

## Battles rage as hopes fade for new Gaza truce

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

**Hopes for a new cease-fire deal are fading as Israeli jets and helicopter gunships pound Rafah as Palestinian commandos battle to stave off Israeli troops in the streets of the southern city in the Gaza Strip.**

Over 270 Palestinian civilians were killed and hundreds more wounded when the Israelis raided the Nuseirat refugee camp to rescue four prisoners held by the resistance in central Gaza. But the tunnel systems have not been destroyed and the resistance fighters have survived some of the toughest onslaughts the Israelis are capable of mustering to keep up the fight throughout the beleaguered Palestinian enclave.

The Americans had, only a few days before, been trumpeting the passing of their draft cease-fire resolution at the United Nations.

On Monday, the UN Security Council passed an American-sponsored resolution calling for a three-phased ceasefire “without delay and without condition”. The Council approved the US-backed resolution with 14 votes in favour and Russia abstaining. The Russian ambassador to the UN, Vasily Nebenzya, said that

the Council remained in the dark about what actually had been agreed between America and Israel and had “essentially voted for a cat in the bag”.

“We have a whole host of questions about the American draft resolution, whereby the Council welcomes some deal – the ultimate outlines of which are not known to anyone perhaps except the mediators”

agreed to?”. But Nebenzya said Russia ultimately decided to abstain, rather than veto the proposal, because the resolution had widespread Arab support.

Though the proposals, which the Americans called the “Israeli plan”, were accepted by Hamas, their supposed authors have ignored them and the imperialists are now blaming the Palestinian resistance for stalling and

with double standards. He is trying to portray the resistance as if it is the party obstructing the deal,” Al-Nunu said. Hamas accepted the proposal originally presented on 6<sup>th</sup> May as it is, and it was Israel that added amendments to it. Hamas’s response on Tuesday was counter-revisions to some of the Israeli changes, Al-Nunu said.

Back in Tel Aviv, Benny Gantz, a retired general who leads the centre-right National Unity bloc in the Israeli parliament, has resigned from the Netanyahu war cabinet in protest at Netanyahu’s failure to plan for a future settlement when and if the guns fall silent.

“Netanyahu prevents us from moving forward to a real victory,” Gantz said in a televised statement in which he described leaving the government as a “complex and painful” decision. “That is why we are leaving the

emergency government today with a heavy heart, but with a whole heart.”

Highlighting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s role in obstructing “a genuine victory”, Gantz said “there will be no quick and easy victory” and warned that “the war will continue for years”.

“The situation in the country and in the decision-making room has changed” Gantz said, accusing Netanyahu of putting his own personal political considerations ahead of a post-war strategy for the Gaza Strip, claiming that “fateful strategic decisions are met with hesitancy and procrastination due to political considerations”.

Gantz said the Israeli government should “do whatever it takes” to bring the Israeli prisoners back and called on Netanyahu to step down and hold fresh elections.



the Russian diplomat said. Although the resolution calls on Hamas to accept the “so-called deal” there is no clarity on the official agreement of Israel “as it is written in the resolution”. Noting the public statements of Israeli leaders indicating that the war would continue until Hamas is completely defeated, the Russian representative asked “what specifically has Israel

prolonging the bloodshed.

But Hamas say the Americans are to blame. Hamas media adviser, Taher Al-Nunu, has accused US Secretary of State Antony Blinken of bias, saying that the American foreign minister has been acting like he is Israel’s foreign minister since the start of the war.

“He lacks neutrality. He lacks even-handedness. He operates

### FUND

The June appeal is up and running with £693 already in the bag thanks to a Southall comrade who sent us £200 and a Scottish supporter who donated £40. A Colchester reader gave us £25, a Dagenham comrade donated £15 and another from the same borough gave us £13.

This week another of our computers crashed, which left us briefly with only one up and running. We are setting up the machine that has recently been repaired and hopefully the same can be done with the third. But in the longer term we need replace our computers, which are well past their use-by date, to maintain our presence on the Web and social media, and to ensure the smooth production of the *New Worker* and our other publications in the future.

That’s what makes fund-raising so important – it’s as crucial as expanding our readership. In fact the two go hand-in-hand. Raise money for our paper and get that extra reader! Not easy – it never was but it’s the only way forward to get the message across and build the communist movement in Britain.

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### INSIDE

**D-DAY** .. P2

**GAZA** .. PP10,11,12

**EUROPEAN ELECTIONS** .. P12

**WESTERN HYPOCRISY** .. P12



# THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

## Bandwagon blues

Week three of a lacklustre campaign lived up only by all sorts of blunders in the Sunak camp and the news that one pollster now puts the Faragist Reform Party one point ahead of the Tories in the race to Number 10. Labour still seems heading for a landslide with a 20-plus lead in the opinion polls while the Liberal-Democrats move to woo the Remainers still in the Conservative camp. On the left front, Jeremy Corbyn's campaign managers say he's running neck-and-neck with Labour in his battle to remain in parliament as an independent and George Galloway fights to keep the Rochdale seat he won in February on his Workers Party of Britain platform.

Though Palestine remains a key issue with the younger generation and amongst the Muslim community it is barely mentioned by the Labour and Tory grandees who glibly talk of change on the street while their manifestos make it clear that they will do nothing of the kind after the election.

All the mainstream parties accept American hegemony, NATO and the so-called British nuclear deterrent. All their bourgeois leaders, and this includes Starmer, support the American trade war with People's China, imperialist aggression against Russia and the Israeli onslaught in the Middle East.

Rather than setting the agenda or even attempting to hold Labour to its past promises the army of local government jobsworths and the legion of trade union bureaucrats that run the big unions are simply going along with Starmer's "New Deal", which is nothing new and not much of deal either. Rather than trying to put the communist answer to the capitalist crisis back on the workers' agenda, the charlatans who lead the fake left that pose as "communist" and "revolutionary" march down the road to nowhere on left social-democratic or utopian platforms that serve only as diversions from the real issues on the street while reinforcing the bourgeois myth of the sanctity of their precious elections.

The bourgeoisie say that socialism means dictatorship and that capitalism stands for freedom. But it is freedom only for the exploiters to continue to rob and plunder working people across the globe to ensure that a tiny handful of parasites can live the lives of Roman emperors on the backs of the millions upon millions of working people.

They claim that they stand for intellectual freedom, but it is the freedom of the straitjacket and the dungeon. They preach this freedom with their missiles and drones against all those who dare to stand up for themselves. We see what the ruling class mean by freedom in occupied Palestine, Yugoslavia, Libya, Syria and Ukraine.

They say we have free speech and democracy, but it's democracy and freedom only for themselves. If we really lived in a democracy we would expect to see the majority of representatives in the bourgeois parliaments drawn from the majority of the population – the working class. In fact you could count the number of workers in parliament on your fingers.

Bourgeois democracy is democracy only for the exploiters. It's dictatorship in all but the formal sense for the exploited. Bourgeois elections are used so that the smallest number of people can manipulate the maximum number of votes. Parliaments may reflect the divisions in the ruling class but ultimately all these assemblies are a fraud to mask the fact that bourgeois government rests on the bourgeois state, which exists solely to serve the interests of the ruling class.

# The real meaning of D-Day

On 6<sup>th</sup> June the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Normandy landings, often referred to as D-Day, was held in the coastal region of Vers-sur-Mer, Calvados, France, with over 20 Western leaders in attendance. Although this significant commemorative event is likely to be recorded in history as the last quinquennial or decennial anniversary surviving veterans participated, some commentators suggested that this commemoration has garnered more attention due to the current heightened international tensions. The high-profile guests and politically charged speeches at the event, intertwined with increasingly geopolitical content, have led some to question whether this is a genuine commemorative event or a mobilisation campaign under the guise of "unity".

The most eye-catching scene was undoubtedly the speech by President Joe Biden. The American leader began by paying tribute to the veterans but quickly proceeded to draw comparisons between the 1944 Normandy landings and the present day, describing NATO as "the greatest military alliance in the world" while also asserting that "isolationism was not the answer 80 years ago and is not the answer today" which media reports interpreted as a veiled criticism of his domestic political rival's "America First" stance. However, among the geopolitical hotspots that the media had anticipated the commemorative event might touch upon, the Russia-Ukraine conflict was a constant theme throughout Biden's speech, while the Palestinian-Israeli conflict seemed to vanish.

Biden is not the first American leader to call for an alliance at the D-Day commemorative event. Rather than being just an international event, the D-Day commemoration serves as a multifunctional gathering for promoting "Western-centric historical perspectives", advocating American diplomatic ideals, and "uniting allies". In fact, since the onset of the Cold War, the D-Day anniversary has had a dual function, serving as a commemoration for political

influence of the Cold War, and highlighting the importance of unity among the Western allies. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy landings in 1984 occurred during the height of the Cold War. During that commemoration, then US president Ronald Reagan prominently advocated for "Western unity".

After the end of the Cold War, there was a period when the D-Day anniversary commemorations had a collective reflection on war and commemorated the anti-fascist struggle. During the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, then German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder was invited for the first time, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Now, with events like the Russia-Ukraine conflict further exacerbating divisions and antagonisms in Europe, the significance of the D-Day commemoration as a united resistance against fascism has become increasingly tenuous, if not almost entirely faded. France had intended to invite Russian representatives to the event, but this eventually did not happen. This reflects the frustration of upholding the true spirit of Normandy in the face of current realities. In its place, there is more emphasis on promoting bloc confrontation in the name of "freedom and democracy".

There is no doubt that the few surviving Normandy veterans, along with the over 120,000 Allied casualties and countless innocent French civilians, who were part of the global struggle against fascism, deserve eternal commemoration. However, the

question lies in what constitutes the true spirit of Normandy, as it relates to the ability to draw lessons from history and collectively forge a better future. Historical lessons should be correctly absorbed and distilled into timeless wisdom to be passed down, rather than being arbitrarily distorted, tailored, and exploited for contemporary political interests. The commemoration of the Normandy landings should be viewed within the context of the entire global struggle against fascism and within a fair perspective of Second World War history.

Former US president Dwight D Eisenhower, who led this great battle, later recalled in a speech his experiences commanding troops on the European battlefield and said "if the mothers in every-in could teach their children to understand the homes and hopes of children in every other land – in America, in Europe, in the Near East, in Asia – the cause of peace in the world would indeed be nobly served". Perhaps this was Eisenhower's view of the spirit of Normandy – it is not only about allied unity but also about broader mutual understanding. As one veteran at the event said "there are enough problems in the world without having to make your neighbour a problem". Indeed, the greatest lesson left by the Second World War is that global conflict is undesirable; ensuring that war does not return is the true commemorative significance of the Normandy landings.

*Global Times*



• A united front against the Nazis.

# Workers' Notes

## State of the Nation

by New Worker correspondent

**As the General Election campaign steps up we are indebted to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) for shedding light on the state of the nation after 14 years of Tory rule. Their recent report, carried out just before the election was called clearly shows the levels of hardship in Britain. Almost five million households find themselves having to go without essentials. That does not mean cutting down on pizza deliveries but having to cut back on showers and having to skip meals entirely.**

It found that the bottom fifth of low-income households are facing continued hardship despite some improvements for those families slightly higher up the income scale.

They found that no less than seven million low-income households (why can't they just say the poor?) were going without essentials in May this year, with five million taking fewer showers or baths due to higher energy costs. In addition 4.9 million couldn't replace worn out or outgrown clothing, 3.7 million sold their belongings, 1.6 million stopped using their fridge or freezer. Many more, 6.8 million reduced their use of appliances and 7.2 million heated their homes less than they needed to. While the latter might cheer up the Greens worried about global warming there should be better ways to solve that problem.

At the risk of stating the bleeding obvious the Foundation observes that the social security system is failing to act as a safety net for those who have fallen on hard times. No less than 86 per cent of low-income households receiving Universal Credit were going without the essentials in May.

JRF's senior economist, Rachel Earwaker, optimistically said "We need our politicians to set out how they will bring an end to this relentless reality of

hardship in the general election campaign. Political leaders need to tell us what they will do straight away to help families who can't afford life's essentials, as well as their long-term plans to tackle poverty." She must be delighted that the Tories are promising to abolish stamp duty for first time buyers to help out.

The latest labour market data for February to April is equally bleak with unemployment rising by 138,000 to 1.5 million, or from 4.3 to 4.4 per cent. This is due to a cut in the number of manufacturing jobs and a decline in the retail and hospitality sectors. The hospitality sector saw the heaviest slump with 80,000 fewer than last year. It is ironic that a Tory, Rishi Sunak, should be congratulated for bringing about the old Labour aim of getting the working classes out of the pubs.

There has been an increase in those working in the health and social care service (170,000), education (70,000 more) and public administration. Seemingly growth areas such as information technology have also seen a decline. The number of vacancies also fell between March to May 2024 falling by 12,000 to 904,000.

The only bright spot at present is that the recent increase in the minimum wage seems to be forcing some bosses to make modest rises to maintain differentials for workers just above it. That factor has got the Bank of England worried that the working classes are overpaid with wages rising by an average of six per cent.

However some people are doing all right. These are the shareholders of First Group the bus and train operator including Avanti West Coast who are recommending an increase in dividends of 45 per cent. They made an operating profit to £204 million, a 27 per cent rise from £161 million the previous year.

This come despite their train services being beset with problems which saw the Transport for the North quango calling for their contract to be terminated. If agreed by the AGM (as such things usually are), final dividends of £24 million will be paid in August.

This hasn't gone down well with RMT general secretary Mick Lynch. He complained that First Group has profited

at a time when passengers are faced with disruption and poor services. This demonstrated that "we need a single, integrated, publicly owned rail network, and a reversal of the ban on municipal bus companies so that our public transport networks work for passengers and communities, not profit." A point repeated by his opposite number at Unite, Sharon Graham who complained that "First Group is extracting colossal profits from our bus and rail networks at the expense of passengers and workers. It makes no sense to pour billions of pounds into subsidising public transport and then allow third party operators to profiteer from them by running down jobs and services". Her query: "It is time for politicians to decide who public transport is supposed to work for, the corporations or the people?" did not provoke any response from Labour who spent the day on the more urgent issue of planning to ban under 16s from buying high energy caffeine drinks.

## Election News

At the time of writing we are unaware of the finer points of Labour's election manifesto, but we can be sure it will not resemble the radical promise of 1945 or the union-inspired reforms of the Wilson/Callaghan era. The party's New Deal for Workers has been watered down no end with plenty of loopholes to get round headline pledges like abolishing the "fire and rehire" practice the unions loathe. Sharon Graham of Unite walked out of the Labour Party meeting that endorsed the manifesto. Unite is also highly dissatisfied with the party's stand on the oil and gas industry.

Commenting on the latest figures Sharon Graham says "We have a long way to go before wages catch up with the huge price rises inflicted on workers over the last two years". She added the warning that "the outgoing Conservative government will not be missed, but if Labour is serious about making work pay, it is going to have to deliver on collective bargaining. Giving workers the power to negotiate over pay and conditions at the place of work, is the only tried and tested method of driving up falling wages".

Though Andrew Lewin sounds like a rum cove who would make fine pantomime villain he is, in fact, a senior figure at the Clarion Housing Group, Britain's biggest and worse social landlord which has accumulated 260 fines or penalties since 2010. In addition Labour members of the London Assembly condemned it for leaving 1,500 estate residents in squalor while doling out lavish bonuses to the CEO.

The Housing Ombudsman reported that over half the complaints against were a result of maladministration. It was one of only four of 1,738 social landlords subject to "special investigation" by the Ombudsman in 2022/3. It has attempted to cut sick pay of workers and derecognise unions causing Unite to call it the "Sports Direct of housing associations".

Therefore it is perfectly logical that Lewin should be the parliamentary candidate for Welwyn Hatfield, in the Labour interest.

Elections are no reason for pausing the class struggle. Some of Britain's most important workers are planning to take strike action. These are the GMB workers at the Whyte & Mackay distilleries at Alness, Invergordon and Tannavoulin in the Highlands and Moray. They are walking out on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, which will be followed by 11 days of strikes in July and a further two weeks in August if matters are not resolved. Eighty-two per cent of the workers supported strike action after rejecting a pay offer of between six and seven per cent.

GMB's Highlands organiser, Lesley-Anne MacAskill said: "We told Whyte & Mackay today to expect a summer of strike action with our members united and determined their work is fairly recognised. Their support for action is overwhelming but unsurprising given the company's refusal to properly reward them for the work that has helped generate record-breaking profits."

These profits, by the Philippines based Emperador, amounted to £81.3 million in 2022. In contrast GMB say an inflation-matching pay increase would cost the company more modest £3.3 million.

Somewhat further south,

schoolteachers belonging to the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) in Glasgow have voted by 90 per cent in favour of strike action to oppose plans by the SNP run council to cut 450 teaching jobs. This is on top of the 125 jobs already lost, and 172 going before the new term starts.

EIS Glasgow Branch Secretary Jane Gow warned: "The EIS is crystal clear that the loss of jobs vital to education provision in Glasgow will irreparably damage the life chances of many of the city's young people and most especially those with additional support needs." She added that: "This will mean there is little or no capacity for small group or one-to-one provision for those pupils in most need of nurture, literacy and numeracy support."

Across the Irish Sea, workers at the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast have voted to strike forcing bosses into further pay talks. The yard, which is building its first ship in years after winning a £1.6 billion Royal Navy contract, is hiring apprentices but has huge debts needing repayment soon, with MPs doubtful about giving guarantees. Net debt stood at £82.5 million, in part thanks to high interest payments on the Riverstone debt.

## Could Do Better

The latest *Trade Union Membership, UK 1995-2023: Statistical Bulletin* was published late last month to give us a glimpse of the state of the union movement today. The statistics presented are those from the Department of Business and Trade's Labour Force Survey. They differ from the figures presented by the unions which appear in the Certification Officer's Annual figures due out in July. As might be expected the figures are a mixed bag, but predictably not very impressive.

Overall the proportion of UK employees in trade unions has increased, but before we break open the champagne, this is only to a mighty 22.4 per cent density in 2023 – up from 22.2 in 2022. This small but welcome increase is from a historically low level. The absolute numbers rose by 89,000 to 6.4 million in 2023. This increase was due

*continued on page 4...*



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to a 172,000 rise in male trade unionists offset by a fall of 83,000 female members. Reflecting this, private sector numbers rose by 101,000 with public sector numbers going down by 12,000, again, largely due to the fall in female members. The increase took place in the Celtic nations but remained static in England.

Overall this is a bleak picture with trade union membership only representing just over a fifth of the workforce. An increase of 0.2 per cent is nothing to celebrate.

One serious shortcoming of these global figures is that they do not relate to actual trade unions, so we do not know which are growing and which shrinking, which would give us the data from which we could ask why such trends were happening.

One oft cited excuse is Margaret Thatcher but as she departed office 34 years ago this is wearing a bit thin. On Tuesday Helen O'Conner, a GMB official, addressed this same report in the *Morning Star* focusing on the decline in women members. Deploring the fact that over 200,000 abandoned trade unions over the past two years she correctly pointed out that "the exodus of women in a period when trade unions are growing must be openly discussed, if trade unions are to be at the forefront of building power and influence

and advancing the interests of the working class", but offered no solutions, or recognised that with overall trade union membership density fluctuating at between a fifth and a quarter of the workforce the problem is much broader. She overlooked the fact that in the private sector there was a small (30,000) increase in women members. The fact that existing trade unionists tend to be better educated than non-members suggests that unions like the GMB which began with gas workers need to pull up their socks in recruiting less skilled workers.

The long-term trends are bleak, despite the recent increase. The high point was in 1979 when there were 13.2 million trade unionists. The decline was rapid on the 1980s until the mid-1990s, largely due to the de-industrialisation. Things changed in 1996 when there were still 7.9 million card-holders representing 32.4 per cent of the workforce, but that was only a case of the rate of decline slowing, with occasional small increases in a few years.

At present union membership is heavily concentrated among public sector workers, which has remained relatively stable. Membership density among private sector employees is only 12.3 per cent compared with 49.2 in the public sector. The latter figure still represents a long-term

decline.

Mike Clancy, General Secretary of Prospect—a high caste civil service union, addressed this problem in his speech to his union's national conference on Sunday. Describing the situation as a crisis, he pointed out that "if these trends continue our movement will be compromised. If we don't address a revival of private sector trade unionism, when the right returns to power, which they will, the public sector will look like an oddity".

Other findings include the fact that UK born employees are more likely to be trade unionists. Density is highest in education at 45.7 closely followed by Public Administration and Defence, Human Health and Social Work and Transportation and Storage at 33.9. Larger employers more likely to be unionise than small.

Having a union presence in the workplace makes it easy to recruit. It is correspondingly difficult to recruit when employers are stubborn. Full time and permanent employees are more likely to join unions.

One particularly worrying finding is that unions and union culture does not appeal to young workers. Older and long serving workers make up a higher proportion of trade union membership and 62 per cent of trade unionists have higher education compared to half for non-union employees.

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(cheques to New Worker)

The geographical picture is also mixed. Yorkshire and Humberside tops the English league at 26.6 per cent with London coming last on 15.8, but perhaps surprisingly all English regions come below Northern Ireland on 33.8, Wales (32.6) and Scotland at 28.8. Again even the best figures are historically

low and have much room for improvement as teachers politely say of their more disappointing pupils.

**20 years ago  
this week  
in the New Worker**

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

**POPULR VENEZUELAN President Hugo Chavez is facing a referendum on his rule after the opposition gathered enough votes to call for a recall vote, which could trigger a new presidential election and cut short the President's six-year term.**

Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets in support of their President.

Chavez made it clear in a televised speech last week: "The game is just beginning." And he firmly denied opposition claims he had already been defeated by their success in calling the referendum. "Me defeated?"

he said. "How can I have been defeated if I still haven't begun the fight?"

He added that most Venezuelans supported his efforts to distribute the country's oil resources to fight poverty – Venezuela is the world's fifth largest oil producers – and he predicted he would win the vote in a "decisive battle".

This referendum is the latest manoeuvre of Venezuela's wealthy opposition, which accuses the popular leader of edging "Venezuela towards communism". Chavez was elected in 1998, six years after leading a military rebellion, and was re-elected four years ago. He survived a coup two years ago and soon after faced a two-month oil strike. This time the reactionary opposition did everything it did to ensure a recall before 19 August.

The poll will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The constitution says that if Chavez lost a recall vote held after 19<sup>th</sup> August, his vice-president would take over until the end of his term in

December 2006. But if he loses before that date, new elections must be held within 30 days.

National Electoral Council President Francisco Carrasquero – accused by Chavez enemies of being biased towards the President – said the body had ruled voters could go to the ballot box to challenge Chavez. "The electoral council ... decided to proceed with the recall referendum on "the office of the president of the republic, a vote will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> August," Carrasquero said on national television on Tuesday.

"We will win the referendum without a doubt" said leading member of the opposition "Democratic Co-ordinator" Timeteo Zambrano. But even he admitted that they are divided – and there is likely to be a fight amongst the over who would stand.

To win a referendum his opponents must match or beat the 3.76 million votes he received in the 2000 election. The vote will be a popular test of his mandate.

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# The Communists' Manifesto

by J Sykes

In 1848 a great revolutionary upsurge spread through Europe. These revolutions swept through Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Ireland and other parts of Europe. By and large, these were democratic revolutions against feudalism, waged by the bourgeoisie, the petty bourgeoisie and the working class. In the midst of this wave of revolution, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels joined the underground German Communist League. Marx and Engels were tasked with writing the programme of the Communist League, *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*, a document that would explain the movement's analysis of the situation and its plan for how to move from that situation to revolution and socialism. Lenin writes of this period:

"The revolution of 1848, which broke out first in France and then spread to other West-European countries, brought Marx and Engels back to their native country. Here, in Rhenish Prussia, they took charge of the democratic *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* published in Cologne. The two friends were the heart and soul of all revolutionary-democratic aspirations in Rhenish Prussia. They fought to the last ditch in defence of freedom and of the interests of the people against the forces of reaction. The latter, as we know, gained the upper hand. The *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* was suppressed. Marx, who during his exile had lost his Prussian citizenship, was deported; Engels took part in the armed popular uprising, fought for liberty in three battles, and after the defeat of the rebels fled, via Switzerland, to London."

Marx and Engels were not simply theorists, as they are so often portrayed by bourgeois academics. They were revolutionary

organisers and fighters, whose theoretical work was driven by the practical needs of the revolutionary movement. Marx's *Address to the Central Committee of the Communist League* of March 1850 outlines the practical work that accompanied the program put forward in the *Manifesto* and is important to look at together with it.

## *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*

The *Communist Manifesto* is one of the clearest and most straightforward expressions of Marxism. As Lenin put it: "This little booklet is worth whole volumes: to this day its spirit inspires and guides the entire organised and fighting proletariat of the civilised world." It explains the basic ideas of historical materialism and scientific socialism in a way that is accessible and inspiring. It is no wonder that this text has been a guide for revolutionaries the world over ever since, taking root first in Russia with the Bolshevik Revolution.

In 1872, Marx and Engels wrote a preface to the *Manifesto*, in which they stressed that "however much that state of things may have altered during the last twenty-five years, the general principles laid down in the *Manifesto* are, on the whole, as correct today as ever." They also emphasise that "the practical application of the principles will depend, as the *Manifesto* itself states, everywhere and at all times, on the historical conditions for the time being existing." At the same time, they note that history isn't static, and that theory must develop along with practice. For this reason, they draw particular attention to the Revolution of 1848 in France and the Paris

Commune in 1871, saying "one thing especially was proved by the Commune, viz., that 'the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes.'" Instead, as Marx explains in his books summing up those struggles, namely *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* and *The Civil War*

the history of class struggles". It explains that this struggle inevitably results in "the revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes". In the current period, it says, these contending classes are the bourgeoisie and the proletariat – the capitalist class that owns the means of production, and

All fixed, fast-frozen relations, with their train of ancient and venerable prejudices and opinions, are swept away, all new-formed ones become antiquated before they can ossify". And they emphasise, capitalism's predatory internal logic reshapes the world in its image. "The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the entire surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere."

Here, also, Marx and Engels put forward the basic principle of historical materialism, that social progress is driven by the contradiction in any given historical mode of production between the forces of production and the relations of production. As the *Manifesto* states "at a certain stage in the development of these means of production and of exchange, the conditions under which feudal society produced and exchanged, the feudal organisation of agriculture and manufacturing industry, in one word, the feudal relations of property became no longer compatible with the already developed productive forces; they became so many fetters. They had to be burst asunder; they were burst asunder."

Marx and Engels explain how, in capitalist society, the relations of production – that is, the class relations of ownership and power – likewise hold back the development of the productive forces, resulting in crises of overproduction:

"The essential conditions for the existence and for the sway of the bourgeois class is the formation and augmentation of capital; the condition for capital is wage-labour. Wage-labour rests exclusively on competition between the labourers. The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by

*continued on page 6...*



• The first edition of the *Manifesto*.

in France, it must be smashed and replaced by new organs of working class power.

## The history of class struggle

The first chapter of the *Manifesto* begins with a declaration of the central principle of historical materialism: "The history of all hitherto existing society is

the working class that lives by selling its labour power to the capitalists. It outlines the historical development of these two classes, and their trajectory moving forward.

Marx and Engels explain the contemporary, bourgeois epoch like this: "Constant revolutionising of production, uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation distinguish the bourgeois epoch from all earlier ones.



...continued from page 5

the revolutionary combination, due to association. The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable."

Following the sweeping analysis of the first chapter, which gives a picture of the terrain of struggle and the laws of motion driving things, the second chapter explains the aims of the communists: "formation of the proletariat into a class, overthrow of the bourgeois supremacy, conquest of political power by the proletariat".

The *Manifesto* explains the goal of socialism is to abolish all "class antagonisms and ... classes generally". This is an explanation, in a very concise and sweeping form, of the transition period from capitalism to communism, which Marx elsewhere calls the "dictatorship of the proletariat".

"Political power, properly so called, is merely the organised power of one class for oppressing another. If the proletariat during its contest with the bourgeoisie is compelled, by the force of circumstances, to organise itself as a class, if, by means of a revolution, it makes itself the ruling class, and, as such, sweeps away by force the old conditions of production, then it will, along with these conditions, have swept away the conditions for the existence of class antagonisms and of classes generally, and will thereby have abolished its own

supremacy as a class."

This is the first phase of socialism, the transition from capitalism to communism, where the working class wields state power in order to systematically uproot "the conditions for the existence" of classes. By doing this it abolishes the need for a state as such, as "the organised power of one class for oppressing another" thus making possible a new stateless and classless world. Marx elaborates on this in his *Critique of Gotha Programme* and Lenin further develops this in *The State and Revolution*.

In the third chapter, Marx and Engels distinguish scientific socialism from various forms of reactionary, conservative, and utopian socialist movements. Here, Marx and Engels are dealing with their predecessors and their contemporaries: Moses Hess, Proudhon, Saint-Simon, Fourier and Owen.

Finally, in the last section, they distinguish the Communist League from other parties and revolutionary forces. They explain that "the Communists fight for the attainment of the

immediate aims, for the enforcement of the momentary interests of the working class; but in the movement of the present, they also represent and take care of the future of that movement". They explain that in different places, they forge alliances with different class forces based on the concrete conditions in which those struggles find themselves. "In short, the Communists everywhere support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things."

The *Manifesto* boldly and courageously declares that "the Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions". Many opportunists today, who insist on equivocating on their positions, would do well to remember this important principled stand. "Let the ruling classes tremble" the *Manifesto* says. No attempt at liberal respectability will protect them whenever the ruling class inevitably

decides to show its teeth. The capitalists know who their enemy is, and so must we. "The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win."

## In practice

In March 1850, Marx gave his famous *Address to the Central Committee of the Communist League* where he explains the practical implications of his theory, from the perspective of the concrete conditions of the revolutionary movement at the time. In this speech, Marx ends with the call for "permanent revolution". This is a term that has been twisted away from Marx's intent by the Trotskyites, who only confuse things by using the slogan to name Trotsky's theory of world-wide-revolution-or-nothing, which Lenin called "absurdly Left". For the Trotskyites, it is a matter of the workers fighting alone against capitalism, everywhere at once. By "permanent revolution" Marx and Lenin mean advancing the revolution from the bourgeois democratic to

the proletarian socialist stage, while Trotsky, on the other hand, means revolution can only succeed by spreading immediately from one country to all countries, with the working class alone fighting against all non-proletarian classes.

Marx and Lenin advocated revolution in two stages, uniting with other classes, and establishing and consolidating socialism one country at a time. When Marx talked about permanent revolution in this address, he clearly intended this to mean that the revolutionary upsurge must not halt at the democratic stage, but that the working class must lead it forward into its second, proletarian socialist stage. As Marx puts it "while the democratic petty bourgeois want to bring the revolution to an end as quickly as possible ... it is our interest and our task to make the revolution permanent until all the more or less propertied classes have been driven from their ruling positions, until the proletariat has conquered state power and until the association of the proletarians has progressed sufficiently

far – not only in one country but in all the leading countries of the world – that competition between the proletarians of these countries ceases and at least the decisive forces of production are concentrated in the hands of the workers."

Indeed, Marx gives us sound and practical advice that resonates today as we work to build a united front against monopoly capitalism. He says, "The relationship of the revolutionary workers' party to the petty-bourgeois democrats is this: it co-operates with them against the party which they aim to overthrow; it opposes them wherever they wish to secure their own position."

But Marx insists on what Mao Zedong would later refer to as "independence and initiative in the united front". The working class must be independently organised and prepared to resist the reactionary turn of the bourgeois class forces following the bourgeois democratic stage, where they will attempt to consolidate their power at the expense of the working class. Thus, in order to be prepared to carry the revolution forward to its second, proletarian socialist stage, "to be able forcefully and threateningly to oppose this party, whose betrayal of the workers will begin with the very first hour of victory," Marx says, "the workers must be armed and organised." Marx also insists that "alongside the new official governments they must simultaneously establish their own revolutionary workers' governments". Marx and Engels organised to see this come to fruition, but this was first put into practice with lasting success in the Bolshevik revolution in 1917.



• Marx and Engels. Marx and Engels.



Today we live in the era of imperialism. Since the 1970s imperialism has been in a state of prolonged decline. Its defeat is inevitable, but in the meanwhile, like a cornered and wounded animal, it is fighting fiercely. US imperialism is waging war at home and abroad, and we are seeing powerful mass movements mobilising against it. Militant resistance is

coming from the student encampments and building occupations protesting against the US-backed Zionist genocide in Gaza against the Palestinian people. These heroic students are facing tremendous repression with courage, knowing they are on the right side of history. Likewise, people are also organising to resist border militarisation, to oppose police

brutality, to protect the environment, to stop attacks on women and LGBT people, and workers are unionising and going on strike. People everywhere are fighting back. But in order to advance in a strategic way, and turn resistance into revolution, we need to build a new, Marxist-Leninist communist party. The lessons of the *Manifesto* and the

*Address to the Central Committee of the Communist League* can help us find our way forward, just as they did for so many workers and oppressed people who came before us.

The importance of the *Communist Manifesto*, and the *Address*, which explained the practical, revolutionary work that the *Manifesto* outlined in theory, cannot be overstated. We see

in these works, for the first time, a truly revolutionary, working-class programme, together with the struggle to carry out that program in practice. These works clearly demonstrate that Marx and Engels were revolutionaries, and studying these works ought to expose every opportunist and revisionist who argues for a reformist, social-democratic, or merely

academic reading of Marx. They expose all of those who would say that Marx wasn't a revolutionary, and that Marxists shouldn't be either. Marxism lays bare the laws at work in history and shows the way forward, and that way forward is a revolutionary road

*Fightback News*  
(USA)

# Where do correct ideas come from?

by Mao Zedong

**Where do correct ideas come from? Do they drop from the skies? No. Are they innate in the mind? No. They come from social practice, and from it alone; they come from three kinds of social practice, the struggle for production, the class struggle and scientific experiment.**

It is man's social being that determines his thinking. Once the correct ideas characteristic of the advanced class are grasped by the masses, these ideas turn into a material force which changes society and changes the world. In their social practice, men engage in various kinds of struggle and gain rich experience, both from their successes and from their failures. Countless phenomena of the objective external world are reflected in a man's brain through his five sense organs—the organs of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. At first, knowledge is perceptual. The leap to conceptual knowledge, ie, to ideas, occurs when sufficient perceptual knowledge

is accumulated. This is one process in cognition. It is the first stage in the whole process of cognition, the stage leading from objective matter to subjective consciousness from existence to ideas. Whether or not one's consciousness or ideas (including theories, policies, plans or measures) do correctly reflect the laws of the objective external world is not yet proved at this stage, in which it is not yet possible to ascertain whether they are correct or not.

Then comes the

second stage in the process of cognition, the stage leading from consciousness back to matter, from ideas back to existence, in which the knowledge gained in the first stage is applied in social practice to ascertain whether the theories, policies, plans or measures meet with the anticipated success. Generally speaking, those that succeed are correct and those that fail are incorrect, and this is especially true of man's struggle with nature. In social struggle, the forces representing the advanced class

sometimes suffer defeat not because their ideas are incorrect but because, in the balance of forces engaged in struggle, they are not as powerful for the time being as the forces of reaction; they are therefore temporarily defeated, but they are bound to triumph sooner or later.

Man's knowledge makes another leap through the test of practice. This leap is more important than the previous one. For it is this leap alone that can prove the correctness or incorrectness of the first leap in cognition,

ie, of the ideas, theories, policies, plans or measures formulated in the course of reflecting the objective external world. There is no other way of testing truth. Furthermore, the one and only purpose of the proletariat in knowing the world is to change it. Often, correct knowledge can be arrived at only after many repetitions of the process leading from matter to consciousness and then back to matter, that is, leading from practice to knowledge and then back to practice. Such is the Marxist theory of knowledge, the

dialectical materialist theory of knowledge.

Among our comrades there are many who do not yet understand this theory of knowledge. When asked the sources of their ideas, opinions, policies, methods, plans and conclusions, eloquent speeches and long articles they consider the questions strange and cannot answer it. Nor do they comprehend that matter, can be transformed into consciousness and consciousness into matter, although such leaps are phenomena of everyday life. It is therefore necessary to educate our comrades in the dialectical materialist theory of knowledge, so that they can orient their thinking correctly, become good at investigation and study and at summing up experience, overcome difficulties, commit fewer mistakes, do their work better, and struggle hard so as to build China into a great and powerful socialist country and help the broad masses of the oppressed and exploited throughout the world in fulfilment of our great internationalist duty.



## LETTERS

### Dear Comrades

The *Communist Manifesto*, by Marx and Engels (1848), is a masterpiece of popular political writing; at the same time, it is the single most comprehensive statement of the Marxian theory of the modern class struggle and the definitive call to arms of the revolutionary working class. Indeed, its influence is perhaps unequalled by any other comparable political document of modern times.

At the beginning of the manifesto, it is said that "the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles". Throughout history, it continues "oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes".

It seems to me that history has shown there is no depth to which the capitalist class will not sink to stop socialism or communism be it juntas against democratically elected governments with a socialist or communist agenda, wage wars attacks on and imprisoning of individuals, assassinations and the mainstreams media's churning out of endless propaganda constantly attacking socialists and communists alike. That is why it is so important to support our communist *New Worker*

**The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday. You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@NCP.clara.net**

newspaper.

**A McKerl  
Kirkcaldy**

### Dear Comrades

The results of the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha [Indian parliament] election have ended the one party authoritarian, corporate-backed communal fascist rule of BJP headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The people of India have given their verdict in defence of our constitution and secular democratic fabric of our country and against the politics of hate, discrimination, growing unemployment, attacks on federalism, minorities, democratic and human rights and unparalleled miseries of the people with high price rise.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) congratulates the people for opposing and challenging the BJP by giving their verdict in defence of "Idea of India" enshrined in the constitution.

While congratulating the parties of the INDIA [Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance] block for their performance, the CPI believes that the BJP could have been cut to size more if there could have been better seat-sharing among the partners and united campaigns.

The CPI also wants to register its criticism against the Election Commission of India for its failure to contain the hate speeches by Narendra Modi on the issues of communal polarisation.

The CPI will continue to play its important role within the INDIA block as it can play an important role in mobilising the Indian people in defence of their fundamental rights and for a better future.

The results of the Left as a whole and the CPI in particular demands proper introspection. The Party will critically review the

election results when detailed reports will be available.

The power of money and its misuse observed during the election need to be addressed in the interest of strong democracy and hence, comprehensive electoral reforms are needed. The state funding of the election should be considered.

The prolong period of two months to complete the election in seven phases is also not advisable and hence should be avoided in future.

Similarly, the one-sided exit poll and sudden rise in the stock market has been questioned and hence a thorough enquiry should be conducted by SEBI [the Indian stock exchange] and the report submitted to Parliament.

**Roykuttu  
Office Secretary  
Communist Party of India  
New Delhi**

### Dear Comrades

The struggle of peoples for better living conditions continues throughout the world.

Unfortunately, we see how a large number of government officials betray their lands, their people, and the freedoms of their countries.

Some officials propagate the wrong belief that personal financial difficulties can only be solved by a unique personality. An enormous number of people who have surrendered power to these eager individuals, are suffering from the expansion of the global war and the local economic difficulties associated with it.

This needs to be stopped. And the best weapon we can use is unity against zealous individuals who are deceiving the masses from global alliances such as the USA, NATO, the EU and their

allies.

The cruelty in the Gaza Strip has demonstrated that every person who justifies merciless killing is a criminal.

Anyone who supports the continuation of the horrific Ukrainian war, which in terms of the millions of people displaced and killed far exceeds Gaza is also a criminal.

We urge all nations not to be used as a stupid tool at the bogus Ukrainian conference in Switzerland. We call for global condemnation of the war-mongers' attempts to expand the war in such cynical way.

We call on all people to unite and never forget every official who is going to attend this conference and thus move the world closer to another military abyss!

We call for the creation of a new global body that can use every possible means to stop the bloodshed started by NATO and its criminal accomplices.

People, Unite!

**Derzhava  
Ukraine**

*Derzhava is an underground Ukrainian Marxist movement banned by the Zelensky regime in 2022.*

### Dear Comrades

In a letter on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 31 human rights groups urged the Bahraini regime to release all remaining political prisoners and human rights defenders.

The signatories welcomed the recent releases but much more is needed, they said.

The joint letter on the human rights situation was sent to member and observer states of the UN Human Rights Council.

It said: "Ahead of and during the upcoming 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, we urge

*continued on page 9...*

## *Diary*

### Check the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Stop the War Coalition websites for emergency Gaza protests across the country.

#### UNTIL SUN 15 SEPT

London School of Economics: A Say in the End of the World: Solidarity and Nuclear Defence in the Cold War. Exhibition, LSE Library, 10 Portugal Street, London, WC2 2HD.

#### UNTIL MON 30 SEPT

Working Class Movement Library: Here We Stand: The Art of International Solidarity. WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX.

#### UNTIL SAT 22 JUN

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Let Cuba Live solidarity tour. With Rigoberto Zarza Ross, of the Cuban Friendship Institute. Nationwide tour: Derby, Liverpool, Bolton, Birmingham, Southall and CSC AGM. Details on CSC website under Events.

#### SAT 15 JUN

Free Julian Assange Campaign: Protest 1:30 HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, London SE128 16:00-18:00, Eros Statue, Piccadilly Circus, London SW1 & **Wed 19 June**, Australian High Commission, Strand, London WC2 4LA.

#### SAT 15 JUN

Scottish CND: March for Gaza! Assemble 11:00 George Square, Glasgow for rally on Glasgow Green, G1 5DB.

#### SAT 15 JUN

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Miners' Strike. Assemble 12:00 Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Ave, Lochgelly KY5 8JH for 13:00 rally at Lochore Meadows.

#### SAT 15 JUN

Marx Memorial Library: Book Launch: Paul Preston *Perfidious Albion: Britain & the Spanish Civil*. 15:00 in person at MML and online. Book on MML website.

#### TUE 18 JUN

Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign: 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary March and Rally. Assemble 1:00 City Hall, Barkers Pool Sheffield S1 2JA.

#### SAT 22 JUN

Workers in Palestine: Towards Liberation: Palestinian Politics, History And Activism Today Day School. 09:00-17:00. North London venue. Register on WiP website by 18<sup>th</sup> June.

#### WED 19 JUN

Campaign Against the Arms

Trade: Protest against the Counter Terror Expo 09:00, ExCeL Centre, 1 Western Gateway, London E16 1XL.

#### WED 19 JUN

Campaign Against the Arms Trade: Sam Perlo-Freeman on Campaign Against Arms Trade at 50. 18:30, LSE Library, 10 Portugal Street London WC2A 2HD; in person. Book on Eventbrite.

#### WED 19 JUN

Korean Friendship Association: Exploits of comrade Kim Jong Il: 17:00, Hybrid event. Register at uk@korea-dpr.com or juche007@gmail.com Details TBC.

#### THUR 20 JUN

International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity, No More British Weapons for Ukraine. Picket 18:30-20:00 in Whitehall, opposite Downing Street, London SW1.

#### SAT 22 JUN

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: AGM. 10:00, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BB. Open to non-members.

#### SAT 22 JUN

Keep Our NHS Public: Restore the people's NHS Launch conference. 10:00-17:00. London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB.

#### SAT 22 JUNE

Jarrow Rebel Town Festival. 11:00 Parade, assemble pedestrian tunnel, Tyne Street, Jarrow NE32. Followed by social at The Crown and Anchor, Chapel Road, Jarrow NE32 3LX.

#### TUE 25 JUN

Korea Friendship Association Online anti-US rally. Details TBC.

#### SAT 29 JUN

TUC Women Chainmakers' Festival. 11:00-16:00, Mary Macarthur Gardens, Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, B64 5AB.

#### SAT 29 JUN

Stand Up To Racism: National Demonstration Against Deportations to Rwanda. London Details TBC.

#### SAT 29 JUN

Korean Friendship Association: Picket of US and south Korean puppet London embassies 15:00 hours Details TBC.



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...continued from page 8

you and your delegation to raise concerns over the human rights situation in Bahrain, particularly regarding the continued arbitrary detention of human rights defenders and opposition leaders in Bahrain, many of whom have been wrongfully imprisoned since 2011".

It further added: "Thirteen years since Bahrain's popular uprising, systemic injustice has intensified and political repression targeting dissidents, human rights defenders, clerics and independent civil society has effectively shut any space for the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression or peaceful activism in the country."

**John Hughes**  
**Bahrain Freedom**  
**Movement**  
**London**

# Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political  
affairs correspondent

At the same time as Rishi Sunak was getting himself into hot water for taking an early bath at the D-Day commemorations, his opposite number in Scotland was getting himself into more unnecessary trouble. The energetic Douglas Ross is the regional list MSP for the Highlands & Islands who was Leader of the Opposition at Holyrood while refereeing Scottish Premier League football matches and sitting in the House of Commons as the MP for Moray.

In October 2021 he announced he was standing down from this Westminster seat. However late last week he reversed the decision and said he would be standing in the new seat of Aberdeenshire North & Moray East. His colleague, David Duguid who was MP for the predecessor seat, suddenly found himself "deselected" the night before despite being previously adopted as the Scottish Conservative & Unionist candidate.

This was done on health grounds (he is recovering from a long and serious condition). As a result Duguid will miss out on £14,700 redundancy payment. Unsurprisingly Duguid was not best pleased with the decision saying earlier he was "looking forward to campaigning". He said the party management board "decided not to allow me to be the candidate, although none of them had visited me. They apparently took this decision based on two visits from the party director and without receiving any professional medical prognosis."

After an uproar from both within and beyond the Tory party, on Monday

Ross announced that he was standing down as Tory leader and would resign as an MSP if he wins the Westminster seat. As a result of this rather undignified battle Ross was accused of handing the seat to the SNP. However, even if Ross wins on 4th July, his Holyrood seat is safe for the Tories as the person below him on the list will step in.

Ross is also in trouble over allegations that he claimed Westminster expenses for travel to football matches. This included a £48.99 claim for car parking when he refereed a Celtic match. Ross said that these were approved by the independent parliamentary body IPSA, but this was not enough for opposition figures like Alex Salmond demanding his resignation.

## Oil Wars

The SNP have achieved a remarkable first in the election. They have started attacking Labour from the right wing. Their particular objection was to Labour's plans for a short-term windfall tax on North Sea oil and gas profits which SNP Westminster leader Stephen Flynn would result in "100,000 job losses", or about almost every job in the industry by some calculations. The windfall tax was introduced by then Chancellor Rishi Sunak, in May 2022 in response to massively increased profits in the industry. It was originally due to expire at the end of 2025 and supposed to bring in £5 billion in the first year.

Unite, the main union representing workers in the industry has stepped up its campaign against Labour's opposition to new licences. General Secretary Sharon Graham says: "We need a concrete plan and serious investment. Unite has a plan to create 35,000 commensurate new energy transition jobs in Scotland by 2030. This will require

investment of £6.6 billion over the next 6 years. That is the commitment we need to see if oil and gas workers are not going to be the coal miners of our generation. And until these new green, well paid, skilled jobs are in place there must be no ban on oil and gas licences."

Under the slogan of "No Ban without a plan", its specific demands are for 35,000 new energy transition before 2030, development of local industries such as wind power manufacturing and operations, hydrogen, carbon capture and decommissioning. This would only cost an additional £1.1 billion annually, a tiny fraction of the £36 billion in the profits made by oil companies last year.

This would protect workers jobs and make Britain energy self-sufficient. Graham warns "We are not going to let the oil and gas sectors suffer the equivalent of the coal closures, which broke the back of mining towns across the UK, turning thriving communities into places where the generations have been left without hope. Our Unite workers are not going to be the miners of net zero."

Louise Gilmour, Scotland secretary of the GMB union which also represents North Sea workers said that parties must balance "reassurance and economic stability in the North Sea while building an industrial strategy capable of harnessing their skills and experience to bolster the drive to renewables". That could be interpreted to mean a call to vote Tory on this particular issue as Labour is opposed and the SNP confused on new licences.

Labour's sometimes sole Scottish Labour MP Ian Murray said of SNP objections to the windfall tax that they had "zero credibility" on the economy and was "all over the place". He brutally

added that "Stephen Flynn thinks a nurse on £29,000 a year should pay more tax but the oil and gas giants taking in billions of pounds in profits shouldn't".

## Money Troubles

Regular readers will be well aware of the financial genius of SNP. Yet another example of this has come to light. They have already returned nearly £170 million of European Union Structural funds to Brussels because the money has been unspent. It also appears that up to £450 million has to be spent by the end of the month otherwise it too will be sent back.

The SNP claim this is being done, but Labour's Finance spokesman Michael Marras said of the SNP government, with "27 days to spend £450 million, even by its own standard of fiscal incompetence, that is chaos". The £450 million is about 28 per cent of the EU money allocated to Scotland. In comparison Wales will be returning nine per cent, England six and Northern Ireland two.

## The candidates

With the closing date for nominations having passed we can report that in the 57 Scottish constituencies (down by two from 2019) there will be a total of 424 candidates, or an average of 7.4 each.

The SNP, Labour, the Conservative & Unionists, Liberal Democrats and Reform UK will be contesting every seat. A record 44 Greens will be battling against the SNP, while Alba (excluding their leader Alex Salmond) will be doing the same. Two candidates from the Independence for Scotland Party have promised not to take their seats or pledge

allegiance to the King. Their wish is certain to be granted.

Amongst the also-rans the clean living socially conservative Scottish Family Party (founded by a former member of UKIP) is putting up 16 candidates. The British Unionist Party, the Freedom Alliance and the Heritage Party and the Liberal Party, a Gladstonian rump) all offer a single candidate and there are also 25 Independents of various hues.

On the left the Communist Party of Britain is putting up three, the Scottish Socialist Party two, Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party three, the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) four. There are two from George Galloway's Workers Party of Britain, along with a solitary representative of the Socialist Equality Party.

Though Nigel Farage and his caravan has long moved on to Reform a tiny band still maintain his old UKIP platform running two wannabees in Scotland. The Christian Party, "Proclaiming Christ's Lordship", who want to introduce a theocracy to save us the bother of tedious elections also have two.

Sadly the Official Monster Raving Loony Party will not be appearing in a single Scottish constituency but as can be seen there are plenty of substitutes...

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# Free Gaza! Free Palestine!

by New Worker  
correspondent

Over 200,000 people took to the streets of London on Saturday to support the Palestinian Arabs and demand an end to the carnage in Gaza – a demand echoed in demos and protests in cities, towns and villages organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) and other solidarity and anti-war movements throughout the country.

At the rally Husam

Zomlot, the Palestinian ambassador in London, said: “I am running out of

words, not only to describe the horror we are witnessing every single day. No. I am

running out of words to help me understand how world leaders and how the

mainstream media cannot see, cannot report, cannot act.

“I have questions. How do they sleep?

“How do they sleep when they see the pictures of emaciated, skeletal children shaking with fear dying of an engineered famine in Gaza?

“How can they sleep when they see the child Ahmed al-Najjar, just 18 months old, beheaded in Rafah by a US-made bomb?

“I know I can’t sleep. I can’t get Ahmed’s image out of my head! Why are those pictures not on your front pages every day?”



## Camden stands by Gaza!

by New Worker  
correspondent

**Camden Friends of Palestine successfully organised ‘Camden Gaza Week’ to maintain and increase knowledge of the ongoing genocide in Palestine, and to continue calls for UK politicians to put pressure on the Israeli government to stop the killings.**

Kentish Town was chosen as the venue for the seven-day programme of protests, solidarity and educational events, as it is the home of Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, the local MP who notoriously said that Israel has “the right” to block water, food and electricity to Gaza. This is in addition to his purge of left-wing Labour party members and of Palestine supporters, including Jewish members. More Jewish Labour Party members have been expelled under Starmer’s watch than under any other leader.

Starmer has welcomed defections from Tory MPs with open arms while

withdrawing the Labour Party whip from Jeremy Corbyn, causing Corbyn to stand as an independent at this election.

An information stall ran from 8:00–20:00 each day. Each evening at 18:00 an event took place, with a range of speakers over the week from former ANC MP Andrew Feinstein, who is running as an independent candidate against Starmer at this election, to journalists and musicians in Gaza, to UK-based support groups such as Jewish Voice for Labour, students from the University student

encampments, and even Queer Solidarity with Palestine. There was also a separate ‘Irish 4 Palestine’ event on the final Sunday afternoon.

There is a petition asking the local Camden Council to divest any pension or any other investment funds from Israel, which gained hundreds of signatures over the week.

Overall the general response from members of the public was overwhelmingly supportive of the group’s actions and events, in line with opinion polls showing up to 80

per cent in favour of a ceasefire. The few negative responses either came from strong supporters of Israel or right-wingers.

Sadly the events were increasingly targeted over the week by organised supporters of the Zionist regime, and between Monday and Thursday the evening events were subject to major attempts at disruption by large groups of well-known Israel supporters combined with members of the far-right. In the daytimes, supporters had regular visits from local fascists, usually behaving in threatening

and aggressive ways until moved on by the police.

The police, who were also present during the week in increasing numbers, failed, despite promises and repeated requests, to maintain a secure area between the Palestine supporters and the Zionists and racists. This led to repeated and unnecessary confrontations.

The police also maintained a practice of applying different standards to the two sides, as has been seen on many demonstrations, allowing provocateurs more or less free rein, and punishing

anyone who responds to them.

Despite this imbalanced policing, the number of arrests on both sides each night was small. One Zionist was arrested for chanting “Kapo” repeatedly at Jewish speakers talking about the Holocaust, including Holocaust survivor Stephen Kapos who lives locally and is a very strong supporter of the Palestinian cause. Palestine supporters who were arrested were all released within 12 hours and without charge. Itai Galmudy, the leader of pro-Israel organisation Enough is Enough was present and arrested one evening, and also released without charge.

There is a flower stall next to the area where the Gaza Week took place, and this flower stall was the subject of an article and interview in the *Jewish Chronicle* alleging vandalism and intimidation that simply never happened. The organisers were happy to view this as another successful sign for what all involved considered a very successful event.





# A cosy chat in Washington

by Guillermo Alvarado

**It has long been known everywhere that in the USA there are two dominant political parties, Democrats and Republicans, who periodically alternate the administration of the government with discreet nuances in matters of little importance.**

Things change, however, when it comes to implementing substantial policies on strategic issues, whether local or international in nature, where political nuances and colours disappear and it becomes clear that there is only one policy to guide that nation, and no differences amongst the ruling elite.

There are plenty of examples and it is enough to mention some events, such as the Vietnam War, where both parties seemed to be one, following the script written in the corridors

of power in Wall Street and the Pentagon.

Something similar happened during the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in Chile, a period during which Democratic and Republican rulers succeeded one another in the White House and all of them maintained the South American country

as a strategic partner.

History is now repeating itself with the genocide perpetrated by Israel against the defenceless Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip.

While the horror of Zionist barbarism spreads throughout the world, which has already killed more than 36,000,

most of them children and women, in the Middle East, the USA took a substantial step in support of Tel Aviv.

It turns out that the two leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Congress of the USA, belonging to both parties, have extended an invitation to Benjamin

Netanyahu to attend that venue and speak to the legislators about his aggression against Gaza.

The "honourable" American congressmen abjectly ignore the fact that there is a request for an international arrest warrant against the Israeli prime minister and challenge the world by asking him to go ex-

plain his extermination programme against a people, its culture and history.

Doing so, furthermore, in the middle of an election year, when small differences are exacerbated, is a clear sign that the decision was not adopted in a partisan conclave, but at a higher level before which nothing remains but the most absolute obedience.

Neither slow nor lazy, the Zionist leader expressed his approval and was delighted to go talk to his "friends" in Washington and receive breaths of fresh oxygen to alleviate the smell of innocent blood he exhales.

How are they going to manage, I wonder, to ensure that he does not see the demonstrations that will undoubtedly take place to in protest at his presence on their soil? We'll have to see, yessiree, yessiree...

*Radio Havana Cuba*



## Televised genocide

by Guillermo Alvarado

**It took a few years for the world to become aware of the magnitude of the genocide perpetrated by the German Nazi regime during the Second World War and there are those who still make discoveries about these massive crimes today.**

Many, for example, still believe that it was only a planned extermination against

the Jews and it is true that they were the main victims, but the Nazis also exterminated countless gypsies, homosexuals and even Germans, particularly communist militants and opponents of Adolf Hitler.

What practically everyone agrees on is that the guilty of these crimes deserve total repudiation and that the punishments imposed at the Nuremberg Tribunal were fair, despite the fact that many war-criminals

managed to escape the arm of justice.

Today things are different, the world has changed and it is difficult to think that this is for the better.

The Zionist regime of Israel, for example, is committing genocide against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip in the open, under everyone's gaze, thanks to television and the social media.

The modern media is bringing the details of this massacre to millions

of eyes. We can see the corpses and the pain and fear in the eyes of the Palestinian children, the explosion of the bombs and the scattered rubble are recorded on our screens.

And in this Dantesque spectacle, the lukewarm response of the world draws powerful attention and the only thing left to do is ask the question of whether the brutal evidence of the massacre is dulling people's sensitivity?

Numerous protest

demonstrations, meetings, sit-ins and occupation of public spaces occur but, so far, no Western government, regardless of political colour, has broken relations with Tel Aviv.

But it is even worse, because the leaders of several Western powers boast of their support for Israel, and the largest of them, the United States, sends it weapons and ammunition, becoming an accomplice in the massacre.

Others, like Chile,

have double standards. On the one hand it announces its support for the accusations against the Zionist government before the International Court of Justice, but on the other hand it maintains commercial, military and diplomatic relations with that pariah state. Israel kills in public and the world turns away, just when there is the technology to see everything first hand. Is this evolution?

*Radio Havana Cuba*

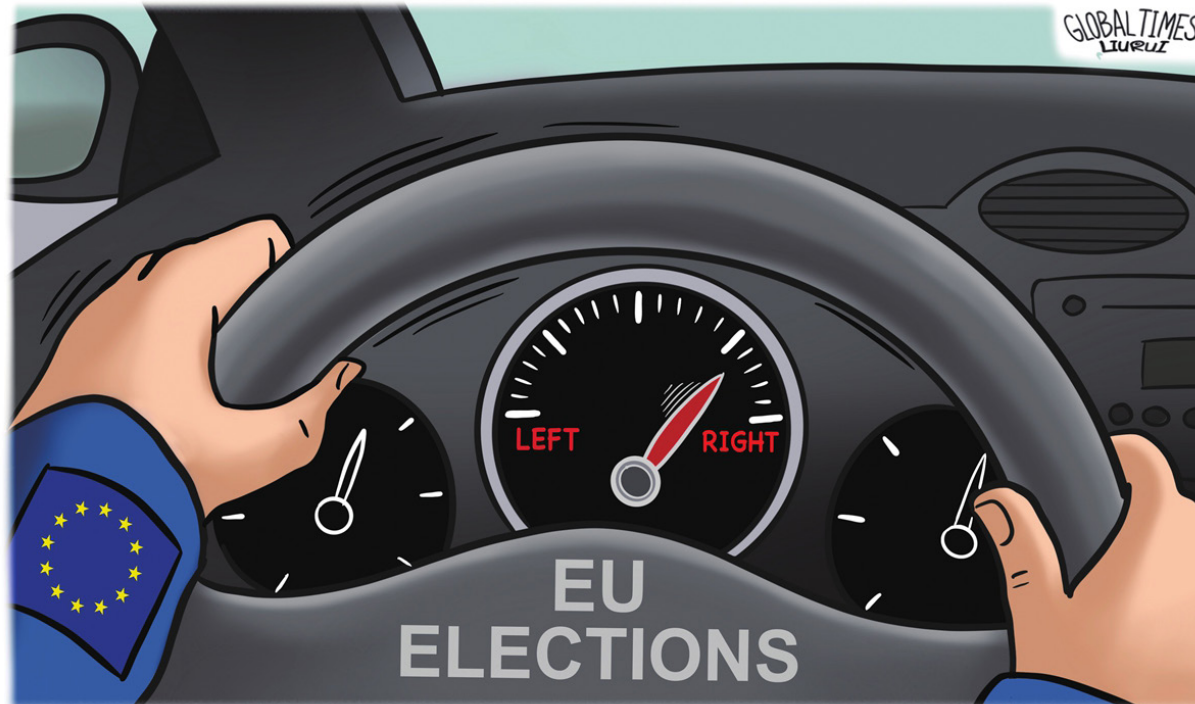
# A European earthquake

by Guillermo Alvarado

**The plummeting Euro, the collapse of financial markets, the dissolution of the French National Assembly and the resignation of the Belgian prime minister, are the first consequences of the rise of the extreme right in the elections of the European Parliament.**

Although the right, represented above all by the European People's Party, remains the leading force in the European Parliament and will continue to control the presidency of the continental integration mechanism, it is undeniable that the extreme right is already an important force.

In general terms, of the 720 seats that make up that body, around 497 will belong to conservative or ultra parties, while more moderate forces, such



as social democrats and environmentalists, suffered an appreciable setback.

Germany is the country which has the largest number of legislators, with 96, followed by France, which has 81, Italy with 76 and Spain 61. The remaining 407 seats are distributed among the rest of the members of the European Union.

The blow in France was of such magnitude

that President Emmanuel Macron announced the call for early legislative elections.

It is not an easy decision, since the National Rally, led by the extremist Marine Le Pen, has just achieved a comfortable victory, with more than 30 per cent of the vote, double that of the government party, and could reach a majority in the French National Assembly. If

that happens, Macron would continue as president but would have to accept a far-right prime minister until the end of his term.

In fact, Le Pen's followers act as if they are already in power issuing a message in which they claim to be "ready to put an end to this mass immigration, make purchasing power a priority and revive France".

A political crisis broke out in

Belgium after the resignation of the head of government, Alexander De Croo, overwhelmed by the advance of the right.

Berlin did not escape the storm either because the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) movement, which downplays the crimes committed by the Nazis during the Second World War, achieved second place.

The AfD was plagued by scandals in recent months, with its lead candidate having to step back from campaigning in May after declaring that the SS were "not all criminals".

"We've done well because people have become more anti-European," the AfD's co-leader Alice Weidel said on Sunday. "People are annoyed by so much bureaucracy from Brussels," she added, giving a plan ultimately to ban CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting cars as an example.

Although at the moment there is no risk of the disintegration of the EU the growth of the most reactionary forces is very worrying and, by the way, bad news for those who are trying to migrate to Europe, or those who are already settled there. As the former Belgian Prime Minister said very well: "For us it is a particularly difficult night. We have lost."

*Radio Havana Cuba*

# More Western hypocrisy

by Dhairya Maheshwari

**The Kremlin has slammed the West and its media for turning a blind eye to the deaths of hundreds of children in the Donbas as well as in Gaza. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman**

**Maria Zakharova says children are dying in the Donbas but the Western governments aren't talking about it and the Western press chooses not to report these killings.**

Speaking on the third day of the St Petersburg International

Economic Forum (SPIEF), Maria Zakharova said that the Western media didn't want to make the killings of children in Donbas due to the Kiev regime's actions since 2014 a "topic of discussion" in their coverage of Ukraine conflict.

"Let me remind you how it was, for example, in Syria,

when the story of a single dead child became a subject of global forums organised by the West. The photograph of one specific boy was displayed behind the backs of NATO leaders. The story of one child could even influence the adoption of bills, decisions, and declarations at major Western

forums," the Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman said, pointing to western double standards on children's deaths.

The Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) marked the 'Remembrance of the Children Victims of the War in Donbas' in memory of 200 children killed by Ukrainian forces in

the region since 2014. Reports suggest that the death toll has got worse since then.

Meanwhile, in Gaza, nearly 26,000 children have been killed or injured since the Israelis launched their military operation following the 7<sup>th</sup> October attack by Hamas.

*Sputnik*