. The betrayal of the leaders of the Social Democrats and the mistakes of the German Communist party under the directions of Zinoviev, who was afraid of the revolution already in 1917, led to defeat. Following the defeat Hitler tried to organize a coup d'état but failed, because most of the capitalist class was not ready to support him in such a situation when it did not fear an immediate revolution.

During the economic crisis that began in 1929 the Stalinist bureaucratic ultra-left policy of branding everyone else as fascists, proved unable to forge a united front with the Social Democrats, whom they called Social Fascist, against the German fascist movement. This allowed Hitler to take power in 1933. Once in power the Nazi party, relying on the Plebeian masses, was able to atomize the working class movement. Once in power, it was impossible to organize mass resistance to the Nazis, who will remain in power for 12 years until they were defeated, mostly by the Soviet army.

The capitalists do not like the Nazis, as there was a price to pay for saving the capitalist from a socialist revolution. However, they were ready to support them in order to crush a socialist revolution. Thus, fascism is coming from below, from the mobilized masses of the crazed petty bourgeoisie and the bands of the lumpen-proletariat organized by the Nazis.

The racist, nationalist government of Israel is a right wing populist government. It is not a fascist government. While it works hard to instill hatred into the Jewish population against the Arabs, mainly to manipulate its voting patterns, it is the Israeli army and police who are doing most of the oppression. They are acting according to the nature of Israel as a society of settler colonialists who subdue the native population - the Palestinians. White settler colonialists have done this in America against the natives and the black slaves, in Australia against the aboriginals, in New Zealand against the Maoris, in South Africa against the Africans.

While it is possible to smash the Israeli fascist gangs whenever they approach an Arab populated area, the Israeli state will continue to murder Arabs with the support

of most Israelis. The only way out is through a socialist revolution that must sweep the entire region. However, in this region, where the bourgeois democratic revolution remains incomplete, it would most likely begin as popular revolution based on democratic demands (similar to the Arab Spring).

Today the '48 Palestinian leadership is calling for a professional committee of investigation into the murder of Yacoub Abu al-Qiyan.

What does this mean? Who will constitute such a committee that we can trust? History has shown that the role of investigation committees is to whitewash the actual crimes rather than expose them and punish the perpetrators. Think about the committee that investigated Sharon's crimes in Sabra and Shatila. When Begin promised to conduct such an investigation, it was in order to end the protest movement against the criminal war in Lebanon. Even in the case of the Or commission, which brought reasonable findings, it led to nothing.

The real answer is to organize popular committees in each Palestinian village and in each neighborhood. The elected leadership of each committee would then elect the Palestinian national leadership. The reason that the idea of popular committees is not popular today is because the Palestinians do not see the importance of such organization. There is a crisis of mistrust in the existing leadership and the popular committees seemed as another tool for the leadership. However, the idea that these committees will democratically form the leadership of the Palestinian people in its struggle against Zionist apartheid, might prove to be a powerful tool to organize and mobilize in the most democratic way the majority of the Palestinians.

Right now, we can of course demand to prosecute the police officer who was in charge and gave the order to shoot. At the same time we must explain that it is unlikely to happen because of the nature of the Israeli state. The value of such a demand is to help those who still have illusions in the possibility of Zionist justice to come to terms with reality. We can of course demand to prosecute the Israeli minister of internal security for the same reason and even Prime Minister Netanyahu, as long as we do not have any illusions in the outcome.

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The Israeli Racist Government is Killing now once again Palestinians Citizens of Israel

by Yossi Schwartz (Member of the RCIT and Central-Israel Branch of Balad), 18 January 2017

Two Palestinians citizens of Israel were killed today by the police. This brutal murder took place as the Israeli government continued with the policy of house demolitions of Palestinians citizens of Israel. Last Friday, the government destroyed 11 houses in Kalansuwa. Today it moved to destroy houses in the Bedouin village of Um Al Hiran.

It is not hard to understand the reason. The government was forced to move settlers from the settlement Amona to another hill by the judgment of the Israeli Supreme Court, because they settled on proven private properties of Palestinians. The Supreme Court, unlike the government, is not ready so far to approve stealing openly private properties of the Palestinians in the 1967 occupied Palestine. Usually it will allow settlement on stolen land, declared as state property. To calm down the settlers the government is destroying houses of Palestinians citizens of Israel.

Netanyahu wrote on his Facebook after the demolitions, *"I am not deterred by the criticism and as I have directed we are continuing to implement equal enforcement in Israel"* (1)

Equal enforcement of law? Arabs in Israel who try to build houses on their own private properties do not get the permits. In the case of Um Al Hiran the government decided to destroy houses without permits because the government wants to settle Israeli Jews instead of the Bedouins. It is part of the plan to *"Judaize the Negev"*.

The events of the last week bring to mind the events in 1976 known as land Day. On March 30, 1976, Palestinians protested against the decision to expropriate 20,000 Dunams (10 Dunams is one Hectare) of land around the Arab villages of Araba and Sakhnin as a part of a plan to *"Judaize the Galilee"*.

On that day in 1976, Palestinians – citizens of "Israel" – declared that they were an inseparable part of the Palestinian people and their struggle. The Zionist state killed 6 Palestinians citizens of Israel.

Needless to say, today the Bedouins came out to defend their homes. The bloodshed, result of the decision to destroy homes, is on the head of this government.

During these protests, the Israeli police officers shot dead a Palestinian who they alleged tried to ram them with his car during the protest. A policeman, who was struck by the vehicle, later died of his injuries.

Residents of the Bedouin village of Um Al Hiran, in the Negev desert, however, said that the driver was simply heading to the scene to talk with authorities in an attempt to halt the demolitions. According to a Video shown on Haaretz *"The video, shot from a police helicopter hovering above the scene, appears to show police officers walking toward al-Kian's vehicle and shooting at him as he was driving at a slow pace. Only several seconds after the gunfire his car appears to speed up and then plows through police officers. It is unclear if the driver sped up intentionally."* (2)

Another Palestinian was also killed during clashes that broke out after the incident. Palestinian Knesset member

Ayman Odeh, the leader of the Joint List, was injured in the head by police during the confrontation. *"They attacked the MP and other people - demonstrators - with stun grenades, tear gas directly in people's faces,"* Odeh's aide, Anan Maalouf, told Israeli army radio.

Raed Abu al-Qiyas from the Um Al Hiran said that: *"The Israeli narrative is a lie. He (al-Kian) was a revered school teacher. He was in his car and they shot at him from everywhere."* However the police claim: *"A vehicle driven by a terrorist from the Islamic Movement intended to strike a number of officers and carry out an attack."* (3)

If indeed, as it seems, the shooting of the police first his actions were in self defense and all the lies that he was a terrorist is another crime.

History of Landgrab

Speaking to Al Jazeera, professor of architecture Yosef Jabareen said half a million Palestinians face displacement in Israel and East Jerusalem. During the past two decades approximately 5,000 Palestinian homes in Israel have been demolished, Jabareen estimates. *"There is an obvious plan to halt any prospect of Palestinian cities naturally developing and expanding as our population grows. There is systematic ghettoisation of our towns and a strategy to confine us within our existing spaces."* (4)

In 1947 the Zionist owned around 5% of Palestine. Today, Palestinians have jurisdiction over only 2.3% of the entire state's land (within the pre 1967 borders), causing severe overcrowding in towns and villages and the building of houses without the required permits.

Since the creation of the Israeli state in 1948, no new Palestinian towns or cities were built, in contrast to the 600 Jewish municipalities that have been developed, according to Adalah, the legal center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel.

The Palestinians citizens of Israel understand the real motivation behind the policy of the house demolitions. Thousands of Palestinians demonstrated in both cases. Today, more demonstrations take place.

During a demonstration last week, while the crowd gathered in and near the rubble of demolished houses in Kalansuwa, Member of the Knesset Yusef Jabareen (Joint List) said that the demonstration *"sends a clear message to Prime Minister Benjamin and his ministers that our community will not sit aside when they are planning more demolitions. As a marginalized and discriminated against community, our power is with the masses coming out and protesting and I hope this will be a beginning for more activities, including a demonstration in Jerusalem."* (5)

Rashid Baransi, an electrician from the nearby town of Taibe said: *"In Amona they stole and got a million shekels each in compensation. Here we have people who invested their souls and they demolish their homes. It is the politics of Netanyahu to pour his hatred onto innocent Arabs."* (6)

Ongoing Killing of Palestinians

Killing Palestinians in the 1967 occupied land who allegedly try to attack soldiers or indeed attack soldiers with knives or cars is very common, even when it is clear that there was no actual danger to the lives of the killers. The policy of the government is to kill any Palestinians who try to attack the Israeli army or the armed settlers. It is part of the open policy of forming an apartheid state from the river to the sea.

Killing of Palestinians citizens of Israel is less common but still happen. In 1947-48 Israel carried out massacres. In 1956 it killed 47 people in Kafr Qasim. It killed 6 Palestinians during the land day in 1976 and 13 in 2000.

The Right to Armed Resistance and the Perspectives of the Liberation Struggle

Let us be clear: colonized people have the right of armed resistance. Armed resistance against the army or the police of the colonizer is not terror. Terror is an action against uninvolved civilians.

Mass resistance to the most right wing government in the history of Israel is a must and we fully support it. However the Palestinians by themselves cannot defeat the brutal beast. Most of the Israeli Jews – like most of the whites in South Africa – will not take the side of the oppressed. Even most of the liberal Jews side today with the government. At the moment, the Arab masses in the Arab states cannot come to help the Palestinians. This will come with the renewal of the Arab revolution, especially if it will win.

To win a revolutionary working class parties are required. Nevertheless, many things can be done already now. First of all, it is necessary to unite the Palestinians citizens of Israel on the ground. Spontaneous actions are very good, but they cannot win the struggle. To win, it is necessary as the first step to form an elected popular committee in each village and in every neighborhood. Its task is to mobilize the residents. The elected leaders of these committees must be part of the Arab Higher Committee.

Secondly, it is necessary to forge closer relations with the ordinary Palestinians in the 1967 occupied Palestine. It is the same struggle. The idea that a solution can come in the form of two states is an obstacle to common actions of all the Palestinians. The collaboration of the Palestinian Authority with Israel has brought nothing except corruption.

In addition, it is necessary to forge closer relations with the opposition movements in the Arab countries and the workers and the poor in the world.

The struggle is going to be hard because as long as Israel – a state of settler colonialists – will exist it will destroy, steal and kill Palestinians. It is necessary to replace the apartheid state with the truly democratic state of the exploited and the oppressed. Such a state can only be created if the Palestinian workers and peasants – as part of the Arab Revolution and with the support of a progressive sector of the Jewish workers – will take power and build a workers and fellahin republic in the whole of historic Palestine from the River to the Sea. (7)

Mass protest actions of Palestinians and progressive Jews must not only be organized, but organized wisely. The government will not hesitate to use brutal force. However,

it will hesitate to shoot to kill if in the front line of the demonstrations democratic and revolutionary Jews will stand.

The UN Security Council may condemn the settlements, and this is nice, but it will not act against Israel because the imperialists and their servants still see Israel as a useful tool to control the region. Illusions are dangerous. The real allies of the Palestinians are the exploited and the oppressed. The workers, the peasants and sections of the lower petit bourgeois who struggle everywhere against the reactionary capitalist class.

As to the question of boycotting the racist Israeli Knesset, it is a question that must be considered. It is not a principle question, but a tactic. Clearly, what is necessary is to replace the Knesset with a revolutionary Constituent Assembly to form a truly democratic constitution of all who live in this country and the Palestinian refugees. However, at the moment this idea is not yet popular. It will come with the organization of the Palestinian masses in democratic forms. There are no popular mass forms as yet and they must be first formed. To form them real democratic discussions must take place among the Palestinians and those Jews who had enough with this racist state and side with the Palestinians.

** For Mass Democratic Popular Committees!*

** Turn the Arab Higher Committee into a true Democratic Popular Organization!*

** For United Massive Protests against Killing Palestinians!*

Footnotes

(1) <https://www.facebook.com/Netanyahu/>

(2) Almog Ben Zikri, Jack Khoury, Yaniv Kubovich and Jonathan Lis: Israeli Bedouin, Police Officer Killed During Violent Clashes in Southern Israel, 18.1.2017, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.765752>

(3) AFP: Police say they shot dead Israeli Arab car attacker, 18.1.2017, <http://al-monitor.com/pulse/afp/2017/01/israel-arabs-demolition-unrest-israel-arabs-demolition-unrest-israel-arabs-demolition-unrest.html>

(4) Al-Jazeera: Palestinians killed in Israeli home demolition raid, 18.1.2017, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/palestinian-killed-israeli-home-demolition-170118043846949.html>

(5) Ben Lynfield: Thousands Protest Demolition Of Houses In Arab Town, Jerusalem Post, 13/1/2017, <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Amnesty-International-slams-Israel-for-Kalansuwa-house-demolitions-478318>

(6) Al-Jazeera: Palestinians killed in Israeli home demolition raid, 18.1.2017, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/palestinian-killed-israeli-home-demolition-170118043846949.html>

(7) We refer readers to the RCIT's fundamental documents on the history and the current perspectives of the Palestinian liberation struggle:

Yossi Schwartz: Israel's War of 1948 and the Degeneration of the Fourth International, in: Revolutionary Communism, Special Issue on Palestine, No. 10, June 2013, www.thecommunists.net/theory/israel-s-war-of-1948-1

Yossi Schwartz: Israel's Six-Day War of 1967. On the Character of the War, the Marxist Analysis and the Position of the Israeli Left, in: Revolutionary Communism No. 12, July/August 2013, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/israel-s-war-of-1967/>

Summary of the Program of the Internationalist Socialist League, February 2014, <http://www.the-is-league.com/our-platform/>

Michael Pröbsting: On some Questions of the Zionist Oppression and the Permanent Revolution in Palestine, in: Revolutionary Communism, Special Issue on Palestine, No. 10, June 2013, <http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/permanent-revolution-in-palestine>

Israel / Occupied Palestine: Azaria Guilty of Manslaughter

Another Proof for the Necessity of an Arab Revolution to Save Israeli Jewish Society from Itself

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 07.01.2017

Today an Israeli military court has found an Israeli soldier, El'or Azaria, guilty of manslaughter over the cold blood murder of a wounded Palestinian last year. [1] The Palestinian youth Abdul Fattah ash-Sharif, 21, was killed as he lay overpowered on the ground. The killing was filmed by a Palestinian human rights activist who received his camera from the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem.

Naturally, the ISL condemns this murder. However we must point out that there are many like Azaria in Israel who have done similar crimes and would do the same in the future. This is one of the natural consequences of settler-colonialist society that robs the native Palestinian people and then kills them when they dare to resist.

Furthermore, the main responsibility for this murder lies with the Israeli military and state leaders who push in the direction of creating an open Apartheid state from the river to the sea. It is not surprising that not only Prime Minister Netanyahu is calling for amnesty to this murderer, but also leading Zionist-“leftists” like Shelly Yahimovitch (Labor).

Fascistic mobs, unsurprisingly, demonstrated today in Tel Aviv with some chanting calls for the murder of the Israeli Chief of Staff who spoke out against Azaria [2].

They shouted: “Gadi, Gadi, be careful, Rabin is looking for a friend”. [3]

Pardon for Azaria will give a blank cheque for other soldiers to murder Palestinians. Already in the eyes of at least 40% of the Israelis Azaria is a hero not a cold blooded killer.

Such murders will continue as long as the Zionist state exists. This is the time for a united front of all who cannot live with this ugly racist atmosphere and first of all, all the Palestinian parties united by the Joint List.

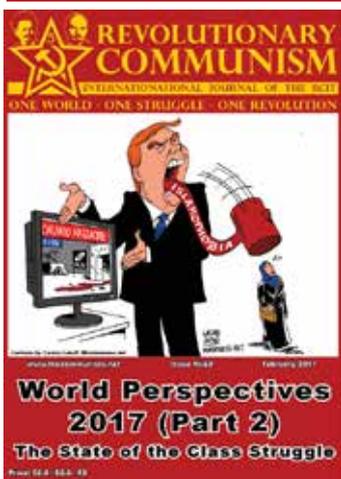
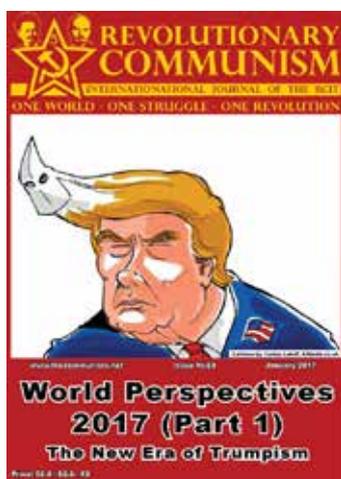
The sad thing about Israel is that at the moment there is no force that can change the direction in which Israel is going. The only force that can change the mind of a section of the Israeli society is the Arab revolution that sooner or later will rise again.

Footnotes and sources:

[1] <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/palestinians-killed-alleged-attacks-israelis-160324133329293.html>

[2] <http://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-soldier-on-trial-for-killing-stabber-not-everyones-child/>

[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Yitzhak_Rabin



NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

World Perspectives 2017: The Struggle against the Reactionary Offensive in the Era of Trumpism

Introduction * I . A New Political Phase Has Opened: The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class in the Era of Trumpism * II. Some Theoretical Question about the New Political Phase * III. The Great Power Rivalry and Its Consequences for World Politics * IV. The Middle East and the State of the Arab Revolution * V. Class Struggle in the US after Trump's Victory * VI . The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class and the Resistance in Latin America * VII. Imperialist Interference and the Struggle for Democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa * VIII. Europe in the Era of Chauvinism, Militarization and Brexit * IX. Russia: Victorious Outcome of NATO's Cold War * X. China: Strengthened as a Great Power but Before a Serious Recession * XI. The Class Struggle in Asia * XII. Perspectives for Building of the Revolutionary World Party Today * Footnotes

Published as two special issues of RevCom with altogether 56 pages, A4 Format

The Arrest of Basel Ghattas - the Political Persecution Reflects the End of Zionism

A Statement by the Internationalist Socialist League (Israel/Occupied Palestine)

1. We, members of the Internationalist Socialist League, candidates for membership in the Balad party, wish to condemn sharply the arrest of MP Basel Ghattas, one of our party leaders. Firstly, we must note that Dr. Basel Ghattas was the only MP who signed, at the time, our petition calling the Austrian authorities not to prosecute the leader of our international organization, the "Revolutionary Communist International Tendency" (RCIT), Michael Probsting for "sedition". Now, that he himself is becoming a victim of political persecution at the hands of the Zionist establishment, it is an opportunity to publicly thank him for that. Of course, even if he had refused to sign, it wouldn't have changed a thing about our principled support for his immediate release.

2. The "terrible" crime allegedly committed by MP Ghattas, was the delivery of notes and cellphones while aiding the struggle of Palestinian political prisoners for the right to remain in contact with their families, a right which is effortlessly granted to the handful of Jewish fascist terrorists whom the Israeli authorities begrudgingly caught and jailed. It is not surprising at all that the first MP in the history of the Zionist state to be jailed even before trial would be a Palestinian-Arab. It is much less surprising that while MP Ghattas will not be celebrating Christmas with his family, Zionist right wing fascist MPs, who leaked top secret information to settlers who fight the Zionist Army or to the press, will be celebrating Hanukkah with their families, eating and drinking to fulfilment.

3. We wish to express our dissatisfaction with the comments and interviews given by the head of the Joint List, Ayman Odeh, to the Zionist media. As one who has continually expressed his wish to lead the local equivalent of the ANC that fought the South African Apartheid in his speeches, we would have expected of him to avoid sanctifying the Israeli law and acknowledge instead the basic right of a public representative among an oppressed nation, fighting against an Apartheid regime, to break the racist law in accordance with civil-disobedience, no matter the consequences.

We might have allies who tell us that we are Marxist extremists who exist on the fringes of the political arena in this country, but it is the bourgeois International Law which grants occupied nations the right to fight, arms in hands even, against the occupying armed forces. According to Ghattas, he wasn't helping even in that, but acting in mere humanitarian capacity. Therefore, until Israel respects the laws that it is obligated to follow as a member of the United Nations, there is no moral or pragmatic basis to give any respect to the Zionist Apartheid laws.

4. This political persecution is clear to all who have their eyes tightly screwed into the front of their heads. Those who are not blinded by the Zionist establishment's brainwashing, including the Zionist racist propaganda media, can see clearly that after the criminalization of the Islamic Movement's Northern Branch did not result in a popular third Intifada, Balad is the one to go next. Political organi-

zations who represent the Palestinian people and did not face such persecution should spend this period of time reflecting upon where they went wrong along the way and promptly fix their theory and action patterns. They should do this out of the acknowledgment of the fact that outlawing Balad indicates to the future of all the Parties that make up the Joint List and a bit further into the future - the Zionist leftist parties and movements.

5. This persecution is not random. It is being carried while the UN Security Council carries a resolution denouncing land theft and the settlements in the West Bank, despite the fact that A-Sisi's regime in Egypt stabbed the Palestinians in the back. All the while, the BDS movement grows stronger and stronger convincing an increasing number of people, including Jews, to boycott the last vestiges of white colonialism and Apartheid in the world. Despite, or perhaps because of the rise of the populist right around the world, the leaders of the Zionist movement, on the left and the right, can smell the end of the Zionist project. For this reason they care to spend an enormous amount of resources in crushing any political element that represents even the slightest inkling of morality, freedom, justice and equality in Israel and abroad.

6. We ask, in such a day, of all the leaders of the Palestinian struggle for national liberation, and of the leadership of those Jews who support democracy and social justice, to reflect upon the way history would remember leaders such as Basel Ghattas, and how it would remember those whose hands tremble, whose feet stumble, whose tongue twists, whose teeth chatter while trying to speak truth to power.

SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER!

7. We call upon all democratic forces and supporters of social justice to set up democratic action committees in order to organize demonstrations and express solidarity with Basel Ghattas and Balad:

Stop the political persecution of those who struggle against the oppression of the Palestinian people!

Free Basel Ghattas!

Free all Palestinian political prisoners!



Israel / Occupied Palestine: Rally in Solidarity with Basel Ghattas

Report by the Internationalist Socialist League (Section of the RCIT in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 27.12.2016

Yesterday, December 26th, 14:30, a rally was organized by Balad inviting people to express their solidarity with MP Basel Ghattas. Basel is being held in a race-motivated, vindictive unnecessary custody for allegedly providing cell phones and notes to a couple of Palestinian political prisoners, so that they could keep in touch with their families. A few dozens of people showed up, most of whom were Balad supporters but also a handful of leaders and supporters of the Islamic movement. This rally was also characterized by the criminal absence of the head of the Joint List, Ayman Odeh or any Hadash supporters, not to mention the CWI or left Zionists.

A person wearing IDF uniform from Galei Tzahal (IOF's radio station) approached an RCIT supporter for an interview to which he initially refused. However, when he approached Awad Abd elFattah (Balad's General Secretary) and school teacher Niveen Abu Rahmun (Head of the Central Committee) they asked him to speak instead of them. He agreed and stated: *"Me standing here in support of Basel Ghattas is a reflection of my Jewish heritage. What is being done here is a modern equivalent to the infamous Dreyfus Trials. This regime endorses one illegal political activism while criminalizing the opposite side. We all know the history of how such regimes end up and are remembered after they are removed. I'd rather tell my grandchildren that I stood on the correct side of history which is - against this Apartheid regime."*

You can see video clips from the rally here:

<https://www.facebook.com/tjamoavideos/1209990559089202/>

<https://www.facebook.com/rashad.omari.5/videos/1238574692889705/>



Rally in solidarity with Basel Ghattas on 26.12.2016

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice

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

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

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

A few months ago, our movement commemorated its 25th anniversary. In the summer of 1989 our predecessor organization, the League for a Revolutionary Communist International (LRCI) was founded as a democratic-centralist international tendency based on an elaborated program. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) continues the revolutionary tradition of the LRCI. Below we give an overview of our history, an evaluation of its achievements as well as mistakes, and a summary of the lessons for the struggles ahead. This book summarizes our theoretical and practical experience of the past

25 years.

In Chapter I we outline a summary of the Bolshevik-Communists' theoretical conception of the role of the revolutionary party and its relation to the working class. In Chapter II we elaborate on the essential characteristics of revolutionary party respective of the pre-party organization. In Chapter III we deal with the history of our movement – the RCIT and its predecessor organization. Finally, in Chapter IV we outline the main lessons of our 25 years of organized struggle for building a Bolshevik party and their meaning for our future work.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/rcit-party-building/> ■

**Building the
Revolutionary Party
in Theory
and Practice**

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



By Michael Pröbsting

Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

Israeli Government Pushes for Atmosphere of Lynching of the Palestinians Citizens of Israel

by Yossi Schwartz (Member of the RCIT and Central-Israel Branch of Balad), 25.11.2016

Before the waves of blazing fires began last Tuesday, many Israelis were disturbed by the corruption scandal involving the purchase of military submarines and the prime minister's personal lawyer involvement in the deal. (1) A very similar case to the case of Olmert – a former Prime Minister who is now sitting in prison. But then very serious fires have been consuming forests and houses. The blazing fire is a real disaster for the population but not for Netanyahu and the other right wing politicians. It has been seen by them as a gift to be used for shifting the focus of the public attention from the corruption scandal to the fire. Furthermore they have been using it to ignite a political fire against the Palestinians citizens of Israel and of the West Bank.

This is already the fourth day that fires are consuming houses and forests in Israel. The worst fire was in Haifa, a city where both Jews and Arabs live. Tens of thousands people were evacuated. Dry air, no rain and high winds turned the city into a tinderbox. Haifa is not alone. Arab villages in Israel have also been battling fires in the past days. In Nazareth in Fahura an Arab neighborhood, in the forest Ben Ami near Um al Fahem, in the area of Misgav that include 6 Bedouin villages amongst its 35 small towns and villages. (2)

In addition Khan Younis, in the Gaza Strip, as well as Ramallah, Hebron, Qalqilya and Hawara, in the West Bank, have also seen blazes, as have cities in Egypt, Lebanon and Syria.

"The weather conditions in 2010 were remarkably similar to those today, as Shahar Ayalon, Israel's former fire and rescue commissioner, notes. He stated that he was not surprised by the outbreak of the latest fires. "You have a combination of drought conditions and dry winds from the east, and this is the result," he told Haaretz. "It's to be expected." (3)

So far there have been no reports of deaths. However tens of thousands were evacuated from their homes and several dozen people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation. Hundreds of military reservists have been called to join the police and firefighters. An international fleet of firefighting aircraft has been sent by various countries and joined the battle against the fire. The Russian Emergencies Ministry has sent two Beriev Be-200 amphibious aircraft to Israel to help put out forest fires. American Super tanker was sent to Israel. Eight Palestinian Firefighter vehicles arrived from the Palestinian Authority. Egypt and Jordan offer to help.

Where is the Help for the Palestinians?!

We, as revolutionary socialists, of course, support the fight against the fire that is dangerous for Arab, Jews, guest workers, refugees and tourists. Yet the Palestinians in Gaza and the Arabs in the neighboring states have not received such help and the Palestinian authority to our knowledge has not offered the same help to the people in Gaza. We also ask how many supertankers could have

been bought for the price of a one German submarine? How many supertankers could have been bought for the price of the three of them? Why were they bought is it for a possible war with Iran that will cause rivers of blood? How many firefighting trucks could have been bought instead of expending the settlement in the 1967 occupation? The huge sums spent on the racist propaganda in its different forms?

After the last disaster caused by the 2010 fire, Netanyahu's government has promised that it will act to prevent such event in the future. Clearly whatever it did, it was not sufficient because money was wasted on projects in the service of making Israel an open unmasked apartheid from the river to the sea, rather than a safe place for the people who live in this country.

One cause of the fire in Israel is the planting of the Aleppo pines, also known as the Jerusalem pines that grow very quickly. These trees were planted on ruins of Palestinians villages whose population was expelled in 1947-8 in order to hide these ruined villages. These trees catch fire very easily. The colonialist KKL who planted those trees clearly thinks Israel is located in Switzerland or some other place in Europe. Also, the government failed to provide money to build a new fire fighting department in Ausafia (Druze village) as previous reports suggested, allowing the fire to spread faster.

Atmosphere of Lynching

For the right wing government of Israel this fire is another golden opportunity to blame the Palestinians for arson. Immediately, without any serious investigation, they have declared that the fire is the work of Palestinians and this is a new Intifada of fire. The racist atmosphere among Israeli Jews brings to mind the racism of the American South during the slavery and the Jim Crow period. There exists an atmosphere of lynching Arabs. It plays on the memory of the Holocaust when Jews were burned by the Nazis.

It is the same tactic Netanyahu used during the elections with his racist speech *"the Left is busing Arabs to vote, the Right is in danger"*. The same tactic he also used when he said that it was the Mufti of Jerusalem who convinced Hitler to kill the Jews. On Friday Netanyahu told reporters there is no doubt there have been incidents of arson. He also said that anyone implicated in setting the fires would be punished severely. *"It's a crime for all intents and purposes it is terror for all intents and purposes"*. He added that incitement to arson was also playing a role in spreading the fires. The only thing he did not say openly is *"death to the Arabs"*

Education Minister Naftali Bennett said on Wednesday night that a series of fires raging across the country in recent days, a number of which are believed to be arson, could only have been set by *"someone whom this land this does not belong to him"* making a seemingly oblique reference to Arabs. (4)

It will not come as a great surprise if Israelis mobs, that follow these hate propaganda speeches, will attack Palestinians. The police have detained some suspected Palestinians. However there are growing indications that the fires or at least most of them have not been caused by arson. It is possible that the fires, or at least most of them, are the result of careless acts as was in the previous fire in Haifa in 2010. The fire then focused on Ein Hod, Nir Etzion, Usfiya, and the wildlife reserve. 44 people mostly prison service officers' course cadets and their commanding officers died and at the beginning the Palestinians were accused of setting the fire, but at the end it was clear that the fire was result of careless act of a youth.

On Thursday, Anas Abudaabes, 29, an activist from the southern Israeli town of Rahat, was arrested after posting two messages critical of Arabs who see the fires plaguing Israel as punishment for a bill that seeks to silence mosque loudspeakers. The Police mistranslated one of his posts, reaching the mistaken conclusion that he encouraged on Arabs to set fires. He explained it to the Judge who nevertheless ordered his detention. (5)

It is enough that a Palestinian youth has a backpack to be considered a suspect for arson. A video released by the military shows how a drone is used to help locate arson suspects. "He has a backpack," a drone operator is heard repeating in the video. "Robot, just confirm that you see my image," he says, before using the aircraft to direct forces toward the suspect. (6)

Another Suspect was detained because he carried standard materials used for igniting barbecue coals which is very common method of cocking in Israel. (7)

Absurd Accusations

Israel's public security minister, Gilad Erdan, told journalists on Friday that his forces had found evidence that gasoline was used to start a fire in Zikhron Yaaqov, a town in northern Israel. A man from a Jerusalem was arrested with fire-making materials. (8) Just think about it, Gasoline was found in the north of Israel, no one was caught with this gasoline or seen setting the fire. A man is caught in Jerusalem with fire making material. What was he carrying? Matches? Lighter? Materials for Barbecue? What is the connection between the gasoline in the North of Israel and the man in Jerusalem?

Unlike most of the right wing politicians who are pushing the Jews to blame and attack the Palestinians, Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich was more careful and said that there are some cases of arson, but lots of cases that are not.

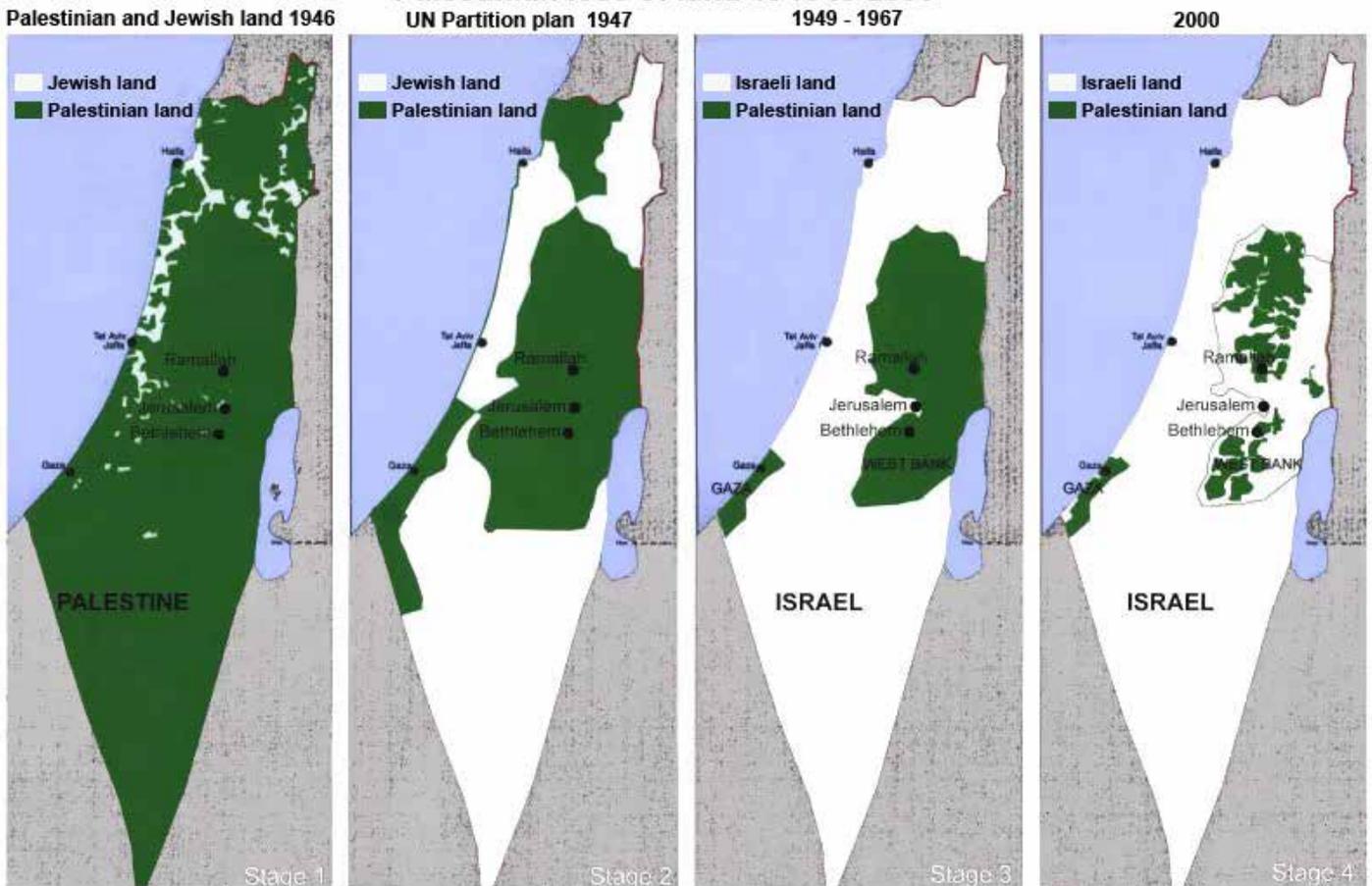
It should be noted that Hamas and the government of Syria, Lebanon and Egypt – unlike the government of Israel – has not blamed the Zionists for setting the fires.

"Amira Hass a reporter for Haaretz wrote that she asked some Palestinians friends in the West Bank whether it is possible that Palestinians set the fire near the military base Neveh Yair. No, it's the army, she was told – even before it was reported that a careless soldier might have tossed away a burning cigarette. People in the village have stopped counting how many times their fields have caught fire from the stun grenades and tear gas thrown by soldiers to quash demonstrations against settlers stealing their spring water.

Are you sure it wasn't intentional?" She asked.

A friend said that is impossible. And if someone did it on

Palestinian loss of land 1946 to 2000



purpose, it's madness, irrational and wrong. It's nature and the environment that get hurt; trees and animals.

There were reports about a fire breaking out near the settlement of Mevo Horon, and about the evacuation of hikers from Canada Park in the Latrun enclave. She called an acquaintance who lives in the village of Beit Liqya, beyond the separation barrier.

How do you think it happened? She asked."

The acquaintance is originally from Beit Nuba. The army expelled the residents of his village and the neighboring villages Yalo and Imwas immediately after they were conquered in the 1967 war. Mevo Horon was built on Beit Nuba's lands. The Jewish National Fund built Canada Park on the ruins of Yalo and Imwas. The name honors the Canadian Jews who donated money for it.

His reply was, "No Palestinian is allowed to get to that area, apart from the laborers in the settlements who need their wages. Second, it's our trees there, our dead who are buried in the graveyards there, the water cisterns dug by our grandfathers. We'll return there, so why destroy it?" (9)

In the case of Maale Adumim the police reported the fire was caused by electric failure. (10) Two Palestinians suspected in setting fire in Halamish were released. (11)

Prevailing Racism against Arabs

A friend of mine told me today that in his mind this fire reminds him of the burning of the Reichstag in February 1933. The Communists were blamed for it, but many historians think it was the act of the Nazis themselves.

There are reports of comments in the social nets that some Arabs hope the fire would burn the Zionist state as punishment for the bill to ban mosques from broadcasting the call to prayer over loudspeakers, the hand of God. There were quotes from the Koran corroborating this, as well as criticism of the Palestinian Authority, which would once again offer its firefighting equipment. This reaction result of decades of oppression plays into the Hands of the Israeli government, yet it is not surprising in light of the Israeli state crimes but it is not the same as deliberately setting forests on fire.

The real danger for the Israelis is that the prevailing racism that makes them an easy prey for the government manipulation and as long as they will not break with Zionism and join the anti imperialist struggle of the Palestinians and the Arabs in the region they will not be able to fight for secured life.

We do not know of course whether there are some cases of arson in reaction to the systemic discrimination and oppression of the Palestinians, it is also possible that some right Jewish extremists set the fires to create a hate wave against the Palestinians.

Setting Palestinians fields and houses on fire has been for a long time one of the tools used by settlers while the police and the army not only do not see it but defend them against the angry oppressed Palestinians. We will not form an opinion on this question before the facts will be clear. Unfortunately an honest truthful investigation is unlikely to happen. How the investigators determine that the fires are cases of Arson? According to Haaretz on Thursday, investigators managed to determine that at least some of the fires were intentional, although they did not have unequivocal proof. In the best case scenarios, witnesses, videos, wind direction and objects help investigators put

the puzzle together. "In other cases, there is no explanation," Shelef says. "... We will only be able to tell following a thorough investigation. We are very careful." (12) How careful such investigation can be when without strong evidence they already determined that these are cases of arson?

The fact that some Arab village are fighting the same fire and that fire is blazing in Gaza and in Syria and Lebanon indicates that it is the dry weather and the wind that is behind the fire. Furthermore no Palestinian has taken responsibility for the fire and if it was a case of arson somehow it would be publicize in some Arab mass media or the social nets.

The Zionist hysteria and lynching Atmosphere ignore the fact that the Palestinians are the native of this country and they care about forests and the green environment not less than the Jews. They will not set fire to areas where they live in.

Ayman Odeh, the head of a joint Arab bloc of parties in Israel's parliament and a Haifa native, appealed to Israelis to come together and abandon "politics" during the trying time. "This is something that harms all of us. This is not a story of Arab or Jew. Whoever did this is an enemy of all of us," he told Israeli Channel 2 TV news.

This is a very wrong message. Why to accept Netanyahu line that it is arson? This is the time to accuse the right wing Zionists for playing with fire of hate!

Footnotes

(1) See e.g. <http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Attorney-General-to-open-police-investigation-into-Netanyahu-submarine-affair-473471>

(2) <http://news.walla.co.il/item/3016870>

(3) Judy Maltz: Israel Fire Is a Painful Case of Deja Vu for Those Watching the North Burn Again read more, 24 November 2016, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-1.755208>

(4) The Time of Israel: Alleging arson, Bennett blames fires on those 'this land doesn't belong to', 24 November 2016, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-only-those-whose-land-this-doesnt-belong-to-could-have-start>

(5) Jack Khoury: Satirical Facebook Post Criticizing Celebration of Israel Fires Lands Arab in Jail, Haaretz Nov 25, 2016, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-1.755367>

(6) Gili Cohen: Israel using drones to find suspected arsonists, 25.11.2016, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/LIVE-1.755044>

(7) Diaa Hadid: Israel Arrests 22 Over Wildfires, as Arson Is Suspected, New York Times, 25.11.2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/25/world/middleeast/israel-wildfires-arson.html?r=0>

(8) ibid

(9) Amira Hass: Palestinians' Response to Israel's Fires: If It's Intentional, It's Madness. Fires in Israel have been cheered by online comments from Gaza and Arab countries, but many other Palestinians say: These are our trees and lands, so why destroy them? Haaretz, Nov 25 2016, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-1.755322>

(10) <http://www.mako.co.il/news-mivzak?id=02ff4c2a72825210VgnVCM100000290c10acRCRD>

(11) <http://news.walla.co.il/item/3016905>

(12) Ilan Lior: More than 13 arrested in connection to the fires, Minister says, Haaretz 25/11/2016, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/LIVE-1.755044>

Mexico: Socialist Perspectives for the Mass Protests against the Gasolinazo

Report (with Pictures and Video) by the *Agrupación de Lucha Socialista* (Mexican Section of the RCIT), 11.01.2017

On January 1, President Enrique Peña Nieto announced the slashing of state subsidies for gasoline in the coming year, a measure that will result in an increase of consumer prices by 14–20%. In response, tens of thousands of Mexican workers and peasants have spontaneously protested against this decision (popularly called *gasolinazo*). The regime is attempting to suppress the protests using the utmost brutality, which has thus far resulted in the death of four demonstrators and the arrest of more than 1,000 persons.

The members and sympathizers of *Agrupación de Lucha Socialista* (the Mexican Section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency) are actively intervening in this mass struggle. They have participated in mass demonstrations and in several *Asambleas Populares* (Popular Assemblies) in Mexico City and other locations (see the pictures, below). Immediately after the start of the protests, the comrades issued a statement and published a bulletin. (1)

Below we translate the conclusions and slogans of the Mexican section's statement:

* It is high time for the oil workers and rank and file members of MORENA to demand from their leaders (Romero de Schamps and López Obrador) that they openly support the protests and are mobilizing against the *gasolinazo*; if they refuse these demands, the masses will have to take the initiative into their own hands and to go around these ostensible leaders so that the unity of the working people can be realized in the streets.

* It is vital that the EZLN-CNI, the CNTE, the SME and

other popular movements, social organizations and trade union leaderships, all of which claim to be democratic and independent, speak out and mobilize their supporters to express solidarity and give active support to the popular mobilizations *against* the *gasolinazo* and *for* the downfall of Peña Nieto and his reforms.

* We call for the expansion and generalizing of the blockading of gas and oil transporters as well as the transnational cargo trucks, while allowing ordinary persons to pass. Likewise, we call for the continuation of the occupation and blockading of oil installations, tax collection institutions, and governmental offices, and for the organizing of central mass demonstrations in front of the presidential palace, the Congress and the Ministry of Finance.

* Popular assemblies should be held in every neighborhood so that people can participate in the actions and set up committees supporting the mass mobilizations by disseminating information, providing food and medicine, and serving as guards in rotating shifts.

* It is vital to mobilize as massively as possible for the actions already planned for the month of January by peasants, trade unions, popular organizations and other sectors of society. In addition, major mass protests should be organized against the incoming US president, Donald Trump, on the day of his inauguration, January 20.

* It is also urgent to organize a national conference in the country's capital, Mexico City, which will bring together the representatives of the popular resistance against the increased prices of energy, commodities and basic services.



Militants of the Mexican Section of the RCIT at the demonstration against the inauguration of Trump in Mexico City on 21.01.2017

Such a conference should adopt a centrally organized plan of action to bring down the government's reforms.

Workers, peasants, and the oppressed to the streets to protest against the *gasolinazo* and to retain the subsidies and the control of fuel prices by the state!

Fight poverty by increasing wages in accordance with inflation!

Down with Peña Nieto, down with the parties of the regime, down with the structural reforms and other privatization projects!

For the building of a National Struggle Front formed by popular assemblies and committees from every community, municipality and region of the country!

For a government of urban and rural workers and popular sectors!

For the renationalization of PEMEX and other strategic industrial sectors of Mexico under the control of the workers and the people!

Footnotes:

(1) ALS: ¡Contra el gasolinazo y el aumento generalizado de precios, unifiquemos la lucha por echar abajo a Peña y sus reformas! <https://agrupaciondeluchasocialistablog.wordpress.com/2017/01/06/contra-el-gasolinazo-y-el-aumento-generalizado-de-precios-unifiquemos-la-lucha-por-echar-abajo-a-pena-y-sus-reformas/> respectively <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/espa%C3%B1ol/contra-el-gasolinazo/>

See pictures and a video clip of popular protests in which the Mexican section of the RCIT participated:

Pictures: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1206543846097145&set=pcb.1206543896097140&type=3&theater>

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/727068237358289/videos/1272010112864096/>



Popular Assembly in Mexico City on 07.01.2017

The Outlaw Regime of Brazil Intensifies Its Attacks against the Working Class

By *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (CCR, Brazil Section of the RCIT), November 2016*

Two important events took place in the middle of October: the arrest of the former President of the House of Deputies, Eduardo Cunha (PMDB) – the man responsible for opening the impeachment process against President Dilma Rousseff (PT); and the invasion of the Senate by the Federal Police to arrest, in a totally arbitrary and illegal action, some security officials of the house directly subordinate to the president of the senate, Senator Renan Calheiros.

In the case of the arrest of Eduardo Cunha, who is being accused of the misuse of public funds belonging to Petrobras and who has already been proved to have bank accounts in Switzerland, it is clear that the real intention of the investigators of “Operation Car Wash” and Federal Judge Sergio Moro is to lay the groundwork for imprisoning former President Lula da Silva. Throughout all the investigations related to “Operation Car Wash,” including those of Judge Moro himself, absolutely no attempt was made to arrest other politicians of the PMDB, PSDB and DEM whose names were mentioned, according to reports, during the questioning of those who were arrested and were blackmailed into spilling the beans by being offered *Witness immunity*. They have arrested only a few entrepreneurs in the construction sector and several former ministers of the Worker’s Party (PT), and even months ago threatened to arrest former president Lula da Silva, but not following through on the threat due to mass protests that threatened to trigger greater social unrest. But by holding a *big fish* like Eduardo Cunha, Judge Sergio Moro is attempting to improve his chances of imprisoning Lula, because by detaining Cunha he reckons that he can get rid of his image of accusing prosecuting *only* the PT, while at the same time perpetuating a false image of impartiality.

The Crisis Begins between the Sectors of the Bourgeoisie following the Impeachment of Roussef

On October 21, agents of the Federal Police (FP), under the authorization of a leading judge, Vallisney de Souza, and the Minister of Justice, Alexandre de Moraes (PSDB),

invaded the Senate to arrest four security staff officials of this house of parliament on charges of hindering the investigation of corruption at Petrobras. Note that Alexandre de Moraes is one of three PSDB politicians who accepted the offer of the unelected, putschist president, Michel Temer, to participate in his government. According to the Federal Police, the detained security staff officials installed “without authorization” surveillance devices in the homes and offices of former President of the Republic José Sarney (PMDB), Senator and former President Fernando Collor (PTC-AL), Gleisi Hoffmann (PT), and former Senator Edson Lobão Filho (PMDB). So, it turns out, we now have two former presidents who don’t feel secure in their privacy in the new Brazil which emerged following the ousting of the government of Dilma Rousseff.

The moment Calheiros learned of the arrests of the security staff, the president of the Senate, spared no criticism of those responsible for the action and, regarding the Minister of Justice, declared in anger that “the attempt to embarrass the senate investigations with spurious claims is based on fantasy” and he called the magistrate who authorized the arrests, federal judge Vallisney de Souza Oliveira, “little Judge” and claimed that the Minister of Justice, Alexandre de Moraes (PSDB), says “good morning to horses”. He went on to say that “a judge of first standing can’t at any time threaten power. It is unfortunate that this happens in a *spectacle* with the participation of a government minister (Moraes), who has not been behaving as a minister but instead as the police.” Calheiros has stated that he has “hatred and disgust” of what he called “fascist methods” that were being, in his view, employed by the justice and that “*More than ever we need to defend the democratic values. This is my duty. That’s why I’m repelling this invasion [of operation of the Federal Police], just as I repel all abuses committed against the Senate under my presidency.*”

To complete the crisis between legislative, executive and judiciary branches of the government, the President of the Supreme Court, Minister Carmen Lucia, refuted the criticism of the President of the Senate against Judge Vallisney de Souza Oliveira, saying that “when any judge is disregarded, I too am being disregarded,” and continued

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by stating that the judiciary must be respected by the other branches of the Republic. However, she “forgot” that as President of the Supreme Court, she’s not simply a judge and would have to analyze what happened in a situation that, even by the standards of bourgeois democracy, the invasion of the Senate, a legislative body, by the Federal Police, an organ of the Executive, demonstrates that something is very wrong.

Two Weights, Two Measures

As one manifestation of what is very wrong, we will now review all the arbitrary arrests made by the promoters, judges and federal police against the politicians, businessmen or other persons who were somehow connected to the Workers’ Party (PF), the unsuccessful attempt to arrest Lula being the most grotesque example of such. Neither Renan Calheiros, nor the members of the Supreme Court saw any manifestations of authoritarianism or fascism in these incidents. The Coup of Impeachment that revoked 54 million votes and installed a far right-wing government ready to undertake a deep set of structural reforms that will put to an end the social rights of the poor and oppressed, all this to them “was an exercise of democracy,” but when the PMDB leaders or the Supreme Court itself suffer the consequences of what they themselves helped to install, then they claim that such actions are “fascistic.”

The Advance of the Outlaw Regime

The attacks against democratic rights are not limited to what happened just now. These attacks have arisen in the form of increasing judicial interference in the affairs of government, setting up a process by which judges are not just interpreters of the law, but are themselves acting in the role of political agents.

The imprisonment in 2013 of José Dirceu (PT) a former minister of Lula da Silva in the case of the “Mensalão” corruption scandal was decided by the Supreme Court not based on evidence, but using the “goal-directed theory of human action,” created by Hans Welzel in 1939 and developed by jurist Claus Roxin, in his 1963 work *Täterschaft und Tatherrschaft*, have gained momentum in Europe and Latin America. This theory posits that no hard evidence is needed to establish someone’s guilt, but only the assumption that “everybody knew who really was in charge.” In this sense, former Minister José Dirceu is a political prisoner.

With the emergence in March of 2014 of the corruption scandal related to “Operation Car Wash” and the rise of Judge Sergio Moro, the Brazilian version of US Senator *Joseph McCarthy*, the abuses have just accumulated. Coercive imprisonment of individuals, without those being investigated knowing beforehand what are the charges against them, most of whom were from the Worker’s Party (none were from the PMDB, DEM or PSDB), even though other members of rightist parties were implicated in the *witness immunity* deals offered to prisoners. The priority target thus far has been only members of the PT, the implicit goal being to prevent the candidacy of Lula da Silva in 2018.

In addition to forced arrests, judge Moro continues to

imprison the accused indefinitely, without trial, until they all agree to “denounce” their alleged crimes and their alleged accomplices, something which is called *witness immunity*. It is clear that, after a certain time in prison, a detainee may be willing to hand over his own mother to the police. This is the modern Brazilian version of medieval prison, the main difference being that torture is not physical. It’s obvious that, as the PT is the main target, several of its former ministers and former members of the governments of Lula and Rousseff have been “indicted” and are in jail, but none of the members of the PMDB, PSDB and DEM.

On September 14, the Federal Prosecutor Deltan Dallagnol, using a PowerPoint presentation, claimed that Lula da Silva had committed crimes of active and passive corruption, money laundering, and that he also allegedly received 3,500 million reais (just over 1 million dollars) of from the *Petrobrás* affair. What drew particular attention was the prosecutor’s remark that: “We have no concrete evidence against former President Lula, but we are truly convinced [of his guilt].” Again, in the absence of real evidence, what determines the guilt of the accused is the degree to which the accusers are “convinced.”

Eight days later, the Federal Court of the 4th region in the state of Paraná, home to Judge Sergio Moro, decided that the investigation into “Operation car wash” does not need to follow the rules of common legal processes. The defendants’ lawyers pointed out how the investigations are deliberately ignoring the limits of the law; for example, they are allowing evidence to be submitted from the wiretapping of law offices as well as leakages of illegally obtained information from telephone surveillance involving political authorities, all conducted without the legally necessary authorization. But to the Special Court of that of the 4th region, “Operation Car Wash” has “brought us unprecedented problems and it requires unprecedented solutions.” On the basis of this authoritarian concept, officials have closed investigation proceeding against Federal Judge Sergio Moro for having leaked conversations between former presidents Dilma Rousseff and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from when Dilma was still in office.

Former President Lula Turns to the UN Human Rights Commission

The defense for former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has submitted a petition to the UN *Human Rights Committee* against Judge Sergio Moro, accusing him of violating Lula’s human rights. The petition denounces the “deprivation of liberty” represented by the order of the 24th stage of the forced “Operation car wash” back in March. It also complains of the “leak of confidential materials (audios)” with the disclosure of (family) telephone conversations of the former president.

Lula’s Defense hired a British firm specializing in human rights. The lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson, has denounced the impartiality of Sergio Moro because he, for example, attend a launch of a book about *Operation car wash*. “Moro is behaving as if he himself constitutes an anticorruption commission.” For the British Robertson, there should be a distinction between the judge responsible for an investigation, and the judge responsible for a trial.

The PMDB – Former Ally of the PT in the Popular Front – is Now the Target

This week's new development involved prominent politicians of the PMDB becoming targets of "Operation Car Wash". Of course these are no ordinary citizens. They are senators of the Republic who, when they began to feel insecure, asked Renan Calheiros, president of the Senate, to order senate security officials to search their homes and offices. But the Federal Police, under the command of the Minister Alexandre de Moraes, was alerted, and with the judge's authorization were sent to arrest the senate security officials. Obviously, because they directly report to the president of the Senate, in their testimonies before the Federal Police, they claimed in their defense that they were only followed orders. The senators, having parliamentary immunity, could only be arrested on direct orders from the Supreme Court.

The President of the Senate, Renan Calheiros, together with Senators Lindbergh Farias (PT) and Vanessa Grazziotin (PC do B), as well as Paulo Pereira (SD) announced that the Senate will file a lawsuit in the Supreme Court to "establish the healthy limits of power." In the announcement, the President of the Senate made reference to the episode involving the search and seizure carried out in the apartment of Senator Gleisi Hoffmann, the conduct of officials when they attempted to arrest former President Lula as well as leaks of audio conversations between Lula and former President Dilma Rousseff a month before the removal of the latter by the House of Representatives. However, we would raise an additional point: How is it possible that a judge, without the authorization of the Supreme Court, felt free not only to authorize wiretapping in the offices and homes of senators of the Republic, and arrest security personnel in the Senate, while targeting the biggest party in Brazil, the PMDB?

What the PMDB and the PSDB Represent

The answer to our question is simple, and is a manifestation of the struggle for power that has begun between the PMDB and the PSDB: While the two bourgeois parties, PSDB and DEM, teamed up with the PMDB to bring about the coup d'état that removed President Dilma from office, they never set aside their differences. Each of them has its own agenda and they are only united in adopting neoliberal reforms to attack the workers.

From the end of the military dictatorship in 1985, the PMDB was the party that always competed within the upper echelons of power (during the military dictatorship it was the only opposition party, then named MDB); first with its own candidate, Jose Sarney, elected to the presidency of a civil government by the electoral college after the end of the dictatorship and subsequently participating in various national governments up to those of Lula and Dilma Rousseff. The PMDB, despite failing to elect any President after Sarney, is still the party that governs most of the prefectures of the country. Is a party that is in power in some large and medium sized cities, as well as in small rural towns. It's a party that has specialized in using the state apparatus to benefit its base of supporters, and in this way their patronage and pragmatism enabled them to form an alliance with the Worker's Party (PT) in a kind of Popular Front government of the.

The PSDB was founded in 1988, after splitting from the PMDB. The pompous name of the party, translated to English as the *Brazilian Social Democracy Party*, is nothing but a farce. They are not and never have been a party based on what we understand to be social democracy as, for example, the PT is. The PSDB emerged as a political party closely linked to Western imperialism (the US, Europe and Japan). The social basis of the PSDB is the industrial heartland in the State of São Paulo. It is the



Militant Demonstrators erect street blockades during protests against the Temer Government on 14.12.2016

party of the upper bourgeoisie of the wealthiest state in Brazil. It is funded by FIESP-*Federation of industries of the State of São Paulo*, by the powerful *Federation of Trade in Goods, Services and Tourism of the State of São Paulo* and by the wealthy large landowners who own the agribusiness in the state. The PSDB is the chief representative of Wall Street's interests in Brazil. Its strength in the State of São Paulo is undeniable, but at the same time this is its greatest weakness, because it cannot expand beyond the borders of the state. To date, their only victory on the national level was when they managed to elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso who served as president of Brazil from 1995 to 2003. And today, even though it joined the PMDB to bring about the institutional coup which toppled Dilma Rousseff, the PSDB is working behind the scenes to erode the government of Michel Temer. This aim is what led to the events whereby the Minister of Justice, who is a member of the PSDB serving in the government of the PMDB, began the investigations against the leaders of the latter party within the weak government of Michel Temer. Now we're witnessing the second stage of the institutional coup that brought struck the Workers' Party, as the PSDB has set its sights on the other main partner of the Popular Front, the PMDB. Behind all of this are clearly the interests of American imperialism, and the main objective is to transform Brazil into a country that completely conforms to the neoliberal mold, just like what happened in Chile starting with the dictatorship of General Pinochet under the guidance of the "Chicago school" ideologues like George Stigler and Milton Friedman who advocate the Minimum State.

The Crisis among the Sectors of the Bourgeoisie is the Opportunity for Workers' Resistance

The invasion of the Senate by order of a judge (something unthinkable in countries considered great powers) is yet another step in the process of disintegration of the so-called constitutional regime based on bourgeois law, and has opened the path to a major decline, or even the total destruction of, the few remaining democratic rights that workers have under the capitalist system in Brazil.

There no longer exists in Brazil the right of any citizen, who suspects that his or her home is under surveillance or being bugged, to hire a specialist to find the object and remove it. Anyone doing so can be arrested. The so-called "democratic rights" are being systematically demolished in Brazil. If the new regime which came to power after the impeachment of Dilma Rousseff is doing this to Senators of

the Republic, what can we expect will happen to ordinary citizens, member of social movements and leftist parties?

It is clear that the regime imposed by the putchists is designed to hand over the national wealth to imperialism (in the greater privatization of Petrobras; the large-scale privatization of all sectors; and the freezing of the level of public expenditures, etc.). No less, it is also an outright assault on the workers in favor of national and global big business (the destruction of laws which benefit the workers; the reform and degrading pensions; the total outsourcing of the public sector; layoffs; etc.); all this is being done to impose the plans of the putchists and those who stand behind them: to liquidate any remnants of anything resembling a democratic regime.

CUT and Social Movements Call for a General Strike on November 11

The National Executive Directorate of the *Central Única dos Trabalhadores-CUT (Unified Workers' Central)*, met in late October in Brasilia and reaffirmed November 11 as a national day of strikes, organized together with the other Trade Union Centers and various entities of the social movements that make up *Frente Brasil Popular* and *Povo Sem Medo (Brazil Popular Front and People Without Fear)*.

** Mobilize for the General Strike November 11! For mass mobilization against the pro-austerity offensive of the far right! For the setting up of action committees in factories, unions, neighborhoods, slums and outlying regions in defense of our rights and against the government of putchists!*

** For the mobilization of autonomous worker resistance and the convening of a national constituent assembly!*

** For a national conference of delegates of all mass anti-putchist organizations to discuss and adopt a plan against the new regime!*

** For a working class government in alliance with the peasants, urban poor and the landless! We can only guarantee our future and our rights if we bring down capitalism, the source of our misery!*

** The CCR – Corrente Comunista Revolucionária - is dedicated to building an authentic revolutionary party in all of Brazil and Latin America. This is the only way that we can fight consistently for our rights!*

<http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-temer-government/>

<http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-attacks-of-temer/>

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Brazil: Resistance by the Youth is the Road to the Mass Movement

By *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (CCR, Brazil Section of the RCIT)*, 15. November 2016

Forty days ago, occupations by youth of public schools began across Brazil, mainly in the State of Paraná. As of today, more than 1,000 schools and several universities have been occupied. This mobilization began against the proposed high school reform, which entirely eliminates important fields of studies like sociology, philosophy, artistic education and physical education; it has also taken up the cause against the drafting of an amendment to the Brazilian Constitution that will prevent the government from investing any additional monies above the rate of inflation in public education and health for all Brazilians for a period of 20 years! The project has already been nicknamed properly "*Law of the end of the world.*"

This amendment will also mean the freezing of salaries of all civil servants for the same period of two decades. Thus, in addition to the educational outrages, much of the Brazilian population will physically suffer the results of the government's plans, because public health care will get worse than it already is. Therefore, the current resistance struggle of the students must become that of the entire working class. Currently, the young students studying in public school, mainly in the outlying regions of the country, are setting the example. It is incumbent that the mass movements and the working class join the resistance.

During these 40 days or so of occupations of schools, students have been subjected to various pressure tactics and even violence at the hands of the military police and the courts. In open violation of the *Statute for Minors and Children* (a law intended to protect minors up to the age of 18), youths were handcuffed when being removed from the *Lady Filomena Moreira de Paula* high school in the state of Tocantins. In the national capital of Brazil, Brasilia, Judge Alex Choudhary, authorized the use of torture techniques against students conducting occupations. Among the actions authorized are the cutting off of the water supply, electricity and gas; the use of noise to prevent the occupiers from sleeping; and restricting their access to family, friends and food. The Minister of Education, Mendonça Filho, said he was convinced that the student movement that already occupies more than 1,000 educational institutions throughout Brazil is *partisan*: "It is clear that the sectors connected to the PT, PCdoB and PSOL are actually orchestrating this mobilization along with the unions." That's to say that, for this reactionary rightist, the imposing of "legal" measures to cut investments in education and introducing top to bottom educational reforms in high schools without discussing these matters with students and educators have no importance or political significance; but those who oppose such measures are being manipulated by the radical left. The monopolistic bourgeois press, in bed with the government, only disclosed the numbers of occupied schools and universities, because such schools will be involved in, and clearly impact, the administration of the national exams regularly used to evaluate high school students, and obviously such information was transmitted to millions of Brazilians with the intention of criminalizing

the student movement.

However the stunning intervention of Ana Julia Raj, a 16 year old high school student, reverberated throughout Brazil and around the world when, on October 27, when facing MPs of the parliament of the State of Parana, she made a powerful speech in favor of the occupations as being an expression in favor of education. Her speech, supporting education and the occupations, came to be compared to the activity of the young *Malala Yousafzai*, the Pakistani girl who at 14 years of age suffered an assassination attempt by the Taliban for wanting an education, and who won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. Ana Julia, even though she had no previous experience in public speaking, did not spare the state deputies, and accused them of being responsible for the situation and claiming that they have blood on their hands. When questioned intensively by parliamentarians, she didn't retreat from what she said in her speech, repeating that the responsibility for children and teenagers is that of the Federal and state governments, according to law.

Since then, the movement to occupy schools and public universities in Brazil has only grown.

The *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária-CCR* (the Brazilian section of the RCIT) strongly defends the occupation movement of students in schools. These youths are the primary interested parties in defending the quality of public, secular and free education. The government of Michel Temer is attacking public education with the explicit goal of promoting the privatization of the sector in order to generate profits for billionaire businessmen. Currently, Brazilian law obligates state and Federal governments to invest in public education an average of 25% of their budget. These represent billions of dollars that the vultures of privatization want to snap up.

The student struggle is more than fair, for the future of these young people is at stake. This struggle is the struggle of us all and is one that should be taken up by social movements, trade unions and labor federations, as well as by left-wing progressive parties against all the attacks of the insurgent government of Michel Temer.

**Full support for the student struggle!*

**No, to the proposed high school reforms!*

**For more funds for quality education in the public schools for the children of workers!*

**For the unity of organized workers in defense of education!! For the CUT, MST, MST and the heads of social movements to make themselves and their organizations available to the students in defense of education and against the repression!*

**Down with Bonapartist repression against students!*

<http://g1.globo.com/to/tocantins/noticia/2016/10/juiz-determina-que-estudantes-detidos-em-ocupacao-no-sejam->

<http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/trump-victory/>

<http://blogs.oglobo.globo.com/na-base-dos-dados/post/confiracao-mapa-das-escolas-ocupadas-no-brasil.html>

<http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/educacao/noticia/2016-10/mais-de-mil-escolas-do-pais-estao-ocupadas-em-protesto-entenda-o-movimento>

Brazil: An Analysis of the Election Results for Mayor and Councilors in Brazil 2016

By *Corrente Comunista Revolucionária (CCR, Brazil Section of the RCIT)*, 04 November 2016

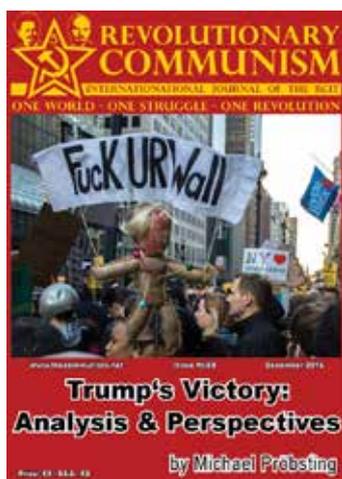
After the close of the polls in the first round of the 2016 municipal elections in Brazil, the results are predictable: in almost every city right-wing parties were victorious and almost all left-wing parties faced losses. However, one additional factor must be taken into consideration: There was a considerable increase of in voters not going to the polls, along with a significant increase of the number of blank ballots cast or ballots which were nullified. Electronic ballots which were nullified are those in which the voter entered and confirmed a non-existent number (for instance 00) for a candidate in the voting machine. Blank votes are those in which the voter selects the “none” box on the ballot. Both blank and nullified votes are invalidated. As voting is mandatory in Brazil (citizens who do not vote are fined), those who are elected to positions for mayor, governor and president are the candidates who receive more than half of the *valid* votes.

The advance of conservative and reactionary forces in Brazil, which led to the impeachment of former president Dilma Rousseff, also had their effect on the timing of the elections. The electoral campaigns were reduced from 90 to just 45 days. The legal leftist parties, like the PSOL, PSTU, and PCO, had their free time on television reduced to just a few seconds. Obviously, the stronger traditional right-wing parties like the PMDB, PSDB, DEM, have more financial resources and therefore more paid television time, giving them a tremendous and unfair advantage. In addition, the demonization of the “*Partido do Trabalhadores*” (PT) Worker’s Party since 2014, with the phony fight against its corruption, incurred collateral damage that negatively impacted all parties and groups considered to be leftists, socialists, or progressives. Today, in the streets of the big cities like São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, anyone wearing a simple red T-shirt, even without the logo of the Worker’s Party, is at risk of being assaulted verbally or physically. Social networks are full of anti-communist messages, along with manifestations of racism, xenophobia, misogyny, anti-immigrant, violence against women and LGBT groups.

It is in this context that the right-wing parties gained such significant victories throughout the country in these last elections. The most symbolic example of these victories for the right was the election in the first round of the entrepreneur João Dória of the PSDB, regarded as *the Donald Trump of Brazil*, who had previously won the Brazilian version of “The Apprentice”. Despite his oligarchic origins and not having taken political positions for years, he introduced himself on the campaign trail as “apolitical,” emphasizing his success as a businessman, while at the same time he declared himself as representing “João o Trabalhador” (John the worker). The detail which is of particular interest here is that even having received in the first round of the mayoral election for São Paulo 34.72% of the valid votes, João Dória’s votes still fell behind the number of *abstentions, blank and nullified ballots*, which reached an all time high of 34.84%. This means that more than a third of the electorate of the city of São Paulo chose not to vote for any candidate. The previous record for that city had been in the elections of 2012, when 28.89% of the electorate did not vote for a candidate.

In the city of São Paulo, the defeated Worker’s Party (PT) incumbent mayor, Fernando Hadadd, who was running for reelection obtained only 17% of the votes. In the large cities neighboring industrial São Paulo, which form the largest industrial concentration in South America and was the birthplace of the PT, and which up to now has been regarded as a “red belt,” there were significant losses of Lula da Silva’s party, for example in São Bernardo do Campo and Diadema. Nationwide, the PT received the fewest number of votes since its founding in the late 1980s, winning only 255 of 638 mayoral elections, which represents a loss of 40% compared to the last municipal elections of 2012.

Unlike the PT, the PSOL, with less organizational structure, is slowly growing. PSOL will participate in the second round of elections (on November 30) in two state capitals: Belém do Pará with the PSOL candidate being Edmilson Rodrigues and in Rio de Janeiro with Marcelo Freixo; this party will also contend in the second



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By *Michael Prebting*, November 2016

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round of elections in the large city of Sorocaba, São Paulo. Regarding candidates for membership in the municipal councils of the country, the PSOL won 53 seats this year compared to 49 in 2012. However, this small growth was accompanied by the party's having elect the greatest number of council members in capital cities like Belem, Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre. The assessment of PSOL party leaders, however, is that these results were "a minor victory snatched from the jaws of a major defeat," in light of the significant growth of parties which supported the impeachment of Dilma Rousseff. Juliano Medeiros, President of the Foundation Lauro Campos, who is tied to the PSOL, stated: "We have enlarged our size is a great deal. The conservative parties were on the offensive; they rose again to be protagonist after the impeachment." "For the parties of the left, as a whole, the results were bad, but the PSOL isn't leaving the campaign defeated, and even grew in absolute numbers," said Pedro Ekman, who was responsible for the electoral campaign of Edmilson Rodrigues in Belem and of Luiza Erundina (PSOL's mayoral candidate for the city of São Paulo). "We're an oasis in an otherwise rapid advancement of the right-wing."

The PCO (Party of Workers' Cause) made an effort to denounce what happened in Brazil during the last couple of years, with the impeachment of Dilma Rouseff, as a coup d'état, claiming that for a few months already we've been living under a illegitimate *regime* and warning about pending neoliberal reforms of the government of interim president Michel Temer. The free propaganda time of that the PCO received on television amounted to only 6 seconds a day. This measly time wouldn't even be sufficient for the world's fastest sprinter, Usain Bolt, to run a 100 meter dash.

The disastrous policy of the PSTU in supporting the coup d'état and chanting in the streets the slogan "Fora Todos!" (ALL of them out!) had its price. Even before the elections they lost more than 600 activists, and with the elections they saw their only council member, Amanda Gurgel,

elected in 2012, lose her seat, even though she received a good number of votes. With it bankrupt policy, the PSTU failed engaging many thousands who took to the streets against the impeachment, and gave even more strength to the slogan of the reactionary right in the process of depoliticizing the electoral process. The future trend of the PSTU after its split is undoubtedly an increasing drift towards the centrist PSOL.

Our CCR candidacy, within the PCO, maintained its coherent revolutionary stance which maintains that, within a bourgeois democracy, elections are an illusion. Throughout our entire electoral campaign we denounced election under capitalism as nothing more than a farce, and called upon the working class and the oppressed to organize independently in committees in their neighborhoods and workplaces. We repeatedly warned that, in the context of a coup d'état, elections would be even more controlled by big bourgeoisie than ever, and that it was necessary for the workers and oppressed to mobilize forces against the austerity packages that are and will be introduced by the government of Michel Temer. In short, we took advantage of the electoral campaign as an opportunity to denounce the elections as an illusion before the working class.

** For the mobilization of autonomous worker resistance and the convening of a national constituent assembly!*

** For an unlimited general strike against the regime of putschists! For mass mobilization against the offensive pro-austerity policies of the extreme right! For the setting up of action committees in factories, unions, neighborhoods, slums and outlying regions in defense of our rights and against the government of putschists!*

** For a national conference of delegates of all mass anti-putschist organizations to discuss and adopt a plan against the new regime!*

** For a working class government in alliance with the peasants, urban poor and the landless! We can only guarantee our future and our rights if we bring down capitalism, the source of our misery!*



Publications at a Bookstall of the Brazil Section of the RCIT at a Conference in Sao Paolo

Books of the RCIT

Michael Pröbsting: Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?

The Road from Revolution to the Restoration of Capitalism

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new book. It's called *Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?*. The book's subtitle is: *The Road from Revolution to the Restoration of Capitalism*. The book is in English-language. It has 5 chapters plus an appendix, 108 pages and includes 19 Tables and Figures. The author of the book is *Michael Pröbsting* who is the International Secretary of the RCIT.

In *Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?* Michael Pröbsting analyses the character of the Cuban Revolution 1959-61, its bureaucratic degeneration, and the recent march of the Castro leadership towards capitalism.

The author demonstrates how the Cuban Revolution, despite the initial modest intentions of its leaders, was spurred forward to more radical policies by grass roots struggles of Cuban workers and peasants. In fact, the very abolishment of capitalism by the Cuban regime was no part of the original game plan of either Castro's Movimiento 26 de Julio or of the official Cuban communist party (PSP), but rather was a product of precisely such pressures from below.

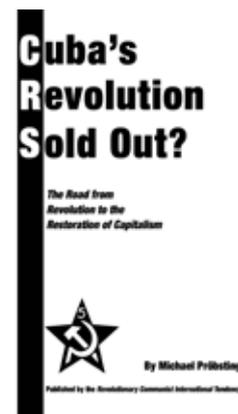
Cuba's Revolution Sold Out? describes in detail how a number of relatively recent political, economic, and social measures were

purposely taken by the Cuban government to open the road back to capitalism. Pröbsting elaborates the key role of the world's new great imperialist power, China, in Cuba's state policy as exemplified in the June 2011 Sino-Cuban agreement for a first Five-Year Plan of cooperation between these two states.

Cuba's Revolution Sold Out? examines these developments from the viewpoint of Marxist theory, the nature of the ruling bureaucracy in Stalinist states, and the process of restoration of capitalism under such regimes.

In conclusion, the book proposes a socialist program for political and social revolution in Cuba to halt the advance of capitalism and to eradicate the country's bureaucratic dictatorship.

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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

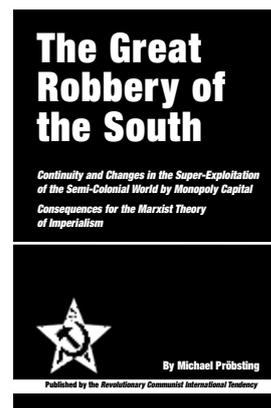
The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *THE GREAT ROBBERY OF THE SOUTH*. The book's subtitle is: *Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital*. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism. The book is in English-language. 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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The Author: Michael Pröbsting is a revolutionary activist since 35 years. He is the author of many articles and pamphlets in German and English language. He published books or contributed to books on Rosa Luxemburg (1999), on the World Economy (2008), on Migration (2010) and the Arab Revolution (2011). In addition to *The Great Robbery of the South* and *Cuba's Revolution Sold Out?* he also published in 2014 the book *Building the Revolutionary Party in Theory and Practice. Looking Back and Ahead after 25 Years of Organized Struggle for Bolshevism*. He is the International Secretary of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency*.

What the RCIT Stands for

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) is a revolutionary combat organisation fighting for the liberation of the working class and all oppressed. It has national sections in a number of countries. The working class is composed of all those (and their families) who are forced to sell their labor power as wage earners to the capitalists. The RCIT stands on the theory and practice of the revolutionary workers' movement associated with the names of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky.

Capitalism endangers our lives and the future of humanity. Unemployment, war, environmental disasters, hunger, and exploitation are all part of everyday life under capitalism as are the imperialistic oppression of nations, the national oppression of migrants, and the oppression of women, young people, and homosexuals. Therefore, we want to eliminate capitalism.

The liberation of the working class and all oppressed is possible only in a classless society without exploitation and oppression. Such a society can only be established internationally.

Therefore, the RCIT is fighting for a socialist revolution at home and around the world.

This revolution must be carried out and led by the working class, for only this class has the collective power to bring down the ruling class and build a socialist society.

The revolution cannot proceed peacefully because a ruling class never has nor ever will voluntarily surrender its power. By necessity, therefore, the road to liberation includes armed rebellion and civil war against the capitalists.

The RCIT is fighting for the establishment of workers' and peasants' republics, where the oppressed organize themselves in councils democratically elected in rank-and-file meetings in factories, neighbourhoods, and schools. These councils, in turn, elect and control the government and all other state authorities, and always retain the right to recall them.

Authentic socialism and communism have nothing to do with the so-called "socialism" that ruled in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and which continues to do so in China and Cuba, for example. In these countries, the proletariat was and is dominated and oppressed by a privileged party bureaucracy.

Under capitalism, the RCIT supports all efforts to improve the living conditions of the workers and oppressed, while simultaneously striving to overthrow this system based on economic exploitation of the masses.

Towards these ends, we work from within the trade unions where we advocate class struggle, socialism, and workers' democracy. But trade unions and social democracy are controlled by a bureaucracy perniciously connected with the state and capital via status, high-paying jobs, and other privileges. Thus, the trade union bureaucracy is far from the interests and living conditions of

its members, based as it is on the top, privileged layers of the working class – a labor aristocracy which has no real interest in replacing capitalism. Therefore, the true struggle for the liberation of the working class, the toppling of capitalism and the establishment of socialism, must be based on the broad mass of the proletariat rather than their "representative" from the upper trade union strata.

We also fight for the expropriation of the big land owners as well as for the nationalisation of the land and its distribution to the poor and landless peasants. Towards this goal we struggle for the independent organisation of the rural workers.

We support national liberation movements against oppression. We also support the anti-imperialist struggles of oppressed peoples against the great powers. Within these movements we advocate a revolutionary leadership as an alternative to nationalist or reformist forces.

While the RCIT strives for unity of action with other organizations, we are acutely aware that the policies of social democrats and pseudo-revolutionary groups are dangerous, and ultimately represent an obstacle to the emancipation of the working class, peasants, and the otherwise oppressed.

In wars between imperialist states we take a revolutionary defeatist position: we do not support either side, but rather advocate the transformation of the war into a civil war against the ruling class in each of the warring states. In wars between imperialist powers (or their stooges) and a semi-colonial countries we stand for the defeat of the former and the victory of the oppressed countries.

As communists, we maintain that the struggle against national oppression and all types of social oppression (women, youth, sexual minorities etc.) *must* be led by the working class, because only the latter is capable of fomenting a revolutionary change in society. Therefore, we consistently support working class-based revolutionary movements of the socially oppressed, while opposing the leadership of petty-bourgeois forces (feminism, nationalism, Islamism, etc.), who ultimately dance to the tune of the capitalists, and strive to replace them with revolutionary communist leadership.

Only with a revolutionary party fighting as its leadership can the working class be victorious in its struggle for liberation. The establishment of such a party and the execution of a successful revolution, as it was demonstrated by the Bolsheviks in Russia under Lenin and Trotsky remain the models for revolutionary parties and revolutions in the 21st century.

For new, revolutionary workers' parties in all countries!
For a 5th Workers International to be founded on a revolutionary program! Join the RCIT!

No future without socialism!

No socialism without revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

