

# REVOLUTIONARY LIBERATION

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY



# LIBERATION

COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY



[www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net)

Issue Nr.109

September 2020

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- \* Mali: Imperialist Puppet Keita Out
- \* Nigeria: Rise of State Bonapartism
- \* Idlib/Syria: Release Bilal Abdul Kareem!

- \* Popular Uprising in Lebanon
- \* UK: Starmer dismisses Long-Bailey
- \* Mass Protests in Belarusia
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Picture on the Cover: Rally in solidarity with the people in Kashmir (Vienna, 5.8.2020)

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

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## Kenya: Report of the Pan African Women's Day

*Report by a Correspondent in Kenya, Revolutionary Socialist League (Sympathizing Section of the RCIT), 31.07.2020*

**O**n the 31st of July, 2020, progressive and Revolutionary women and men from across various neighbourhoods in Nairobi gathered at the Olympic Primary School in Kibera, Nairobi, to commemorate the annual Pan African Women's Day. This year's commemoration marked 58 years since the event was first inceptioned by the Pan African Movement.

The event was organised by the Revolutionary Socialist League, Women in Social Justice Centres, Grassroots Women Initiative, All African People's Revolutionary Party, Ukombozi Library and other progressive activists.

The theme for this year's event was Building Pan African Unity for Power, Radical Change and Ecological Justice.

The event lasted from 11am to 4:30 pm East Africa Time.

The event was moderated by Irene Asuwa from the

Revolutionary Socialist League. The panelists for the day included Maryann Kasina from Women in Social Justice Centres, Ruth Mumbi from Grassroots Women Initiative, Juliet Wanjira from the Revolutionary Socialist League, Editar Achieng and Roselyn Akombe. An interactive plenary session around the theme followed the panel presentations, as well as a presentation of a play from the Arts for Social Justice Group. Revolutionary greetings of Solidarity from the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency were relayed.

Importantly, the understanding that the liberation of the people cannot take place without the liberation of women was reiterated, and a commitment to carry on with organising was affirmed.

Afrika Moja, Afrika Huru!



Meeting on the Pan African Women's Day in Nairobi on 31.7.2020, initiated by the RSL and others



### RCIT AFRICA PROGRAM

## Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa

*Adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in November 2017*

**I**ntroduction \* Foreign Exploiters – Out of Africa! \* The Wealth to Those Who Create It! Economic Freedom Now! \* Down with the Capitalist Dictatorships and Corrupt Pseudo-Democracies! \* Organize the Workers and Oppressed for the Mass Struggle! \* For a Government of Workers and Poor Peasants! For a Socialist Revolution! \* For Pan-African Unity! For the United Socialist States of Africa! \* For a United Front of Struggle! Overcome the Crisis of Leadership – Build a Revolutionary Party Nationally and Internationally! \* Appendix

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A5 Format*

## Pan-African Women's Day: Long Live the Socialist Struggle for Women's Liberation!

**Message of solidarity to a public meeting in Nairobi (Kenya) on 31.7.2020**

By Almedina Gunić, International Women's Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 30.07.2020

**D**ear comrades, dear sisters and brothers, The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) sends you the warmest greetings for the Pan African Women's Day. We congratulate you for organizing such an event as it is urgent to raise awareness and to organize resistance against women's oppression.

Working women in Africa – like their sisters on other continents – suffer from brutal super-exploitation and oppression. This is true both for women employed in agriculture (the vast majority of African working women) as well as those employed as wage earners. Imperialist monopolies and Great Powers like the U.S., China and the EU are dominating the continent with the help of the African comprador bourgeoisie. Their reckless looting of Africa has also devastating consequences for the soil as well as for climate. Furthermore, the ruling class has recently intensified the oppression of the popular masses by imposing a brutal Lockdown regime which incarnates the masses in their homes for most of the time. Women suffer particularly strong from the consequences of the reactionary Lockdown regime as it has resulted in a dramatic increase of domestic violence.

These authoritarian attacks on democratic rights are hypocritically justified with the COVID-19 crisis. In reality the ruling class exploits this pandemic as a cover for the expansion of the anti-people bonapartist state apparatus. However, women are not only victims of capitalist insanity; they are also a key force in the struggles for democracy and social justice! In Africa and all over the world we see women taking a leading role in the ongoing mass protests. This has been visible not only in the recent demonstrations in Nairobi but also in the mass protests of the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S., in France as well as other countries.

We call all revolutionary sisters to unite and to advance the struggle for the annihilation of women's oppression, the imperialist exploitation of the African people and of global social injustice. Together we shall fight for the overthrow of global capitalism and the construction of a socialist society. This is what the RCIT is fighting for together with our comrades from the *Revolutionary Socialist League!* Long live the socialist struggle for women's liberation!

Aluta continua!



Meeting on the Pan African Women's Day in Nairobi on 31.7.2020, initiated by the RSL and others

**Comunismo Revolucionario  
Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT**

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# Mali: The Imperialist Puppet Ruler Keita Has Fallen!

**Imperialist and African rulers protest against the end of the reactionary regime – but workers and oppressed must take power in their own hand!**

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 19 August 2020*

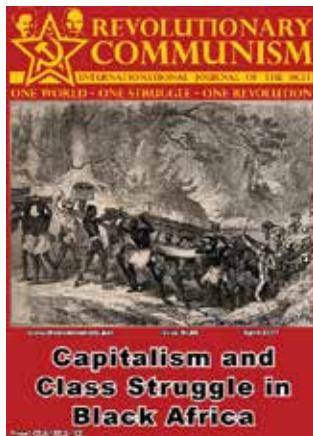
1. Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has announced his resignation late on Tuesday with immediate effect – three years before his final term was due to end. He also declared the dissolution of his government and the National Assembly. Hours before, Keita, his Prime Minister Boubou Cisse as well as finance minister Abdoulaye Daffe were seized by mutinying soldiers and brought to a military base in Kati outside the capital Bamako.

2. This mutiny is the latest event since Mali entered a deep political crisis in May when mass protests started against the rigged parliamentary elections which claimed a massive victory of Keita's *Rassemblement pour le Mali* party (a member of the so-called "Socialist International") and its allies. These large protests called for the resignation of Keita and were organized by the M5-RFP coalition – a bourgeois alliance of various forces like the thirty-party *Front for Safeguarding Democracy* (FDS), civil society organisations under the banner of *Espoir Mali Koura* (EMK), and the *Coordination of Movements, Associations and Sympathizers* (CMAS), led by the influential Muslim cleric Mahmoud Dicko. In the past weeks the regime had unsuccessfully tried to crush the protests with brute force resulting in the killing of at least 14 people.

3. Nouhoum Togo, a spokesman of the M5-RFP coalition, signalled support for the mutiny and said that it was "*not a military coup but a popular insurrection*". There

were also spontaneous anti-government demonstrations cheering the soldiers' actions, and some set fire to a building that belongs to Mali's justice minister in the capital. There are indications that the mutiny was not initiated by the top brass of the army – which has been loyal to Keita in the past – but rather by lower ranking soldiers. These soldiers took weapons from the armoury at the barracks in Kati and detained senior military officers before carrying out their coup.

4. In contrast to the popular masses in Mali, imperialist powers and the Africa's ruling classes have reacted with horror to the downfall of Keita. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said France "*condemns in the strongest terms this grave event*." J Peter Pham, the US envoy to the Sahel, said on Twitter that the US was "*opposed to all extra-constitutional changes of government*". UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanded "*the immediate restoration of constitutional order and rule of law*" and convened a closed meeting of the UN Security Council for today afternoon. Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairman of the African Union, said he "*energetically*" condemned Keita and Cisse's arrest and called "*for their immediate liberation*". ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) denounced "*the overthrow by putschist soldiers of the democratically elected government*" and ordered the closing of regional borders with Mali as well as the suspension of all



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

### Theses on Capitalism and Class Struggle in Black Africa

*An Analysis of Imperialist Exploitation and Oppression  
and the Perspectives of the Liberation Struggle*

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format*

**Introduction \* Some Background Notes on Black Africa's Modern History: How Colonial Plunder and Oppression Blocked Independent Development \* Popular Struggles against Colonialism Led to Formal Independence \* Formal Independence as Disguised Imperialist Dependency \* The Reactionary Role of White Settlers \* Is Capitalist Black Africa Rising? \* Africa in the Grip of Imperialism \* China as a new Imperialist Great Power Challenging the Western Domination \* The Working Class and the Oppressed \* Rising Class Struggle \* Key Lessons for a Revolutionary Strategy in Black Africa \* Imperialist Domination and Authoritarian Regimes Remain in Place despite Formal Changes \* Breaking the Capitalist Chain – The Program of Permanent Revolution \* The Revolutionary Struggle against Imperialism \* Imperialist Chauvinism and the Anti-Imperialist Patriotism of the Oppressed \* The Independence of the Working Class and the Struggle against the Popular Front \* The Struggle for Pan-African Unity \* The Revolutionary World Party and its African Sections \* Footnotes**

financial flows between Mali and its 15 member states.

5. The outrage of the ruling classes – both in the imperialist capitals as well as in Africa – about the fall of Keita is not surprising. The fallen ruler has been instrumental for them in the past years in order to suppress popular unrests and militant insurrections in the region. MINUSMA – a foreign military mission with 15,600 soldiers and police led by France – is the second largest UN peacekeeping mission in the world. It has effectively transformed Mali into a semi-occupied country since the beginning of the French military intervention in early 2013 in order to crush the insurgency in the north of the country. In January 2020, French President Macron had summoned Sahelian leaders and made them call “*for more French assistance*”. As a result, Paris created the so-called “*Operation Barkhane*” / “*Coalition for the Sahel*” – an expanded military mission under the direct command of Paris. Unsurprisingly, the intervention of the former colonial power has provoked increasing popular protests in Mali. Since last year, a number of demonstrations took place protesting against the presence of the imperialist troops. According to a poll in Bamako in December 2019, over 80% of the population had a negative view of France and wanted Paris to leave the country.

6. The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) and other anti-imperialist organizations have sharply denounced the imperialist intervention from the very beginning. We have explained that, in contrast to their official claims, such Western-led military missions do not serve “*the struggle against terrorism*”. In fact, their purpose is only to secure the political and economic interests of French imperialism and other Great Powers in the region and to keep the local ruling classes in power. In addition, such military missions shall stop refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea and entering Europe.

7. The RCIT does not advocate a military coup as a legitimate means of the class struggle. We rather call for popular mobilizations, general strikes and armed insurrection as the methods to bring down reactionary regimes. However, we certainly do not shed a single tear for Keita – the fallen puppet ruler in the service of French and Western imperialism. While we fully understand the rejoice of the masses about the end of the Keita regime we warn them that power must not remain in the hands of small military cliques which are under no control of the people. Likewise we warn against any manoeuvres of bourgeois opposition politicians which might try to utilize the situation for their own purpose. Furthermore, it is likely that

the imperialist Great Powers and the corrupt rulers in the region will attempt to manipulate the situation in order to secure their interests.

8. Brothers and sisters, distrust all generals, politicians and foreign powers! Trust only your own combat strength and your organizations! The RCIT calls the popular masses to organize themselves in *action councils at work places, neighborhoods, universities and villages*. Likewise it is important to build *self-defense committees* – as a first step towards workers and popular militias. An important task of the current struggle is to throw out the imperialist troops and their local allies! Close all foreign military bases! Power must not be left in the hands of the army or corrupt politicians. It is urgent to create a *workers and poor peasants government* based on popular committees of action. Likewise, the insurgent masses should convocate a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly*. Such a perspective is part of our struggle for a *united and socialist Africa free from imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation!*

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

\* \* \* \* \*

For the RCIT’s analysis of Africa and the imperialist intervention we refer readers to our numerous articles and statements that are published on our website at: <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>

In particular we refer to:

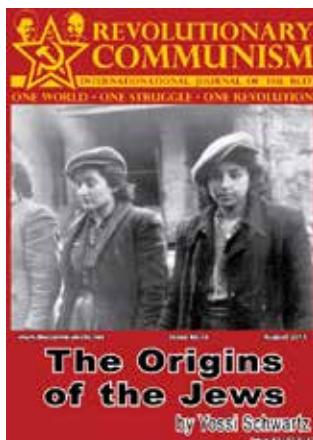
Down with French Neo-Colonialism in West Africa! Protest against the imperialist “*Operation Barkhane*” / “*Coalition for the Sahel*”! Joint Statement of Anti-Imperialist and Socialist Organisations, 12 February 2020, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-down-with-french-neo-colonialism-in-west-africa/>

RCIT: Expel French Imperialism from West Africa! Macron and his G5 Lackeys plan to intensify their colonialist “*Operation Barkhane*”, 15 January 2020, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/expel-french-imperialism-from-west-africa/>

RCIT: French Imperialism Lick its Wounds. 13 French soldiers died in Mali during colonialist combat mission, 29 November 2019, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/mali-french-imperialism-lick-its-wounds/>

RCIT: Somalia: Drive Out the AMISOM and Western Occupation Forces! Daring Guerrilla Attack against U.S. Army Base and EU Military Convoy, 30 September 2019, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/somalia-drive-out-the-amisom-and-western-occupation-forces/>

RCIT: Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa, <https://www.thecomunists.net/theory/manifesto-for-the-revolutionary-liberation-of-black-africa/>



## Publications of the RCIT

### The Origins of the Jews

By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015

**Chapter I: What are the origins of the Jews?**

**Chapter II: The Rise of Anti-Semitism**

**Chapter III: Anti-Semitism and Zionism**

**Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:**

**Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism**

# Bala Mubarak and the Rise of Nigerian State Bonapartism

*Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard [RCIT Nigeria], 24 July 2020*

It almost makes sense to conclude that the discord in the internal politics of prominent administrations is what has plunged the world into crises. It is a known fact that the present cold war between the Republican and Democratic Party in the US is almost unparalleled in the history of the country. The situation is no different in Nigeria, the ruling caucus cannot seem to pull itself out of the quadrangle of unending internal conflicts, at the same time the civic mistrust and discontent is on the rise, the economic recession is spiraling out of control with bleak prospects for the future coupled with spontaneous outbreaks of strikes and anti-government remonstrances. Even divisions of the state apparatus have began to surface, for no sooner did Lance Corporal Martins release his criticism of the Chief of Army Staff did the news of resignation of 356 officers in the Army spread like wild fire.[1] The power elite in Nigeria draws one step closer to doomsday every passing day. It is in the context of this vulnerability of the state can the unjust arrest and incarceration of Bala Mubarak for more than 50 days be understood.

Bala Mubarak, the president of the Humanist Association of Nigeria was arrested at his home in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria on 28 April 2020 in response to a petition filed with the Police Commissioner of Kano Command on 27 April by S. S. Umar & Co. in which Bala was alleged to have insulted the Prophet Muhammad in his Facebook posts. [2] At the peculiar lock down phase when Mubarak was incarcerated several other voices of dissent suffered a similar fate. To mention but one example, Rotimi Jolayemi, and his wife were both arrested and detained for weeks because of a poem published by Mr Jolayemi which was critical of the Minister of Information and Culture, Mr Lai Mohammed.[3]

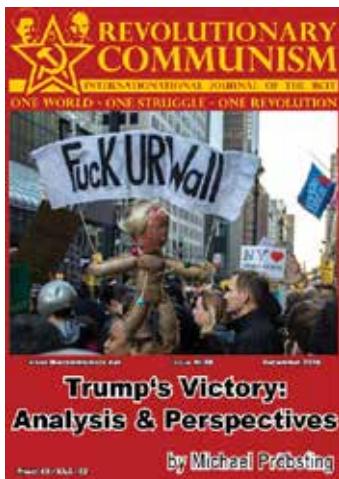
It is particularly interesting that his arrest was based on the Cybercrimes Act of 2015 which we have once categorized as part of the mechanisms to gag freedom of expression of radical voices critical of the Nigerian ruling elite.[4] Thus although the arrest of Bala Mubarak was masked in a religious covering, it was allowed by the powers that be or carried out in order to fast track an enabling environment for a state bonapartist agenda. All of these are symptoms of a seriously ailing Nigerian cum global capitalism. We have cited this development in one of our articles in the past;

*For us in the Vanguard, all these developments are the display of a frantic attempt by the Nigerian bourgeois ruling class to stabilize an already collapsed political order. The Nigerian ruling elite is entering its most vulnerable state, hence it must launch all artillery in its weaponry to forestall the prevalence of radical and revolutionary tendencies. However, at any rate, all these attacks can only promote chaos in the system and enhance the reawakening of the masses to their class role of dashing the capitalist system through a popular revolution. According to a publication; "A Downward Spiral" by the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP)*

*At least 36 Nigerian journalists were attacked between January and July 2019, with 30 of the attacks recorded during the 2019 general elections..... The attacks on the press during the elections included: illegal arrests and detention; harassment; physical attacks; denial of access; death of a journalist covering the elections in Delta State. The platform noted that the attacks were perpetrated by both thugs and state actors and were recorded mostly in the south-south, south-east, and north central part of the country....., "During this period, 44 other broadcast stations were sanctioned such as the Jay 101.5 FM, based in Jos, which was shut down for what the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) described as 'inciting broadcast' in a letter it sent to the station on March 2. In 2018, over 21 attacks were recorded with seven unlawful arrests, which include the arrest of PREMIUM TIMES' reporters, Samuel Ogundipe and Azeem Adedigba, by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) on the order of the Inspector-General of Police. In 2017, PAT recorded 16 attacks and 3 deaths including the gruesome murder of Famous Giobaro of Bayelsa radio station, Glory FM 97.1, who was shot dead on April 16 [5]*

We will not repeat our extensive exposition on this matter which made mention of dictatorial schemes like Operation Positive Identity (OPI), hate speech bill and social media bill, as we did before,[6] we wish rather to point out concrete symptoms of ruling class divides which is a feature of the new stage of decline that opened up with the 2008 economic meltdown. One of these concrete symptoms is Amotekun.

Granted, at the creation of the South Western Security Network (Amotekun) there were prospects for it to be democratized and greatly dominated by the masses and workers despite been the brainchild of the South Western governors. The deteriorating security situation in the na-



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE RCIT

### The Meaning, Consequences and Lessons of Trump's Victory

*By Michael Probsting, November 2016*

**Introduction \* I. The Election Outcome \* II. Where is the Trump Administration Heading? \* III. Global Consequences: The Beginning of a New Era \* IV. Lessons and Perspectives for the Struggle \* V. Summary Theses \* Footnotes**

**A RCIT Pamphlet, 40 pages, A4 Format**

tion especially the increasing encroachment of terrorism and kidnappings on the South Western region inspired mass support for the constitution of an alternate security network besides the Federal state apparatus, such that when the Federal government opposed its creation there were mass protests on the streets.[7] Although the motive of the South Western governors was far from that of the people since they as leaders and representatives of a faction of the Nigerian capitalists only intended to prepare forces for a foreseen showdown with a different faction especially from the Northern part of the country.

Amotekun was the past indication of the now heightened internal conflict of the Nigerian ruling class which is bound to continue as the crises in global capitalism intensifies. We note in passing that Amotekun presently does not hold the same status as at the time of inception as it now stands more as the tool for ruling class in-fighting rather than a mass dominated fighting force. The only way to submit Amotekun to the will of the masses remains the formation of workers and mass controlled self-defense committees.

Another mobilization of political forces amidst opposing parties of the ruling class commensurate with Amotekun is on-going towards the Edo state elections in September. The Edo state elections have such significance as to determine the sway of public opinion concerning the political strength of the two arch-reactionary parties in Nigeria—the All Progressives Congress (APC) & the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The future of the increasingly acute rivalry between both parties is largely dependent on the elections, at the same time the gubernatorial elections of Edo state will prove more and more the similitude of these two parties to fight over the spoils of their age-long war on the Nigerian people.

It is historically proven that the combination of ruling class in-fighting; economic attacks and a turn towards dictatorial methods of rule are features of a decaying system, only now this decay has led to a rise in state bonapartism with the advent of COVID-19. COVID-19 itself is a feature of a global decay in this system, thus all those who prioritize its effects in an isolated manner not regarding the interconnected realities that led to its emergence will continue to go from one pitfall to the other. It was such pitfalls that enabled the criminal arrest and undisclosed prolonged incarceration of Bala Mubarak.

Naturally, we hold certain profound reservations concerning the atheist/humanist circle to which Bala Mubarak belongs. While we admit that religion is an institution that *majorly* corrupts and stagnates mass consciousness or wields public opinion towards conservative and backward sustenance of the capitalist system. We think that any criticism or struggle against religion isolated from its economic and political enablers remains counter-productive as it will only lead to squabbles and quarrels that have no qualitative effect on progressive change in the society. Only those criticism/struggle against religion that have coefficients as practical steps for changing the political and economic system are complete. Besides this, is a camp of mere ultra-radicals and anarchists. It is this same flaw that is responsible for the pacifist and lukewarm approach of online petitions that these Humanist/Atheist associations have taken instead of a radical approach of popular struggle.

We say that these differences do not prevent us from de-

manding the immediate and unconditional release of the Bala Mubarak. We think that the question of religion and the society is one which must be treated with caution yet we distance ourselves from those comrades that refuse to launch a mass campaign for the release of Bala Mubarak or worse still, take a position on the matter because of the “sensitivity” of his case.

Freedom for Bala Mubarak and other victims of political persecution is impossible without full democratic rights to hold mass gatherings and demonstrations. Only a political atmosphere that allows for the expression of the highest democratic rights can change the objective conditions of health and the economy in favour of the masses.

The doctors association in different parts of the country have already abandoned the “sit and look” method of the many “left wing” groups and trade union bureaucracies by launching strikes for better working conditions; better pay; and the expansion of the health sector in line with their progressive counter-parts in the US, Mali, Serbia, Hong Kong and other parts of the world.[8] Revolutionaries must follow this trailblazing example!

Free Bala Mubarak NOW!

[1] <http://saharareporters.com/2020/06/24/nigerian-soldier-arrested-after-criticising-service-chiefs-moved-abuja-sokoto>  
<https://thenationonlineng.net/viral-videos-and-bitter-truth/>  
<https://punchng.com/356-soldiers-tender-resignation-to-buratai-cite-loss-of-interest/>

[2] <https://humanists.international/2020/05/three-weeks-on-mubarak-bala-still-in-detention/>  
<http://saharareporters.com/2020/07/09/re-%E2%80%9Cpolice-detain-atheist-40-days-insulting-prophet-mohammed-%E2%80%9D-leo-igwe>  
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/07/08/nigeria-humanist-group-leader-held-incommunicado>

[3] <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.dailystreet.com.ng/rights-group-rise-against-detention-of-journalist-hounded-by-lai-others.html/amp>

[4] see DOWN WITH THE AUTHORITARIAN REGIME OF MUHAMMADU BUHARI! STOP THE HATE SPEECH BILL! FREE SOWORE, BAKARE AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS! Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigeria, 12th November, 2019, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/nigeria-down-with-the-authoritarian-regime-of-buhari/>

[5] see DOWN WITH THE AUTHORITARIAN REGIME OF MUHAMMADU BUHARI! STOP THE HATE SPEECH BILL! FREE SOWORE, BAKARE AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS! Statement of the Revolutionary Socialist Vanguard (RSV), Nigeria, 12th November, 2019, <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/nigeria-down-with-the-authoritarian-regime-of-buhari/>

[6] see [5] above

[7] <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.this-daylive.com/index.php/2020/01/22/solidarity-protests-in-south-west-over-amotekun/amp/>  
<https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2020/01/21/amotekun-protest-police-take-over-gani-fawehinmi-park/>  
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://punchng.com/breaking-police-take-over-amotekun-protest-venue-in-lagos/%3Famp%3D1&ved=2ahUEw18oNzAr-rqAhUHhx-oKHBwTC0sQFjAKEgQICB&usg=AOvVaw3ntMaOY2pSBiTm2-UaKXR&ampcf=1&cshid=1595748410592>

[8] <https://globalvoices.org/2020/07/23/a-never-ending-cycle-of-doctors-strikes-and-funding-debacles-leaves-nigerians-at-the-mercy-of-the-pandemic/>  
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/401338-ekiti-risks-health-crisis-as-healthcare-workers-doctors-strike.html>  
<https://thenationonlineng.net/medical-doctors-to-go-on-strike-in-delta/>  
<https://allafrica.com/stories/202007240881.html>

## Egypt: Rally on the 7th Anniversary on the Rabaa Massacre

*Report (with Photos and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 15 August 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT*

The Egyptian migrant community organized a rally in the centre of Vienna to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the horrific Rabaa massacre. On 14 August 2013 the Egyptian army, under the command of General Sisi, smashed the popular mass demonstrations against the military coup which took place shortly before. This barbarous crackdown resulted in the murder of up to 2,600 demonstrators on a single day! Since then, the military dictatorship has tyrannically ruled the country with the consent of all Great Powers.

Ibrahim Ali, the leader of the Egyptian migrant community, sharply denounced the brutal regime of General Sisi.

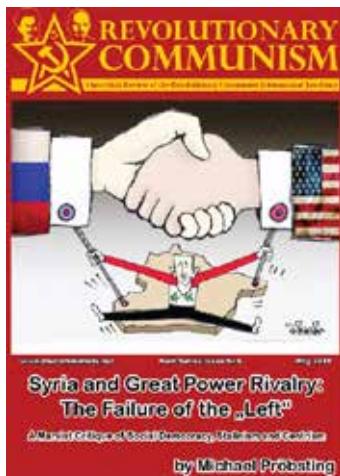
He pointed out that the West closely collaborates with the military dictatorship

Activists of the Austrian section of the RCIT participated in the rally. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, addressed the rally twice – once in German and once in English language. He condemned the military regime as well as the imperialist Great Powers in West and East – including the European Union.

*See photos and video clips of Michael Pröbsting's speech here: <https://www.thecomunists.net/rcit/egypt-rally-at-anniversary-of-rabaa-massacre-15-8-2020/>*



Rally against the dictatorship of General Sisi in Egypt (Vienna, 15.8.2020); Michael Pröbsting speaks (right)



### Publications of the RCIT

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

By Michael Pröbsting, April 2018

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

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

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

# Idlib/Syria: For the Immediate Release of the Journalist Bilal Abdul Kareem!

*Emergency Statement of the RCIT, 15 August 2020*

1. Bilal Abdul Kareem, the founder of the *On the Ground News* network, has been arrested by the security apparatus of *Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham* (HTS) on 13 August. Kareem is a Black American Muslim and one of the most prominent foreign journalists covering Syria's civil war. He is living in free Syria for a number of years and is an outspoken supporter of the popular liberation struggle against the tyranny of Assad. He was also put on a US "kill list" and narrowly escaped several attacks by US drones.

2. The official reasons for Abdul Kareem's arrest and the nature of any charges he faces remain unknown. However, it seems that Karrem was arrested because he reported about the re-arrest of Tauqir Sharif, a British aid worker based in Idlib. He also broadcasted an interview with Sharif's wife, Racquell Hayden-Best, in which she alleged that her husband had been tortured in HTS custody.

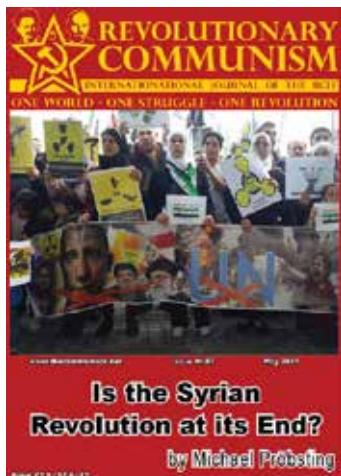
3. The RCIT strongly condemns the arrest of brother Kareem and demands his immediate and unconditional release. Likewise, we call on HTS to immediate release Tauqir Sharif and to stop any further persecution of him. The RCIT, as an international organization, has supported the liberation struggle of the Syrian people against the tyranny of Assad and Putin from the very first hour. We continue to defend the ongoing Syrian Revolution irrespective of our political criticism of the current leadership of

this struggle. At the same time, we defend the right of free speech of the supporters of the Syrian Revolution.

*International Bureau of the RCIT*



Journalist Bilal Abdul Kareem (Source: Facebook)



## Publications of the RCIT

### Is the Syrian Revolution at its End? Is Third Camp Abstentionism Justified?

*By Michael Probsting, April 2017*

*An essay on the organs of popular power in the liberated area of Syria, on the character of the different sectors of the Syrian rebels, and on the failure of those leftists who deserted the Syrian Revolution*

Introduction \* The Nature of the Local Coordination Councils in Syria \* The Contradictory Nature of the Petty-Bourgeois Rebel Fractions \* A note on the adjectival juxtaposition of "progressive" to liberal democrats versus "reactionary" to Islamists \* Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham and Other Islamist Militias \* The Role of Religion in Democratic and National Liberation Struggles \* Some Arguments on the Ongoing Progressive Character of the Syrian Revolution \* Have the Rebels Become Agents of US Imperialism and Regional Powers? \* On Foreign Powers' Support for Liberation Movements p\* Lenin and Trotsky on Liberation Struggles and Imperialist Interference \* What Did Lenin and Trotsky Say about Getting Support from Imperialists? \* Imagining Two Different Scenarios of the Revolution's Success & Failure \* A Period of Defeats and Retreats: What Are the Reasons? \* Some Thoughts on the Future Prospects of the Arab Revolution \* The Urgent Need for a Revolutionary Party \* Footnotes

A RCIT Pamphlet, 24 pages, A4 Format

# Popular Uprising in Lebanon: “Resign or Hang!”

*Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 9 August 2020*

1. The militant mass demonstration in the centre of Beirut on 8 August represents a new high point in the revolutionary process which opened in Lebanon in autumn 2019. Thousands of people clashed with the army and police, several ministries were stormed and temporarily occupied, and the offices of the Association of Lebanese Banks trashed. According to *Al-Jazeera*, at least 728 people have been wounded. One policeman was killed during the clashes. The mood of the demonstration was extraordinarily militant. “Resign or hang,” said one banner at the demonstration. Another slogan was “Leave, you are all killers”. People also chanted the most famous slogan of the Arab Revolution beginning in 2011 – “the people want the fall of the regime”.

2. These militant mass protests have been triggered by the devastating explosion in the port of Beirut which shattered the city last Tuesday. This catastrophe killed more than 150 and wounded over 5,000 people. About 60 people are still missing. Over 300,000 people had been rendered homeless, as much of the city has suffered from huge material damage. According to officials the blast could have caused losses amounting to \$15 billion – an economic disaster for a country which has already defaulted this year for the first time ever because of its monstrous debt exceeding 150% of economic output. At the same time, it is estimated that 50% of Lebanon’s population are already living below the poverty line.

3. While the cause of the explosion is still under investigation, there is strong indication that about 2,750 tonnes of highly explosive ammonium nitrate, which is

used in making fertilisers and bombs, had been stored for six years without safety measures at a port warehouse. Hence, the devastating catastrophe is rightly enraging popular hatred as it reflects once more the criminal incompetence and corruption of the ruling elite.

4. However, it would be wrong to exclude the possibility of outside sabotage, or more concretely, of a cyber-attack by Israel. Various officials in Lebanon and internationally (including US President Trump) have indicated such a possibility. One Israeli right-wing politician, Moshe Feiglin, even praised the explosion as a “gift of god”. Such an attack would not be surprising since this is exactly what the Zionist state has done repeatedly against Iran in the past months. Given the current tensions at the border of Israel and Lebanon (after the Israeli air force killed a Hezbollah fighter in Syria) and the severe domestic crisis of the Netanyahu government, such a cyber-attack could help Tel Aviv as it forces Hezbollah – which is part of the current government – to focus on the political crisis in its own country.

5. It is evident that various imperialist powers try to exploit the Beirut explosion for their own political interests. Behind their offers to “help” Lebanon lurks their desire to increase their influence in a very volatile region in which nearly all Great Powers – the U.S., the EU, Russia and China – have high stakes. This is the real purpose of the virtual international “donor” conference launched by French President Macron and which shall be attended by US President Donald Trump and other top state leaders. Unsurprisingly, French imperialism is particularly keen to

## Books of the RCIT

### Yossi Schwartz: Palestine and Zionism

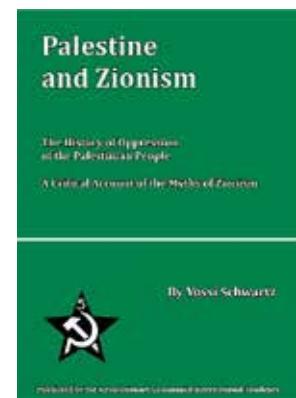
#### The History of Oppression of the Palestinian People. A Critical Account of the Myths of Zionism

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

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

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

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



strengthen its position in the former colony where it had operated since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. President Macron visited Beirut the day after the explosion and attacked the government in a patronizing way. He said that “France will never let Lebanon go” and that “the heart of the French people still beats to the pulse of Beirut.” As an article of the Associated Press noted, “It was almost as if Emmanuel Macron forgot that Lebanon is no longer a French protectorate.” Pro-French Christian circles in Lebanon have even initiated an online petition asking France to temporarily restore its mandate, saying Lebanon’s leaders have shown “total inability to secure and manage the country.” Numerous critiques in Lebanon as well as in France have denounced Macron’s interference as creeping neo-colonialism in order to extract political concessions from Lebanon in exchange for aid. Some aptly called the French President “Macron Bonaparte, a 21st century Emperor Napoleon”.

6. In response to the mass demonstration on Saturday, Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab called for early parliamentary elections. This is an obvious attempt to pacify the current revolutionary situation. The government is fully aware that it has lost all legitimacy given the devastating economic crisis, increasing misery for the popular classes, political corruption as well as the powerful mass protests since nearly one year. All these contradictions have accelerated now dramatically with the explosion in Beirut’s port. Hence, the government fears that it could be swept away soon by a violent popular uprising. New parliamentary elections could deflect this mass anger and offer a new chance for the political elite to “renovate” itself without endangering the political and economic capitalist order.

7. The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) strongly welcomes the new upsurge of the mass protests against the reactionary government. We warn against any attempt of the regime to lead astray the popular uprising by calling new elections. This is nothing but a diversionary maneuver which shall buy time for the ruling class and which would again leave political business outside of popular control. People could cast a ballot once and, after this, all decisions would be made via political horse trading and manipulations. Likewise, the RCIT strongly warns against all attempts by France and other imperialist powers to exploit the crisis for expanding their influence in Lebanon. Do not forget, all the corrupt politicians in Lebanon and the whole Arab world could only stay in power for so long because they have been closely linked with imperialist states and their corporations. Just remember Trump’s characterization of General Sisi in Egypt as “my favorite dictator”! And Assad would have been buried by the insurrectional masses long time ago if he would not have got such massive financial and military aid of Russia!

8. The workers and poor have no reason to trust any politician of the establishment or any imperialist power. It is also important to reject any attempt of arch-reactionary forces (e.g. like the right-wing Christian Kataeb party of Samy Gemayel, a long-time ally of Israel) to exploit the current protests for their own maneuvers. There should be no doubt: all the established parties are allied with one or the other imperialist power. While the right-wing Christian parties or the forces around Hariri want to pull Lebanon in the Western camp, Hezbollah and its allies rather

lean to the Russian-Chinese camp. All of them are enemies of the people! Likewise the masses have also no reason to trust the army as it is not an institution “above politics” but an armed instrument of the ruling class.

9. No, the workers and oppressed must only trust their own strength! The RCIT calls the popular masses to organize themselves in *action councils at work places, neighborhoods, universities and villages*. Likewise it is important to build *self-defense committees* – as a first step towards workers and popular militias – defending the masses against the police and army. The people should overthrow the whole ruling elite by staging a *nation-wide, indefinite, general strike* leading to a popular insurrection. The goal must be the creation of a *workers and poor peasants government* based on popular committees of action. The insurgent masses should convoke a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly*. Only such a strategy can enable the major task of rebuilding Beirut after its massive destruction without imperialist re-colonialization.

10. It is the view of the RCIT that an authentic government of the workers and popular masses should *nationalize the key sectors of industry, service and finance under workers control and without any compensation of the capitalists!* It should organize a *public employment program* under control of the workers and popular organization. Such a program could abolish unemployment and poverty and help reconstructing the country.

11. It is equally urgent that workers and popular organizations around the world rally in solidarity with the Lebanese people. They should demand from their governments and all imperialist institutions (like the IMF) to immediately *cancel all debts*. Furthermore, they must force their governments to *send aid without any political conditions* so that Beirut can be rebuilt.

12. The RCIT emphasizes that that it is crucial to link the popular uprising with other liberation struggles. The first step should be to support the Syrian Revolution which began in March 2011 and where the masses are still holding out in Idlib against the overwhelming occupation forces of Russia, Iran, Hezbollah and they lackey Assad. Likewise, the insurrectional people need to link to the mass protests in Iraq. It is equally crucial to declare their unlimited support for the Palestinian liberation struggle and for the struggle to smash the Zionist state. The goal should be, as we said in past RCIT statements, to work towards a *single Intifada of the entire Middle East* – from Baghdad and Beirut, Idlib, Tripoli, Sana'a, Gaza, Cairo, Algiers, Khartoum to Teheran!

13. In order to implement such a perspective, revolutionaries need to unite in building *revolutionary parties* – in combination with building a *Revolutionary World Party!* We urge activists to unite on the basis of a program of socialist liberation and solidarity with the struggles of workers and oppressed in other countries. Join the RCIT in tackling this great task!

*International Bureau of the RCIT*

# Israel / Occupied Palestine: On the Anti-Netanyahu Demonstrations

*Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel/Occupied Palestine), 01.08.2020*

While initially consisting of a few dozen middle-aged and older protesters, staging quiet sit-ins near the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem in June and July, now the demonstrations swelled to many thousands of mostly young angry protesters. From the beginning the demonstrations have objected to Netanyahu's remaining in office while standing trial for corruption. Now the many angry, hopeless, unemployed Israeli Jews object to Netanyahu's mishandling of the coronavirus and the financial crisis. Several violent incidents have erupted over the past few weeks when the demonstrators have been attacked by the prime minister's extreme right-wing supporters. (1) The evidence is that the police in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv and near Netanyahu's private residence in Caesarea (a beach town) have acted in support of Netanyahu's supporters.

The Palestinians citizens of Israel are absent from these demonstrations. It is not because they would have to travel to Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. Watching these protests many of them take place at intersections not far from major Arab towns or villages. In other words, the protesters do not raise any demand that can attract the Palestinians citizens of Israel. The protesters want democracy but only for Jews. This is evidence by the many Zionist flags alongside black flags and the absent of any Palestinian flags or any Palestinian symbols.

Many of the Jewish protesters support Yair Lapid's party "Yesh Atid" that lately has announced that he is ready to form a coalition government with the Anti Arabs Avigdor Lieberman that is on the record for his plans of ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians citizens of Israel and with the right-wing party of Benet's "Yemina" (The right). Some of them are supporters of Meretz, a left Zionist party, that has concluded that the best way to come to power is by disassociating itself from the Arabs. (2) In 2014, when Israel killed more than 2000 Palestinians in Gaza, Meretz condemned those few who opposed the massacres and were attacked by right wingers.

While these protests take place, the Israeli repression in the 1967 Occupied Palestinian lands, including East Jerusalem, has increased. Israel continues to hamper efforts to combat the virus, making a severe crisis even worse. In Al-Khalil (Hebron) one of the hardest hit areas in Palestine by COVID-19 pandemic, the Israeli army once again destroyed a coronavirus testing clinic in July. Israel continues to jeopardize the lives of Palestinian prisoners, including children, who are being detained in its jails in this time of pandemic.

Yet the demonstrators do not protest in any form or shape this repression. Nor do they raise any demand against the capitalists or for the very poor in Israel including the ultra-religious Jews and a large part of the Arab population.

According to the polls while Netanyahu's popularity is in decline the party led by Naftali Bennett is winning popularity. In Israel in general the Israeli youth tend to the right.

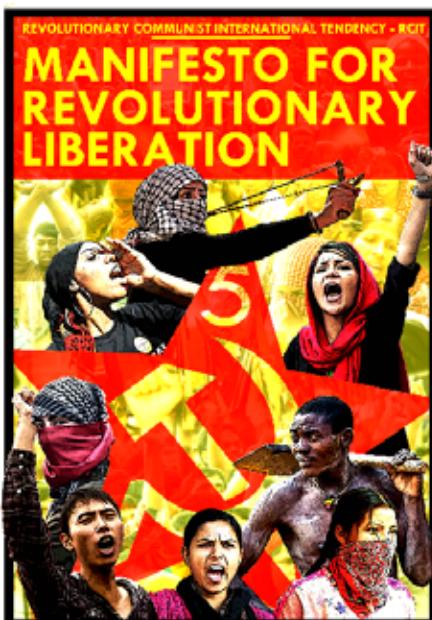
It is clear that the protest to large degree reflects the division in Israel between those who gained properties in the war of 1948 (The youth, children of those who gained property in 1948 - the Zionist left and center) who feel that they lose power, and those who gained from the war of 1967 and want more political power, who support the right wing parties and most of them do not participate in the protests and some of them even attack the protesters.

The situation brings to mind the white workers in South Africa that wanted democracy and even "socialism" only for whites.

For the above reasons the ISL have decided not to participate in these demonstrations.

(1) <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/anti-netanyahu-protest-movement-to-go-global-over-weekend-636990>

(2) <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/04/israel-ehud-olmert-avi-gabbay-benjamin-netanyahu-benny-gantz.html>



## Program of the RCIT

# Manifesto for Revolutionary Liberation

*Adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress of the RCIT in October 2016*

**Introduction \* I. Decaying Capitalism \* II. Today's Worldwide Historic Revolutionary Period \* III. The Reactionary Offensive of the Ruling Class \* IV. A Program for Socialist Revolution to Halt Humanity's Collapse into Barbarism \* V. The Crisis of Leadership and the Construction of a Revolutionary World Party \* VI. Work in Mass Organizations and the United Front Tactic \* VII. The Semi-Colonial South \* VIII. The Emerging Imperialist Great Powers of the East: China and Russia \* IX. The Old Imperialist Great Powers: The EU, North America and Japan \* X. Conclusion**

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A5 Format*

# Indian-Occupied Kashmir: Resistance in the Concentration Camp

## On the first anniversary of the abolition of Kashmir's constitutional autonomy by the Modi government

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, 28 July 2020

In a few days will be the first anniversary of the revocation of the Article 370 – the constitutional provision, which formally guaranteed a limited autonomy to Kashmir. Since the 5 August 2019, the region has been transformed into a huge concentration camp. People are forced to live under lockdown conditions for most of the time. In addition, there has been an internet shutdown for nearly half a year. While this has been lifted in February this year the region still suffers from severe restrictions in internet access.

Already before the revocation of Article 370, Kashmir has been one of the most militarized places in the world. In fact, the region – home of a population of 12 million people – has been occupied since decades by more than half a million Indian soldiers. Since the 5 August last year, this number has even increased.

The Indian occupation forces have accelerated its attacks on the local population. People are constantly harassed on the streets and in their homes. Numerous people are abducted, tortured or killed. A few weeks ago, a picture went viral on social media. It shows a three-year-old child sitting on his grandfather's dead body. The 65-year-old civilian had been killed before in Sopore town during one of the numerous operations of the Indian army. This picture symbolizes the horrific conditions under which the Kashmiri people are forced to live.

In addition, most pro-freedom leaders have been imprisoned. Even many moderate pro-India politicians, like former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, have been thrown into jail.

Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state. According to the last census in 2011, Muslims form the majority at 68 percent of the population and Hindus constitute around 28 percent of residents. One of the main goals of the reactionary chauvinist government of Prime Minister Modi is the "Hinduization" of Kashmir. It wants to engineer a drastic demographic change so that the Muslims are no longer a majority.

They hope to achieve this, on one hand, by a policy of revoking residency rights of the original inhabitants of the state. On the other hand, the government has started issuing 'domicile' certificates to Indian citizens from outside. Until the revocation of Article 370, local residents had exclusive land and job rights guaranteed under the Indian constitution. However since then, the government granted more than 25,000 domicile certificates to outsiders. In fact, the authorities are pressurizing Hindu employees in the public administration to apply for such domicile certificates. Those officials who fail to do so within a stipulated time period are threatened with a penalty of 50,000 rupees (\$700).

This policy resembles Israel's policy of ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian people. We warned against this already in our first statement on the revocation of Article 370: *"No one should be under any illusion: Modi's revocation of Article 370 is designed to be the beginning of an "Israeli solu-*

*tion" of Kashmir, the only state in India with a Muslim majority. This means that the BJP's goal is to systematically settle Hindu chauvinists in Kashmir and to expel Muslim people from the region – similar to the Zionists' policy against the native Arab population in historic Palestine. The purpose of such a Hindu chauvinist policy of ethnic cleansing is to transform the Muslim people of Kashmir into a minority in their own state."* (RCIT: India: Defend the Kashmiri People against Modi's "Israel-Style" Attack! 6 August 2019) In fact, Modi's Hindu-chauvinist BJP has always been close to the Zionist state and leading figures of his Administration have openly stated that they want to implement the "Israeli model" in Kashmir. In short, *Hindutva* and Zionism are partners in crime!

Despite the extreme conditions of militarized occupation – there might be about one Indian soldier for every ten Muslims in the region – New Delhi has failed to break the resistance of the Kashmiri people. Since the beginning of the popular uprising in 1989, more than 100,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed. And since the 5 August, India's state terrorism has become even worse. But the heroic Kashmiri people continue their resistance. Youth continue to demonstrate on the streets and clash with the occupation forces. Many join the guerrilla forces in order to resist the occupation with arms. According to the *Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society* (JKCCS) at least 229 people have been killed since January during more than 100 military operations across the region, including 32 civilians, 54 government forces and 143 rebels.

There can be no doubt that the Kashmiri people don't want to live under Indian occupation. They want freedom ("Azadi!"). It is the duty of all socialists, all democrats, all righteous people around the world to support the struggle of the Kashmiri people for freedom. We repeat: Kashmir is our second Palestine! Their liberation is our liberation!

\* \* \* \*

We refer reader also to other articles and documents of the RCIT on this issue which are collected in a special subsection on our website: <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/asia/collection-of-articles-on-the-liberation-struggle-in-kashmir/>

# India: Rally against the Oppression of the Kashmiri People

*Report (with Pictures and Videos) from a Rally in Vienna on 5 August 2020, Austrian Section of the RCIT*

**A**bout 100 migrants from Pakistan and Kashmir held a rally in the center of Vienna (Austria) to demonstrate against the oppression of the Kashmiri people. The rally took place on the first anniversary of the abolition of Kashmir's constitutional autonomy by the Hindutva-chauvinist Modi government. It was organized by the *Pakistani Community Forum in Austria* – a federation of numerous migrant NGO's.

The rally was addressed by a number of representatives of the migrant community. Our comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, was asked to give two speeches (one in German, the other in English). He

stated our support for the Kashmiri people who face brutal repression since decades by the Indian army. He also called for an international solidarity movement with the liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people.

*See pictures of the rally and video clips of Michael Pröbsting's speeches here: <https://www.thecomunists.net/rcit/rally-in-solidarity-with-kashmir-5-8-2020/>*

*Our articles, pamphlets and statement on Kashmir are collected at a special sub-page on the RCIT's website: <https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/asia/collection-of-articles-on-the-liberation-struggle-in-kashmir/>*



Rally in solidarity with the people in Kashmir (Vienna, 5.8.2020); Michael Pröbsting gives an interview (right)

## RCIT Publications on Kashmir & India

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

*Written by Michael Pröbsting  
(International Secretary of the RCIT)*

*Order them via our contact addresses*



# Thailand: Pro-Democracy Activists call for Resignation of Prayut-Chan-o-cha and his Bonapartist Regime Fight for an Indefinite General Strike and a Workers Government

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, August 2020

**T**hailand is ruled by a Bonapartist military dictatorship, although there was a general election in 2019. Prayut-Chan-o-cha and his military dictatorship have ruled Thailand since 2013 when he and the army overthrew the populist, capitalist government of Yingluck Shinawatra of the Thai Pheu Party. In 2019 Prayut-Chan-o-cha (the coup leader) called a general election which produced an inclusive result. The Thai Pheu party won the most seats in the lower house and tried to form a coalition with other bourgeois democratic parties. However, under Thailand's corrupt constitutional monarchy Prayut-Chan-o-cha and his Palang Pracharat party was able to win a majority by appointing 250 senators in the upper house, depriving the Thai Pheu party of forming a government.

## Future Forward Party was Banned

Under Thailand's anti-democratic constitution, bribery and corruption are rife with harassment and provocations by the state police force and army. Many Thai Pheu members of parliament were persuaded by bribes to switch parties. The populist, bourgeois-liberal Future Forward Party led by a young capitalist Billionaire was banned and its leader, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, was arrested and jailed under some trumped up politically motivated charge.

As the RCIT commented at the time, the regime of Prayut-Chan-o-cha would brook no opposition from any quarter. "The Future Forward party, a bourgeois liberal party which is well supported by the youth and students, gained 89 seats in the 2019 General Election. The Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayut Chan-O-cha influenced the decision of the constitutional court to ban the Future Forward party because its leader had given a large loan to the party. However, the real reason for this decision was to eliminate any opposition to his rule. The decision to ban the Future Forward party was a deliberate decision by the regime in Thailand to eliminate any opposition to its rule. Thailand with its notorious, undemocratic system of government faces demonstrations and protests from mainly students in the universities opposed to the decision of the courts to ban the Future Forward Party. Political analysts in Thailand have also pointed to the crisis of the Coronavirus epidemic coupled with climate change which is affecting Thailand's ability to compete on the capitalist markets in Southeast Asia".[1]

## Pro-Democracy Demonstrations

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected Thailand badly, the masses have erupted in demonstrations in Bangkok and other areas against this reactionary police state.

"Around 2,500 Thai protesters took to the streets in Bangkok on Saturday night demanding the resignation of the government and the dissolution of parliament, defying a coronavirus ban on gatherings in one of the largest street demonstrations since a

2014 military coup.

People at the student-led rally near Bangkok's Democracy Monument cited a litany of complaints against the year-old civilian government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the former army chief who ousted an elected government six years ago.

Organisers issued three demands: the dissolution of parliament, an end to harassment of government critics, and amendments to the military-written constitution that critics say virtually guaranteed victory for Prayuth's party in elections last year".[2].

"Though pandemic lockdowns prematurely quashed a burgeoning anti-government movement in March, recent days have seen some of Thailand's largest anti-government protests since its 2014 military coup.

According to Reuters, around 2,500 mostly young Thai protesters gathered at Bangkok's Democracy Monument on Saturday to demand sweeping changes: the dissolution of parliament, an end to official harassment of government critics, and a rewriting of the nation's constitution, which was most recently revised under the provisional military government in 2017. Smaller groups of protesters gathered at a military base and the prime minister's office on Monday evening, the AP reports".[3]

Most of these young pro-democracy activists have demonstrated through the Covid-19 pandemic where there were lockdowns enforced. Unlike most of the centrist left throughout the world, these young activists (mainly students) ignored the bonapartist measures and turned out to protests against Thailand's police state.

"Several thousand anti-government protesters rallied in Thailand's capital on Saturday to call for a new constitution, new elections and an end to repressive laws.

Chanting and waving placards, the demonstrators, comprising mainly younger Thais, converged on Bangkok's iconic Democracy Monument in the old part of the city, a popular venue for dissent.

The gathering, organized by a group calling itself Liberation Youth, was the biggest of its kind since the government called a state of emergency in March to deal with the coronavirus".[4]

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Protests against the government of former army Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha had been drawing increasingly large crowds at the time".[5].

## For a Worker's Government based on the Urban and Rural Poor

Thailand was one of the strongest economies in South-East Asia, but the onset of the competing rivalries of impe-

rialism has battered the country. The truth of the matter is that Thailand since the Covid-19 pandemic started, faces ruin and bankruptcy with the onset of the immense crisis of capitalism. This has led to Thailand's major tourist industry facing a 40% reduction largely due to the pandemic. There are no holiday makers and local beaches are empty, with no chance of improvement. The hotel and tourism industry is on the verge of collapse leading to mass unemployment, austerity, starvation and poverty for a massively growing number of people. This weak economic basis combined with the bonapartist regime could provoke a pre-revolutionary situation in Thailand and affect other capitalist countries in South-East Asia.

The RCIT puts forward the following demands to unite the workers, the poor peasants, the youth and the urban poor to overthrow this reactionary bonapartist regime and establish a workers government.

\* *Support the strikes and demonstration by the Pro-Democracy Movement, without landing any political support for liberal bourgeois forces. Extend the protests to include the working class and the urban poor and fight for a revolutionary, working-class perspective of the movement!*

\* *Overthrow the Prayut-Chan-o-cha regime! Organise strikes up to Indefinite General Strike to bring down this Reactionary Bonapartist Regime!*

\* *For a Constituent Assembly under the control of the organ-*

*ized popular masses! For a Workers Government based on councils of the urban and rural poor!*

\* *For Armed Self-Defense Guards of workers, students and the poor peasants to protect their communities, towns and villages against attacks by Police, Army and Fascist Gangs.*

\* *Abolish all foreign debt without compensation! Expropriate the Multinational Corporations and put them under Workers Control!*

\* *We call on all workers and poor peasants to fight for these demands with us! Join the RCIT as a first step towards the creation of a Revolutionary Socialist World Party, the 5th International.*

#### Footnotes

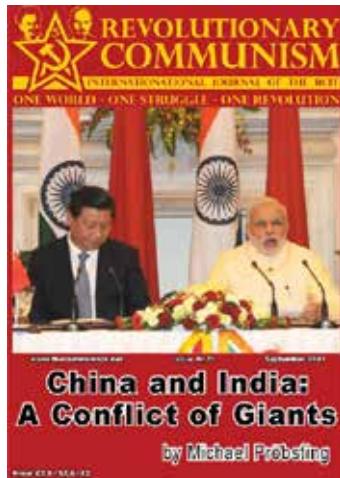
(1) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/thailand-future-forward-party-banned-and-it-s-mps-expelled-from-parliament/>

(2) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/thai-demonstrators-call-prayuth-government-resign-200719021042112.html>

(3) [https://www.vice.com/en\\_uk/article/v7gyby/thailand-largest-anti-government-protests-since-coup](https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/v7gyby/thailand-largest-anti-government-protests-since-coup)

(4) <https://globalnews.ca/news/7192586/bangkok-democracy-protests-thailand/>

(5) <https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/thousands-bangkok-rally-against-thai-government>



## Publications of the RCIT

### The China-India Conflict: Its Causes and Consequences

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

*A Pamphlet by Michael Probsting (International Secretary of the RCIT)*

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 36 pages, A4 Format*

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

# UK: Starmer dismisses Long-Bailey because of her Criticism on Israel

## Socialists should break with Labour and fight for a new Workers Party!

Article by Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, August 2020

**R**ebecca Long-Bailey, the Pro-Corbyn supporter who was defeated by Keir Starmer in the Labour party leadership election and then appointed by him as Shadow Education Secretary, was dismissed for retweeting a comment from the actress Maxine Peake, alleging that Israel had been giving advice to the American military on arms training.

*"Keir Starmer is facing a showdown with the left of Labour after his decisive sacking of Rebecca Long-Bailey reignited the party's internal turmoil over the issue of antisemitism."*

*In a swift move, Long-Bailey was summarily dismissed as shadow education secretary for sending an approving tweet about an interview in which the actor Maxine Peake said the US police tactic of kneeling on someone's neck was taught by the Israeli secret service.*

*This was emphatically denied by Israel, and Peake later retracted the claim. By then, however, Long-Bailey had been fired"* [1]

### Starmer embraces Zionism

The first act by Starmer on getting elected as leader of the Labour Party was to approach all the Zionist organizations in Britain and wholeheartedly support their definition of Anti-Semitism, defined by the International Holocaust Organization. By their definition any criticism of the state of Israel is automatically anti-semitic, again conflating Zionism with Anti-Semitism and allowing these pro-Zionist organizations to determine who should remain a Labour Party member or not.

*"I support Zionism without qualification" – those are the words of the UK Labour Party's new leader, Keir Starmer*

*Starmer won the membership election to succeed left-winger and Palestine solidarity veteran Jeremy Corbyn last weekend.*

*His first act as leader has been to declare the party's allegiance to the Israel lobby, and to signal an impending purge of the left wing of the party membership under the pretext of combating "Labour anti-Semitism."*

*Throughout his four and a half years as Labour leader, Corbyn was incessantly defamed with a manufactured anti-Semitism crisis by the Israel lobby and by the right wing of his own party.*

*"Anti-Semitism has been a stain on our party," Starmer claimed in his victory speech, giving full credence to the smears against his predecessor. Labour lawmakers – who are overwhelmingly right wing – never accepted the result of the democratic leadership election which brought Corbyn to national prominence in 2015, and repeatedly attempted to overthrow him.*

*They finally succeeded last December. After the party's defeat in the general election, Corbyn announced he would be stepping down.*

*Polling suggested that the Labour anti-Semitism smear campaign had a major impact on the general election outcome.*

*The Israel lobby was jubilant, with one major group gloating that they had "slaughtered" Corbyn.*

*But Labour members never accepted the false narrative".* [2]

Of course as the RCIT has explained many times, both Corbyn and McDonnell (his closest ally when Corbyn was leader) capitulated to the scenario that Starmer now espouses: that anti-zionism and genuine hatred against jews

is both equally anti-semitism. We have pointed out consistently that Israel is a racist, imperialist settler state. It is above any reason to criminalise criticism against such a state especially as it means to ignore the forced displacement, oppression and exploitation of the Palestinian people.

*"Let us be clear the State of Israel is a racist, Imperialist and apartheid state comparable to the Worst excesses practiced against the Black Population of South Africa by the Ruling white racist minority. The aim of the Zionists and Blairites is to use Anti-Semitism as a weapon to drive out all pro Corbyn supporters and Socialists in the Labour Party".* [3]

Jennie Formby, the Corbyn appointed General Secretary, resigned as soon as she knew Starmer was the new leader. In her place the NEC appointed David Evans (a notorious Blairite) to the position. Since his appointment all constituency Labour parties have been closed down and are not allowed to make decisions. It is part of the Lockdown's left decision not to meet because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, they even refuse to meet virtually as other organizations have done which shows the real, anti-democratic reasons for this move. It is a deliberate policy by Starmer and the pro-Imperialist wing in the Labour Party to close and prevent any challenge to the right wing apparatus. This denial of democracy increased during the Corbyn Era, brings back the policies of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown where party democracy was strictly prevented and socialists were expelled, purged and suspended from the Party. This is the course that Starmer is pursuing.

*"The National Executive Committee met on Tuesday to choose its most senior official after the resignation of Jennie Formby earlier this month.*

*Six candidates were shortlisted for the post, but Mr Evans was thought to be favoured by the leadership. Some unions were thought to have wanted someone from the left of the party.*

*One NEC source from the Labour left warned the leadership that "members won't forgive them if they allow a hard-right general secretary to wage factional warfare" against them.* [4]

Starmer's recent comments on the Black Lives matter is indicative of the rightward course being pursued by the pro-capitalist wing under Starmer's leadership. He referred to the *Black Lives Matter* movement as just 'A Moment' and is opposed to their major criticism of police brutality amongst Black people in Britain. He is opposed to 'Defunding the police' and any investigation of police brutality. This is not surprising from someone who had worked for the *Crown Prosecution Service* in the past. For his service to British Imperialism he even received a Knighthood. Starmer was an integral part of the capitalist state. He has now referred to unconscious bias and some training in understanding the issues of the Black community.

*"Keir Starmer has said he will sign up for unconscious bias training amid criticism of his response to Black Lives Matter protests and calls from a new co-chair of Momentum to "get Labour's house in order" over racism. During an appearance by Starmer on LBC on Monday morning, a caller challenged him for describing the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement as a "moment" during a BBC Breakfast interview a week ago. That*

*turn of phrase and his dismissal in the same interview of calls to "defund the police" and divert the money elsewhere as "nonsense", led to accusations that Starmer was belittling the grievances of anti-racism campaigners."* [5]

### Arguments for a New Workers Party

Meanwhile in some centrist circles there are calls for a Workers party in Britain; most prominent is the Socialist Party of Britain. Their demand for a Workers Party however, is reduced to empty reformist slogans by standing candidates in bourgeois elections in competition with the Labour Party. This is a wrong electoral orientation full of empty rhetoric and has nothing to do with authentic socialism.

*"That is why the Socialist Party is urgently raising the need for the workers' movement to discuss how to solve the crisis of political representation, by taking steps to towards building a new mass workers' party with a socialist programme. One vital step in that direction would be to organise the widest possible number of anti-cuts candidates in next May's local and mayoral elections".*[6].

The Socialist Party, like all centrist groups, are tied to the trade union bureaucracy, the pro-capitalist wing in the workers movement. During the period of the Bonapartist lockdown, this bureaucracy has not lifted a finger to defend its members and continues to accept 'The crumbs at the masters table'. Centrists like the Socialist Party provide the left cover and protect the bureaucracy at all costs. It is a worthless exercise ultimately in defence of capitalism. UNITE, one of the biggest trade unions refuses to defend its 12,000 members at British Airways or the 9,000 members at Rolls Royce who either face the sack or reemployed

on temporary contracts.

The RCIT in Britain calls on all workers and militants to break politically with the Labour Party and form a serious Workers party dedicated to destroying capitalism and fighting for a Workers Government. In the Trade Unions this involves a struggle to drive the trade union bureaucracy out of the workers movement and replace it with a genuine revolutionary leadership.

The RCIT puts forwards the following demands

\* *For Demonstrations, Strikes and Occupations of workplaces up to an Indefinite General Strike in order to remove this hated Tory government!*

\* *For Councils of actions to be built in every locality to organise workers and communities! Fight for a Workers Government!*

\* *Strikes up to an indefinite General Strike need protection against the police forces and any right-wing attacks! For the building of armed Self-Defence Units to protect such a protest movement against any attacks!*

\* *Organise a Conference to encourage All Socialists and Principled Militants to leave the Labour Party and to form a Genuine Workers Party! All revolutionaries must fight for a new Workers Party based on an Authentic Socialist Program!*

\* *Join the RCIT in order to fight for such a perspective!*

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/25/keir-starmer-sacks-rebecca-long-bailey-from-shadow-cabinet>
- 2) <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/asa-winstanley/keir-starmer-tilts-labour-sharply-towards-israel>
- 3) <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/europe/uk-defend-chris-williamson-and-others-against-the-zionist-witch-hunt/>
- 4) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52806724>
- 5) <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/06/keir-starmer-to-sign-up-for-unconscious-bias-training-amid-criticism>
- 6) <https://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/30989/01-07-2020/workers-need-a-new-mass-party-to-defend-their-interests>

## Open Letter to Belarusian Workers Down with Lukashenko's regime! For the general strike!

By Supporters of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) in Russia, 15 August 2020

**W**orkers of Belorussia!  
The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) is welcoming your uprising and dedication to organize a general strike to oust the Lukashenko regime. The brutal crackdown on the protests is an unambiguous demonstration of the anti-people nature of the regime. We fully and unconditionally support the ongoing workers' struggle and the efforts to organize strikes around the country!

However, imperialist powers are dominating our world. You are aware that Bat'ko, for decades, played diplomatic games to get investments and satisfy imperialists. His regime promoted anti-popular pension and other reforms to secure financial stability to pay loans. His anti-democratic regime, while portraying itself as an independent power, has *sold out Belarusian workers* to the EU, China, and Russia [1]. While Bat'ko enjoyed a privileged life, Belarusians are forced to migrate to Russia and the EU to get enough money to achieve a decent life.

Belarusian workers! Lukashenko is not a strong man but a trustworthy seller of Belarusian people!

Workers! Neither EU, nor Russia, nor China will help you in your liberation! In our world, there is nothing in

*between imperialism and workers of oppressed nations!* Sanctions will be only used as a bargaining chip to achieve a better deal between imperialists! Both the EU and Russia were quite in *good terms with Lukashenko* and his politics *for long time* until recent elections, while mentioning one or two words about "*the last dictator in Europe*".

The RCIT unconditionally supports your struggle for democracy and for a general strike to oust the regime! The RCIT supports your demands to abolish the pension reform and the system of contracts!

But we call you to *go further!* For organizing of trade unions, popular assemblies, and popular militias! For workers' control at your workplace! For nationalization and expropriation of enterprises under worker's control! For transforming the mass protest into a struggle for a worker's government!

However, to achieve true liberation, we need to unite into a *Revolutionary World Party*. In such a party, we will march together to overthrow imperialism and capitalism!

*Unity! Struggle! Victory!*

[1] <https://www.cer.eu/insights/time-ripe-eu-rethink-its-relations-belarus>

