



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

Issue Nr.82

June 2018

## Warmongering in the Middle East

- \* Israel is a Terror State!
- \* U.S. Pull's out of the Iran Nuclear Deal
- \* Israel's Attack on Iranian Forces
- \* Turkey: Stop the State Repression!
- \* 2018 Afrika Liberation Day
- \* Mexico: Brutal Torture of Socialist
- \* Cambodia: Reactionary Government
- \* France: Pour la Grève Générale
- \* Escalating Greek-Turkish Tensions
- \* Liberation Struggle in Chechnya
- \* State Repression in Russia and Poland
- \* State of Class Struggle in the USA
- \* RCIT Advances in Africa
- \* Report of May Day 2018 Activities

# English-Language Journal of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), No. 82, June 2018

Warmongering in the Middle East	p.3
Israel is a Terror State!	p.4
Solidarity Demonstrations for Palestine (Yemen, Austria)	p.5
Israel's Attack on Iranian Forces in Syria	p.6
Trump Pull's the U.S. out of the Iran Nuclear Deal	p.8
Turkey: Stop the State Repression!	p.10
Joint Statement on 2018 Afrikan Liberation Day	p.11
Mexico: Protest against Brutal Torture of Son of Socialist Leader in Oaxaca	p.12
Cambodia: Down with the Hun Sen Government!	p.13
France: Pour la Grève Générale – Illimitée, militante, multinationale!	p.15
On the Escalating Greek-Turkish Tensions	p.17
Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the Chechen People!	p.18
Russia: Free Filinkov, Shishkin and other arrested Anarchists!	p.18
Poland: Stop State Repression against Socialists!	p.18
The State of the Class Struggle in the USA	p.19
Welcome the Kenyan Revolutionaries in the Ranks of the RCIT!	p.21
Forward in Building a Revolutionary Party in Nigeria and Africa!	p.21
Advance the Revolutionary Struggle in Nigeria and Africa!	p.22
Spreading the Revolutionary Message on May Day 2018!	p.23
RCIT: What We Stand For	p.27

*Picture on the cover: Rebels walk through a destroyed street in Qaboun (Syria)*

*Source: Wikipedia, [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/73/Syrian\\_rebels\\_with\\_M79\\_Osa\\_in\\_Damascus.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/73/Syrian_rebels_with_M79_Osa_in_Damascus.png)*

*Revolutionary Communism is the monthly English-language journal published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT). The RCIT has sections and activists in Zambia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria. The RCIT has fraternal relations with the Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), the Pacesetters Movement (Nigeria), the Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), the Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia) and Sınıf Savaşı (Turkey).*

**www.thecommunists.net - rcit@thecommunists.net**  
**Tel/SMS/WhatsApp/Telegram: +43-650-4068314**

## Warmongering in the Middle East

### Down with all Imperialist Great Powers and Capitalist Dictatorships!

*Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT),*

*Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), Pacesetters Movement (Nigeria), Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia), and Sınıf Savaşı (Turkey), 13 May 2018*

1. We take note of:
  - i. The vicious oppression of the Palestinian people by the Israeli Apartheid state which already led to three wars against Gaza in the last ten years;
  - ii. The never-ending warmongering of Israel against Iran;
  - iii. The threats of U.S. imperialism against Iran which could escalate again as Trump pulled the U.S. out of the so-called "nuclear deal" with Teheran;
  - iv. The barbarous war of aggression by the capitalist Assad regime against the Syrian people, with the decisive support of Russian imperialism as well as the Teheran regime;
  - v. The reactionary invasion of Yemen by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, with the support of Western imperialism.
2. Based on such an assessment we take an unambiguous stand in these conflicts. Confirming the general line of the joint May Day 2018 statement" (<https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/may-day-2018-joint-statement/>), we state:
  - i. Down with the imperialist war-mongering and aggression by the U.S., Russia, Israel, Britain, and France! Drive all Great Powers out of the Middle East! Likewise we condemn all aggressions by regional powers like Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc.
  - ii. In any conflict between imperialist powers – e.g. between the U.S. and Russia – we refuse to lend support to either side. We call for a defeatist stand on all sides based on the classic Marxist formula "The main enemy is at home!"
  - iii. No to Zionism! Defeat Israel! Victory to the Palestinian People!
  - iv. In all confrontations between Israel and Iran, we call for the military defeat of Israel and the defense of Iran despite our sharp rejection of the Iranian regime.
  - v. We oppose all imperialist sanctions against Iran.

However, we support the struggle of the Iranian workers and oppressed against the Teheran regime which already resulted in the mass uprising four month ago.

vi. We support the ongoing liberation struggle of the Syrian workers and oppressed against the Assad regime and his Russian and Iranian masters. Likewise, we defend the Kurdish people's right of national self-determination. At the same time, we reject any political support for the petty-bourgeois secular and Islamist forces at the leadership of the resistance.

vii. We call for the defeat of the Saudi-led aggression and for the victory of the Yemeni popular resistance. However, we oppose any political support for the Houthis.

3. We denounce all forces – even if they mistakenly call themselves "socialist" or "progressive" – which lend support to any imperialist power. Neither the Western Great Powers nor Russia or China are a "lesser" evil! They are all enemies of the international working class and oppressed people! Likewise we denounce all pseudo-"socialist" forces which refuse to support the just popular struggles against reactionary occupiers and dictatorships (e.g. in Syria, Palestine, Yemen).

4. We call the workers and popular organizations around the world not to remain silent but to join us in the struggle against imperialism and capitalist dictatorships and for the liberation of the workers and oppressed!

#### The undersigned organizations

*Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Zambia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria)*

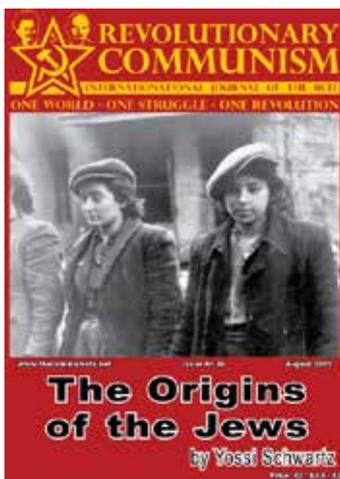
*Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya)*

*Pacesetters Movement (Nigeria)*

*Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria)*

*Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia)*

*Sınıf Savaşı (Turkey)*



### NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

## The Origins of the Jews

*By Yossi Schwartz, July 2015*

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

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

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

**Chapter IV: The Russian Revolution:**

**Bolshevism, the Bund, and Stalinism**

## Israel is a Terror State!

### Rally to Support our Palestinian Brothers and Sisters! Thousands of Palestinians shot in cold blood on a single day by Israeli occupation troops!

*Emergency Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 15.05.2018 (05:00 UTC Time)*

1. According to the latest reports, at least 58 Palestinians were killed on 14 May in Gaza and more than 2,700 others wounded as the Israeli army fired live ammunition, tear gas and firebombs at unarmed Palestinian protesters. Since the protests began on March 30, Israeli forces have killed at least 107 Palestinians in the enclave and wounded about 12,000 people.

2. Symbolically, this massacre took place at the same time as the provocative opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem. Trump's decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem reflects the unlimited support of US imperialism for the annexation of Palestine by the Zionist state. Unsurprisingly, the White House claimed, in press conference on 14 May, that *"the responsibility for these tragic deaths rests squarely with Hamas"*. It reiterated the Trump administration's refrain that *"Israel has a right to defend itself"*! There can be no doubt: The *"Axis of Evil"* on the Palestinian question consists of US, Israel and Saudi Arabia!

3. Today is the day which Palestinians mourn as the *"Nakba"* or *"Catastrophe"* when, in 1948, hundreds of thousands of them were driven out of their homes by the Zionist aggressors in order to create the Israeli state. We can expect even larger mass protests today. And we have to assume that the bloodthirsty Zionist killers are prepared to slaughter even more Palestinian brothers and sisters.

4. Around the world, popular masses are shocked and enraged about this incredible massacre. Thousands marched spontaneously in Istanbul on the same day. Today, the Palestinian people will hold a general strike. Hamas is calling for a new *Intifada*. Reflecting this outrage in the field of bourgeois diplomacy, both Turkey and South Africa withdrew their ambassadors from Israel. Turkey also called for an emergency meeting of the *Organization of Islamic Cooperation*.

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT)* sends its warmest greetings to the heroic Palestinian brothers and sisters who are fighting for their freedom and who are ready to sacrifice their lives for the future of their people! We send our warmest condolences to the families of the 107 martyrs who have been murdered by the Zionists since March 30. We declare our unconditional solidarity with the protests of the Palestinians and all advocates of freedom around the world!

6. The RCIT and its predecessor organization as well as its comrades in Occupied Palestine have fought for decades against the barbaric Zionist oppression of the Palestinian people. Our solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters will continue until they have achieved freedom, until the millions of Palestinian refugees can return to their home and until the Zionist entity will be replaced by a *Free Red Palestine* with equal civil rights to the Arabs and the Israeli Jews!

7. The RCIT calls for an end of all forms of collaboration with the Zionist terror state. We reiterate: It is urgent to break the conspiracy of the Palestinian Authority to liquidate the resistance against the Israeli occupation. For an immediate stop to all forms of collaboration of the Palestinian Authority with the Israeli state! For a popular *Intifada*! Build popular committees and self-defense committees composed of Palestinian workers, poor peasants, and youth in places of work, towns, and villages!

8. We repeat: The Palestinian people need our international solidarity more than ever! The whole world must be shaken by mass mobilizations and determined resistance to counter the Zionist terror. Protest in front of the US and Israeli embassies! Support popular actions against the Israeli state! Force the governments around the world to stop their open and hidden economic, political and military aid for the Zionist state!

*\* No to the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel capital! Protest in front of the US and Israeli embassies!*

*\* Revive the Palestinian Intifada!*

*\* For popular committees and self-defense committees composed of Palestinian workers, poor peasants, and youth in places of work, towns, and villages!*

*\* For international solidarity actions including mass demonstrations and popular actions against Israel!*

*\* Stop economic, political and military aid for the Zionist state!*

*\* Lift the Israeli blockade against the Gaza! Egyptian workers and peasants: Break the reactionary blockade of the al-Sisi regime against Gaza!*

*\* Israeli workers and youth: Turn against the racist demagogues! Defend the Palestinians against the reactionary settlers, the fascist gangs, and the army!*

*\* For a Free Red Palestine!*

*\* Unite the Arab Revolution with a renewed Intifada in Palestine! Support the Syrian Revolution against the reactionary Assad dictatorship! Bring down the reactionary military dictatorship of General al-Sisi in Egypt! Support the Yemeni people against the Saudi aggression!*

*\* Onward to the building of a revolutionary workers' party as part of a World Party for Socialist Revolution!*

*International Secretariat of the RCIT*

The names of the Palestinian martyrs are listed (and regularly updated) on a special site of AlJazeera. (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/04/gaza-protest-latest-updates-180406092506561.html>)

For the analysis of the RCIT and its comrades in Occupied Palestine of the Palestinian liberation struggle, we refer readers to our numerous articles and documents accessed from the Africa and Middle East section of our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/> as well as the website of our section in Occupied Palestine: <http://the-isleague.com/>.

## Solidarity Demonstrations for Palestine

### Yemen: Popular Mass Demonstration in Solidarity with the Palestinian People

*Report (with Pictures)*

*by Mohammed (RCIT Yemen), 15 May 2018*

The outrageous massacre which the Israeli army committed against the Palestinian people on 14 May has provoked a wave of solidarity among the popular masses around the world. Such solidarity has been felt particularly strongly in our country.

As a result, thousands of Yemeni people demonstrated in capital Sana'a under the slogan "America and Israel die and Jerusalem lives!" (See pictures below) We showed the world that Gaza is not alone and that the Yemeni workers and

oppressed are fully committed to international solidarity with the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people.

We feel very strongly with the besieged Palestinian brothers and sisters in Gaza as we are besieged ourselves. In our case it is the Saudi-led aggressors, supported by Western imperialism, which are attacking our country since three years. These corrupt and decadent rulers are responsible for the killing of at least 11,000 people, most of them civilians. Millions have been displaced, are starving or suffer from cholera.

But despite these difficult conditions we remain steadfast. And likewise will our solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters continue. The Yemeni people keep proving that no matter what happens, Palestine will always be a central cause of their struggle!

### Austria: Demonstration for Gaza

*Report from the Demonstration on 18.05.2018 in Vienna, Austrian Section of the RCIT*

Several hundred people – nearly all of them Palestinian and Arab migrants – marched in Vienna on 18 May in order to demonstrate their solidarity with the brothers and sisters in Gaza.

In numerous slogans the demonstrators expressed their outrage against the Israeli massacre against the Palestinian people and called for international solidarity with Gaza.

The *Revolutionary Communist Organization LIBERATION* (Austrian Section of the RCIT) participated in the demonstration with a multi-national and lively contingent (see pictures and videos below). We also successfully sold our pamphlet on Palestine.

Comrade Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, was one of the three speakers at the demonstration. (See the videos below) In two speeches, one at the beginning and the other at the end, he denounced the crimes of the Israeli Apartheid state. He called for an international solidarity movement with the Palestinian

liberation struggle which aims to organize a boycott of Israel. Comrade Pröbsting also called for the right of all Palestinians to return, for the abolition of the Apartheid state Israel and for a Palestine in which the workers and oppressed take the power.

In his second speech Comrade Pröbsting also denounced the presence of a Zionist provocateur in the mid of the demonstration who was trying to collect evidence for later legal actions against pro-Palestinian solidarity activists. The Zionists in Austria have repeatedly instigated the political police to persecute comrade Pröbsting and other comrades of the Austrian RCIT section and tried to bring them to court (in one case successfully).

It should not go unnoticed that the Austrian section of the RCIT was the only left-wing organization present as the so-called "radical left" in Austria prefers, as usual, to ignore mobilizations of the Muslim migrant communities. As we had to notice so many times, Islamophobia affects the so-called left in many ways.

It is important that the demonstration does not remain a single event but is rather the starting point to build a strong solidarity movement with the Palestinian people!



Contingent of the Austrian Section of the RCIT at a Gaza solidarity demonstration in Vienna on 18.5.2018

# Israel's Attack on Iranian Forces in Syria

## A Vivid Lesson on the Politics of War in the Epoch of Imperialism

by Yossi Schwartz, *Internationalist Socialist League (RCIT Section in Israel / Occupied Palestine)*, 14.5.2018

Last month Israel attacked Iranian forces in Syria in T4 base. "An Israeli military official confirmed that Israel carried out last week's strike on Iranian forces in a Syrian airbase, the *New York Times* reported. It was the first time we attacked live Iranian targets — both facilities and people," an unnamed senior military source told *The Times*." [1]

On Thursday, May 10, Israel launched attacks on Iranian targets in Syria in response to alleged Iranian attacks on the Israeli-occupied Syrian territory of Golan Heights. It was the most serious military exchange ever between the two states. Clearly, Israel was prepared to the Iranian retaliation and attacked with full force.

Israel said it hit around 50 Iranian military targets, and five Syrian anti-aircraft installations in response to Iranian launching of 20 rockets towards the occupied Golan Heights. Only 4 came close to their targets and were intercepted by the Israeli defenses, an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesman, Lt Col Jonathan Conricus, told reporters.

Iran denied that it launched rocket attacks on the occupied Golan Heights, calling the Israeli claims "fabricated" and "baseless". Syrian state media reported that Syrian air defenses intercepted most of the Israeli rockets, but confirmed that a radar station and a weapons storage site were struck. Al Jazeera's Zein Basravi, reporting from Tehran, said that "it's important to note what wasn't mentioned in the Iranian statement. There was no specific reaction to the specific allegations by Israel that it hit a large number of Iranian targets inside Syria and no specific response to Israeli allegations that Iran was behind the cross-border fire that happened and that it was Iran who shot first, so they are still holding their cards close to the chest here in Tehran."

It is more than likely that the decision to launch the missiles was made by Qassem Soleimani, the commanding officer of Quds forces in Syria rather than by Teheran.

Israel Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said at a press conference that Israeli forces had destroyed nearly all of Iran's military infrastructure in Syria. On Thursday, he also demanded and threatened Assad to "throw the Iranians, Qassem Soleimani and the Quds forces, out of Syria! They are not acting in your interest, they are only hurting you. Their whole presence only brings problems and destruction," Lieberman said in the northern city of Katzrin in the 1967 occupied Golan.

### Looking for "Regime Change" in Iran?

It is not an accident that this military exchange of fire took place one week before the US has moved its embassy to Jerusalem. Nor is it an accident that the move will happen one day before the Nakba day, as it provokes the Palestinians and will give Israel the excuse to carry out a large massacre. Following the massacres of the Syrian people it is now clear to the Zionists that a large massacre of the Palestinians can be carried out without any repercussions from the imperialists who rule the world.

This attack came in the same week Donald Trump said

the U.S. will withdraw from the 2015 accords with Iran and that he would reinstate financial sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Israel is not hiding its intentions to destabilize the Iranian regime hoping to restore the monarchy. This is also the intention of Trump.

This round of clashes between Israel and Iran in Syria is over, but there will be others. However, Israel is not likely to confront Iran by attacking it on Iranian soil without the US. Trump, however, is not ready yet to launch a full scale war against Iran. At the same time, the 2000 American soldiers in Syria are not likely to leave for now as they prevent the connection of Iran and Syria by land.

Israel's attack took place one day after Donald Trump announced that he is withdrawing the United States from the nuclear agreement with Iran, Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, called, Hassan Rouhani, in Tehran, and "reiterated France's desire to continue implementing all aspects of the . . . agreement." France's foreign minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, told a French radio network, "The deal is not dead. There is an American withdrawal from the deal, but the deal is still there." In other European capitals, senior politicians and diplomats were uttering similar remarks. For the first time in living memory, America's European allies have collectively broken with Washington on a major security issue. Or so it seems. [2]

Whether the major European states will keep the deal remains to be seen. Their fear is that ending the agreement will lead to greater instability in the Middle East.

### The Role of Russian Imperialism

It is not an accident that Israel attack came one day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began his visit to Russia. He was the only Western leader at the annual May 9th military parade in Moscow, as a personal guest of President Vladimir Putin.

During the visit to Moscow, Netanyahu got Vladimir Putin's permission to attack the Iranian forces in Syria. Now, that the Syrian revolution has been more or less crushed, Iran is less important for Russian imperialist domination in the region. Putin will enjoy seeing Israel and Iran bleeding each other. Putin will also allow Israel to attack Assad's regime and will not provide him with more sophisticated weapons like the S 300 AA system. This is an old imperialist game. For example the U.S entered WWI as late as 1917 and during WWII the US entered the war after it became clear that the German invasion is a failure and many millions of Russian paid with their lives to repel it.

Russia is unlikely to limit Israel's military actions in Syria, Netanyahu said after his meeting with Putin. The May 9th date of the meeting, the day commemorating Soviet victory over Nazi Germany, is just another one of the many ironies of history. [3]

Thus, Israel attacked Iranian forces in Syria with the political approval of both the American and Russian imperialists.

The clashes between Israel and Iran reflect the contradiction between the old imperialist states like the USA and the new ones like Russia. The US is behind the alliance between Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf States, a.k.a. "The Sunni Alliance" while the Russian imperialists ally themselves with the Shi'ites. That does not mean that the imperialists will not desert their allies when it is suitable for them.

### Revolutionary Position

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT), that we the ISL in occupied Palestine are its section, has taken the position that in a military clash between Iran or Syria or Hezbollah and imperialist states and Israel is an imperialist state we want to see the military defeat of the imperialists without giving any political support to the Iranian, Syrian regime or Hezbollah.

In our latest statement Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the RCIT, wrote:

*"In our recently published book about the world situation we have outlined more in detail the background and the inner contradictions of these developments. We have predicted the inevitable escalation of the political and military tensions in the region.*

*However, at this point we will only repeat the important tactical conclusions resulting from our analysis. The RCIT urges the workers and popular movements in the Middle East and globally to mobilize its forces on the following principles.*

*1. They must oppose the aggressions of all imperialist powers – be it the U.S., Russia, Israel, China or France.*

*2. They must defend semi-colonial countries (like Iran) and oppressed people against such Great Power aggressions while retaining their political opposition to those semi-colonial capitalist regimes.*

*3. They must support all popular struggles and just wars of defense both against foreign aggressors as well as against domestic capitalist regimes (e.g. in Syria, Yemen, Iran, Egypt, etc.). This must not lead them to lend any political support to the forces at the top of such struggles.*

*4. The crucial task for the vanguard of the working class and the liberation forces is to rally together and to build a Revolutionary World Party based on a Marxist program.*

*The RCIT calls all authentic revolutionary forces to join us in this struggle." [4]*

The reason is simple: the imperialists are the most dangerous enemy of the international working class and the oppressed.

But how can we, some people may ask, after opposing

Iran, Assad and Hezbollah, during the civil war, defend them now?

Trotsky answered such an argument long ago: *"We do not and never have put all wars on the same plane. Marx and Engels supported the revolutionary struggle of the Irish against Great Britain, of the Poles against the tsar, even though in these two nationalist wars the leaders were, for the most part, members of the bourgeoisie and even at times of the feudal aristocracy ... at all events, Catholic reactionaries. When Abdel-Krim rose up against France, the democrats and Social Democrats spoke with hate of the struggle of a "savage tyrant" against the "democracy." The party of Leon Blum supported this point of view. But we, Marxists and Bolsheviks, considered the struggle of the Rifians against imperialist domination as a progressive war. Lenin wrote hundreds of pages demonstrating the primary necessity of distinguishing between imperialist nations and the colonial and semicolonial nations which comprise the great majority of humanity. To speak of "revolutionary defeatism" in general, without distinguishing between exploiter and exploited countries, is to make a miserable caricature of Bolshevism and to put that caricature at the service of the imperialists.*

*In the Far East we have a classic example. China is a semicolonial country which Japan is transforming, under our very eyes, into a colonial country. Japan's struggle is imperialist and reactionary. China's struggle is emancipatory and progressive.*

*But Chiang Kai-shek? We need have no illusions about Chiang Kai-shek, his party, or the whole ruling class of China, just as Marx and Engels had no illusions about the ruling classes of Ireland and Poland. Chiang Kai-shek is the executioner of the Chinese workers and peasants. But today he is forced, despite himself, to struggle against Japan for the remainder of the independence of China. Tomorrow he may again betray. It is possible. It is probable. It is even inevitable. But today he is struggling. Only cowards, scoundrels, or complete imbeciles can refuse to participate in that struggle. [5]*

Such a dialectical method must guide Marxists also in conflicts and clashes between classes and states today.

### References:

[1] <https://tinyurl.com/ycvb3frw>

[2] <https://tinyurl.com/y7rm2mjw>

[3] <https://tinyurl.com/y8nrzq18>

[4] <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/trump-pulls-u-s-out-of-iran-nuclear-deal/>; see also the joint statement on warmongering in the Middle East which has been issued by the RCIT and five fraternal organizations from Russia, Turkey, Kenya and Nigeria, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/joint-statement-warmongering-in-the-middle-east/>.

[5] <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1937/10/sino.htm>

# Comunismo Revolucionario

## Spanish-language Journal of the RCIT

Price: €3 / \$3,5 / £2 (plus delivery charges)

Order the journal via our contact address: [rcit@thecommunists.net](mailto:rcit@thecommunists.net)

## The Mad Man plays with fire, again

### A Commentary on Trump's Decision to Pull the U.S. out of the Iran Nuclear Deal

by Michael Pröbsting, International Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 9 May 2018

The Mad Man did it, again. On 8 May, U.S. President Trump declared another international treaty dead. This time he announced that *"that the United States will withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal"*. Soon after his speech the White House issued a statement that the US president directed his *"administration to immediately begin the process of re-imposing sanctions. (...) The re-imposed sanctions will target critical sectors of Iran's economy, such as its energy, petrochemical, and financial sectors."* (1)

It is hardly necessary at this place to explain the bizarre logic of Trump's reasoning for his decision. Leaving aside fanatic war-mongers from the Zionist state a la Netanyahu and Lieberman, no sane person has claimed until now that Iran has violated the so-called Iran nuclear deal (also formally known as *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*). The *International Atomic Energy Agency* has repeatedly confirmed that Tehran has been meeting its nuclear commitments fully. Even official of the Trump Administration have to admit this.

In his speech, Trump claimed that *"the Iranian regime is the leading state sponsor of terror. It exports dangerous missiles, fuels conflicts across the Middle East, and supports terrorist proxies and militias such as Hezbollah, Hamas, the Taliban and al-Qaeda."* (2)

Surely, every supporter of the working class and oppressed liberation struggle despises the capitalist theocratic regime in Teheran and its reactionary war against the Syrian people as well as the workers and national minorities in its own country. (3)

But who is the world's leading power to lecture others?! It has attacked countries around the world without any provocation – to name just Afghanistan and Iraq as the latest examples. It has slaughtered myriads of people and is responsible for the death of at least 1.2-1.4 million Iraqis since 2003. It has the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons and it has used them in the past!

Hamas is a terrorist organization? No, irrespective of our political opposition to this petty-bourgeois Islamist organization, it is Israel which barbarically oppresses, starves and kills the Palestinians while Hamas repeatedly stood at the top of just wars of defense.

Similarly in Afghanistan, where the U.S. forces are the barbarians who have brought disaster to the people while the Taliban, irrespective of our rejection of their political agenda, only defend their homeland.

It is a true reflection of the modest knowledge or the malicious mindset (or both) of the U.S. President when he claims that Iran is the sponsor of the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Could it be the case that Trump has never heard about deep sectarian hatred between Sunni and Shia political extremists? And are we wrong in assuming that Trump has never heard of the massive tensions between the Sunni Pashtun-based Taliban and the Shia-dominated Iran? Or about the war being waged by pro-Al Qaida forces in Syria against the Iranian occupation troops? Surely, Trump is someone who makes any farmer from Nebraska look like

an enlightened man of the world!

However, the real problem is not the intellectual simple-mindedness of the U.S. President who can't even articulate a complete sentence without a teleprompter and who most likely would have difficulties to identify the geographical location of Iran on a world map. Neither can this all be explained by Trumps numerous affairs with Porno stars, crooks, Cambridge Analytics, Russian, Israeli and other agencies, etc. Surely, Muellers ongoing investigation makes Trump desperately look for political hazards and military adventures in order to avoid impeachment.

But various liberals fail to recognize the inner logic of these events. To them, a world which is basically working well, appears to be put on risk by an idiot who entered the White House by accident. They are blind to the historic laws behind the ascent of Trump.

Friedrich Engels once remarked, when discussing the role of chance in history: *"Historical events thus appear on the whole to be likewise governed by chance. But wherever on the surface chance holds sway, it is always governed by inner, hidden laws and these laws only have to be discovered."* (4)

And indeed, Donald Dumb is only, albeit a Don Quichotte-like, agent of historical necessity. As the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has explained in numerous books, pamphlets and statements, U.S. imperialism is in historic decline. New imperialist rivals, first and foremost Russia and China, are ascending. Russia's domination in Syria and its growing influence in the Middle East as well as China's economic and political expansion are unquestionable signs of this fundamental shift of the global power relations. (5)

This is why the U.S., Israel and Saudi Arabia are gung-ho to reverse their declining influence in the world and in particular in the Middle East. In order to counter this tendency, U.S. imperialism as well as smaller allied powers like Israel are fanatically determined to provoke tensions and wars. They are addicted to war and power and can not act differently.

We will see what the short-term consequences of Trump's decision are. In this brief commentary we will not deal with this question in detail. However, the RCIT will publish soon a more comprehensive statement which will deal with the tactical consequences for the international workers movement and liberation forces.

But what we can say for sure already now is the following: the real meaning of Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal is not to provoke new negotiations. It is even not so much about imposing new economic sanctions against Iran. It is about creating a pretext for another military aggression in the Middle East.

In our recently published book about the world situation we have outlined more in detail the background and the inner contradictions of these developments. (6) We have predicted the inevitable escalation of the political and military tensions in the region.

However, at this point we will only repeat the important

tactical conclusions resulting from our analysis. (7) The RCIT urges the workers and popular movements in the Middle East and globally to mobilize its forces on the following principles.

1. They must oppose the aggressions of *all* imperialist powers – be it the U.S., Russia, Israel, China or France.

2. They must defend semi-colonial countries (like Iran) and oppressed people against such Great Power aggressions while retaining their political opposition to those semi-colonial capitalist regimes.

3. They must support all popular struggles and just wars of defense both against foreign aggressors as well as against domestic capitalist regimes (e.g. in Syria, Yemen, Iran, Egypt, etc.). This must not lead them to lend any political support to the forces at the top of such struggles.

4. The crucial task for the vanguard of the working class and the liberation forces is to rally together and to build a *Revolutionary World Party* based on a Marxist program.

The RCIT calls all authentic revolutionary forces to join us in this struggle.

#### Footnotes

(1) Donald Trump declares US withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal, Al Jazeera, 2018-05-08, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/05/donald-trump-declares-withdrawal-iran-nuclear-deal-180508141155625.html>

(2) Transcript: Donald Trump's Iran nuclear deal speech in full, Al Jazeera, 2018-05-08 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/05/transcript-donald-trump-iran-nuclear-deal-speech-full-180508192724233.html>

(3) See e.g. RCIT: Long Live the Popular Uprising in Iran! For

Committees of Action of the Workers and Poor! For Organized Self-Defense against the Police Repression! Down with the Capitalist-Theocratic Regime! Unite the Struggle of the Iranian Masses with the Arab Revolution! 01.01.2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/long-live-the-popular-uprising-in-iran/>; RCIT: For the Iranian Revolution! Down with the capitalist Mullah dictatorship! Down with Imperialism! For a working class revolution in Iran! Action Platform for Iran by the RCIT, February 2017, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/africa-and-middle-east/iran-platform/>

(4) Friedrich Engels: Ludwig Feuerbach and the End of Classical German Philosophy; in: MECW 26, p. 387.

(5) See on this our book Michael Pröbsting: The Great Robbery Of The South. Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism. See also the pamphlets and essays collected at this sub-section of our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/china-russia-as-imperialist-powers/>

(6) See chapter V of Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018: A World Pregnant with Wars and Popular Uprisings. February 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/chapter-v/>

(7) In addition to the above mentioned book on the world situation, we want to draw the readers' attention in this context also to our recently published pamphlet Michael Pröbsting: Syria and Great Power Rivalry: The Failure of the „Left“. 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, 21 April 2018, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/syria-great-power-rivalry-and-the-failure-of-the-left/>

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: World Perspectives 2018 - A World Pregnant With Wars And Popular Uprisings

The RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a new English-language book – WORLD PERSPECTIVES 2018: A WORLD PREGNANT WITH WARS AND POPULAR UPRISINGS. The book's subtitle is: Theses on the World Situation, the Perspectives for Class Struggle and the Tasks of Revolutionaries.

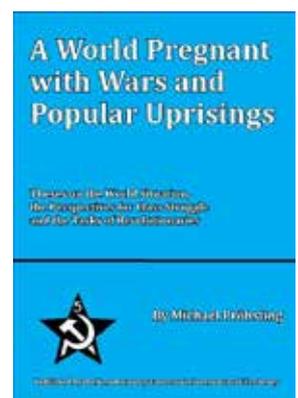
This book is a major contribution of our organization to keep the Marxists' analysis of the world situation and its accelerating contradictions updated. As we emphasize in the document, we consider it as crucial for revolutionaries to understand the nature and the inner dynamics of the current historic period. Without such an understanding it is impossible for socialists, indeed for all liberation fighters, to possess the necessary political compass on which they can base their program, strategy and tactics.

Since several years does the RCIT publish annual studies on the world situation in which it analysis its most important developments and changes. This book updates the Marxist analysis of the state of the world economy, of the relations between the Great Powers, of the struggle between the classes and the tactics of revolutionaries. We also deal in depth with new issues respectively extend our theoretical analysis on several questions. In particular we have deepened in this book,

among others, our understanding of the nature respectively the transitional character of the present world political phase, of the nature of different types of wars and the tactical conclusions arriving from this, of the complex nature of the conflicts in the Middle East, of the capitalist restoration in North Korea and, finally, we have elaborated a new proposal for an international platform for the unification of revolutionary forces in the present phase.

The book contains a preface, introduction and seven eight chapters plus an appendix (118 pages) and includes 23 figures , 9 tables and 2 maps. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who serves as the International Secretary of the RCIT.

You can find the contents and download the book for free at <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/>



## Turkey: Stop the State Repression!

**For the immediate and unconditional release of all other political prisoners!**

*Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) and Sınıf Savaşı (Turkey), 8 May 2018*

1. In the last days, Turkey has been hit once more by a wave of state repression. 84 people from progressive organizations were arrested ahead of the May Day demonstration. Among them is Kadir Çınar, a socialist worker in Bursa.

2. This wave of state repression shows once more the reactionary and Bonapartist character of the Erdoğan regime. Despite Erdoğan's claim to represent the "ordinary Muslim people", his regime serves only the interests of a small clique of capitalists and generals. The regime wastes millions of Dollars for wars of aggression abroad and state repression at home. At the same time, the workers and poor in Turkey see no improvement at all of their living conditions. While Erdoğan pretends to be a "strong leader" he offers himself, alternating, as a servant of U.S. and Russian imperialism (NATO, Astana process, etc.).

3. Naturally, our total opposition against Erdoğan regime does not mean that we lend any support to the equally capitalist opposition parties like Kemal Kilicdaroglu's CHP or Meral Aksener İyi Party. We also denounce the extremely opportunistic policy of the Kurdish-based HDP which looks for an electoral alliance with the right-wing opposition parties.

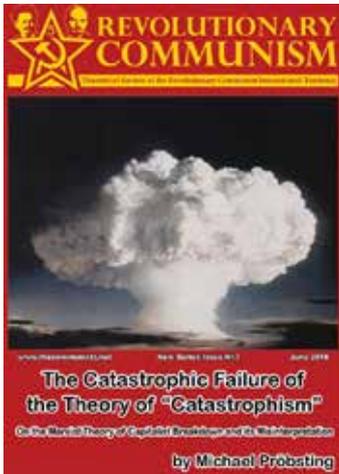
4. It is urgent that socialists fight for the political independence of the working class and the oppressed from all capitalist parties. This means that they should work towards the creation of an independent workers party based on a revolutionary program. (See on this our programmatic proposals in the appendix.) A crucial component of this struggle is to fight against the current state repression.

5. The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* and *Sınıf Savaşı*, together with many socialists inside and outside of Turkey, demand the immediate and unconditional release of Kadir Çınar and all other political prisoners.

### Appendix

TEK YOL DEVRİM! Action Program for Turkey, <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/program-turkey/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/t%C3%BCrk/turkiye-programi/>

Joint Statement: May Day 2018: Greetings to All Revolutionaries, <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/may-day-2018-joint-statement/> and <https://www.thecommunists.net/home/t%C3%BCrk/bir-mayis-2018/>



### NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

## The Catastrophic Failure of the Theory of "Catastrophism"

*By Michael Pröbsting, May 2018*

*On the Marxist Theory of Capitalist Breakdown and its Misinterpretation  
by the Partido Obrero (Argentina) and its  
"Coordinating Committee for the Refoundation of the Fourth International"*

Introduction \* A Note on the PO's term "Catastrophism" \* What did the Marxist Classics Say? A Brief Overview \* Empirical Evidence for the Long-Term Decline of Capitalism \* What will come after Capitalism? \* Epoch and Periods \* The Current Historical Period which Opened in 2008/09 \* Empirical Evidence for the Decay of Capitalism in the Present Historic Period \* The Dialectical and the Mechanistic Interpretation of Cycles on Capitalism \* Permanent Collapse? No, there is Collapse and Collapse \* Consequences of "Catastrophism" (I): Confusion on Capitalist Restoration \* Consequences of "Catastrophism" (II): Confusion on China and Russia as Capitalist Powers \* Excuse: The Theory of "Long Waves" and Dialectical Materialism \* From Economic Crisis to Revolutionary Situation? \* Can the Crisis of Leadership be Solved without an International Democratic-Centralist Organization? \* Conclusions \* Footnotes

*A RCIT Pamphlet, 32 pages, A4 Format*

## 2018 Afrikan Liberation Day

### Forward to the United Socialist States of Africa!

*Joint Statement of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), Revolutionary Socialist League (Zambia), Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), 25 May 2018*

**O**n the anniversary of the Afrikan Liberation Day, we send our warmest greetings to all activists fighting for the liberation of the continent from the scourge of imperialism and capitalism!

We take note of:

\* The African continent is still enslaved by the imperialist Great Powers (U.S, Europe, China, etc.). Hence the independence of the African countries is only a formal one and they remain semi-colonies of the imperialist masters.

\* The African working class and the poor masses are still exploited by the U.S., European, and Chinese monopolies as well as by the small domestic black capitalist class. The latter usually collaborate closely with the imperialists and act as their servants.

\* Various so-called "Pan-Africanist" and "socialist" parties and leaders have painted themselves as advocates of African liberation. But, in fact, they are servants of imperialism and the domestic capitalist class (e.g. the ANC and the "Communist" Party in South Africa, SWAPO in Namibia).

Confirming the general line of the RCIT's "Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa" (<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/manifesto-for-the-revolutionary-liberation-of-black-africa/>), we state:

\* The struggle against capitalism and imperialism in Africa and globally remains highly relevant today!

\* Africa can only be liberated and united if all imperialist powers (U.S., Western Europe, China, Russia, etc.) are driven out of the continent and if the local capitalist elite

are overthrown.

\* This can only be achieved if the working class and the oppressed unite in the struggle for a socialist revolution.

\* Such a socialist revolution can only succeed if it is lead by a revolutionary party which exists both nationally as well as internationally.

We jointly commit our forces in order to advance the construction of such a revolutionary party – in Africa as well as internationally!

Forward to the socialist revolution! For the United Socialist States of Africa!

#### The undersigned organizations

*Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (Zambia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Tunisia, Israel / Occupied Palestine, Brazil, Mexico, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Britain, Germany, and Austria), [www.thecommunists.net](http://www.thecommunists.net)*

*Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), sympathizing section of the RCIT, <https://www.facebook.com/alkebulanschool/>*

*Revolutionary Socialist League (Zambian Section of the RCIT), <http://www.thecommunists.net/>*

*Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), <https://m.facebook.com/pacorenaissance/?ref=bookmarks>*

*Déclaration de la Courante Communiste Révolutionnaire Internationale (CCRI), Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), Revolutionary Socialist League (Zambia), Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), 25 mai 2018*



### NEW 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*

**Introduction \* 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*

## Mexico: Protest against Brutal Torture of Son of Socialist Leader in Oaxaca

*Statement of Solidarity of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 16 May 2018*

**W**e have been informed about a brutal attack against socialist activists in Oaxaca (Mexico). The comrades of the Grupo Internacionalista, Mexican section of the League for the Fourth International (LFI), reported in a statement:

*"Around noon on Monday, May 7, thugs entered the house of comrade Dr. Arturo Villalobos Ordóñez and his wife, Patricia Méndez Jiménez in Oaxaca, Mexico. Both are prominent oppositional activists in the movement of health workers against government "reforms" that are gutting Mexico's public health system. Not finding our comrade there, the attackers brutally tortured and beat the couple's adolescent son, Nizván, and proceeded to ransack the house. As the thugs left, they slashed him and struck the teenager's head, leaving him unconscious. When his mother returned home she found her son semi-conscious. Nizván is currently in the hospital recovering and undergoing tests for injuries to the head (in addition to the blow, his head was submerged in water) and neck (from being dragged by a rope)."*

The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency

(RCIT) strongly condemns this coward and outrageous attack! We send our warmest greetings of solidarity to Dr. Arturo Villalobos Ordóñez, Patricia Méndez Jiménez and Nizván! We hope that their son will recover fully and as soon as possible.

Irrespective of important political differences which exist between the RCIT and the LFI, we emphasize the necessity to stand together against the repression by the bourgeois state and reactionary gangsters. In a statement, the comrades rightly conclude: An attack on one is an attack on all! Hence, the workers and popular movement in Mexico as well as internationally must rally to condemn this brutal attack!

No to political repression!

Long live international solidarity!

A report and statement of the Grupo Internacionalista can be read here: <http://www.internationalist.org/urgentcallforsolidaritycampaignoaxacatorture1805.html#gipressrelease>

## Books of the RCIT

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

**T**he RCIT is proud to announce the publication of a book called *THE GREAT ROBBERY OF THE SOUTH*. The book's subtitle is: *Continuity and Changes in the Super-Exploitation of the Semi-Colonial World by Monopoly Capital*. Consequences for the Marxist Theory of Imperialism. The book is in English-language. It has 15 chapters, 448 pages and includes 139 Tables and Figures. The author of the book is Michael Pröbsting who is the International Secretary of the RCIT.

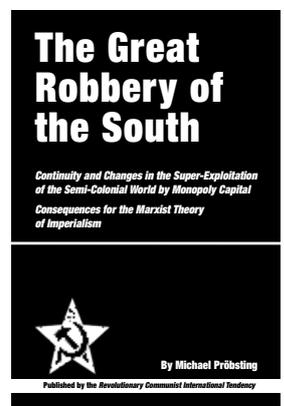
In *The Great Robbery of the South* Michael Pröbsting analyses the super-exploitation and oppression of the semi-colonial world (often referred to as the "Third World") by the imperialist powers and monopolies. He shows that the relationship between the small minority of rich capitalist countries and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

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

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

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

Order your copy NOW! \$20 / £13 / €15 plus p+p (21\$ for US and international, £9 for UK, €10 for Europe)



# Cambodia: Down with the Hun Sen Government!

## Build an Independent Workers Party! For a Workers and Poor Peasants Government!

By Joseph Adams, Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 7 May 2018

**P**rime Minister Hun Sen, leader of the ruling *Cambodian People's Party* (CPP), has set the date for the Cambodian general election July 29<sup>th</sup> 2018.

*"Cambodia's strongman premier Hun Sen has set July 29 as the date for a highly anticipated 2018 general election, according to a document seen by AFP Saturday. The poll will be a major test for the authoritarian premier, whose government has spent the past few years cracking down on an opposition movement trying to break his 32-year grip on power."* [1]

Hun Sen is one of the longest serving Prime Ministers in the world having been Prime Minister five times. A corrupt bourgeois politician Hun Sen has ruled Cambodia with an iron hand suppressing all opposition and using the military to kill and imprison his political opponents. He has systematically abrogated power to himself. An Ex-Stalinist, he instituted the 1997 Coup to ensure he was the sole Prime Minister. This repressive regime is hated and despised by the masses and poor peasants who are daily exploited by his pro-capitalist policies.

*"One of the world's longest-serving leaders, he has been described as a 'wily operator who destroys his political opponents', and as a dictator who has assumed authoritarian power in Cambodia using violence, intimidation and corruption to maintain his power base. Under his dictatorial regime, thousands of opposition activists, politician's environmentalists, and human rights workers have been murdered."* [2]

### Long History of Authoritarian Rule

His repressive and autocratic regime has jailed thousands of opponents killing protesters and banning political parties who are a threat to him. Hun Sen rose to power in 1979 when the Vietnamese Stalinists installed him into power after the Cambodian civil war. Hun Sen was a battalion commander of the Khmer Rouge. After the fall of the Khmer Rouge, Hun Sen was well placed with the support of the Vietnamese military to take power.

*"In 1977, during internal purges of the Khmer Rouge regime, Hun Sen and his battalion cadres fled to Vietnam. Hun Sen became one of the leaders of the rebel army and government that the Vietnamese government sponsored when they prepared to invade Cambodia. When the Khmer Rouge regime was defeated, Hun Sen was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Vietnamese-installed."* [3]

In 1997 a coup was instigated against the Co-Prime Minister at the time and it was believed that Hun Sen had instigated the coup to remove his political opponents. After a United Nations brokered peace deal elections were arranged and Hun Sen's Cambodian People's party won the 1998 general election.

*"In response, Hun Sen launched the 1997 Cambodian Coup replacing Ranariddh with Ung Hout as the First Prime Minister and maintaining his position as the Second Prime Minister, a situation which lasted until the CPP's victory in the 1998 election, after which he became the country's sole Prime Minister."* [4]

Sam Rainsy, former leader of the bourgeois, pro-Western *Cambodian National Rescue Party* (CNRP), has called for a boycott of the election as long as the CNRP remains a banned party and cannot stand candidates in the forthcoming general election and its leader remains under arrest on trumped up charges.

*"Cambodia's former opposition leader, Sam Rainsy, called on Sunday for Cambodians to boycott a general election set for July 29 if his dissolved party isn't allowed to take part. The Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) was dissolved by the Supreme Court last November at the request of Prime Minister Hun Sen's government, which alleged it was plotting to take power with the help of the United State The CNRP and the United States have denied the allegations, which followed the arrest of current party leader Kem Sokha on treason charges over the alleged plot. He has denied the charges and called them a ploy to help Hun Sen win re-election."* [5]

In the 2013 general election Hun Sen came close to defeat. He won only a narrow majority against a background of voting irregularities. Again arrests and attacks on political opponents were used by Hun Sen to prevent political opposition from challenging him for power. Hun Sen's government has been marked by suspending and banning political parties for any reason whatsoever. There were protests in Phnom Penh.

*"Having come close to defeat in 2013, the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has since cracked down on the opposition, arresting key political figures and members of civil society. Nevertheless the main opposition, the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) made significant strides in this year's local elections (gaining 44% of the popular vote). The CNRP believes it can win next year's general election During opposition demonstrations in Freedom Park, Phnom Penh, after the 2013 election, one person was killed after police used tear gas and live bullets to disperse the protesters. Repeat incidents are possible, particularly if hardcore CNRP activists react negatively to the increasing government force which many anticipate."* [6]

### Poor Semi-Colony Super-Exploited by Imperialism

Cambodia is a very poor semi colonial country with a largely agricultural economy. It has a poverty rate of at least 40%. Hun Sen and the Cambodian People's Party have opened up the country to foreign investors. Cambodia is heavily influenced by imperialist powers like China which invest heavily in the country and exploit the workforce who are paid low starvation wages.

*"Cambodia is set for expected GDP growth of 7% this year and next, as it continues to evolve from an agricultural to a market economy (aided by vast reserves of onshore and offshore gas fields, which will help to diversify the economy and drive future growth."* [7]

As the RCIT has previously commented, Cambodia is highly indebted to imperialist powers like China which is now challenging the older Great Powers like USA, Japan and Europe for a bigger share of the global market.

"Furthermore Cambodia is highly indebted to imperialist financial capital. It has external debts equivalent to 40% of its Gross National Income. Again, Chinese banks and financial institutions are Cambodia's largest creditor of and thereby extract huge amounts of extra-profits. The dominant position of Chinese corporations once more confirms the RCIT's analysis of China as an emerging imperialist power which exploits poor countries around the world, and which has become a serious rival to the old imperialist powers like the US, Japan, and the EU." [8]

### Revolutionary Perspectives

The RCIT welcomes discussion and collaboration with socialists in Cambodia. In our opinion, the most important task for the vanguard of the working class and the oppressed is to organize itself independent of all factions of the bourgeoisie. Hence, instead of supporting the CPP or the CNRP, socialists should strive to build an independent Workers Party. Such a party should, in our opinion, become part of a new Workers' International.

Such a Workers' Party would put together a revolutionary program which includes the *expropriation of big business* – including the imperialist corporations – and the *nationalization of the banks under workers' control*. Another important task would be to rally the poor peasants for a program that *expropriates the big landowners and foments an agrarian revolution*. However, in doing so, the Workers' Party has to patiently explain to the workers and poor peasants that sustainable democratic reform and social improvement can only be achieved if the working class

takes power and creates a *government of workers and poor peasants, based on councils and popular militias of armed masses*.

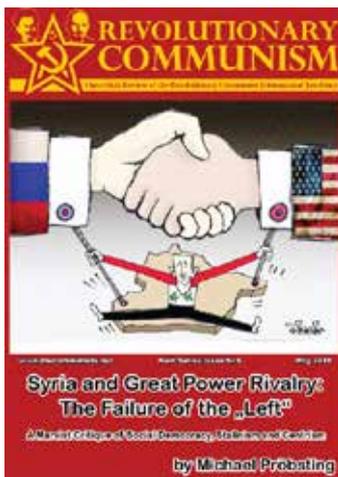
Given the systematic abuse of democratic rights by the long-time dictatorship, the RCIT suggests to Cambodian socialists to consider raising the slogan of a *Revolutionary Constituent Assembly* on order to discuss the political future of the country.

It is obvious that the coming election is a charade organised by the regime. Unsurprisingly, the CNRP is calling for the boycott of the election.

It is crucial that socialists protest against the fake elections. Likewise, socialists should work to prepare organising a general strike against the Hun Sen regime.

### Footnotes

- 1) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4742542/Cambodian-PM-sets-2018-general-election-date.html>
- 2) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hun\\_Sen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hun_Sen)
- 3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hun\\_Sen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hun_Sen)
- 4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hun\\_Sen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hun_Sen)
- 5) <https://www.voanews.com/a/cambodia-rainsy-calls-for-election-boycott/4337551.html>
- 6) <https://globalriskinsights.com/2017/08/cambodia-2018-election-implications/>
- 7) <https://globalriskinsights.com/2017/08/cambodia-2018-election-implications/>
- 8) RCIT: Cambodia: Long Live the Heroic Struggle of the Textile Workers! Prepare for a General Strike! Build an Independent Workers Party! Fight for a Workers' and Peasants' Government! 18.1.2014, <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/asia/cambodian-textile-workers-struggle/>



## NEW RCIT PUBLICATION!

# 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

## France: Pour la Grève Générale – Illimitée, militante, multinationale!

Statement by the European Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist Internationalist Tendency (RCIT), 2 May 2018

1. France is shaken to its grounds by the militant strikes of the workers at French Railways (SNCF) and Air France. In addition students took action against the university reforms with some even joining the picket lines of the rail workers in solidarity. A small breeze from May 1968 is blowing into the present, as we mark its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The European Bureau of the *Revolutionary Communist Internationalist Tendency* (RCIT) fully supports the current protest movements of both the workers and the students.

2. We, as the European Bureau of the RCIT, also state that it is the vanguard of the working class in France (as well as in Europe as such) which must be the one in charge of leading the movement to its success. For this, the class-conscious workers need to learn from past mistakes and implement a revolutionary strategy in order to achieve its goals. Most urgent and important is the slogan: *Pour la Grève Générale – Illimitée, militante, multinationale! For the General Strike – indefinite, militant and multinational!*

3. The current strikes of the railway workers as well as the workers from Air France are directed against both the neo-liberal government of Emmanuel Macron and the management of SNCF and Air France. The French government wants to implement massive cuts in the pensions and social benefits for public workers while the

managements propose ridiculous offers to raise workers wages only by 2%. In addition the university students fight back against plans to change the university admissions rules which would mean closed doors for working class students and students from low-income families as such. It is no surprise that these strikes occur as the neo-liberal Macron government is known to be a government for the big bosses.

4. The hundreds of students who joined the picket lines of the SNCF workers are mainly from Lille, Lyon, Bordeaux and Strasbourg. While it is an important signal of solidarity by the university students, the strike movement as such needs to grow and win other major parts of the *working class* for a (indefinite) general strike. The vague calls for rubbish collectors and energy sector workers to join the strikes must be turned into an organized mobilization, based on democratically elected strike committees which reach out to other sectors. In addition to the efforts to win other workers, the support of other layers of the society such like the university students must be highly welcome.

5. The solidarity of the university students as well as the solidarity of other layers of the society is welcome. However, it cannot and should not replace the unification of various sectors of our class, the working class in a broad general strike movement. Furthermore it is not the task of

## Books of the RCIT

### Michael Pröbsting: Marxism and the United Front Tactic Today

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

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

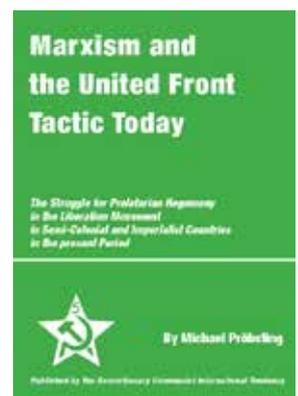
The following paragraphs are the back cover text of the book which give an overview of its content.

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

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

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

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



the university students to achieve such unification *for* the workers as the university students will not and should not be the *leadership* of the general strike movement. Also, the bureaucrats of the labour movement must be challenged as they have shown in the past that they don't act in the interest of the rank-and-file. Instead of the bureaucracy, it is important to form a vivid and militant leadership by the most advanced and talented strike leaders inside of the rank-and-file.

6. The current strike actions of the railway workers as well as the Air France workers have therefore to be based on democratically elected strike committees, which should be nominated by strike assemblies of the workers. The tasks of strike committees should not only be to organize the strike action of the local workers. Moreover they have to coordinate the strike actions of the whole region and nationwide. They have to rally for support by other sectors of the working class, trying to win them to join the strike actions. They have to campaign for solidarity actions by students not only of the universities but also from schools and for the support of the unemployed and the pensioners. Based on recent developments it becomes more than obvious that organizing of self-defence is also a crucial task for such committees.

7. On the 22<sup>th</sup> March masked men with sticks and bats stormed the student sit-in in Montpellier in order to beat up the protesting students. The university dean as well as one professor were arrested as students recognized them in the group of the masked aggressors. It is highly important to learn the lesson of this albeit small incident, which is: *Self-defence, self-defence, self-defence!* While the university based fascist group which mobilized against the 50 student small sit-in in Montpellier might not be the most dangerous threat for a militant general strike movement, it is indeed the far right together with the oppression apparatus of the French state, i.e. the police and the military, which will inevitably become a huge physical threat to the workers if they don't give in.

8. An indefinite general strike is the only possibility to stop the cuts of the pensions, the neo-liberal sell-out of the social system and the education system. However, an indefinite general strike is for the ruling class what the red cloth is for the bull: the start of an unstoppable and bloody rage against the workers. For this the self-defence units of the workers have to prepare themselves to get armed during the ongoing general strike and to be prepared for attacks during their assemblies and protests. Any pacifist illusion during an indefinite general strike means to seriously endanger the safety of all activists of the strike movement and must be avoided! For this, serious debates have to take place and clear decisions have to be made. However, all workers who don't want to participate in self-defence units by themselves should at least support the idea of the self-defence and its democratic implementation.

9. The most important tasks for the current strike movement is to *grow nationwide by winning other sectors of the working class; Organize itself democratically via strike assemblies and elected strike committees*, of which each and every member can be recalled at any time by democratic means; *Prepare to fight back aggressions by far right activists and the repression apparatus of the French state. And: Become as multinational as possible!* In Europe and mainly in France the number of Islamophobic and racist attacks in general

is increasing. In the same time the working class has a high and rapidly growing share of migrants. This multinational character is a big advantage as it means that numerous experiences from the international class struggle enrich the strike movement and the working class in France. We need to win the support of the militant youth in the banlieues, who have a lot of experience to share. These experiences have to be actively incorporated in the fighting arsenal of our whole class. For this workers with a migrant background have not only to be heard but they also have to play a leading role in the general strike movement!

10. Furthermore the French state is perfectly racist not only in its concrete policy of gentrification but also in its racist attacks against mainly Arab people and/or Muslim people via restrictions of religious rights and brutal deportation practices. Each and every shade of racism inside the general strike movement, even the thinnest one, has to be repulsed by a broad, serious and permanent anti-racist campaign. Such a campaign means also to form structures like a caucus. The same is the case for the struggle against sexism and other forms of oppression. In a broad strike movement every oppressed layer, like migrants, women, youth, LGBT and others should have the possibility to form a caucus supported by all other workers. In addition, the general strike movement has to be led mainly by comrades from the oppressed layers of the working class. They suffer the most by the capitalist systems and have extremely valuable experiences and willpower to contribute.

11. In the end, the general strike movement has to be a political movement and not to limit itself to economic demands. This means that the movement must not repeat the mistakes of the past. Although the working class played a key role in the beginning, the student movement dominated the so-called movement of 1968 by its petty-bourgeois fantasies of creating an alternative universe inside of capitalism. They played a dominant ideological and in the end political role. An even more important lesson is the counterrevolutionary role of the reformist bureaucracy. It was the Stalinist leadership of the PCF (French "Communist" Party) and the CGT trade union which sold out the powerful general strike movement. Today, the danger of a betrayal by the reformist bureaucracy is not smaller. This is why it is crucial that the vanguard of the working class builds a revolutionary party. Armed with such a party, the workers vanguard, in its multinational composition, could lead the general strike movement to victory.

12. In order to move forward without repeating the mistakes of the false reformist and centrist leaderships of the past, an indefinite general strike will need a brave revolutionary force, a party of honest liberation fighters willing to lead the indefinite general strike into an armed uprising of the working class to smash the system of oppression and exploitation, to smash capitalism. We as the RCIT think that such a new workers party should be based on a consistent revolutionary program with an internationalist orientation. We think it should consist of the most experienced and most oppressed elements of our class. We therefore call all workers and oppressed in France to unite now, to fight for an indefinite general strike and to prepare for the building of a new revolutionary party.

## On the Escalating Greek-Turkish Tensions

by Max Bonham, *The Internationalist Socialist League (Israel/Occupied Palestine)*, 30 April 2018

*"Once I've seen so many dreadful things— my sons butchered, my daughters hauled away, their houses ransacked, their little children tossed down on the ground in this murderous war."* (Iliad, Book 22)

*"Rome creates a desert and calls it peace"* Tacitus

*"Shameless—armored in shamelessness—always shrewd with greed! How could any Argive soldier obey your orders, freely and gladly do your sailing for you or fight your enemies, full force? Not I. no.*

*It wasn't Trojan spearmen who brought me here to fight. The Trojans never did me damage, not in the least, they never stole my cattle or my horses, never in Phthia where the rich soil breeds strong men did they lay waste my crops. How could they? Look at the endless miles that lie between us ..."*

(Iliad, Book 1, 174-184)

The causes for recent breakdown are varied, but the major ones are:

- i. increase in maritime and airspace incursions;
- ii. the refusal of the Greek courts to hand in the Turkish officers who have fled to Greece after the failed 2016 military coup in Turkey;
- iii. Turkish officials commenting on the Lausanne treaty;
- iv. Recent detainment of two Greek soldiers who accidentally crossed the Greco-Turkish border; [1]
- v. Gas drilling operations in the east Aegean;
- vi. Islands split along the maritime border:

The New York Times describes the latest incident:

*"Last week, a low-flying Turkish helicopter had passed provocatively close to a military base on the nearby Greek island of Ro, drawing warning shots from soldiers. That incident was followed three days later by the death of a Greek fighter pilot who crashed, his government said, after attempting to intercept a Turkish aircraft that had entered the country's airspace. In all, the number of incursions by Turkish military ships and jets into Greek territory has spiked in recent months, according to Greek officials, stoking concerns of a new military conflict in a region where Turkey is already embroiled in the war raging in Syria."* [2]

While those escalations are a worrying trend, it seems that a full blown war is still a long way to go. The people don't seem ready:

*"With the people of Turkey, we don't have problems," said Mr. Raftis, 58. "The problem is with Erdogan, with the Turkish government. They want to make Turkey bigger."*

In addition, the current government in Greece is bankrupt and will have a hard time mobilizing the population.

Additionally, both Greece and Turkey both belong to NATO, with the U.S. still an important ally of Turkey despite its turn towards Russia. Furthermore, Turkey plays a central role containing the Syrian refugees, which Turkey can threaten to release, and those migrants first stop in Europe would be Greece, a prospect which the EU and Greek elites certainly want to avoid at all costs.

The "leftist" Greek Prime Minister has said that:

*"Greece can defend its sovereign rights from one end of this country to the other," said Mr. Tsipras, as the cliffs of Turkey loomed in the distance over his right shoulder. "We won't negotiate, we won't bargain, we won't cede an inch of*

*Kastellorizo land."*

What is even more shameful is the support of most of the Greek left for the nationalist anti-Turkish propaganda. KKE has also, since the 1940's, capitulated to Greek chauvinism regarding Macedonia. While left wing support to causes of national liberation can be legitimate as far as oppressed nations are concerned, this is clearly not the case here. Greek propaganda has painted Erdogan as a fascist, and although it is false and hypocritical, the capitalist Turkish government does have some harsh authoritarian shades to it.

In order to counter Turkey, Greece is seeking an alliance with Israel and Cyprus. One of the alliance's goals is to sort out the issue of Mediterranean gas deposits, some of which are actually in Lebanese territory. Greece has also increased its military joint training and economic activities with Israel. [3]

It would be wrong to paint Greece as the victim in this Greek-Turkish conflict as both are semi colonies. In addition, Greece has historically the sympathies of the Christian West.

While the rivalry can be traced back hundreds of years, as the quotes about the Troy war will attest, the major modern events are Greece independence from Ottoman rule in the 1830's, Greece invasion into Turkey after WWI, the treaty of Lausanne in 1920 which restored Turkey's control over Asia Minor, and the Turkish invasion into Cyprus in 1974.

Turkey undoubtedly *has* been seeking an expansionist policy in recent years. Erdogan's rhetoric is part of his post-coup attempt to stabilize his government and quell domestic criticism. Erdogan's vision of a restored neo-Ottoman empire is certainly reactionary.

To reiterate, in a case of war just between Turkey and Greece the RCIT calls for revolutionary defeatism on both sides. This means socialists must not support the war efforts in each country and stand for the defeat of "their" state. Naturally, the involvement of imperialist powers on each side (not excluded given the close relationships both countries have with Great Powers) could alter the character of the war. As a general principle we state that the RCIT opposes both US, EU as well as Russian imperialism.

\* *We call for anti-war mobilizations in Greece and Turkey, for the end of the current hostilities*

\* *We call for an end to imperialist interventions in the region*

### References:

[1] <https://tinyurl.com/y8y6vmeh>

[2] <https://tinyurl.com/yjcj9njq>

[3] <https://tinyurl.com/y7h7t4ap>

For furthermore information on Greece: <https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/greece-semi-colony/>

On Marxism and War: <http://the-isleague.com/marxism-and-war/>

<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/chapter-ii/>

On Turkey: <http://the-isleague.com/turkey-6-2013/>

<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/world-perspectives-2018/chapter-v/>

<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/program-turkey/>

# Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the Chechen People!

## Open Letter to the Oppressed Chechen People

*Published by the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), February 2018*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
We send you our warmest greetings in the name of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT). We strongly condemn Russian imperialism! We support your struggle for freedom and national self-determination!

Since many decades you are suppressed by the Russian state. First, it was the Tsar who subjugated the people of the Caucasus and smashed the courageous resistance led by Imam Shamil. Later it was Stalin and his pseudo-communist regime. Stalin revoked all decisions of the Soviet government of Lenin and Trotsky and renewed the oppression of the Chechen people. And finally, the Chechen's quest for liberty was again brutally suppressed by Yeltsin and Putin. Since then, Moscow occupies your country with the help of the bloody butcher Kadyrov.

You have lost hundreds of thousands of brothers and sisters since Yeltsin's and Putin's army began invading your country. Today, fear, torture, rape and terror are prevailing in Chechnya.

However, we are confident that your struggle for freedom will finally succeed! Because your struggle is great and just!

In our opinion, the Chechen people can only be free if no imperialist Great Power (neither Russia, nor the U.S. or the EU) dominates the Caucasus and no group of rich exploiters rules over you. We think that the future of freedom is closely connected with the struggle for international equality of people and socialism.

Long live the international solidarity with the liberation struggle of the Chechen people!

# Russia: Free Filinkov, Shishkin and other arrested Anarchists!

## Down with the authoritarian Putin regime in imperialist Russia!

*Statement of solidarity by the Marxist Group 'Class Politics' (Russia) and the RCIT, 8 May 2018*

We alert the world public to the increasing repression of the Putin regime against political activists. The 27-year-old Russian anarchist and antifascist Yulij Bojarshinov has been arrested at home on 21 January. Few days later the 23-year-old Viktor Filinkov has been arrested. He was detained, presumably by FSB officers, at the Pulkovo Airport in Petersburg. Since then he has been beaten and tortured with an electric cattle prod. He is accused of being a "member of a terrorist network".

Few days later the FSB arrested another anarchist, Igor Shishkin. He was also beaten and tortured with electric shocks.

Other examples of such increasing repression in Russia are the arrests of six people in Penza. Five of them

(Arman Sagynbaev, Dmitriy Pchelintsev, Ilja Shakursky, Andrej Chernov, Vasiliy Kuksov) are currently in pre-trial detention. Again, some of these arrested were brutally tortured.

We protest against these brutal acts of repression and demand the immediate freedom of Viktor Filinkov, Igor Shishkin and other arrested!

While we share, as Marxists, a different ideological outlook, we stand in unconditional solidarity with these activists!

We call the organizations of the international workers movement to solidarize with the victims of the authoritarian Putin regime!

# Poland: Stop State Repression against Socialists!

*Statement of Solidarity of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT), 17 May 2018*

The comrades from the Polish socialist website "Władza Rad" ("The Soviet Power") informed us about increasing state repression in their country. One of their editors wrote us in a letter:

*"On Monday, April 30, police entered the flat of our comrades and took his notebook, two hard drives and cellphone. This action was done despite the fact that popularization of communism is legal in Poland, and so was completely unlawful. I am asking you to help us in informing the international community about the anti-Communist repressions in Poland."*

The comrades report also about similar incidents against other Polish left-wing organizations. It is clear that the extremely right-wing, chauvinist and anti-communist government of Poland tries to suppress progressive

opposition forces by any means necessary.

The *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) strongly protests against all acts of state repression by the Polish government! Irrespective of ideological differences, we state our unconditional solidarity with the comrades of "Władza Rad" as well as all other progressive and democratic forces in Poland! We call for international solidarity of the workers and popular movements in defense of democratic rights!

No to state repression!

Long live international solidarity!

A report and statement of Władza Rad can be read here: <http://1917.net.pl/node/23078>

# The State of the Class Struggle in the USA

By Dov Winter, U.S. Sympathizer of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency, 23 May 2018

If there is any place on earth that symbolizes the future of the class struggle without a revolutionary leadership, it is the USA. While some important strikes did take place in the US in the last 5 year, the overall numbers of strikes have been plummeting. According to Bloomberg “The number of major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more strikers dropped to seven last year from 15 in 2016 -- the second lowest in Labor Department data going back to 1947. The total number of workers hitting the picket lines dropped to 25,000 last year, accounting for total of 440,000 idle days.” (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-09/major-u-s-labor-strikes-second-lowest-on-record-in-2017>). This is not a statistic flux. While worldwide working class strikes and struggles are not nearly as sluggish as they are in the US, they are not massive enough to generate solidarity and strikes in the US.

When it comes to class consciousness, workers in the US remain the most backward in the imperialist countries. But this is by no means a uniform process. There have been big labor struggles in the US in recent years. Communication workers in Verizon as well as workers at AT&T went on strike in 2016. But these strikes resulted in defeats and capitulation by the unions’ bureaucracy. In the Verizon strike, the union agree that the workers accept a major cut in their healthcare benefits and accept a freeze of their pension benefits. The union also allows the company to seek more cheap labor overseas. As a result, the non-union wireless division in Verizon grew by 7 percent.

## Decline of Number of Strikes

But the news is not all bleak. There have been big strikes in the South, which historically has been a bastion for unions busting and not-unions labor. Notable is the teachers strike in the South that is accompanied by other teachers’ strikes in the US. The unions’ membership has been rising in the public sector. But in the industrial sectors, which are key for production and therefore for powerful strikes, the unions are in decline as they accept major concessions. For example, a major strike by United Auto Workers against Nissan was defeated, and the march in Mississippi against Nissan, led by Bernie Sanders and Danny Glover did not change this. Yet despite this, one cannot ignore the rise of workers’ militancy in the South which is historically a place for brutal racism and not workers solidarity.

The capitalists do not necessarily want to totally bust the unions. They need the unions’ bureaucracy to control working class rebellion. They are happy to choke the unions and reduce their ranks gradually, allowing the bureaucracy to control the workers on behalf of the capitalists. This resulted in significant reduction of the standard of living for the working class that has been declining steadily in the last few decades.

Historically, the unions are really at the lowest point. Just compare the strikers after Second World War that reached 2.7 million in 1952, to the number of strikers in 2009 (the lowest since the end of the war) that was merely 13,000. But there is still the glimmer of hope. In 2015 47,000

workers went on strike, a low number but is better than 13,000. (The *Nation*, April 15, 2016).

While spikes in strikes numbers can happen, the general trend is down. The results can be seen in Detroit. Detroit was the center for the rise of the United Auto Workers (UAW) in the 1930<sup>th</sup>, whereby armed workers fought the cops and army as they successfully won the right to unionize the auto workers. Today the situation is starkly different. The union bureaucracy accepted (by not waging mass struggles to stop it) the “right” of workers not to belong to the union. While these workers still have to pay the unions standard membership dues, such lack of solidarity means that non-union workers could become scabs when the union goes on strike.

One of the unions’ reaction to the decline of the unions is the fight for a \$15 minimum wage. This is certainly an improvement for the poor non-union workers. But with the terrible decline in the standard of living a \$15 an hour is barely enough to pay for the increasing rent (gains for rent control over the years have been chopped), and basic necessities in the big cities such as New York and San Francisco.

## Political Class Struggle

On the political front, the news is more encouraging. The capitalists cannot squeeze the working class to a breaking point without a rising anger and a rise in class consciousness. A rising number of workers see through the rottenness of capitalism. About 50% is open to the idea that socialism is the best solution to their exploitation and oppression in the capitalist system. While in Europe 50% support for socialism, or more accurately Social Democracy, is normal, in the US it is a big deal. The reasons for such a change is encouraging. It is taking place partially because Russia is no longer a workers’ state, thus the anti-communist propaganda stopped. But the most important reason is that the workers have begun to see the rottenness and limitation of capitalism as their exploitation and oppression worsen.

This rise in class consciousness is expressed by the rise of militancy of Black workers and the unemployed. Police killing of unarmed black people is on the rise. Most black workers understand that racism in the US is institutional. In fact, Trotsky understanding how important the Black Question is clearly valid today. The reaction of Black people to the police killing prompted the rise of *Black Lives Matter* that organized many demonstrations against the police in the major cities. Marchers in Chicago occupied City Hall in 2016. *Black Lives Matter* protesters shut down major bridges in New York City that left the city and the cops paralyzed. As they shut down bridges and the railroad system their main slogan was “*Shut it Down*”. (We shall come back on the limitation of the leadership for *Occupy* and *Black Lives Matter* in another article). The youth and young workers from these protests know that without shutting down the capitalist system they cannot win.

## Oppression of Black People and Migrants

All this militancy emerged after the capitalist state rolled back many of the gains from the mass struggles in the 1960<sup>th</sup> and 1970<sup>th</sup>. For example, Republicans have changed voting rules to make it more difficult for a black person to vote – such as the requirement to have a picture ID when voting. Many Black people do not have picture IDs. The Black people, who are lucky not to be in the prison system that swelled dramatically in recent years, still face police brutality on a daily basis. For example, after the disaster from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the police shot Black people for being “looters”. Hence, Michael Brown’s desperate last words before he was killed “*My hands are up, don’t shoot*” have become very widespread in Blacks’ protests.

There are increasing numbers of marches against police brutality as the number of racist incidents and racist killing increase. These protests go hand in hand with increase police brutality. I just like to mention a typical example that was not received enough coverage in the capitalist press. Four people were brutally murdered in a home in Chino Hills, CA in 1983. While all eye-witnesses said that they saw three white attackers, the police ignored the eye-witnesses. They did not even bother to test overalls of the victims’ blood that included hair from the attackers. They threw the overalls away! Instead they arrested a Black man, Cooper, who was later convicted for murder, and he is now in the death row, waiting for his barbaric execution. Governor Jerry Brown, the so called liberal Democrat, refused to allow advanced DNA testing that would have found Cooper not guilty. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated example. There are many such examples, like the case of Mumia Abu Jamal.

The state of undocumented workers who get caught while entering the US is of anything worse than the state of Black people. The state put them in the worse prisons, often run by private companies for profit. There they exist with no rights and are subjected to brutality by the racist guards. The lucky immigrants’ children, who managed to receive a legal status under Obama’s DACA rule, are often separated from their family in Mexico and Latin America if the parents are deported. The undocumented workers, who managed to get into the US, are always running and hiding from ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement). They stand from 6 in the mornings at street corners, waiting to be picked up by small employers to do hard work in the building industry or gardening for very little money. But instead, many times, they are arrested by ICE that put them in the worst prisons before sending them back to Mexico and other countries.

## Reactionary Trump Administration

With Trump in power, many are worried that the US could become a fascist dictatorship. It is true that some of Trump remarks were sympathetic to pro-fascists’ groups. For example, Trump tweeted his favorite Mussolini quote (<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/2jigsm/the-daily-show-with-trevor-noah-donald-trump-s-fascist-week>). Trump sympathy to fascists is not a surprise. It is a fact as the *Nation* writes: “*That Trump was looking at a fascist Twitter feed is horrifying enough—though not at all surprising, given*

*that he has previously paraphrased Hitler in a public speech and during the election campaign tweeted out Mussolini quotes.*” (<https://www.thenation.com/article/trump-is-now-openly-supporting-fascists/>).

The US has a president who is openly racist and is sympathetic to fascism. This is, of course, extremely dangerous. If the US economy collapses, the rising fascists’ groups could become a mass brown shirts movement. In such a case Trump could become the fascist moment symbolic head. But fascism is the last resort for capitalism. It rises when the system is in a serious economic and political crisis; and when the state cannot stop the militancy of the working class by the standard means of repression. It is the last resort of capitalism that the capitalists generally don’t like because it comes with a very heavy price. The fascists take control away from the capitalist class and its typical politicians as fascism serves capitalism ultimate interests in times of unresolved political and economic crisis. But the US has not reached such a stage. Thus, Trumps’ sympathy for fascism is not allowed to go beyond rhetoric for the time being. That does not mean that it could not change in the future. World capitalism is headed toward another economic crisis. This is combined with increasing climate change that forces thousands to flee from Africa to Europe. The result is a rising racism and increasing membership in fascist groups in Europe. The similar process is taking place in the US.

## Labor Party

In the 1990<sup>th</sup> there was big momentum for a Labor Party in the unions that I was part of. The movement is not dead, and it could revive as the working class tries to stop the bleeding from attacks against it. The contradictions of American capitalism will inevitably revive the drive for a workers’ party as millions of workers are losing whatever little illusions they have in the Democratic Party. The unions’ bureaucracy drive to keep the workers tied to the Democrats is failing. For decades the bureaucracy told the workers that the Democrats are the lesser evil in comparison to the Republicans, and that supporting the Democrats is the only realistic solution. But this rotten logic is not received well within the advanced sector of the working class.

Yet the experience of the 1990<sup>th</sup> shows that the Labor Party cannot be built solo with meetings organized by the bureaucracy and unions’ militants. A political labor party based on the unions and the oppressed can only be built with massive class struggle and a rising class consciousness. The collapse of the efforts in the 1990<sup>th</sup> was a negative illustration that meetings alone are not enough. Hopefully a positive illustration of building a Labor Party with a massive class struggle will develop in the coming years. If such developments will take place, the American working class will learn quickly and could go beyond the construction of a reformist party. As the class struggle explodes, it will open the door for the Socialist Revolution. As Trotsky pointed out: when the American workers enter mass struggles they learn fast!

*For the RCIT’s analysis and perspectives of the class struggle in North America, we refer readers to our articles and documents which can be accessed at a special section of our website: <https://www.thecommunists.net/worldwide/north-america/>*

## Welcome the Kenyan Revolutionaries in the Ranks of the RCIT!

*The Circle "Alkebulan School of Black Studies" (Kenya) becomes sympathizing Section of the RCIT, 2 May 2018*

1. The international leadership of the *Revolutionary Communist International Tendency* (RCIT) has agreed to accept the Circle "Alkebulan School of Black Studies" as its sympathizing section in Kenya. The Kenyan comrades will elect a representative who will participate in the international leadership of the RCIT.

2. This is the result of an intensive period of discussion and collaboration between our organizations. This rapprochement is expressed in agreement on fundamental programmatic documents like the RCIT's "*Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa*" (<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/manifesto-for-the-revolutionary-liberation-of-black-africa/>) as well as the RCIT's *Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today*". ([https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/6-](https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/6-points-for-a-platform-of-revolutionary-unity-today/)

[points-for-a-platform-of-revolutionary-unity-today/](https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/6-points-for-a-platform-of-revolutionary-unity-today/)). Furthermore the two organizations have agreed on an Action Program for Kenya (which will be published soon).

3. This advance in our relationship is an important progress in Black Africa – a crucial region for the international class struggle. The Zambian section and the Kenyan sympathizing section, with the support of the RCIT's international leadership, will join forces in spreading the ideas of revolutionary socialism on the continent so that we can organize the best fighters for the cause of liberation. We call upon revolutionaries in Kenya, Africa and internationally to join us in our struggle to rebuild a revolutionary World Party – an international party determined to fight for socialist revolution in Africa and around the world!

## Forward in Building a Revolutionary Party in Nigeria and Africa!

*Joint Declaration of Fraternal Relations between the Pacesetters Movement (Nigeria) and the RCIT, 8 May 2018*

1. The leadership of the *Pacesetters Movement* (Nigeria) discussed the RCIT's "*Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa*" (<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/manifesto-for-the-revolutionary-liberation-of-black-africa/>) and concluded that it agrees with the general analysis and programmatic strategy of it. Likewise, the *Pacesetters Movement* agrees with the May Day 2018 Statement (including the "*Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today*"; <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/may-day-2018-joint-statement/>).

2. On this basis, the RCIT and the *Pacesetters Movement* agree to establish fraternal relations. In such a framework we strive to deepen our discussion and collaboration in

order to achieve the closest possible unity, and if possible fusion, between our forces. One important aspect of our collaboration will be the elaboration a revolutionary Action Program for the liberation of the workers, poor peasants and youth in Nigeria.

3. Our goal is to advance the struggle for the socialist unification of Africa and, finally, the world. We are aware that this is only possible on the basis of an international Marxist program and the creation of a revolutionary party in Nigeria as well as globally. Hence, we will work together in order to fight for the socialist revolution and the overthrow of capitalism!



Comrade Sanyaolu Juwon (A Leader of Pacesetters and National Coordinator Of Alliance of Nigerian Students Against Neoliberal Attacks)

## Advance the Revolutionary Struggle in Nigeria and Africa!

*Joint Declaration of Fraternal Relations between the Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria) and the RCIT, 9.5.2018*

1. After discussing the RCIT's "Manifesto for the Revolutionary Liberation of Black Africa" (<https://www.thecommunists.net/theory/manifesto-for-the-revolutionary-liberation-of-black-africa/>) the Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (PACOR) has arrived at the following conclusions.

a) It agrees in general with the political analysis and the revolutionary strategy formulated in the Manifesto.

b) It stresses its agreement with the assessment that China has become an imperialist Great Power and represents an important rival to the old imperialist powers like the US, Britain, France etc.

c) It shares the anti-imperialist strategy to fight for the expulsion of all Great Powers from the African continent.

d) It emphasizes the necessity to fight for the expropriation of the (foreign and domestic) capitalist class in order to overthrow the system of exploitation.

e) It agrees with the strategy to fight for a full liberation of Nigeria and the whole of Africa via the methods of class struggle resulting in a national and international socialist revolution. This is the road to achieve the United Socialist States of Africa.

f) Concerning the struggle against capitalist dictatorships, PACOR and the RCIT emphasize that it is important to differentiate the following issues of which each aspect is important:

i) Revolutionaries denounce the Western hypocrisy when they utilize critique of authoritarian regimes and human rights violation as a pretext to interfere in the political life in other countries.

ii) We emphasize that it is the task of the working class and the oppressed – and not of any Great Power or the United

Nations (which is an instrument of the imperialists) – to fight against dictatorship. Hence revolutionaries support popular struggles against authoritarian regimes and for democratic rights (e.g. in Togo, DRC, West Papua, Egypt, Syria).

iii) In case of any imperialist aggression (e.g. Iraq 1991 and 2003, Afghanistan 2003, Somalia since 1993, Mali since 2013, Syria since 2015, etc.), revolutionaries must stand for the unconditional defence of the semi-colonial country and for the defeat of the imperialist powers. At the same time we lend no political support for the forces at the leadership of these semi-colonial countries (Saddam Hussein, petty-bourgeois Islamists etc.).

2) On the basis of such an agreement with the Africa Manifesto as well as with the joint May Day 2018 Statement (including the "Six Points for a Platform of Revolutionary Unity Today"; <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/may-day-2018-joint-statement/>) PACOR and RCIT have decided to establish fraternal relations.

3. In the framework of such fraternal relations we strive to deepen our discussion and collaboration in order to achieve the closest possible unity, and if possible fusion, between our forces. We will collaborate in elaborating a revolutionary Action Program for the liberation of the workers, poor peasants and youth in Nigeria. Aiming for the advance the struggle against capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression in Nigeria and the whole African continent, we will work together in order to rebuild a revolutionary World Party – an international party determined to fight for socialist revolution in Africa and around the world!



Comrade Ifagunwa Ifamaberu (National Coordinator of the Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance, Nigeria) addresses a rally

# Spreading the Revolutionary Message on May Day 2018!

*Report on the Activities of the RCIT and its Fraternal Organizations on May Day 2018, 3 May 2018*

The Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) and its Fraternal Organizations participated in numerous countries all over the world on May Day 2018. In a joint statement, the RCIT – together with Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance (Nigeria), Alkebulan School of Black Studies (Kenya), Sınıf Savaşı (Turkey), and Marxist Group ‘Class Politics’ (Russia) – called socialist organizations and activists to join our efforts to “*build a new World Party of Socialist Revolution*”. This statement has been published in 11 different languages ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#), [Turkish](#), [Urdu](#), [German](#), [Albanian](#), and [Hebrew](#)).

Comrades of the RCIT sections as well as of our fraternal organizations utilized May Day to spread the revolutionary message on all continents. Comrades distributed the joint May Day statement, sold national as well as international publications, discussed with militant workers and youth, organized independent rallies or meetings, etc. From Mexico City to Colombo, from London to Lusaka, we are united in fighting for the construction of a Revolutionary World Party!

Below we summarize the reports which we have received so far from our comrades and provide a number of pictures and videos.

## Turkey

Comrades of *Sınıf Savaşı* participated in the May Day demonstrations in Istanbul and Bursa. They reported about the difficult situation of left wing forces in Turkey where they were faced, once more, by massive state repression on May Day.

In Istanbul, two separate marches took place. One took place at Maltepe Square. However, this demonstration was organized and dominated by the bourgeois opposition

party CHP and the petty-bourgeois, mainly Kurdish, HDP. The second, more left-wing, demonstration assembled at Saraçhane Park and tried to reach the Taksim Square. The police did everything in their power to stop them. Nevertheless, in the end the police had to allow a group of 100 people to reach Taksim which was a small victory.

In Bursa, demonstrators were also faced with heavy pressure by the police. Many people were detained before and after the rally. However, the numbers of people participating in the May Day demonstrations was larger than in previous years.

## Mexico

According to the reports of our comrades the May Day mobilization in Mexico City was rather poor. Less workers groups participated in the demonstration than in past years. Furthermore, the demonstration was much divided because the groups started at different hours and places at the centre of the city.

Comrades from the Mexican RCIT section and the *Brigada Solidaridad Naucalpan* jointly participated in the mobilizations. They also joined the demonstration of the dissident teachers of Section 10 and 11 of the *Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación* (CNTE) – the militant teachers union. (See pictures below)

## Kenya

Official Labour Day celebrations in Kenya are characterized by self-adulation and announcement of so-called wage “increases” (which in reality don’t appear on the pay slip) by government officials. However, our comrades of the “*Alkebulan School of Black Studies*” used the Labour Day in Kenya to organize a meeting with members and sympathizers as well as local supporters in Dagoretti



Activists of the Mexican Section of the RCIT at the May Day demonstration

South. Dagoretti is an important urban slum constituency in the western part of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. It has nearly a quarter of a million people, most of them workers and low income earners and youths.

The *Alkebulan School*, which has just become a sympathizing section of the RCIT (see <https://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/welcome-the-kenyan-revolutionaries-in-the-ranks-of-the-rcit/>), sent us a message emphasizing the necessity of, as Karl Marx said, “Workers of all countries, unite!” The comrades discussed at the meeting the current situation for workers and adopted a document on strategy. (See pictures below)

### Russia

Comrades of the *Marxist Group ‘Class Politics’* (MGKP) participated in the May Day demonstration in Saint Petersburg. They joined the several hundred people-strong column organized by MPRA union (inter-regional trade-union “*Workers’ Association*”, other trade-unions and the KTR (Trade-union Confederation of Russia). They did so also in order to express their solidarity with the MPRA as it has been liquidated in January 2018 by court order.

The demonstration was addressed by various speakers, including by Viktor Tjulkin, the leader of the Stalinist RKRP. Various ultra-left groups like the misnamed “*Revolutionary Workers’ Party*” and the anarchist “*Realternativa*” tried to draw attention to themselves with empty “*rrradical*” phrase-mongering.

The participation of LGBT activists in the May Day demonstrations is a hotly disputed issue among the Russian left. These activists face repeatedly repression by the Russian state. This year again, several LGBT activists were arrested by the police without any reason. The comrades tried to protect them but they couldn’t stop the police. Unfortunately, solidarity with these activists is not a matter of course for many of the “*left*”. Tjulkin expressed a common reactionary position among Stalinists when he said in his speech that feminists and LGBT activists are splitting workers’ movement. Fortunately, the MPRA did

not prohibit the participation of LGBT activists this time as it was the case in previous years.

The MGKP comrades distributed the latest issue of their paper and intervened with several placards. These placards contained the slogans: “*For shortening of the working day!*”, “*For the working class power!*”, “*For the building of the World revolutionary party!*”, “*For granting citizenship for all migrants!*”, “*No more tortures! No more censorship! No more FSB (Federal Security Service of Russian Federation)!*”, “*Hands off Syria! Money for education, and not to the war!*”, “*For the workers’ control over production and circulation of commodities. For the abolition of “commercial secrets”*”. All this was a real challenge given the fact that May Day was a very rainy day in Saint Petersburg! (See pictures below)

### Palestine

The RCIT comrades in Israel / Occupied Palestine had to deal with the bleak situation that the May Day rallies were either organized by the Jewish Zionist left or Palestinian pro-Assad forces. This reflects the general political situation in Israel / Occupied Palestine which is extremely difficult for revolutionaries. The country’s public opinion is soaked with ultra-chauvinist hatred and war-mongering. There is a lot of talk that Israel’s government might start a war against Iran this month.

The situation is worsened by the fact that the strongest “*left-wing*” party – the “*Communist*” Party Maki respectively its electoral front Hadash – is viciously pro-Assad and supports his reactionary butchery of the Syrian people. Unsurprisingly, other, more progressive Palestinian forces – like Balad – who support the popular uprising of the Syrian people against Assad boycotted the Hadash events. As a result the Hadash event was smaller than in previous years.

The shameful situation of these forces is also reflected in the fact that despite the heroic “*Great Return Marches*” in Gaza no major group has organized any significant solidarity demonstration anywhere in the country.



May Day meeting of Activists of the “*Alkebulan School of Black Studies*” (Sympathizing Section of the RCIT in Kenya)

### Austria

In Austria, comrades of the RCIT intervened successfully at the mass demonstration in Vienna organized by social democratic party. This demonstration, according to the organizers the biggest May Day event ever with 120,000 participants, reflected an increase in a spirit of resistance. This is not surprising since the social democratic party is out of government for the first time since 12 years. In comparison the two Stalinist demonstrations were very small with a few hundred participants each.

The Austrian RCIT section had a large book stall reflecting its vast propaganda output (see pictures below). Comrades reported about a growing interest in political alternatives among progressive workers and youth. As a result, the comrades experienced many interesting discussions with people interested in Marxism and they sold more papers than in many years before.

In the afternoon the section organized its own May Day rally at a square close to the Syrian embassy. The rally was joined by Syrian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Palestinian and Chechen activists with whom the section collaborates since years in our solidarity work. The rally was addressed by the leaders of the Syrian, Egyptian, and Chechen migrant community in Vienna. In addition, there were speeches by a young Iraqi activist and by a long-time Palestinian activist. Furthermore, there were speeches by four RCIT comrades, Rahime Berisha, Marek Hangler, Nina Gunic and Michael Pröbsting. (See pictures and videos of the rally below).

### Brazil

Seven central trade union federations organized rallies and demonstration in the main cities of Brazil. However, only CUT – the biggest federation which is close to Lula's reformist PT party – has been able to mobilize larger crowds. The main motto of their campaign was "Free Lula and in defence of the democracy" – in response to the recent arrest of Lula (see on this e.g. our article [https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-the-](https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-the-emergency-regime-advances/)

[emergency-regime-advances/](https://www.thecomunists.net/worldwide/latin-america/brazil-the-emergency-regime-advances/)).

One major demonstration took place in Curitiba, the capital of Paraná, where Lula is in prison. About 30,000 people participated in the march (see pictures and videos below). Another mass demonstration took place in the city of São Paulo which was stronger than in previous years.

Comrades reported that the spirit of workers and youth at the demonstration was very militant. An increasing number of them are looking for a new political orientation given the cul-de-sac of the PT's reformism.

### Zambia

Comrades in Zambia participated in May Day demonstrations in two cities – Lusaka (the capital city) and Kitwe. Both events were organized by the *Zambia Congress of Trade Unions*. One event in Lusaka took place in the Kamwala district with about 300 people participating. Many workers who participated in the demonstration are employed as super-exploited labor force in Indian-owned shops in the Kamwala shopping area. In discussions with RCIT members, many workers expressed their rampant discontent about low salaries and terrible working conditions. After the meeting, some youth expressed their desire to join the ranks of the RCIT.

In Kitwe, an industrial town in the Copperbelt Province – a heart region of Zambia's working class – about 1,000 workers participated in the May Day rally. Here too, low wages were the most important issue. Another issue, about which RCIT comrades had many discussion, was the experience of workers in enterprises owned by Chinese imperialists.

### Nigeria

In Lagos, Nigeria's capital city, the *Nigerian Labour Congress* and the *Trade Union Congress* organized a mass rally in a stadium with at least 2,000 workers attending. The necessity of a rise of the minimum wage was the main issue.

The comrades of *Pan-Afrikan Consciousness Renaissance*



Activists of the Brazilian Section of the RCIT at the May Day demonstration

(PACOR) participated in the rally. (See pictures below) PACOR plays a central role in a broader coalition called *Movement Against Slavery and Poverty* (MAPS). Other components of this coalition are the *United Action for Democracy*, GAFARMOG, and the National Conscience Party.

Together, the MAPS coalition issued a statement which was distributed on May Day as a leaflet. In this leaflet the comrades call for a “*genuine and relentless mass struggle*” to “*win a new minimum wage.*” They call for the creation of a “*genuine mass working people’s political alternative. The labour movement must arise to its historical task of building a genuine Workers’ party as a vehicle through which working class people can democratically put up candidates that can stand on the programme of raising and fulfilling the demands of workers and oppressed people. The effort at reclaiming the Labour Party must be taken seriously or in any event that the party remains in its perpetually rotten state, a new mass working people’s party must be built that can forge a united front with genuine left and radical parties to displace the entire capitalist elite.*” (see <https://www.thecommunists.net/forum/nigeria-maps-leaflet-may-day-2018/>)

### Germany

Comrades of the RCIT Germany joined the May Day demonstration organized by the trade union. It was about 1,500 people strong (a similar number as last year). Jörg Hofmann, the chairman of the metal workers union tried to rally the support of demonstrators for the Social Democratic Party’s participation in the “Great Coalition” with the Conservative Party. In his speech he defended the

delusional idea that the trade unions can play the role of a “constitutive element”. In other words, he preached class peace and not class struggle.

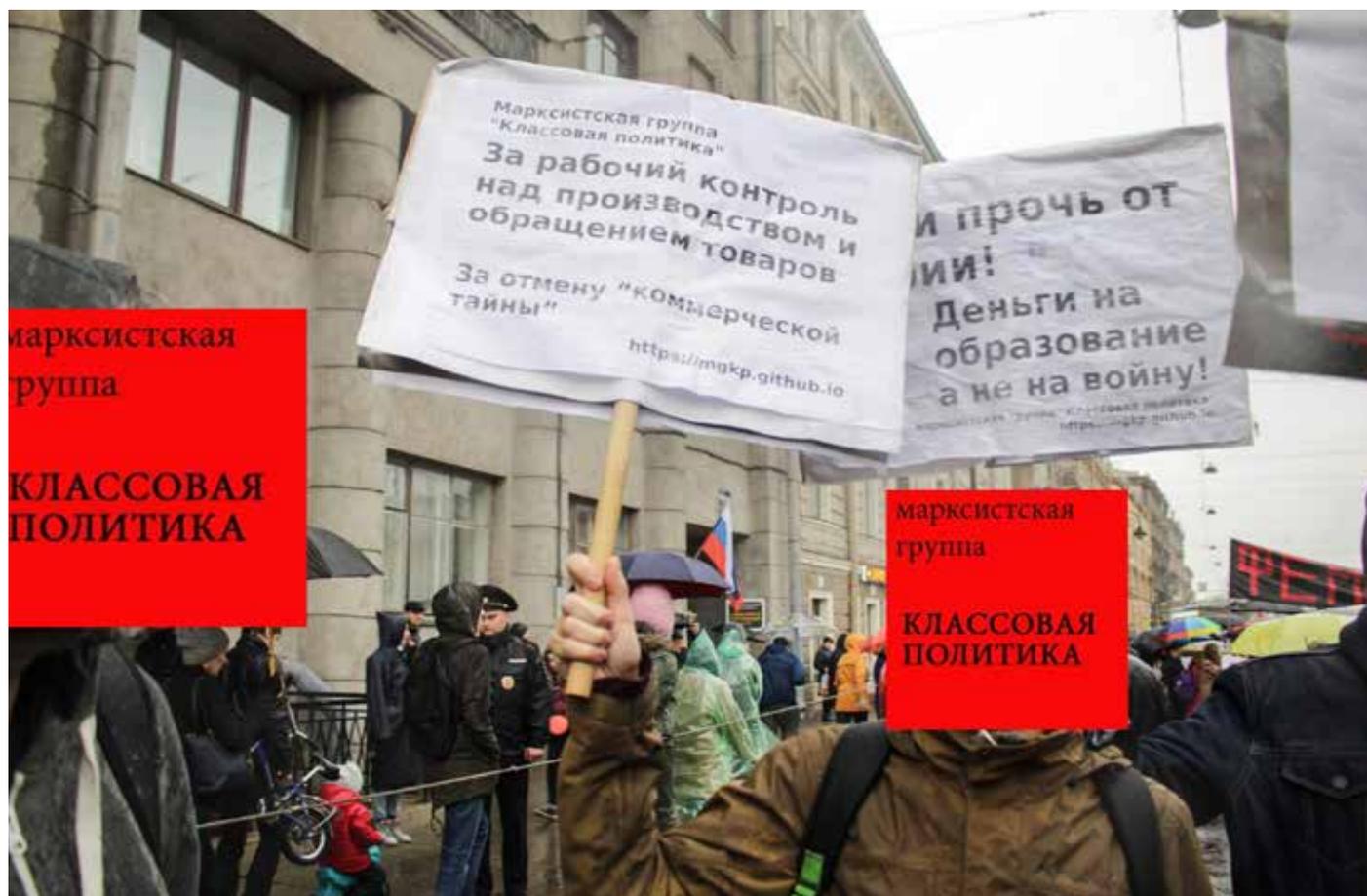
The comrades distributed our joint May Day statement as well as RCIT journals and hold a small meeting after the demonstration.

### Britain

Comrades of the RCIT Britain joined the May Day rally in London. About 8,000 people participated, a bit less than last year. (Readers must bear in mind that May Day is a normal working day in Britain.) The demonstration was mainly attended by a number of left-wing organizations – various British centrists like the SWP, the SP/CWI, the pro-Zionist AWL as well as migrant organizations (various Stalinists from Turkey, Greece, Iran, etc.) However, there were also some smaller trade union contingents present (e.g. from the railway workers union RMT). (See pictures below)

RCIT Comrades spoke with various activists and sold a number of journals.

View many more pictures and videos at the RCIT website: [www.thecommunists.net/rcit/international-report-may-day-2018/](http://www.thecommunists.net/rcit/international-report-may-day-2018/)



Activists of MGKP (Russia) at the May Day demonstration

# What the RCIT Stands for

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

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

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

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

This revolution must be carried out and led by the working class, for she is the only class that has nothing to lose but their chains.

The revolution can not proceed peacefully because never before has a ruling class voluntarily surrendered their power. The road to liberation includes necessarily the armed rebellion and civil war against the capitalists.

The RCIT is fighting for the establishment of workers' and peasant republics, where the oppressed organize themselves in rank and file meetings in factories, neighbourhoods and schools – in councils. These councils elect and control the government and all other authorities and can always replace them.

Real socialism and communism has nothing to do with the so-called "real existing socialism" in the Soviet Union, China, Cuba or Eastern Europe. In these countries, a bureaucracy dominated and oppressed the proletariat.

The RCIT supports all efforts to improve the living conditions of workers and the oppressed. We combine this with a perspective of the overthrow of capitalism.

We work inside the trade unions and advocate class struggle, socialism and workers' democracy. But trade unions and social democracy are controlled by a bureaucracy. This bureaucracy is a layer which is connected with the state and capital via jobs and privileges. It is far from the interests and

living circumstances of the members. This bureaucracy's basis rests mainly on the top, privileged layers of the working class - the workers' aristocracy. The struggle for the liberation of the working class must be based on the broad mass of the proletariat rather than their upper strata.

The RCIT strives for unity in action with other organizations. However, we are aware that the policy of social democracy and the pseudo-revolutionary groups is dangerous and they ultimately represent an obstacle to the emancipation of the working class.

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

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

In a war between imperialist states (e.g. U.S., China, EU, Russia, Japan) we take a revolutionary defeatist position, i.e. we don't support neither side and advocate the transformation of the war into a civil war against the ruling class. In a war between an imperialist power (or its stooge) and a semi-colonial country we stand for the defeat of the former and the victory of the oppressed country.

The struggle against national and social oppression (women, youth, sexual minorities etc.) must be led by the working class. We fight for revolutionary movements of the oppressed (women, youth, migrants etc.) based on the working class. We oppose the leadership of petty-bourgeois forces (feminism, nationalism, Islamism etc.) and strive to replace them by a revolutionary communist leadership.

Only with a revolutionary party fighting as its leadership can the working class win. The construction of such a party and the conduct of a successful revolution as it was demonstrated by the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky in Russia are a model for the revolutionary parties and revolutions also in the 21 Century.

For new, revolutionary workers' parties in all countries! For a 5<sup>th</sup> Workers International on a revolutionary program! Join the RCIT!

*No future without socialism!*

*No socialism without a revolution!*

*No revolution without a revolutionary party!*

