



LIBERATION

BULLETIN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY (RCIT) IN BRITAIN

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED, UNITE!

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Stop Cameron's War Drive against the Syrian People!

Against US, Russia's and France's Military Intervention! Down with Assad's Dictatorship!

Long live the Syrian Revolution! Expel All Pro-War Labour MP's from the Party!

Statement by Supporters of the RCIT Britain, 2 December 2015

1. The British Parliament will vote on 3rd December 2015 for Britain's participation in the bombing of Syria. Cameron's government is pushing for British imperialism to participate in the great powers aggression in the Middle East. The RCIT Britain calls on the workers movement and all organizations of the oppressed to mobilize against Cameron's war drive.

2. Our opposition to Britain's war drive is not motivated by any sympathy for the bloodthirsty dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad. His regime is mainly responsible for at least 250-300.000 dead in the ongoing civil war and about 11 million Syrians who have become refugees.

3. While the Stalinist *CPB/Morning Star*, and various Labour "Left" bureaucrats and the "Stop The War" leadership support Assad and Putin's bloody war drive in Syria, the RCIT Britain continues to fully support the ongoing Syrian Revolution. While we politically oppose the petty-bourgeois Islamist and secular leaderships of the Syrian rebels, we recognize that they represent the popular revolutionary uprising against the Assad clan and his barbarous Baathist state apparatus which has oppressed the Syrian people for many decades.

4. The workers movement must oppose any military intervention by the Great Powers. The imperialist powers – in particular the US, Russia, France and now Britain too – are colluding to liquidate the Syrian Revolution. Obama, Putin, Hollande and Cameron want to achieve this with the help of Assad's state apparatus (with or without Assad himself), as well as by the integration of some corrupt elements among the Syrian opposition. This is the goal of the negotiations which are currently taking place in Vienna.

5. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a left-reformist bureaucrat who opposes Cameron's war drive, has given his MP's a free vote on that matter. This is nothing but a capitulation to the Blairite section in the party's bureaucracy. This proves once more that the Labour Party contains a huge sector of bureaucrats who are openly in favour of imperialist wars as well as neoliberal austerity policies and have already started to purge and expel critical left-wing party members.

6. Socialists inside the Labour Party should argue that *Momentum* and other progressive forces must campaign for a split with the right-wing Blairite bureaucracy. While we have no illusions in Corbyn and his reformist perspectives, socialists should call on the supporters of the new Labour leader to work jointly against the Blairite wing. We reject any idea that Labour should remain a broad, united party of Blairite as well as Corbyn supporters. There must be no political truce between supporters and opponents of imperialist wars or between supporters and opponents of austerity policy!

7. The RCIT Britain calls on socialists to unite around a revolutionary program and to fight for the following demands:

* *Stop Cameron's War Drive against Syria! Vote against any military intervention of Britain!*

* *US, Russia, France and any other Great Power: Hands off Syria!*

* *Down with the Assad Dictatorship! Solidarity with the Syrian Revolution!*

* *Expel all pro-war Labour MP's from the Party!*

For our latest statement on Syria see:

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: Defend the Syrian 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/>

For our analysis of the Arab Revolution we refer readers to:

RCIT: Revolution and Counterrevolution in the Arab World: An Acid Test for Revolutionaries, 31 May 2015, <http://www.thecommunists.net/theory/theses-arab-revolution/>

For other RCIT documents and articles on Syria see:

<http://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/>

The Housing Crisis in Britain in 2015

By Joseph Adams, RCIT Britain, 28.11.2015

David Cameron's government with the introduction of his new Housing Bill has set out to destroy social housing in Britain as we know it. Whether you are a tenant in a council home or a housing association this government proposes to end cheap rented accommodation by only providing houses to buy. This policy coupled with the introduction of tax credits and other proposals in their Welfare Reform is an attack on the working class and the youth. Its aim is to pauperise large sections of the population, make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Evidence from housing experts and other has shown how this policy is being brought about. *"Around 7,000 council homes will not be replaced under the right to buy extension. (...) The government's right to buy extension to housing association tenants is to be funded by the selling of vacant high-value council stock"*. [1]

Together with the right to buy scheme which was laid out by the Secretary of State Greg Clarke, the government also intends to reduce social rents forcing housing associations to reduce their involvement to provide low cost rented accommodation. *"31.9% of Housing associations chief executives said as a result of the rent cuts, it is likely that their organisations will stop entering new agreements for sub-market rents"*. [2]

Attacks

This decision by Cameron's government will lead to a further decimation of staff in the public sector. Having already privatised the NHS and other public utilities Cameron is now preparing in the housing sector to privatise and ensure that rich investors and bankers benefit from the Right to Buy scheme. *"Landlords reveal that more than 10% of their staff will go in a spate of redundancies. New Charter group has become the latest landlord to announce redundancies in response to the social housing rent cut"*. [3] *"The future of low cost rented housing is under threat following key conservative announcements. David Cameron announced councils will no longer be able to insist on social or affordable*

rents in planning agreements." [4]

The proposal for the right to buy scheme was announced by Clarke at a National Housing Federation conference which most Housing associations and providers in the social housing sector are affiliated to. *"A total of 323 national housing federation members controlling 2.3 million homes voted to back the deal with 37 voting against"*. [5]

Jeremy Corbyn's new shadow housing minister has decided not to oppose the governments rent cuts instead they are proposing a series of amendments to the bill. *"Labour will not oppose the governments social housing rent cut despite Jeremy Corbyn using his first appearance at Prime Ministers question time to query the policy"*. [6]

The attack on local authorities by forcing them to sell most of their high value properties has produced a response from some of the leaders of Labour controlled boroughs in London where this policy will be felt the most. Some of these leaders have vowed to end their relationship with housing associations and end any partnership deals that they have with them. The association of Retained Council Stock in Britain has also reacted to these new proposals as have the Federation of Arm's Length Management organisations which also provide social housing in Britain. Clarke has never been in consultation with local authorities on these changes.

Recent information from the housing organisation 'Inside Housing' has shown the result of the Right to Buy scheme of Council homes under the Thatcher government in 1980. *"Nearly 40% of all council flats sold under the RTB in England are now being rented out privately = figures related by 91 councils under the freedom of information act show 37.6% of ex-council flats are being rented privately at market rents"*. [7] The use of Benefit Sanctions has increased under this Government. Ian Duncan-Smith the minister responsible continues to use the benefit cap for mean and minor infringements of the rules affecting a number of workers and youth. It is a pernicious and vicious system directed at the poorest section of society where more and more people are facing hardship, poverty and starvation in 21st

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Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT). The RCIT has sections in Pakistan (Revolutionary Workers Organisation, RWO), Sri Lanka (United Lankan Workers Party, ULWP), Brazil (Corrente Comunista Revolucionária, CCR), Israel/Occupied Palestine (Internationalist Socialist League, ISL), USA (Revolutionary Workers Collective, RWC), and Austria (Revolutionary Communist Organisation LIBERATION, RKOB). In addition the RCIT has members in Yemen, Tunisia, Germany and Britain.

Century Britain. "More than 23,000 household's benefits have been capped. The number of households subject to the benefit cap has increased to more than 23,000 for the first time". [8]. "The social rent cut will be of little or no benefit to the majority of social tenants, while a quarter of a million will see rents hiked to the market rates". [9]

Redundancies will follow as housing associations will continue to ensure their profitability and make redundancies to front line staff. Chief Executive Salaries will not be cut and bonuses reputedly at over £150,000 per annum will continue to be paid. "North Hertfordshire homes are looking to ace up to 50 jobs as it attempts to cope with the social housing rent cut". [10]. "Gentoo will make 330 redundancies as a result of the rent cut-nearly 1in 5 of its total workforce". [11]

Other proposals in this new Housing bill before parliament also have proposals to end life time or assured tenancies in favour of fixed term contracts.

Although this government has said that their new Right to Buy scheme was voluntary there is evidence to suggest that housing associations are going to force tenants to buy or evict them from their properties. "An East London housing association has told more than 150 tenants to buy a share of their house (Shared Ownership) or leave". [12].

Program

Housing is an important issue and the *RCIT IN BRITAIN* puts forward the following programme for struggle as the only solution to the housing crisis in Britain.

- * Occupy empty Housing
- * Build Defence groups to defend the occupiers from provocation of police or fascist attack
- * Pass resolutions in Trades Councils, trade union branches; no evictions to be carried out by trade unionists employed by councils or other housing groups.
- * Ensure that local authority housing departments have enough affordable housing and build council housing without the right to buy.

The workers movement should mobilise for mass demonstrations and strikes around the following demands:

- * Abolish the right to buy, transfer ownership of or sell community buildings and public spaces
- * Initiate a programme for the construction of Social housing made available at rents tied to earnings

- * Immediately establish and activate Rent tribunals
- * Abolish the Bedroom Tax and Benefits cap
- * Abolish Universal Credit, reinstate Housing Benefits
- * Reinstate secure tenancies abolish short term contracts
- * Repeal the 2012 act criminalising squatting
- * Full equality for Migrants and ethnic/national minorities
- * Cancel all Household debts

The RCIT in Britain says the only lasting solution to the housing crisis is the overthrow of capitalism and to establish socialism.

* For a workers government based upon councils of action in every locality

* For armed workers militia to defend councils of action from provocation from state or fascist attacks.

The RCIT in Britain calls for all revolutionaries and socialists to join us as the first step to build a pre-party organisation in Britain leading to the formation of a worldwide revolutionary workers party as part of the Fifth International.

Footnotes

- (1) INSIDE HOUSING MAGAZINE www.insidehousing.co.uk 23rd October 2015 pg.7
- (2) INSIDE HOUSING MAGAZINE www.insidehousing.co.uk 16th October 2015 pg.1
- (3) INSIDE HOUSING MAGAZINE www.insidehousing.co.uk 16th October 2015 pg.4
- (4) INSIDE HOUSING MAGAZINE www.insidehousing.co.uk 9th October 2015 pg.1
- (5) INSIDE HOUSING MAGAZINE www.insidehousing.co.uk 9th October 2015 pg. 1
- (6) INSIDE HOUSING MAGAZINE www.insidehousing.co.uk 4th September 2015 pg.1
- (7) INSIDE HOUSING MAGAZINE www.insidehousing.co.uk 14th august 2015 pg.1
- (8) www.insidehousing.co.uk/policy/welfare-reform-benefit-cap/morethan23
- (9) www.insidehousing.co.uk/business/finance/rent-social-rent-cutwill-not-help-tenants/7012603
- (10) www.insidehousing.co.uk/business/tenancy/government-plans-to-scrap-life-term-tenancies
- (11) www.insidehousing.co.uk/businessasset-management/amount
- (12) www.insidehousing.co.uk/business/gentoo-to-make-330-redundancies/701249

The British Left and the EU-Referendum The Many Faces of pro-UK or pro-EU Social-Imperialism

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internationalist and socialist stance both against
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Terror in Paris is Result of Imperialist Terror in Middle East!

Stop France's and other Imperialist Powers' Warmongering! Defend the Muslim Peoples against Chauvinist Hatemongering and State Repression!

Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 14.11.2015 (Shortened)

1. On Friday evening, 13 November, terrorists – most likely members of *Daesh* (the so-called *Islamic State*) – committed six coordinated attacks in Paris which killed 128 people and injured about 200 others. Most of the victims died in the Bataclan concert venue in the French capital during a metal rock band concert after special police stormed the hall where terrorists had taken members of the audience hostage. In addition, attacks were also carried out on three restaurants and a shopping centre. France's President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency and deployed 1,500 additional soldiers in Paris. Public transportation has been halted and people have been instructed to stay at home.

2. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) condemns this attack as utterly reactionary. It was not directed against a military target, not even a symbolic target like the racist journal *Charlie Hebdo*. It was directly against ordinary youth and working-class people. We send our sincerest condolences to the friends and families of the murdered. The attack demonstrates once more the particularly reactionary character of the salafi-takfiri organizations like *Daesh/IS*, which sets them apart from other reactionary Islamists (because they are mainly fighting against the oppressed and our working class, and not against imperialism or reactionary regimes).

3. The attack is also thoroughly reactionary because it will serve the ruling class to justify and intensify its reactionary offensive against the oppressed people in the Middle East, as well as domestically against the working-class in general and Muslim migrants in particular. President Hollande, the imperialist war-monger in social-democratic disguise, will use this attack as a pretext to send even more warplanes and warships to the Middle East to bomb the Syrian and Iraqi people. The ruling class, led on by the right-wing media, will whip up chauvinist hatred against the sizeable Muslim migrant minority in France, and justify an intensification of the already massive state repression.

4. The truth is that attacks such as these most recent ones in Paris are the direct result of the increasing terror of the Great Imperialist Powers and their local lackeys in the Middle East, combined with the intensifying oppression of migrants in Europe. The Great Powers – including France – have already been occupying and terrorizing the Afghan people for nearly one and a half decades. Then, after having first starved-out the Iraqi people with a cruel war of sanctions that lasted more than a decade after 1991, the imperialists summarily destroyed their country during the war of 2003 and the ensuing occupation. Currently, the Western powers and imperialist Russia are working hand in hand to bomb into submission the resistance in Syria and assist the regime of the serial killer Assad. French imperialism has been particularly vicious in its military offensive. It not only participates in the imperialist

offensive in Syria and Iraq, but has also invaded Mali and sent troops to suppress the Muslim minority in the Central African Republic. In addition, imperialist Israel is intensifying the starvation and expulsion of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. While in Yemen, the reactionary Al-Saud gang and their local allies – supported by the Great Western Powers – is waging a vicious war of aggression against the people of Yemen. In addition, France and Western Imperialism had no problem with Russia during its mass-slaughter of up to 200,000 persons of the heroic Chechnya people.

(...) 7. The RCIT emphasizes, yet again, that the current task of socialists is to oppose the pro-imperialist mobilizations – both domestically and abroad – of France as well as other Great Powers. Socialists must not participate in the patriotic, pro-imperialist mobilizations which the Hollande government will certainly now be organizing. Instead they should organize independent rallies which condemn the terrorist attack alongside the racist and militarist policy of the Hollande government.

8. Socialists must defend Muslim migrants and mobilize against the imperialist war drive of the Hollande government as well as those of the US, UK, Israel, and Russia. Socialists must state clearly that the main enemy is *not* the reactionary jihadists, but the Hollande government and the Great Powers. They are responsible for the killing of far more people, and bear on their backs many more evil crimes. It is urgent that socialists make a serious effort to win the workers' movement over to a resolute campaign in solidarity with the liberation struggles in the Middle East, as well as with the refugees, and in against the imperialist war-drive. Obviously, such a campaign has to include a sharp denunciation of all those reformist and centrist forces which fail to take a consistent anti-imperialist and internationalist position.

9. Finally, we stress the necessity of building new revolutionary parties – in France and world-wide. Only such parties can provide revolutionary leadership as the only alternative to both reactionary Islamists as well as reformists. Without such parties being united in a single, new revolutionary International, the working class in France and the oppressed peoples of the Middle East cannot hope to succeed in fighting effectively against their enemies. Only such parties – as part of the Fifth Workers International – can fight for a consistent program of equality for migrants and for the defeat of imperialism in the Middle East. Only a revolutionary world party can succeed in the international struggle for socialist revolution.

Death to imperialism! Down with Daesh/IS! Avenge the murdered by fighting against imperialism and all forms of oppression!

International Secretariat of the RCIT