



LIBERATION

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

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED, UNITE!

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May Day 2016 – In Mexico and around the Globe

**For a new World Party of Socialist Revolution in Order
to Advance the Struggle for Liberation of the Workers and Oppressed!**

*Statement of the Liaison Committee of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)
and the Agrupación de Lucha Socialista (ALS), April 2016*

The RCIT and the ALS send their May Day greetings to all fighters for the liberation of the working class and the oppressed people throughout the world. The current world situation is marked by an accelerated economic, social and political crisis of the capitalist world system. The capitalist system is in decline since the beginning of the world historic revolutionary period in 2008 with the outbreak of the Great Recession. The world economy never recovered from this recession and stands now before the imminent next, even worse, recession. We see an acceleration of the rivalry between the imperialist Great Powers USA, EU, Japan, Russia and China (Ukraine, South and East China Sea, Africa, Latin America). Furthermore, the working class faces an intensifying wave of counterrevolutionary offensives of the ruling class – austerity programs, police state, imperialist wars in the Middle East etc.. However, the worker and oppressed are continuing their heroic resistance against these counterrevolutions.

But their struggles are seriously hampered by the devastating crisis of revolutionary leadership of the working class movement. Currently the workers and oppressed struggles are controlled by various official leaderships – treacherous labor bureaucrats, leaders of the Social Democratic parties, heads of Stalinist parties, Castro-Chavismo, their centrist fellow travelers, parties representing petit-bourgeois nationalism, and parties based on Islamism. These current leaderships consciously or unconsciously mislead the workers and oppressed. In major class struggles they often support the open counterrevolution or take a cowardly neutral position (e.g. on Assad, General Sisi, the looming coup in Brazil, the Euromaidan regime in the Ukraine, the state of emergency in France, the imperialist wars in the Middle East, the ANC regime in South Africa, Russian and Chinese imperialism, etc.).

Hence, the most burning task of revolutionaries consists in joining forces in order to advance the struggle to build a new World Party of Socialist Revolution as a clear and unequivocal alternative to reformism, centrism and petty-bourgeois-populism. The RCIT and the ALS are dedicated

to jointly work for this task.

To replace these non-revolutionary leaderships it is, first of all, incumbent to openly denounce them. However, at the same time, it is absolutely necessary for revolutionaries to fight *inside* existing mass movements and to apply the united front tactic towards their leaderships.

Hence, revolutionaries have to combine fighting for a revolutionary program with concretizing this program to a series of strategies and tactics for the current major class struggles. Only those organizations which have a correct understanding of the Marxist program in the present period as well as of the current world situation and the corresponding tasks for the class struggle, can serve as instruments for the creation of new revolutionary parties and a new World Party of Socialist Revolution.

As revolutionaries, we take the following stands regarding current hotspots in the international realm:

* **Down with all Great Powers** – the US, EU, Japan, China, and Russia! No support for *any* imperialist camp! In the Ukraine, in East Asia, and in any other military conflict between these powers or their puppets, socialists must relentlessly remind the workers: *The main enemy is at home! Turn the imperialist war into a civil war against your own ruling class!*

* **Brazil:** No to the coup of impeachment and no to the calling for new elections! But no confidence in the Pro-Austerity PT-PMDB Government! Mobilize the masses to go into the streets and fight at one and the same time against the attacks of the Rousseff government on the workers and the poor AND against the coup movement! For the creation of action committees in the factories, trade unions, neighborhoods, slums and outlying regions in defence of our rights and against any coup movement!

* **Argentina:** Down with the right-wing Macri government! For a broad united front of struggle against the government! Free Milagro Sala and all political prisoners now! For an independent workers' party based on a revolutionary program! Drive the British out of the Malvinas!

* **Venezuela:** Defeat the right-wing coup attempts! Defend Venezuela against US imperialism! Down with the new

"Pacto de Punto Fijo"! Mobilize the working class against the attacks of the Maduro government! Break the working class away from the Chavista leadership which defends the capitalist system and collaborates with imperialist China!

* **Mexico:** Bring back the 43 students of Ayotzinapa alive and punish those who are guilty! Solidarity with the prisoners of the self-defense militias – support the struggle of peoples and communities who fight with arms against the organized crime! For popular councils and militias! Support the teachers' mobilization – No to the Education Reform! Down with the attacks on workers, down the Labor Reform! For a movement of the precarious and sacked workers! For an united national front of struggle of the teachers, students and workers to organize a general strike that will kick out President Peña Nieto and his allies of the pact (PRI-PAN-PRD)! For a party of the urban and rural workers! Support the struggle of the indigenous peoples of Mexico and those of all countries of the American hemisphere – for their rights to land, the preservation of their culture, and against discrimination in employment! We call for the immediate implementation of the *San Andrés Accords* of 1996 for the indigenous communities of Mexico! We support joint self-defense to thwart the occupation of lands belonging to the country's indigenous peoples and communities and their dispossession by the Mexican government and foreign and domestic corporations.

* Defend the **Syrian Revolution!** Defeat the Assad Regime! Drive the Russians, NATO, and all other Foreign Aggressors out of Syria! No to the Great Power-imposed "Negotiations" Aimed at Liquidating the Syrian Revolution! No to Daesh/IS!

* **Egypt:** Down with the military dictatorship of General Sisi! Support the textile, public sector and other workers' strikes and mass protests against the dictatorship! Defend the Muslim Brotherhood against repression, but give no political support to their bourgeois leadership! Release all political prisoners in Egypt! For a socialist federation of the people of the Maghreb and Mashriq!

* **Libya:** Stop the US Bombing of Libya! Mobilize against the Great Powers' plans to intervene militarily in Libya and along its coast! Support the resistance against imperialist aggression! Defeat General Haftar's alliance of imperialist lackeys, without giving any political support to the Islamists! No to reactionary sectarianism! Down with the Salafi-Takfiri Daesh!

* **Iraq:** No to reactionary sectarianism! Down with the corrupt, pro-imperialist government in Bagdad! Drive the US troops out of Iraq!

* **Iran:** Down with the reactionary Mullah regime! Self-determination for all national minorities in Iran! No to any threats of the US and other Great Powers against Iran!

* Defend **Yemen** against the Saudi Aggression! Support the resistance led by the *Houthi* rebels while not giving any political support to their leadership! No return of the reactionary lackey "President" al-Hadi! For a non-sectarian mass movement which unites Sunni and Shia workers and fellahin!

* Defend the **Palestinian people** against Israel, the Zionist Apartheid state! In any conflict we stand for a military victory of the Palestinian resistance and the defeat of Israel! No political support for the Abbas/Fatah collaborationist

leadership or for the reactionary Hamas leadership. For an international boycott campaign against Israel led by the mass organizations of the workers and oppressed! For a Free, Red Palestine from the River to the Sea!

* **Tunisia:** Down with the government of President Essebsi! For a program of public works under the control of the UGTT and other mass organizations, financed by the expropriation of the super-rich cronies of the Ben Ali clan!

* **Turkey:** Down with the reactionary-capitalist Erdoğan government, but also down with the reactionary Kemalists of the CHP and the fascists from the MHP! Stop the repression against the Kurds, the media and the opposition!

* Support the **Kurdish people's** right of national self-determination! No political support for the pro-imperialist PKK/YPG-leadership! For a free, red and united Kurdistan!

* **Mali:** Drive the imperialist French and EU occupation forces out of the country! Support the resistance!

* **Somalia:** Support the resistance against the pro-imperialist AMISOM occupation troops!

* **South Africa:** No support for the popular front ANC government! Call the NUMSA-led "United Front" to move forward and to create a new mass workers' party! Such a new party should be based on a revolutionary program and not on a remake of the reformist "*Freedom Charter*"!

* **China:** Fight against the dictatorship of the ruling Stalinist-Capitalist party! Support the workers struggles for higher wages and against sacking! For full democratic rights! No to Han chauvinism – full national self-determination for the Uyghurs and the Tibetans!

* **Pakistan:** No to PML(N) government behind which the army command stand as the real ruling power! Support the workers struggle at PIA against privatization! Drive the army out of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA provinces! Support the national liberation struggles of the Baloch, Kashmir and other oppressed national minorities!

* **India:** Support the trade union struggles against the BJP governments' neoliberal plans! Defend women's rights in India! Mobilize against the reactionary rape culture! For armed self-defense units of women and progressive men to protect women! Support the struggle of the Adivasi for equal rights!

* **Sri Lanka:** No support for the bourgeois Sirisena government or for the opposition led by the reactionary long-time ruler Rajapaksa! Support the national liberation struggle of the Tamil people!

* **Thailand:** Down with the military dictatorship and the reactionary, pro-monarchist "*Yellow Shirts*" movement! Defend the "*Red Shirts*" movement against the repression without giving political support for the capitalist Thaksin leadership! For a new independent workers party!

* Down with imperialist aggression of the US and South Korea against **North Korea!** No support for the Stalinist dictatorship!

* Open **Europe's** Borders for all **Refugees!** Put an end to the racist and Islamophobic backlash in Europe! For a public works program with jobs for all refugees as well as all native workers! Native workers and migrants – fight together against your common enemy: the imperialist ruling class in the EU and Russia as well as against the dictatorships in the Middle East and Africa!

* **Greece:** Stop the imperialist EU-Memorandum austerity

dictates! No to the sell-out of the SYRIZA government! For a mass united front against the fascist Golden Dawn party! Fight for equal rights for nationally oppressed migrants and the super-exploited layer of the Greek working class!

* **Spain:** Stop the neoliberal austerity offensive! Support the struggle of the people in Catalonia and Basque Country for national self-determination!

* **Portugal:** Force the reformist PS government to halt the austerity policy! For mass mobilizations of the workers and youth! But no political support for the government!

* **Ireland:** Stop the austerity offensive! For non-payment of water charges! Free all political prisoners in Ireland! For a United 32-County Irish Workers' Republic!

* **Britain:** Down with the Tory government! For a general strike to stop the austerity program and to bring down the government! No support for either of the two reactionary camps – pro-EU or Brexit – at the EU-referendum on 23 June: For Abstention! For a United Socialist States of Europe! British troops out of Northern Ireland!

* **Germany:** Defend migrants and refugees against the racist attacks!

* **France:** Down with the social-imperialist Hollande government supported by the "Communist" Party! For a general strike against the neoliberal labor-law reforms of Labour Minister Myriam El Khomri! Against any "State of Emergency" regime and mobilization of the army! Fight racism and repression directed towards Muslim migrants in Europe!

* **Ukraine:** Down with Ukraine's right-wing government which is merely a puppet of US and EU imperialism! But also no support for the Donbass republics leaderships which are lackeys of Russian imperialism! For joint resistance against the IMF-dictated neoliberal programs! For the right of self-determination of the Russophile population in the eastern Ukraine!

* **Russia:** No to the Putin regime! Against the restriction of democratic rights! Support the struggle of the healthcare personnel against cuts! Defend the heroic resistance of the Chechen people to drive out the Russian occupation forces and their lackey Kadyrov!

* **USA:** No support for any candidate (including Bernie Sanders) of the two imperialist parties – the Republicans and the Democrats! For a new Labor Party! Support the #BlackLiveMatters movement! For full equality of the Afro-American minority as well as Latino migrants!

Revolutionaries must intervene in the class struggle and combine all necessary tactics with propagandizing for a program of working class power which can only be achieved by a socialist revolution. Such a program must be built on the methods outlined by Trotsky's Transitional Program of 1938:

* Build action committees in work places and in workers living areas! Purge the trade unions of bureaucrats and collaborators with the capitalists! For democratic rank and file control over the trade unions! Build revolutionary communist fractions inside the trade unions! Transform the trade union in militant instruments for the socialist liberation struggle of the working class!

* For a sliding scale of working hours until everyone is employed without loss of pay!

* For the right of self determination for all oppressed national grouping deprived of the right to secede!

* For revolutionary movements of women, migrants, blacks, youth, unemployed, and national minorities! For the right of the oppressed to caucus in workers' mass organizations and their movements!

* Build committees and action councils of the workers, peasants, and poor to organize the struggle!

* For armed workers and oppressed militias!

* Expropriate the capitalist class! Nationalize the large enterprises and banks under workers' control!

* For a workers' government allied with the peasants and urban poor and based on local councils and militias!

* Fight for new workers' parties and for a new World Party of Socialist Revolution!

No future without socialism!

No socialism without revolution!

No revolution without a revolutionary party!

Note: While the RCIT considers Russia and China as an imperialist power, the ALS is still in a discussion process on this issue.

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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.

For a General Strike to Bring Down the Cameron Government!

For a Workers' Government! For a Constituent Assembly!

Fight against the corrupt Parliament which is inextricably linked with Big Business! Build Peoples' Assemblies and Action Committees to organise the struggle throughout the country!

Statement of British Supporters of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT Britain), 14.4.2016, <https://rcitbritain.wordpress.com/>

1. The Cameron government faces its biggest crisis until now. It has become highly unpopular in the wake of never-ending austerity attacks, its unpopular desire to keep Britain inside the European Union and, more recently, the scandal surrounding the shady business affairs of Cameron and his family which have become public with the publication of the *Panama Papers*.

2. In reaction to this scandal, thousands of people have spontaneously demonstrated in front of Downing Street to express their disgust for Prime Minister Cameron. Many more will march on 16 April at the Peoples' Assembly demonstration. There is mass outrage among the workers, migrants and youth against the corruption and the profound lack of real democracy in Britain. Similar protests are currently taking place in South African and the US (dubbed "*Democracy Spring*").

3. This revelation of the *Panama Papers* demonstrates once more the enormous degree of corruption in the highest ranks of bourgeois politicians and their close links with Big Business. It illustrates how little democracy there is in imperialism's bourgeois "democracy." The government is above any control by the people and is closely connected with the capitalist class via numerous personal and commercial links. Ministers and parliamentarians receive astronomical incomes many times higher than the average wage of a British or migrant worker. In addition, the workers in our country have to foot the bill for the so-called *House of Lords* and the whole decadent institution of the monarchy. Indeed, bourgeois "democracy" hides behind its self-righteous façade what is actually a "*dictatorship of the bourgeoisie*" (Lenin) against the working people. Real democracy can only be achieved if the working class – the vast majority of the people – unites and overthrows the ruling class and replaces bourgeois pseudo-democracy with authentic democracy: a workers' government based on popular councils and militias which opens the road to socialism.

4. Shamefully, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has not even called for the resignation of Cameron. Obviously the Labour leadership wants to avoid an escalation of the domestic political crisis. This reflects the unwillingness of Corbyn and the left-reformist bureaucrats to wage a consistent struggle against the government. This is because these party bureaucrats are inextricably connected with the capitalist state apparatus and big business. Instead of immediate confrontation with the bourgeois state, they prefer to wait for the next elections scheduled to take place in 2020! But the workers, migrants and youth cannot wait another four years during which their incomes and subsidies will be cut and their jobs increasingly threatened, while politicians unabashedly enrich themselves at our expense!

5. The RCIT calls for the formation of *people's assemblies and action committees* to organise the struggle throughout the country. Their main goal should be to organize *mass demonstrations* and an *indefinite general strike* in order to bring down the Cameron government. The road ahead is to confront and defeat the government on the streets and in the workplaces, not by means of political manoeuvring behind the scene. Socialists should demand that the leaderships of the Labour Party and the TUC organize such mass actions to bring down the government!

6. We also reject the orientation of various left-reformists and centrists who raise the call for new parliamentary elections. We think this is a cul-de-sac, since it focuses the attention of the workers and youth to the parliamentary field which is dominated by corrupt politicians and bureaucrats.

7. Instead, the RCIT Britain raises the slogan of a *Constituent Assembly*. Such an assembly would have the task of discussing the political and social system in which the people of Britain wish to live. There must be no pre-conditions on what type of constitution and what laws are possible. In particular, there should be no *a priori* commitment to protect of the property of the rich, the capitalists, and the financial institutions. Such a Constituent Assembly should be based on direct democracy grounded in workplace and residential constituencies; delegates should be elected proportionate to the numbers in each constituency; any delegate should be subject to instant recall if deemed appropriate by the electorate he or she represents; and each delegate must earn no more than the wage of an average skilled worker. After elaborating a new constitution, such a Constituent Assembly would dissolve itself.

8. Naturally, the RCIT Britain considers it the duty of authentic socialists to argue inside such a Constituent Assembly for a *program of revolutionary transition to socialism*. The Constituent Assembly is *not* a government or a new parliament. It is only a temporary forum for debate to decide about a new constitution.

9. The slogan of a *Constituent Assembly* is the highest form of revolutionary democracy. It does not negate the need for revolutionaries to fight for a workers' government based on popular councils and militias. But it is a slogan which relates to the current democratic illusions among many workers and youth in Britain, without falling into the reformist trap (like the slogan for new elections does).

10. We expect various centrists to vehemently reject the slogan of a *Constituent Assembly*, pleading that such a slogan would deflect the workers attention from the struggle for a workers' government and socialism. However, this is entirely wrong and rather reflects the economic limitations of such groups. This slogan is *not* counterposed to a workers' government (just as it was not the case in 1917 Russia, 1931-36 Spain, or in Latin America in the past decades). Rather it will advance the struggle for such a workers' government since the ruling class will do everything possible to prevent the election of such a *Constituent Assembly*. However, given the massive democratic illusions among the vast majority of the workers and youth, it is obligatory for socialists to advance slogans which relate to such illusions. The task is to raise revolutionary-democratic slogans which are opposed to bourgeois parliamentarism and to win the vanguard of the working class over to such a perspective. The RCIT Britain asks all militants who share such a perspective to join us in this struggle!

Postscript: We draw our readers' attention to the RCIT's program where we already envisioned a situation which might raise the need for a slogan calling for the Constituent Assembly. "*Where there are basic issues of political sovereignty on the agenda and there is still no awareness among the masses about the superiority of proletarian council democracy, in certain phases the slogan of a revolutionary Constituent Assembly can be important. Bolsheviks-Communists advocate that the delegates should be controllable and open to recall by its people. Thus such a Constituent Assembly cannot easily become an instrument of the ruling class, they should not be called by a bourgeois government, but by a revolutionary government of workers and peasants' councils.*" (RCIT: *The Revolutionary Communist Manifesto*, p. 46, <http://www.thecomunists.net/rcit-manifesto/revolutionary-struggle-for-democracy/>)