

# Palestinians fight on as Israel spurns ceasefire offer

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

Joe Biden is calling a ceasefire in Gaza based on what the Americans claim is an Israeli plan to end the fighting while Chinese President Xi Jinping calls for a peace conference aimed at resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict and ending the “tremendous suffering” in Gaza.

The United States is urging the UN Security Council to support a three-phase plan that would free all the Israeli hostages in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel, an Israeli pull-out from the beleaguered Palestinian enclave and the despatch of massive aid into the devastated territory.

Five Arab countries – Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – are supporting the Biden initiative and the Palestinian resistance movements have also responded positively to the proposals. And hundreds of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets in support of a truce that would free the scores of Israelis held by the Palestinian resistance.



• Palestine -- there is only one road.

But the hard-line Netanyahu government in Tel Aviv says it's not their plan and they won't stop fighting until Hamas is crushed.

Hamas says the Israelis are simply stalling to buy more time for their genocidal campaign in Gaza. But time works both ways as the Israelis are finding out to their cost on the streets of Gaza and the burning forests of northern Israel.

Dozens of teams from the Israeli military, police and rescue services are battling to put out bush fires that are sweeping across northern Israel following waves of missile attacks by Hezbollah, the south Lebanon resistance movement, whose political wing is a major player in the Lebanese parliament.

The Zionists have launched deadly attacks on southern Lebanon over the last few months, killing hundreds of civilians and resistance fighters. But Hezbollah

attacks on Israeli military bases have forced the regime to evacuate tens of thousands of Israelis from areas close to the Lebanese border with no prospect in sight for them to return. The attacks have also inflicted a significant number of Israeli casualties with some estimates suggesting some 500 Israeli soldiers have been either killed or wounded in the strikes.

This week Slovenia became the latest European Union country to recognise an independent Palestinian state after its parliament approved the move with a majority vote on Tuesday and the Maldives government banned Israelis from the up-market Indian Ocean holiday spot in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile the British government that welcomes Ukrainian children injured in the war with Russia refuses to issue visas for Palestinian children seeking treatment

in the UK. According to the *Middle East Eye* news website British doctors have been trying unsuccessfully since January to bring five Palestinian children over to the UK for medical treatment. All of them were injured in the fighting in the Gaza Strip.

“We have not asked the UK to take all of them or the majority of them, but just to play its part as a wealthy nation with incredible medical expertise,” says Krish Kandiah, founder of the UK-based Sanctuary Foundation, which supports Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, among others. “We made many, many attempts to try to get a visa for these children and, sadly, despite many good-hearted

civil servants, when it got to the highest level, we just heard nothing back,” he said. This is while the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London alone was currently providing treatment for more than 100 Ukrainian children.

Dr Omar Abdel-Mannan – a British-Egyptian paediatric neurologist – pointed out that in 2022 the National Health Service brought Ukrainian children with cancer over to England for treatment. “The double standards are very clear for anyone to see. I’m sad to see my own NHS, which is helping patients day in and day out, is unable to do this, not because of [a lack of] willpower from medics, but at a political level,” he said.

## FUND

We’ve been very busy and the post was only collected once this week. We got £419, which closed the May appeal at £3,336 – a good effort though sadly still short of the £3,500 monthly target for the *New Worker* fighting fund. Those who helped us on our way included the Sandhurst friend who sent in £100. An Essex friend sent in £30 and the Welsh supporter gave us a score. A Dagenham comrade donated £14 and another from south London sent in £12.50. The June appeal starts now – let’s see what we can do!

The press, as well as the day-to-day running of the Party and the *New Worker*, relies on the continued flow of donations to the fighting fund. Money is the life-blood of the Party and we rely entirely on the generous contributions of comrades and friends across the country.

Make sure that the communist voice is heard every week in every factory, office and neighbourhood across the country by supporting our efforts with donations. Every contribution, big or small, counts. Help us put the communist answer to the capitalist crisis back on the street by maintaining and broadening the circulation of the *New Worker*. Help us in the fight for peace and socialism. Help us keep up the fight, come what may, by sending in your donations to the *New Worker* fund.

All donations to the fighting fund help keep our presses rolling. Big or small it all counts. Please send yours to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ‘New Worker’. To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here: <http://newworker.org/ncpcentral/fightingfund.html>

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# THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

## Week two of the election race

It's round two of the election campaign with Labour still streets ahead of the Tories in the opinion polls despite Sunak's best efforts to defend his record on the TV "leaders" debate between Starmer and Sunak this week. Diane Abbott has turned the tables on the Starmerites and is now, once again, the official Labour candidate in Hackney. Nigel Farage has thrown his hat into the ring in Clacton to return to the helm of his Reform Party that one pollster puts only two points behind the Conservatives. The Liberal-Democrats and the Greens are buoyed at the response they're getting in the seats they're hoping to bag in July.

Meanwhile, seven more Labour councillors have resigned over Starmer's stand on Gaza, and Jeremy Corbyn's bid to hold his seat as an independent in Islington has kicked off with the open support of two local councillors who have resigned from the Labour Party to support his campaign. Corbyn told the media that he was not aligning himself with George Galloway's Workers Party of Britain but said he would give critical support to an incoming Labour government.

The Tories remain in the doldrums. The "Red Belters" who turned to the Tories over Brexit are now returning to the Labour fold while many others in the once deep-blue Home Counties are looking to Reform, the Lib-Dems and the Greens for change. But our first-past-the-post constituency system is a tough hurdle for all the minor parties to jump. Farage's return to centre stage will certainly boost Reform's chances of getting into Parliament. Whether they will, remains to be seen.

Buoyed by the polls Farage is talking all sorts of nonsense about Canada, where a similarly named party rose like a shooting star in the 1990s to eventually become the new Conservative Party of Canada that has 118 seats in the Canadian House of Commons. His real concern is however, at the prospect of a Remainer revival under Labour. Starmer's already talking about negotiating a new deal with Brussels that could pave the way to "associate" status or even the second referendum the Remainers want. There are no serious Brexiteers on Starmer's front-bench and few left in the Tory ranks these days.

The bourgeoisie may be divided over Europe, but they have no problem with the debate around defence, education and the health service. It, after all, reflects the divisions within the ruling class over how much, or indeed how little, they are prepared to pay to maintain social peace in the country. What they don't want is a public discussion that strays beyond the bourgeois consensus in favour of NATO, Britain's nuclear arsenal and Israel.

Our task as communists is to put peace and socialism top of the agenda on the street. To demand a halt to British arms supplies to Israel and Ukraine. To expand our trade and cultural links with People's China, end the confrontation with the Russian Federation and support the efforts of the Global South to halt the imperialist arms race that is threatening world peace all over the world.

# China nabs British spies

by Chen Qingqing  
and Xu Keyue

**As China's international status and influence continue to grow, Western countries are employing increasingly complex methods of infiltration. This requires China to further enhance its anti-espionage education and the public awareness.**

This week China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) announced that they had unmasked a married couple who had been recruited by the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6).

Wang, who worked for a central state agency, was recruited by MI6 when he applied to study in Britain on a China-UK exchange programme in 2015. British intelligence, valuing his position in a core confidential role, quickly facilitated the approval of his application.

Upon Wang's arrival in the UK, MI6 arranged for their people to give him special attention, including dining invitations and sightseeing tours, to get to know him and understand his hobbies and personality weaknesses.

After discovering Wang's strong desire for money, MI6 agents posing as graduates, befriended him on campus and offered him a well-paid part-time consulting post. Tempted by the money, Wang agreed.

Initially British intelligence used public research projects as a cover, gradually involving Wang in the core matters of the Chinese central agency, with payments significantly higher than normal consulting fees. Though Wang became suspicious, he was lured by the substantial amounts of money he was getting to continue providing these "consulting" services.

Later, when the time was ripe, his paymasters openly introduced Wang to MI6 personnel. They revealed their identities and offered Wang even higher remuneration and security guarantees if he agreed to serve the British government. Seeking personal gain Wang

accepted the British offer. MI6 provided professional spy training for Wang and instructed him to return to China to gather important intelligence.

Wang's wife, Zhou, also worked in a critical department. MI6, confident in their control over Wang, repeatedly pressured him to recruit his wife, and promising to double his money in exchange. Despite initial hesitation, Wang succumbed to persistent persuasion, inducement, and even threats from the British side, eventually convincing Zhou to agree to work for British intelligence. Thus, Wang and his wife both became agents of MI6.

Following a thorough investigation and solid evidence, the Chinese national security agency acted decisively, legally detaining and interrogating Wang and Zhou, thereby uncovering a significant MI6 operative within China's internal system. The case is currently under further investigation.

This is not the only case in which MI6's espionage activities against China have been unveiled by China's MSS. Last January, the Chinese authorities disclosed a case in which MI6 used foreign personnel from "a third country" for espionage targeting China.

MI6 is a British intelligence agency that has been dedicated to recruiting agents through various means for a long time says Li Wei, a researcher and security expert at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

"As a core member of the Five Eyes and with a close relationship with the CIA, some of MI6's activities are in fact co-ordinated with those of the CIA," Li said referring to the "Five Eyes"

intelligence network that includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the USA and the UK. Despite the seemingly declining international status of the UK, its role as a member of the Five Eyes and their co-operation with the CIA remains a very important aspect of their intelligence work, he noted.

Some experts believe that such cases are typical, with foreign intelligence agencies recruiting Chinese couples for their spy activities, which requires China to enhance anti-espionage education for anyone participating in international programmes.

The British government has specifically allocated budgets for recruiting Chinese personnel and increasing the number of institutions and staff dedicated to studying China within the government, including arrangements for specific China-related intelligence, says Gao Jian, director of the Centre for British Studies at Shanghai International Studies University.

"The continuous public disclosure of various espionage cases by the Chinese government is also aimed at raising public awareness of security," Gao said, noting that in an era where major power rivalries are becoming increasingly intense, it is urgent to enhance the national security awareness.

"We should not assume that only the USA is conducting espionage activities against us or that only certain countries are doing so. Beyond the Five Eyes, some US allies may also follow the instructions of the USA to target China with intelligence and espionage activities," Li said.

*Global Times*





# Workers' Notes

## Diane Abbott stands her ground

by New Worker correspondent

**Elections are often brutal events, and the present one is no exception. Mud-slinging and dirty tricks are a daily occurrence with policy differences taking a back seat. All this is in the cause of seeking Labour Party candidacies.**

The most-high profile of these was of course Diane Abbott, who was only allowed to stand in her Hackney North seat after being blocked by the leadership on trumped-up charges of anti-Semitism after writing a letter to the *Observer* ages ago. Labour's sitting on these allegations to prevent her standing was going to alienate many voters across the country.

Starmer had no option but to reinstate her given her special status as the first Black woman MP as ditching a popular constituency MP at a time when he has successfully alienated the Muslim vote by his endorsement of Israeli atrocities in Gaza. Elsewhere in London Apsana Begum – the woman Muslim MP for Poplar and Limehouse and another Starmer clique target – is likely to be approved by Labour, simply to avoid more hassle.

In Brighton Kemptown the hitherto unknown sitting Labour MP has been banned from standing over an anonymous complaint about an unknown incident alleged to have taken place years ago. Michael Crick, the journalist who keeps a close eye on Labour's internal politics, estimates that only four or five of the 200 candidates for the most winnable seats are from the left, such is the extent of the Starmer purge. Tellingly one darling of the Labour left, Jon McDonnell, has been left alone because of his support for the Ukrainian fascists.

The old tradition of departing MPs delaying the announcement of their retirement until the last minute so that party HQs can parachute in their favourite sons

in return for a guaranteed peerage has been taken to new heights by Sir Keir Starmer. Labour's NEC is not just deciding who will be slotted in. Several NEC members have inserted themselves into desirable seats as well. But alienating party activists in this manner is not always a clever move.

For the first time in ages both main parties have serious widespread challengers seeking their traditional support. The Tories have the suddenly reinvigorated Reform, the former Brexit Party, snapping at their heels to contend with.

Labour has to worry about the Workers Party of Britain under George Galloway, which is contesting over 326 seats which will be enough to permit him to fight a court case to allow him into the TV debates. The party hopes to retain its Rochdale seat and, at the same time, unseat Angela Rayner in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

While the party will be lucky to hold Galloway's latest seat it is a real danger to Labour as it will easily capture the votes of most Muslims and many others disgusted by Labour's support for Zionism. The other left-wing challengers, however, are unlikely to do more than lose their deposits.

In Starmer's own constituency of Holborn and St Pancras he is facing an anti-Zionist South African Jewish former ANC MP who will be a more serious threat than the inevitable Official Monster Raving Looney Party candidate.

## Town Hall Wars

by New Worker correspondent

**Despite the distractions of the General Election a number of major industrial disputes are bubbling away that will loom large in the in-tray of whomever forms a government.**

In local government the National Employers organisation have replied to the three main unions, Unison, GMB and Unite, who submitted their pay claim in late February. This was for £3,000 or 10 per cent (whichever is greater) on all spinal column points, with reviews of the gender, ethnicity and disability pay gaps in local government,

a two-hour reduction in the working week, and an additional day of annual leave for personal or well-being purposes. They also seek a phased approach to reaching a minimum pay rate of £15 an hour in a maximum of two years, sooner if possible.

The response is predictably not very encouraging for unions who represent over a million workers. The "full and final" National Employers offer is very different: From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, an increase of £1,290 (pro rata for part-time employees), an increase of 2.5 per cent on all pay points above the maximum of the pay spine below deputy chief officer level, and a 2.5 per cent increase on all allowances.

This they say would achieve a bottom rate of pay of £12.26 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 (or an increase of 5.77 per cent for low paid employees) and everyone on the NJC pay spine would get at least 2.5 per cent pay increase.

This would increase the national pay bill by 4.03 per cent. Management says this will mean local authority pay will have increased by 29 per cent for the lowest paid workers since 2021. They grumble that the need to keep above National Living Wage is putting their finances under strain.

The lowest local government workers are presently just 15 pence above the legal minimum. They also claim that meeting the unions' claim would see cuts in services. Bosses firmly reject the demand for shorter hours and the extra day off. The demand for £15 an hour minimum would be "prohibitively expensive for councils at any time".

Unison describes the offer as "disappointing" and is seeking an improved offer. They are recommending rejection in the ballot which opened on Wednesday. GMB is also balloting but is making no recommendation.

Unite is taking a tougher line by saying the offer is "entirely inadequate" and is firmly recommending rejection of the offer in consultative ballots.

The union points out that local government workers have seen their pay decrease by approximately 30 per cent in real terms since 2010 as a result of a 25 per cent cut in central government levels of council funding.

Clare Keogh, the union's national officer for local authorities added that: "The national employers know that this is an entirely inadequate offer for council workers and does nothing to meet their needs or expectations. Council leaders need to sit down with the trade unions and negotiate a vastly improved proposal."

Her equivalent in Unison, Mike Short chipped in to say: "The offer is disappointing and falls short of the level council and school workers deserve. "Staff have seen the value of their pay plummet, while often being asked to do even more."

In Scotland matters have gone further down the road to industrial action. Unite, is already balloting for industrial action by cleansing and waste workers, having served industrial action notices to 29 councils after it rejected an offer from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities' (CoSLA). This was for an even worse 2.2 per cent offer and would be implemented only in October.

Sharon Graham said "CoSLA and the Scottish government have been warned that they must do far more to meet the pay aspirations of our members. The blame for any strike action taking place will lie at their doors."

Graham McNab, Unite industrial officer said: "Unite has now served industrial action notices to nearly every council in Scotland. If the ballots are successful, then our members in cleansing and waste services could begin strike action from July. Any action could impact on major summer events including the Edinburgh festival."

## In the NHS

Health unions are up in arms about the fact that the Government have failed to make a pay offer for 2024/5. This should all have been done and dusted two months ago, at the start of the financial year.

This is due to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) failing to start the process by providing evidence to the supposedly independent NHS Pay Review Body (PRB) process. The NHS PRB has therefore yet to make any offer. All that has been done is for the Department to make vague noises about a deal having to be "fair but affordable".

As a result, some unions say the NHS PRB should be abandoned and that they should enter into direct pay negotiations instead. GMB and Unite have now been joined by Unison in boycotting the PRB. Unison says the NHS are facing "months of uncertainty" and "in the dark" about how to budget and a "desperately needed annual pay rise" was vital to help staff "pay their bills and stop the steady stream of their colleagues leaving for better-paid jobs elsewhere".

The high turn-over of staff means that reducing waiting lists "will remain an impossible pipe dream". Even lower paid jobs stacking supermarket shelves are increasing attractive as they offer less hassle and offer a discount on groceries.

The GMB's Rachel Harrison reported that her union "has refused to engage with the pay review body process until significant reform has happened, including addressing independence and timing". Instead: "we submitted a pay claim to the government and called for pay negotiations so that these unnecessary delays could have been avoided."

The DHSC is clearly unconcerned about the glacial process with a spokesperson piously saying "we hugely value all our NHS staff and recognise the importance of giving certainty on 2024-25 pay settlements as early as possible which is why we have asked the independent pay review bodies to make their recommendations."

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has made the same complaint adding that nurses need an "urgent substantial, above-inflation pay rise for 2024-25" as four in 10 of their members reported being in a state of mental distress due to money worries.

On Monday the RCN declared that the state of the NHS was a "national emergency" citing cases of: "Our once world-leading services are treating patients in car parks and store cupboards, the elderly are languishing on chairs for hours on end, and patients are dying in corridors". Keep Our NHS Public estimates that 300 avoidable deaths per week were being caused by such treatment in accident and

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emergency departments.

One small by-product of the election is that the RCN has lost its General Secretary who is seeking election to the House of Commons – but not a seat as she is standing on the Sinn Féin platform in Fermanagh South Tyrone – and Irish republicans, on principle, never take up their seats in the Westminster parliament. One wonders what the RCN's new Patron, HM The King, thinks of that.

Monday saw the RCN issue its Election Manifesto. In addition to settling its pay claim it is demanding stricter safety-critical nurse-to-patient ratios, legal protection for people raising concerns about unsafe staffing and mental health support for all nursing staff. It also wants to eradicate corridor care, government-funded nursing degrees with a job guarantee for graduates and the repeal of anti-strike legislation. It makes worthy demands to “end exploitation of health and social care workers and properly fund the sector” and for “sufficient funding for continuing professional development”. Finally, it demands the “end of punitive immigration policies which affect internationally educated nursing staff” and an increase to overseas aid spending to tackle global nursing shortages.

The *Nursing Times* reports that Royal College of Midwives general secretary, Gill Walton, made similar complaints: “The pay rise for another year running is overdue and this will only serve to further erode the morale of midwives and maternity support workers.” Once again: “Improving pay is a crucial lever in retaining staff and right now given the staff retention issues facing the NHS, the government should be doing all it can to ensure it retains existing staff,” she said.

Still dissatisfied with the previous round of talks are the junior doctors in England who are having a five-day strike just before the General Election. This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> in the same battle since March 2023, but the first since February.

The British Medical Association (BMA) complain there has been no movement from the Government since new talks started in mid-May.

The BMA is demanding a 35 per cent pay rise to make up for what it says is 15 years of below-inflation pay rises, last time round they won a nine per cent rise. The present rejected offer was a mere three per cent.

The BMA junior doctors committee complain that “when we entered mediation with government this month we did so under the impression that we had a functioning government

that would soon be making an offer. Clearly no offer is now forthcoming. Junior doctors are fed up and out of patience.” Given that ministers and civil servants are preoccupied with electoral matters it is optimistic for them to hope that “even at this late stage, Mr Sunak has the opportunity to show that he cares about the NHS and its workers”.

Unfortunately, this implies that NHS workers are unlikely to see any pay rise until after the summer recess in September at the earliest.

Clearly not aiming for the medical vote was Labour's Shadow Health Secretary Wes Streeting, who declared that he would “not be able to afford” the 35 per cent pay claim. “Getting to fair pay is a journey not an event, and I am willing to negotiate on pay and those wider conditions that junior doctors are working.” That he has gone on record as planning to contract out operations to the private sector hospitals does not bode well.

## Trade unions...

...do not seem to be very satisfactory employers these days. Last week we reported that staff at the University and College Union (UCU) voted to take strike action during the union's conference at Bournemouth. After peace talks failed this resulted in action taking place

that resulted in the second day of its conference being abandoned. Unite regional officer Rose Keeping said “The UCU's undermining of existing industrial recognition agreements, failure to agree key working principles and heavy-handed use of disciplinary procedures have left our members with little choice but to take strike action.”

The other ongoing action between a union and its own employees is at the Transport and Salaried Staff Association (TSSA) where strike action by the union's staff (organised by

the GMB) is being drastically stepped up.

The dispute is over alleged workplace bullying and harassment and failures to follow the agreed policies and procedures “designed to create a better workplace culture” brought in by the new general secretary Maryam Eslamdoust, who was supposed to be the new broom which would put an end to that sort of thing. But many say that Ms Eslamdoust, the former Mayor of Camden who rose through the movement via the Labour Party and the legal and charity sectors, is making all sorts of blunders and has little or no understanding of what it takes to lead a union.

After a unanimous vote GMB members went on strike on Tuesday and will be taking an extra day of action each week in June and will be on strike for the whole of the first week of July.

The TSSA annual conference at Cardiff was also disrupted as a result of this action. According to the *Skwawkbox* website half of the delegates were barred from attending and a no-confidence motion in the General Secretary was blocked. Three TSSA NEC members have resigned in support of the disgruntled staff.

Some say that staff who had voted no confidence in the general secretary are now being targeted by a smear campaign and that the union's senior officers have tried to go over the head of workers and deal directly with the head of the GMB.

## New Worker Supporters' Groups...

New Worker supporters groups exist to support the weekly newspaper of the New Communist Party.

Individual membership is £10.00 (8 Euros or \$10) for all or part of the calendar year, and every member will receive a New Worker Supporters Group (NWSG) card and a copies of the Internal Bulletin for the year.

Name.....

Address.....

postcode.....

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

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

*TWO SHOCKING reports last week revealed a growing crisis of obesity in children in Britain that threatens their health and shortens their life span.*

*One report came from the House of Commons Select Committee on Health and the other from the consumer magazine Which?, which carried the results of an investigation into the nutritional values of a selection of convenience foods marked by Britain's biggest supermarkets.*

*The problem is the result of several factors, including the steady cuts in what this country spends on monitoring child health since the 1980s.*

*Infant welfare clinics have all but*

*disappeared so that new parents no longer get the regular advice and guidance on their children's diets.*

*School medical examinations have been cut, as have physical education lessons and sports have been axed as playing fields are sold off for development.*

*Low wages and rising debts force parents to work long hours but there is scarcely any provision for social childcare outside school hours while parents are working.*

*This means less adult supervision of what children eat and parents who are too tired to spend time cooking when they do finish work.*

*Another factor in obesity is the over-prescription of steroid drugs for many ailments, like asthma.*

*But probably the biggest factor in childhood obesity is the high-powered marketing of junk food, with little nutritional value, by giant food companies.*

*Modern hard-working parents need convenience foods, but it should be just as easy, if less profitable, for manufacturers to make the food wholesome and nutritious as*

*to make it junk.*

*The Consumers' Association are running a campaign to name and shame unhealthy products.*

*“The food industry talks the language of healthy eating but Which? research shows that in practice the industry has done little to cut fat and salt in food” says campaigns director Nick Stace.*

*The association wants a compulsory traffic-light labelling system to help people distinguish good and bad foods.*

*Health Secretary John Reid indicated the Government is planning to ban junk food advertising during children's TV programmes.*

*Officials drafting new legislation will be coming under pressure from lobbyists paid by the powerful food industry.*

*Reid will also be under pressure from some Cabinet colleagues, Tessa Jowell, Culture Secretary, responsible for broadcasting, and Education Secretary Charles Clarke are both opposed to legislation. They see it as the action of a “nanny state”.*



# Ukraine: NATO in deep crisis as the dangers to Zelensky grow

by Theo Russell

**The current direction of the war in Ukraine has created an acute crisis in Western capitals, above all in Washington, and the position of Vladimir Zelensky, the president elected on a promise to end the war in Eastern Ukraine, now hangs by a thread.**

We must make clear here that this is not a war between Ukraine and Russia; this is a war forced on Russia by the NATO alliance. Ukraine is merely a proxy for NATO and is paying a horrific price for this war.

The weaknesses of the once mighty NATO alliance have been exposed: after decades of relocating factories to developing countries they have now discovered that they are no longer able to produce sufficient weapons for a major sustained war.

In contrast Russia, which Western experts love to claim has a GDP the size of Italy, has proved to be a manufacturing superpower with a highly skilled workforce and mighty technological and scientific resources.

Russia has not only increased arms production, from bullets to hypersonic missiles, by several times, but has developed and improved those weapons during the fighting in Ukraine, while maintaining growth at 3.2 per cent, according to the IMF.

Ukraine's military have discovered that Soviet-era arms, whose designs date back to the 1980s, have proved more effective on the battlefield than the vast amounts of Western weapons supplied since 2022.

Zelensky's presidential term officially ended on 25<sup>th</sup> March, and Russian officials have now declared that under Ukraine's constitution he has been replaced by the speaker of the Kiev Rada as Ukraine's

highest representative.

Zelensky has become increasingly erratic and unstable as the direction of the war has turned sharply against him. By ruling out any talks with the Russian Federation, and continuing to insist on totally unrealistic terms for peace negotiations, he has clearly become an obstacle to Washington's requirements.

His constant demands for weapons which NATO has actually run out of, and frequent attacks on his most important allies, have done nothing to improve his chances of survival.

The growing dangers for Zelensky have now been spelt out in an extraordinary article in the *Financial Times* (FT) on 30 May, "US to offer Ukraine security pact as tensions rise between allies". The FT has been a leading source of inside news on Ukraine and is believed to have very high-level contacts in Washington.

The article reports detailed and open criticism of Zelensky's actions from "more than a dozen current and former Ukrainian officials and G7 country diplomats in Kyiv".

The high-level group of officials and diplomats questioned "the removal of top government and military officials the US had worked closely with", including the firing of commander-in-chief Valery Zaluzhny in February and infrastructure minister Alexander Kubrakov, both of whom "... enjoyed close working relationships with US and EU officials". The FT reveals that "G7 ambassadors have warned Zelensky's government about what they see as disruptive and inexplicable moves".

It goes on: "A senior Ukrainian official said Zelensky has grown more 'emotional and nervous' over the situation on the battlefield and what they say the



• International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity movement supporters at a Palestinian march in London.

president sees as Washington's eagerness to start negotiations with Russia."

Another Ukrainian official raised Zelensky's obsession with the US-inspired "peace summit" in Switzerland on 15–16 June, which has already been abandoned by all the major players.

Zelensky is desperately clinging to the futile hope that presidents Biden and Xi will attend the summit and asking his officials to put pressure on them. But after hearing that Biden has decided that a Democrat fund-raising dinner is more important, Zelensky publicly criticised him.

"Several members of Zelensky's own government," the article says, "expressed worries about Zelensky's attacks on US officials – including Secretary of State Antony Blinken after his recent visit to Kiev. One of them spelt it out: "What do you say in America? Do not bite the hand that feeds you."

Such veiled criticisms by very senior Ukrainian politicians do not bode well for Zelensky's immediate future. In fact, this effective group denunciation of Zelensky

suggests the he has effectively outlived his usefulness to his masters in Washington.

Evidence of Zelensky's growing instability has also come from Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, who says that in late April in meetings with foreign ambassadors "he spent most of the time improvising hectically and almost hysterically to demand support for his 'peace formula' as a means of forcing Russia to its knees".

US media reports describe Zelensky screaming at his generals – convinced he was being lied to about the fighting near Kharkov – conjuring up images of Hitler in his Berlin bunker.

Meanwhile Beijing, which has played a major neutral role in encouraging Ukraine peace talks, has explained China's decision not to join the Swiss summit.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May Mao Ning, a senior Chinese Foreign Ministry official, said that although China "attaches great importance to Switzerland organizing the first summit on peace in Ukraine," the conference "needs to meet the three important elements:

recognition from both Russia and Ukraine, equal participation of all parties, and fair discussion of all peace plans, otherwise the peace conference can hardly play a substantive role for restoring peace".

Mao said this was the position "Jointly issued by China and Brazil recently, and reflects the universal concern of the international community, especially the vast developing countries based on what we have heard from various parties.

She said China "Will continue to promote talks for peace in our own way, and maintain communication with all parties."

In March, Sergey Lavrov said that president Putin "has repeatedly spoken about our readiness to start serious talks". However, both Putin and Lavrov have made it clear that any negotiations must be based on realistic proposals, and above all must recognise Russia's fundamental security interests.

The truth is that ever since February 2014 Western leaders have blatantly lied about Ukraine and sabotaged every opportunity for peace.

They lied about a "Russian invasion" in 2014, they pushed Ukraine into starting the war by launching the Anti-Terrorist Operation, a huge military offensive to crush the anti-Maidan uprisings in eastern Ukraine, and they used the Minsk peace process to deceive Russia while arming and training Ukrainian forces.

Five days before the start of Russia's Special Military Operation, Ukraine launched another massive offensive against the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics. Then in late March 2022 NATO wrecked the Ukraine-Russia peace plan, since then over 100,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed or injured.

*continued on page 6...*

...continued from page 5

Incredibly, these talks were initiated by Zelensky himself, who asked the then Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to contact Vladimir Putin, backed by Turkish President Erdogan and former German Chancellor

Gerhard Schröder.

Schröder later told the media: "The Ukrainians did not agree to peace because they were not allowed to. They first had to ask the Americans about everything they discussed. My impression was that nothing could happen because everything was

decided in Washington."

According to senior UN official Michael von der Schulenburg, "NATO had already decided at a special summit on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022, not to support these peace negotiations".

On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 the *Washington Post* reported: "For some in

NATO, it's better for Ukrainians to keep fighting and dying than to achieve a peace that comes too soon or at too high a price for Kiev and the rest of Europe."

The truth is that the Russian Federation did everything possible to avoid a full-scale war in Ukraine, spending

eight years supporting the Minsk process plan, involving simple autonomy for the then Donetsk and Lugansk Republics, while Ukraine, with NATO's support, broke ceasefire after ceasefire and thousands of civilians in those republics died in constant Ukrainian

attacks.

The aim of the NATO alliance all along has been to force war on the Russian Federation, and now the whole world can see the terrible price which has been paid for a war which could so easily have been avoided.

# The Five Biggest Anti-Communist Lies

by Nikos Mottas

**History, they say, is written by the victors, even the temporary ones. The dominance of counter-revolution and the overthrow of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the early 1990s was the trigger for the escalation of anti-communism at all levels. Through bourgeois historiography and the mainstream media, a series of fallacious theories have been developed, aimed at slandering the 20<sup>th</sup> Century socialism and demonising Marxist-Leninist ideology. Here are five of the most common anti-communist lies:**

**Myth 1:** The Great Famine of 1932–33 in Ukraine, also known as "The Holodomor", was a man-made famine that was deliberately planned and engineered by the Soviet government under Joseph Stalin in order to punish the Ukrainian population and break their nationalist tendencies.

The 1932–33 famine in Ukraine wasn't a premeditated, man-

made famine caused by the Soviet government. Being a fabrication of the Nazis and their Ukrainian collaborators who emigrated to the USA and Canada, the theory of the "deliberate man-made famine" was adopted in the post-war years by American and Western European imperialism within the context of its anti-communist crusade against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. A fake report published in *Chicago American*, a news outlet owned by pro-Nazi American magnate William Randolph Hearst, contributed significantly to the spread of the fabrication in the West. This perception has been refuted following decades of independent scientific research by bourgeois – not communist or communist-friendly by any means – scholars. So, what led to the famine? These are the major reasons:

a) The extremely intense climate conditions of that period throughout the USSR; b) The extensive counter-revolutionary activities (eg sabotage) of the Kulaks and other reactionary elements in response to the policy of collectivisation; c) The

economic situation that arose from the painful, but necessary, process of the collectivisation.

Eyewitness accounts, like those of British-American journalist Walter Duranty, British author and historian HG Wells, French Prime Minister Eduard Eryo and American journalist and author Anna Louis Strong, have clearly rejected the "man-made famine" lie.

**Myth 2:** The 1940 Katyn Massacre was carried out by the Soviets on the orders of Stalin.

The murder of more than 20,000 Polish prisoners of war in April–May 1940, known as the "Katyn Forrest Massacre", was actually a crime carried out by the Nazis. In 1943, on the initiative of the Nazi Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels, the Germans publicly blamed the Soviet Union – the NKVD in particular – as the perpetrators of the massacre. Consequently, the fabrication was taken up by the whole capitalist world during the Cold War and remains until today one of the favourite topics of anti-communist mythology. In his personal diary, Dr

Goebbels himself wrote: "I gave instructions that the widest possible use should be made of this propaganda material. It will keep us going for a couple of weeks" (14/4/1943) and: "Unfortunately German munitions were found in the graves of Katyn... in any case it is essential that this incident be kept top secret. If it were to come to the knowledge of the enemy the whole Katyn affair would have to be dropped" (8/5/1943).

The "Soviets did it" version is mainly based on "archival material" allegedly found during the peak of the counter-revolutionary attack that ultimately led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In fact, it was President Boris Yeltsin, the first leader of the Russian Federation and a notorious anti-communist, who publicly and officially "admitted" Soviet guilt. Nonetheless, the so-called "Soviet documents", which supposedly show the NKVD as the perpetrator of the massacre, are full of historical inconsistencies and mistakes. For instance, one of these so-called official "soviet documents", allegedly an order of the Politburo

to execute the Poles, bears the signature "Communist Party of the Soviet Union" (CPSU) which didn't exist until 1952. In 1940, the Party's name was the "All-Union Communist Party - Bolshevik" (AUCP-B).

Additionally, evidence found in the mass graves debunk the "Soviets did it" myth (German ammunition found in the graves, bullets produced only in Nazi Germany, victims had been tied with a white braided cord which had been produced outside the USSR, etc).

Recently, the Smolensk Region's office of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) declassified several archival documents exposing crimes committed by the Nazis in the Smolensk Region during the Second World War, including evidence concerning the execution of Poles and Nazi Germany's falsification of the Katyn case.

**Myth 3:** Stalin's Soviet Union allied with Hitler by signing the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

In its hideously unscientific and

unhistorical effort to equate Communism with Nazism, bourgeois propaganda presents the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact as a medium of expansive policy by the USSR and Hitler's Germany. But, did Stalin actually ally himself with Hitler? Here is the truth in a nutshell:

1) A whole year before the Molotov-Ribbentrop non-aggression pact, on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1938, the leaders of Great Britain, France, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy signed the Munich Agreement. This shameful agreement was an act of appeasement towards the Germans which led to the annexation of part of Western Czechoslovakia, the installation of a puppet regime in what was left and the intensification of Nazi expansionism.

2) Despite having signed bilateral agreements of mutual aid with Poland, Great Britain and France did nothing when Germany invaded Poland on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939.

3) The "Western allies" declined all proposals of the Soviet Union for the formation of a defence pact against Hitler. In March 1938,



six months before the Munich Agreement, the USSR proposed an international conference to deal with Nazi aggression. Before the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1939, the Soviet Union proposed to Britain and France negotiations for the formation of a defence plan in case of a German attack. Nonetheless, the British government preferred to secretly negotiate a non-aggression pact with Hitler's representatives in London!

4) The Molotov-Ribbentrop non-aggression pact was a necessary diplomatic manoeuvre by the Soviet Union, in order to gain time and prepare effectively for a full-scale war, while the "Western allies" had declined Soviet calls for the formation of an anti-Nazi front. Western bourgeois historians and journalists (like Foster Rhea Dulles and William L Shirer) admit that the Soviet policy was realistic and necessary, given the then circumstances and the danger of a German attack.

5) The Molotov-Ribbentrop non-aggression Pact did not include any "Secret Protocol" for the partition of Poland. On the contrary, the 1938 Munich Agreement actually led to the partition of Czechoslovakia. As it happened, Poland had participated actively in the allied imperialist attack launched against the newly founded Soviet state in 1918. With the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1918, the Bolshevik leadership renounced Czarist claims to Poland. But the Polish government kept under its control a number of areas in the



• Molotov and Stalin.

Baltic region, including western Belarus, western Ukraine and a part of Lithuania. After the 1939 Nazi invasion in Poland, the Red Army moved towards the Soviet-Polish borders and liberated the above-mentioned regions.

Conclusion: No, the Soviet Union did not ally with Nazi Germany. Instead, it was the Western capitalist powers, namely the UK and France, which tried to turn Hitler against the Soviets. The words of American President and notorious war criminal

Harry Truman in 1941 are revealing: "If we see that Germany is winning we ought to help Russia and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany, and that way let them kill as many as possible..."

**Myth 4: Communism didn't work and collapsed.**

First things first: We don't expect anti-communists to learn the basics of Marxism, but those who repeat the above propagandistic lie must learn, at least, to distinguish

communism from its first stage, socialism. The construction of socialism in the Soviet Union and the other countries marked the first attempt of the working class to create the new communist society, a society without exploitation of man by man.

The history of humanity is characterised by the succession of socio-economic systems, from primitive communism to slavery and from feudalism to capitalism. All these systems weren't established once and for all but, on the contrary, it took centuries for them to prevail. Therefore, like feudal society, capitalism isn't eternal nor does it mark the end of historic process.

The claim that "socialism/communism didn't work" is a total lie. Despite its real problems and weaknesses, the socialist system of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century proved its superiority over capitalism in almost all aspects: From workers' achievements to women's rights and from public health-care and education to science, socialism showed its major advantages. The abolition of the capitalist relations in production liberated workers from the shackles of wage slavery, thus paving the way for the production and development of

science, not for the profits of the few, but for the satisfaction of the people's needs.

Socialism didn't "collapse" because it "didn't work". There are several reasons which contributed to the prevalence of counter-revolution and the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. A major mistake was the attempt of the Soviet leadership to "cure" certain problems that appeared in socialist economy with capitalist methods (eg market reforms, weakening of central planning, etc). What began with the opportunist turn in the 20<sup>th</sup> CPSU Congress in 1956 was finished with the so-called "Perestroika" in the 1980s.

All those who claim that "socialism didn't work", that "communism is a failed utopia" and so on, must answer the following: If what you say is correct, then why do you continue fighting the idea of socialism-communism? If "communism has no future" then why do bourgeois powers and institutions continue spending billions in anti-communist propaganda?

They do it because they know very well that history did not end in 1991. They are fully aware that capitalism, with its anarchist nature in production and deification of profit, has nothing more to offer to humanity except from poverty, misery, unemployment, inequalities and imperialist wars.

**Myth 5: Communism killed 100 million people**

The most ridiculous and false claim in the history of humanity. Even the most creative

script-writer of sci-fi movies couldn't think of such a fallacy. The major source of this claim is the infamous *Black Book of Communism*, a totally unreliable, unscientific work published in 1997, edited by French historian Stephan Courtois. According to the book, the victims of "communist regimes" in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century are estimated between 85 and 100 million people!!!

In order to arrive to the desired number of 100 million dead, Courtois and his colleagues blame "communism" even for deaths deriving from all sorts of natural disasters, including famines and pandemics!! There is not the slightest scientific-based evidence for the claims of the *Black Book of Communism*. The same applies for the monstrous allegations by notorious anti-communists, like British historian and MI6 agent Robert Conquest and fascist Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

The whole Goebbels-inspired argument about the supposed millions of "victims of communism" aims at diverting public discussion away from the daily crimes of capitalism against humanity. Let's face it – how many millions of people have died due to capitalist exploitation, colonialism and imperialist wars since the French Revolution?

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## LETTERS

### Dear Comrades

Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin received a warm welcome from Chinese President Xi Jinping during his recent visit to Beijing. Full honours and a red carpet set the scene for productive discussions, a reunion of old friends and an opportunity to bolster strategic ties. The Russian leader was accompanied by a large number of businesspeople, financial experts and included the new Defence Minister Andrei Belousov.

The visit has come at a time when the neo-cons in Washington are starting to panic. Apart from the deliberate undermining of the economies of their close allies, Project Ukraine has been a total failure in all other respects and is without an off-ramp. People's China is now perceived to be an even greater threat to American hegemony. Sanctions are being increased and hysterical anti-China propaganda stepped up. The hawks would like to turn Taiwan into another Ukraine. Attempts to drive a wedge between China and Russia have failed leaving the USA in an overstretched position of trying to support wars in both Europe and Ukraine while keen to start another against China.

Strategic co-operation between China and Russia is a proactive effort for mutual co-operation and advancement. President Xi Jinping said that the steady development of relations was not only in

the fundamental interest of the two countries but was also conducive to peace and stability in the region and the world at large.

During his visit Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping held informal talks at a restricted meeting in the grounds of the tranquil Zhonganhia water park. In direct contrast to the threats, trade restrictions and warmongering of today's dangerously incompetent Western heads of state the two real leaders held productive discussions. They, no doubt, talked about building a powerful euro-Asian hub to secure sustainable economic development in the region. They would also have discussed diplomatic and defence co-ordination to meet the challenges posed by an increasingly aggressive and desperate Imperialism. Thanks to their efforts prosperity is spreading along the ancient Silk Road with increasing trade, people-to-people contacts and secure stable relations free from American interference.

**John Maryon  
Suffolk**

### Dear Comrades

Thirty years ago, on 29th May 1994, the former Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and brilliant German communist Erich Honecker died in exile in Chile. He described the endeavours and policies of German imperialism in exile as follows:

"German imperialism has always been expansionist, especially when it was in crisis. Now the drums of war are being beaten again. There will certainly be resistance, wars are unpopular. That's why they're trying to disguise it all as a 'peace mission'. That's how they

want to lull the German Michel to sleep one more time ..." Erich Honecker: *Gefängnisbriefe* (Prison Letters, Verlag edition ost, Berlin, 2017, pp91-92).

Erich Honecker made his statement to the Berlin Court of Appeal on 3rd December 1992. In this statement, Erich Honecker defends himself, the GDR and socialism on German soil against the hostility in court from German imperialism, the counter-revolution and its lackeys. For this he was imprisoned by the judges of German imperialism for the second time for many years in the German prison in Berlin-Moabit, where Erich Honecker had previously been imprisoned for 10 years in the 1930s/1940s because of his communist convictions and active anti-fascist work under the Nazi regime.

But he also analyses this defeat of socialism on German soil by the temporarily victorious counter-revolution in 1989/1990 very accurately and astutely in his book *Moabiter Notizen* (Moabit Notes, published by edition ost, Berlin, 1994). Erich Honecker gave this book to the publisher 11 days before his death.

**Karsten Schönsee  
Nuremberg**

### Dear Comrades

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) affirms that what media reports and press investigations revealed about the occupier's spying on the International Court of Justice and Palestinian human rights and official institutions is a new confirmation of the nature of the role of this rogue entity within the colonial system. This role includes genocide, ethnic cleansing, imposing hegemony by force, breaking international standards, norms and laws, and deterring any attempt

to apply any measure of justice.

The PFLP states that these espionage and conspiracy missions are the essence of this brutal entity's project and its function within the colonial system, which enjoys full US support and guidance and partnership with the rest of the colonial system. The Front says that the Biden-Netanyahu partnership of war criminals seeks to impose this bullying on the entire world, flouting all international laws and norms, and the positions of peoples and their support for the rights of our people.

The PFLP stresses that this arrogant entity poses a real danger to humanity as a whole, as it carries out a war of extermination, commits all forms of war crimes, and attacks international institutions with threats and espionage. The PFLP stressed that the concerned parties, including international institutions, governments, international judicial bodies and human rights institutions, are obligated to work to inflict the severest sanctions on this terrorist state, as there is no possibility that this entity will comply with their decisions without isolating it and besieging it with sanctions.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine calls on supporters of Palestine and believers in justice and humanity to escalate all forms of struggle against the occupier, its supporters and all parties involved in the genocidal war against our people, and to raise the level of solidarity with our people, their just cause and their legitimate resistance.

**Central Media  
Department  
Popular Front for the  
Liberation of Palestine  
(PFLP)**

## 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.

#### SAT 8 JUN

Free Julian Assange Campaign: Protest 1:30, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, London SE28 0EB; 16:00-18:00, Eros Statue, Piccadilly Circus, London SW1 & Wed 12 June, Australian High Commission, Strand, London WC2 4LA.

#### SAT 8 JUN

Derby Silk Mill Rally: commemoration of the 1833/34 struggle against pay cuts. 10:00-16:00, Cathedral Green, Full Street, Derby, DE1 3AF.

#### SAT 8 JUN

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: End to the war in Gaza and for the UK to stop arming Israel! Central London demonstration 12:00 Detail TBC.

#### SUN 9 JUN

Stop the War Coalition: War, peace and Palestine - trade union issues. Conference. 10:30-16:30, ITF House, 49-60 Borough Road, London, SE1 1DR. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE.

#### WED 12 JUN

RMT: 17th Garden Party for Cuba. 18:30, Maritime House, Old Town, Clapham, London, SW4 0JW. Tickets £20 from bit.ly/RMTCuba24

#### WED 12- SAT 22 JUN

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

#### SAT 15 JUN

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

#### 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: 40th anniversary March and Rally. Assemble 1:00 City Hall, Bakers Pool Sheffield S1 2JA.

#### WED 19 JUN

Campaign Against the Arm 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

#### 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.

#### 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 TBA.

#### THURS 4 JUL

General Election Nationwide. Vote Labour most places.

#### SAT 6 JUL

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Commemoration of British volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. 13:00-14:00, Jubilee Gardens, Southbank, London, SE1 7PG.

#### SAT 13 JULY

Durham Miners Gala: Durham Racecourse, Durham DH1 3BN.

*continued on page 9...*

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



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...continued from page 8

**Dear Comrades**  
Human rights activists have condemned two actors who visited Saudi Arabia without showing any concern for those persecuted by the Saudi regime.  
Will Smith and Martin Lawrence stopped in Saudi Arabia as part of their world tour promoting *Bad Boys: Ride or Die*. It was the first red carpet premiere for a Hollywood studio film in the country.  
Maryam Al Khawaja wrote: “Damn Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, how much did it cost to sell yourselves to Saudi? Today marks the birthday of two of many prisoners of conscience in Saudi’s prisons, in case you cared.”  
**Mr Sam Bahrain Freedom Movement London**

# Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

The first televised debate of the Scottish party leaders (minus the angry Greens) took place on Monday, depriving Scottish viewers of *Love Island*. This was an occasion for the SNP and Labour to gang up on the Conservatives and argue about which of them was best at getting rid of the Tories. The issues raised included the cost of living, oil and gas licences, EU membership and the NHS, matters on which Labour and the SNP are divided.

The SNP have yet to make up their minds about one of their long-standing policies. John Swinney could not say if he will support new licences to explore for oil and gas in the North Sea, which was once to be the economic foundation of an independent Scotland. The nationalists are presently against oil but this has yet to be confirmed. While the SNP cannot afford to annoy its Green allies, it cannot afford to alienate the voters in the North East who depend on the industry. However Swinney denounced both Labour’s plan for windfall tax on oil and gas giants as damaging to the industry and its Great British Energy (GBE) policy.  
Labour seems slightly keener on North Sea oil with leader Anas Sarwar saying of the Grangemouth refinery: “We would step in to save the jobs at the refinery and invest in that transition by making an energy transition hub at Grangemouth, and we would put hundreds of millions of pounds behind it.”  
Unite, the main union with offshore interests, welcomed Labour’s vague

plans to create GBE (to be headquartered in Scotland), demands Labour reverse plans not to issue new exploration licences and has “a plan to create 35,000 commensurate new energy transition jobs in Scotland by 2030 at the modest cost of £6.6 billion over the next 6 years”. This will be heavily promoted in the six constituencies most involved in these controversial industries.

This week SNP launched their first Party Political Broadcast. This was notable for omitting the “I” word – independence.

Instead, it listed various SNP achievements such as free prescriptions and free university tuition. These were all measures introduced during the reign of Alex Salmond before 2014. His new party, Alba was quick off the mark to comment on the omission and added that “the SNP leader doesn’t even want to mention independence in his main pitch to voters so John Swinney is taking the independence movement for granted by thinking he is entitled to their votes without offering anything in return”.

But this is not surprising as independence is way down the list of priorities for even most of the nationalists. Bread and butter issues are more important to the vast majority at this moment in time. Curiously enough the SNP broadcast did not mention more recent SNP “achievements” by former First Ministers still in the SNP such as their record in shipbuilding or progressive gender recognition reform.

Alba itself is only putting up 17 candidates, including the two seats it is defending against its mortal enemy, the SNP, which suggests that it has learnt its lessons from the last council elections when it lost all its defecting incumbent councillors.

## More Election Fun and Games

Labour have come under fire from the SNP for some of the candidates. The criticism is not that they are goose-stepping Nazis, eat babies or even cheat in the egg and spoon race at primary school. No, their sins are much graver. Some live in England.

A Kent councillor, one Elizabeth Carr-Ellis, is standing in Angus & Perthshire Glens, with Eva Kestner, a south London councillor, standing in the Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross constituency, the most northerly mainland part of the UK. Another Londoner, Melanie Ward, CEO of Medical Aid for Palestinians, is fighting in Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath, Gordon Brown’s old constituency.

Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar defended his chosen men and women saying “I am not going to turn my back on someone that has a love for Scotland, history with Scotland or a connection with Scotland that wants to deliver for the people of Scotland”. But it’s all rather academic as only in Gordon Brown’s old seat does Labour have a chance.

Scots were united, however, in outrage when Labour’s candidate for the new Wigan & Merseyside constituency of Makerfield proposed putting people smugglers on a barge and shipping them to the north of Scotland. Highlanders resented the idea that they should be a dumping ground for criminals while Lowlanders thought sending people to the Highlands was far too harsh.

## Mind your language

Some more figures from the last census have been generating some controversy. These concern the numbers speaking Gaelic. The results are somewhat mixed. Overall, the number of people using Gaelic has increased across Scotland, but it continues

its long term decline in its heartland, the Western Isles, where it is now a minority language for the first time. The percentage of speakers declined from 52 to 45 per cent between 2011 and 2022. In all other council areas the percentage is below three per cent, a figure likely to be exaggerated by the rounding up of very small numbers to preserve anonymity. All in all there are now only 57,600 fluent speakers, or one per cent of the population. The last monoglots vanished in the 1970s.

Overall, 2.5 per cent of the population claim “some skills” in Gaelic. That could mean as little as knowing a few words of a Gaelic greeting or toast. But there is some solid growth.

The increase is largely due to an increasing number of parents in the west end of Glasgow sending their offspring to the Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu or Glasgow Gaelic School, which teaches from nursery to secondary school. Other Gaelic schools and units are also showing growth.

While Gaelic Minister Kate Forbes welcomed the growth saying it is a “language of everyday use” in her constituency of Skye, Lochaber & Badenoch and there was a “positive direction of travel” across Scotland.

However, Professor

Conchúr Ó Giollagáin of the University of the Highlands & Islands says native-speaking communities could be gone as soon as 2030. UNESCO now classes Gaelic as an endangered language.

The 2020 report *Gaelic Crisis in the Vernacular Community* declared that “the social use and transmission of Gaelic is at the point of collapse” with “in even the strongest examples, the density of native speakers is becoming too low to sustain everyday”.

Earlier this year the SNP cut funding for the Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a quango devoted to employing six senior managers on huge salaries who manage only 13 other staff. A 2020 Holyrood report could not decide if the Bòrd were either “enthusiastic amateurs who were way out of their depth or just incompetent”.

Cuts made in February will likely mean the loss of three jobs. This could mean even more misspelt road signs on the roads and Irish Gaelic signs going up. Gaelic activist groups such as Misneachd point out that the Bòrd’s budget of £5 million has already been eroded by inflation since 2006 and would need £17 million today to catch up. That would allow them to employ many more incompetent, enthusiastic amateurs...

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# Exhibition honours China-born Scottish Olympian

by Lu Wenao

An exhibition commemorating Scottish Olympic champion Eric Liddell opened on Saturday at the Tianjin Sports Museum in North China's Tianjin Municipality, as 2024 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tianjin-born athlete's victory at the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Known as the "Flying Scotsman", Liddell, who is known in China as Li Airui, was born in Tianjin in 1902 to Scottish missionary parents. He moved to Scotland with his family at the age of five.

Liddell's exceptional athletic talent led him to win gold in the men's 400 metres at the 1924 Paris Olympics, setting a new world record at the time. His story was later immortalised in the Oscar-



winning film *Chariots of Fire*.

After the Olympics, Liddell graduated from the University of Edinburgh and returned to China, where he became a chemistry teacher at the Anglo-Chinese College in Tianjin (now Tianjin No.17 Middle School).

Over nearly two decades, Liddell devoted himself to nurturing talent and promoting physical

education. He organised various events and was responsible for several sports teams, significantly contributing to the local community.

In 1926, Liddell assumed an advisory role in the renovation of the Minyuan Stadium in Tianjin, which was modelled after London's iconic Stamford Bridge stadium. The venue has been transformed

into Minyuan Square, a popular spot for locals and tourists who enjoy summer activities and photography.

During the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, Liddell sent his pregnant wife and two daughters to Canada but chose to remain in China. He was later interned in the Weifang concentration camp in East China's Shandong province, where he continued to inspire and

educate despite the harsh conditions. Liddell passed away in the camp in 1945 at the age of 43 due to a brain tumour.

Tianjin Sports Bureau Deputy Director Li Shan, a former 2004 Olympic champion in volleyball, called Liddell a "true ambassador".

"Liddell is one of Scotland's most celebrated athletes. After his Olympic triumph, he returned to Tianjin and dedicated his life to China. He was a true ambassador of the Olympic spirit and China-UK friendship," Li said.

"During Liddell's time, hosting the Olympics was a distant dream for China. Today, this dream has been realised with the successful Summer Olympics in 2008 and the Winter Olympics in 2022. This exhibition honours Liddell's legacy and the deep friendship between our peoples."

Angus Robertson, the

Scottish government's cabinet secretary for external affairs, culture, and constitution, praised Liddell's enduring influence.

"Liddell is an iconic figure in Scotland with a deep connection to China where he spent much of his life. We remember his legacy as a sportsman and teacher whose compassion, integrity and passion are as relevant now as they were 100 years ago. I hope we can draw on these values and keep building on our connections in the years to come."

Catriona Radcliffe, head of the Scottish Government Office in China, said "Liddell's achievements and legacy in sport and education have inspired generations. This centenary is an opportunity to celebrate our shared history and values"

Global Times

## REVIEW

by Ben Soton

***Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* continues the series of films made between 2011 and 2017. Simians still live within the ruins of human civilisation; whilst the remaining humans have been reduced to a feral state and have lost the power of speech. Despite the absence of Andy Serkis, who provided much of the work behind the facial expressions in the previous films, the acting and special effects are of a high standard.**

Though the concept goes back to a 1963 French sci-fi novel the early American movies, made between 1968 and 1973, reflected the fears of imperialism at

the time including race riots, Vietnam war protests and challenges from the socialist camp. Human civilisation has been replaced by an ape based hierarchical system akin to feudalism; ironically intended to be a parody of socialism. Also reflected in the television series that followed two fugitive astronauts and a renegade chimp continuously outwit a troop of gorilla soldiers, who mistakenly believe their society, hierarchical, backward and agrarian, is superior to the human civilisation that preceded it.

The recent franchise has similarities and differences. At the end of the preceding film, *War of the Planet of the Apes* (2017), an ape called Caesar establishes an egalitarian society in which the first rule is Ape Shall

Not Kill Ape. A misnomer, common to both franchises, is that only humans kill their own species. It is widely documented that chimpanzees regularly commit murder and the

animal kingdom as a whole is far from benign. Environmental issues and the frailty of human civilisation are at the heart of the recent franchise. Human civilisation is being



destroyed by a deadly virus after which apes and remaining humans battle for limited resources. However, apes are not really apes but representations of the human other. The other social system, the other race – the other part of the world. In situations where the apes have become dominant the position is reversed. This is reflected throughout both series of films.

*Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* opens with a benign group of apes, known as the Eagle Clan, who subsist by training eagles to hunt for them. In the opening scene, lead character Noa (played by Owen Teague) and a group of friends undertake a coming-of-age ritual, to cement their position in the clan. The Eagle Clan becomes enslaved by a

more aggressive group of apes led by another Caesar (played by Kevin Durand), not to be mistaken for the Caesar in the previous film.

Caesar resembles King Louis in Kipling's *Jungle Book* as he grapples to acquire lost human technology. The film centres around Noa's attempts to free his clan and Caesar's desire to acquire human technology. A key to both their quests is the talking human Mae (played by Freya Allen), whose loyalties are uncertain. As with the earlier *Planet of the Apes* movies, we see the triumph of hierarchy over egalitarianism. Notions of man verses nature are also prominent whilst the exploitation of the Eagle Clan by Caesar is a possible reference to colonialism. But at the end of the day it all boils down to table-turning – and if you liked the others you'll certainly like this.



# Trump: The convict

by Guillermo Alvarado

**The inevitable candidate for the presidency of the United States of America for the Republican Party, Donald Trump, is already a convicted criminal after a court found him guilty of over 30 crimes and he is now waiting to know what his sentence will be.**

According to people familiar with the functioning of the justice sys-

tem of the USA, it will not be difficult for the magnate to avoid going to jail. Firstly because of his age, 77 years old, and secondly because this is his first offence.

Nevertheless, he now holds the record of being the first former resident of the White House in American history to be convicted of a crime or, to put it more directly, to officially be branded a criminal.

If this were a just world Trump would not

be the first to achieve that accolade because there are others before him who more clearly deserve this dubious distinction. The name of Harry S Truman immediately comes to mind – the man who ordered the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and killed hundreds of thousands of people, most of them innocent civilians.

This allows enough room for future work, but I do not want to

divert attention from Mr Trump, who is already making underhand threats of what could happen if the judge decides to send him to jail. We are already hearing some talk of “civil war”. The former president himself is making similar threats. When he was asked if he would be willing to go behind bars and he indicated yes, and then added “I think it would be difficult for people to accept. You know, at a certain

point, there is a moment of fracture”, and one wonders what “fracture” he is thinking of.

And here a couple of issues arise that are at least curious and that reflect the bizarre institutional order of the USA. If Donald Trump were to go to prison, the secret service agents in charge of guarding him due to his former high office would have to go with him, which would make him a highly privileged inmate.

But not only that. It turns out that the American Constitution does not prevent him from continuing as a presidential candidate because he meets the only three requirements established in the Magna Carta. Nor does it cover what could happen if some-one is elected President of the United States of America while in a cell or under house arrest. Curious, right?

*Radio Havana Cuba*

## Scott Ritter stopped from flying to Russia

**Scott Ritter was held at JFK airport in New York on 3rd June to stop him attending a major conference in Russia. The former Marine Corps intelligence officer and Sputnik contributor was held by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers as he was leaving to attend the 2024 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).**

Ritter says that as he prepared to board the plane, he was pulled out of line by three armed CBP officers who took his passport. He said that when he asked them “on what authority” they cited orders from the US Department of State. The US Customs and Border Patrol does not have the authority to seize passports without probable cause, former Marine Corps intelligence officer Scott Ritter told Sputnik, commenting on Monday’s incident.

“They provided no warrant, no documentation, nor did they provide a receipt for my passport. They provided no explanation of what they were doing. They

or some other form of authority upon which to conduct the seizure of his passport.

“Under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution and others, I’m

Fifth Amendment,” he added.

He suggested that “the real reason” behind all this “appears to be to prevent” him from participating in the SPIEF

“This is my First Amendment right under freedom of speech and a free press. And this right was likewise violated by the US government, by the Biden administra-

of his intent to travel and of his itinerary.

In an apparent reference to his planned trip to Russia to attend SPIEF 2024, Ritter said he was “not off on a secret mission” and that the US government “knew full well” what he was up to.

“And this is why I believe they acted in the way they did. This has a chilling effect, not just on me and the work I was doing, but on all Americans who choose to speak out against the policies of the United States that they disagree with and to travel abroad at the same time that they are criticising the US government. And what the US government is saying is that we can control your movement. We can control your life. We can punish you for what you’ve been saying that we disagree with.”



just did it,” Ritter said.

Ritter stressed that his constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment were violated because the document requires CBP officers to provide a warrant

free to travel. The US government cannot restrict my travel without specific justification, none of which was articulated to me and none of which I believe exists. So it’s a violation of my

2024 and to prevent the work he planned to do as a journalist with his documentary film crew. According to him, he was planning to make a documentary about “the reality of Russia”.

tion,” Ritter said.

Ritter recounted that he had travelled to Russia “two times in the last year using this same passport”, and that each time, the US government was notified in advance

# ANC wins election but loses parliamentary majority

by Pedro M Otero  
Cabañas

The results of last week's general elections in South Africa confirmed two relevant facts. Over 16 million people voted in this year's South African elections in a turnout of 58.64 per cent. The African National Congress (ANC) party, in power for 30 years, did not achieve the parliamentary majority to govern. The ANC won the most votes – but not enough to give them an overall majority.

The ANC has alone led the leadership of South Africa since the defeat of apartheid in 1994. In that year it managed to prevail over the white minority government with just over 70 per cent of the votes and form a government chaired

by the anti-racist fighter Nelson Mandela.

Over the last 30 years the ANC maintained its majority in all national elections. But problems of political division, inequality

and unemployment have taken their toll. Thousands continue to struggle to obtain jobs that pay fair wages. And this time round the ANC vote fell to just over 40 per cent and they

will have to form a coalition to remain in government.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has asked the parties to overcome their differences and find "common ground" to elect

a new president and form a coalition government. They have 14 days to elect a new president.

One of the ANC's possible coalition partners, the new MK

party of former president Jacob Zuma, said that one of his conditions for any agreement with the ANC is that the current president leaves office.

For his part, ANC secretary-general Fikile Mbalula declared that the party was open to all negotiations, including with the main opposition, the Democratic Alliance (DA), which has led criticism of the ANC for years but which many analysts consider the most stable coalition option for South Africa.

This country has the most developed economy in Africa, with industries ranging from agriculture, financial services, trade, tourism and a robust informal sector, valued in millions of dollars. It is the 42nd economy in the ranking of the 196 countries in the world.

*Radio Havana Cuba*



• Counting the votes in Johannesburg.

# More lies from the Zelensky regime

**The Ukrainian regime is actively preparing for the forthcoming peace conference on Ukraine, which is to be held in Switzerland in mid-June. While Zelensky travels around the world, begging for support, Ukrainian propaganda has gone full blast in an attempt to remind Kiev's sponsors of the 'valiant struggle of this most democratic country defending world peace from the terrible Russians'.**

On the eve of all the meetings with Western decision-makers, all

kinds of provocations are expected aimed at accusing the Russians of all sorts of crimes.

Moscow tries to act ahead of the curve. The Russian authorities have warned about forthcoming provocations in the Kherson region. A group of 13 Ukrainian film makers and war correspondents have already arrived in Kherson to stage fake Russian strikes on civilian facilities with heavy losses.

Propaganda videos are also filmed on the front-lines. Recently, Chechen soldiers discovered a Ukrainian field film studio in one of the

captured positions in the Kremennaya area. There, Ukrainian propagandists filmed fake videos about their "victories" using dummy bodies of Russian soldiers, red paint and various fragments of Russian equipment.

Freed Ukrainian POWs are also exploited by Kiev's propaganda. The Ukrainian media rarely show the "traitors" who surrendered to the Russians. But recently, as if by order, numerous videos have begun to appear with stories featuring healthy former POWs telling tales about the terrible conditions in Russian

captivity.

Outright lies are spread by official sources of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defence has published a message about an allegedly downed Russian aircraft, supporting it with photo of a crash at the Royal International Air Tattoo airshow in 1993.

Another official statement by the Ukrainian 110th Mechanised Brigade about the alleged destruction of a Russian Su-25 was supported by footage from a computer game. The use of war simulators and games is one of the most popular methods used by Ukrainian

military propagandists.

On the other hand, Kiev's attempts to accuse Moscow of its own crimes look ridiculous. While Ukrainian men, fearing the attention of the Ukrainian army's press gangs, are afraid to leave their homes the Zelensky regime has officially declared that thousands of videos featuring the illegal mass mobilisations, beatings and kidnappings are nothing more than fake videos shot by Mosfilm, the famous Russian film studio.

The same lies are spread about Russian crimes and Ukrainian

democracy during the years of the war. Kiev's methods of information warfare have changed little, which is why their effectiveness is rapidly declining and failing to achieve the desired support for the terrorist regime.

The low efficiency and negligence of Ukrainian officials and propagandists also testify to the war-weariness of the population and the agony of the regime, which can no longer support the struggle in the media or on the battlefield.

*South front*