

Ceasefire: But will it hold?

by our Arab Affairs
correspondent

Palestinians are returning to the rubble that once were their homes as the Israelis withdraw from the shattered streets of the Gaza Strip this week. Israeli troops are pulling back to cease-fire lines agreed under the Trump plan to be followed by a prisoner exchange and the delivery of much needed humanitarian aid to the beleaguered Palestinian enclave.

UN chief Antonio Guterres hailed the deal, urging all parties to abide fully by its terms. And in Beijing the Chinese government said it too hoped to see a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said that China upholds the principle that "Palestine should be governed by the Palestinians". China supports the "two-state solution" and stands ready to work with the international community to make unrelenting efforts for a comprehensive, just, and lasting resolution of the Palestinian issue and for peace and stability in the Middle East.

China has consistently opposed Israel's construction of new settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and the UN Security Council has long clearly determined that settle-



ment construction violates international law. "A ceasefire has just been achieved in Gaza, and the situation remains extremely fragile. Israel should cease any actions that exacerbate conflicts and heighten tensions," Guo said.

Hamas will free all the Israeli hostages in return for 250 Palestinians in Israeli prisons and 1,700 Gazans detained since 2023, including all women and children. But Israeli forces will still retain control of half of the Gaza Strip until the second stage of the agreement is implemented.

The USA is sending about 200 of its own troops to Israel to help support and monitor the ceasefire deal that Donald Trump says are "the first steps toward a strong, durable, and everlasting peace". That, however, remains to be seen. Although Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu calls the agreement a "diplomatic success and a national and moral victory" for his country many Palestinians believe he'll resume fighting once the hostages are returned. Nevertheless, the 20 point agreement was welcomed

by the Hamas Muslim Brotherhood as the start of a "permanent ceasefire".

Hamas thanked the Americans and all the other mediators, including Qatar, Egypt and Turkey, for clinching the deal that came after "responsible and serious negotiations" over the Trump plan. Deputy chairman Khalil al-Hayya went on Gaza TV to say that Hamas had been given some "guarantees" from Washington and other mediators that the hostilities would not continue. Hamas would deal "responsibly with the American president's plan" and submitted a response aimed at preventing further bloodshed. He did not elaborate on the nature of the response but said that the deal will provide the Palestinian enclave with humanitarian aid and the opening up of the border with Egypt.

The Communist Party of Israel and the communist-led Democratic Front for Peace & Equality (Hadash) also welcomed the ceasefire agreement. This war, they said, comes to an

end thanks to the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian people in Gaza, frustrating the annihilation and deportation plans by the Israeli government; together with the support of the international solidarity movement that coursed through the world, demanding justice and independence for the Palestinian people.

"We congratulate all those

who refused to serve in the occupation forces and all those within the peace camp in Israel who stood courageously against this criminal war, chief among them the Jewish and Arab members of the Peace Partnership. We emphasise that a total end to the war requires the full compliance of the Netanyahu administration with the ceasefire agreement, together with a full withdrawal of troops from the Gaza Strip, as well as the free entry of all necessary humanitarian aid to abet the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

"Likewise, it is necessary to put an end to the continued assaults perpetuated by the settlers and occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank. This war proves unequivocally that the conflict will continue indefinitely as long as the Palestinian people's right to freedom and independence in the form of an independent Palestinian state within the June 4th borders alongside Israel with its capital fixed to East Jerusalem, remains unfulfilled."

FUND

The September appeal closed with £637 in the post and a grand total of £3,027 for last month's fighting fund. We missed our target by £473. Let's see if we can make it up in October. In the meantime many thanks to the supporters from Brighton, Hereford and Coventry who helped us on our way along with all the other contributors whose donations have kept our presses rolling over the last few weeks.

All over the country people are taking to the streets to stand by the defiant Palestinian Arabs. All over the world people are standing up to imperialism – a world that will eventually be free from the chains of neo-colonialism. A world in which the will of the masses, the workers in the factories, offices and farms, is law. A world in which those who produce the entire wealth of the globe get the fruits of their labour. A socialist society where there are no slums, poverty or racism. A society where there are no classes, no exploiters, no bigotry and no war.

A new and better world is already being built in the socialist countries of today. It is being fought for in every continent and every country. This is the world we work for. The voice of the *New Worker*, the only communist weekly in Britain, is heard up and down the country. Make sure it's heard on your street by supporting the fighting fund.

The October fund starts now. Please send donations 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>

INSIDE

FASCIST IMAGERY ..P5

RADICAL RIGHT-WING
INFLUENCERS .. P6

UKRAINE .. P11

FREE MARWAN
BARGHOUTI .. P12

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Gaza: What next?

The guns have fallen silent and the Palestinians are returning to what was once their homes in the Gaza Strip. The hundreds of international volunteers in the Global Sumud flotilla who were interned after their vessels were seized in international waters by the Israeli navy have all been released. The relatives of the Israeli hostages and the Palestinian prisoners look forward to long-awaited re-unions with their loved ones. And Western politicians and Arab leaders talk about a new civil government that will replace the Hamas administration after the Israelis have gone, which will be the first step towards ending the conflict in the Middle East. But will any of this actually happen?

Well the cease-fire will hold at least until the prisoner exchange is over. After that it's anyone's guess. Few Palestinians trust Netanyahu to keep his word. The Israeli leader didn't want a cease-fire. Nor did he want to make a grovelling public apology to the Qataris. But he did what he was told. Because ultimately it all depends on Donald Trump, who has shown over the past few days who really calls the shots in Tel Aviv. But what do the Americans want?

Trump's 20 point peace plan may be a vague collection of platitudes but the "settlement" the Trump team drew up during The Donald's first term is pretty precise. Their 'Abraham Accords' two-state solution would see the Israelis retaining all their West Bank settlements in exchange for worthless desert in Israel that would be attached to the Gaza Strip and what's left of the Arab West Bank for the establishment of a powerless Palestinian 'state' whose independence would barely stretch beyond that of an Indian 'reservation' in the USA.

But they can't crush Arab resistance. They couldn't stifle the global anti-war movement that called for an immediate end to Israeli aggression. The voice of the oppressed, the millions that support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs has swept the world.

Now more than ever, our pressure on the British government matters. The government must stop arming Israel and instead use every possible means to facilitate immediate access to humanitarian aid and push any temporary ceasefire into a lasting deal that restores the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs that the world has long recognised.

Trump trumped again

Donald Trump has once again failed to get the Nobel Peace Prize he has so long coveted. It has instead gone to a Venezuelan opposition politician whose only merit is that she is a reactionary leader and a staunch supporter of Israel who believes in "popular capitalism".

This rubbishy prize, with few honourable exceptions, has long been the preserve of imperialist politicians and prominent agents of imperialism. The anti-communist Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov won it in 1975. The reactionary Polish union leader Lech Walesa got it for his counter-revolutionary campaign in 1983. Gorbachov was similarly rewarded for his treachery in 1990. This year was no exception.

María Corina Machado's "tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela" includes supporting imperialist sanctions against her own country and calling for foreign intervention to remove Venezuelan President Maduro on humanitarian grounds.

Is the West ready to learn from China?

by Álvaro Lopes

As a Portuguese citizen who moved to Beijing this year, some of the most striking sights for me – alongside the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall – have been shelves of packages and rows of food delivery bags. Simple cardboard boxes and sacks with barcodes left unattended outside places closed to traffic, such as university campuses, offices and pedestrian precincts. At lunch-time or after work people here simply leave their classes and workplaces to find their package or bag and take it away without touching what is not theirs.

At night, parks are filled with dancing senior citizens, young people playing sports, and pedestrianised streets filled with families late into the night. At my local coffee bar or library, fellow customers and readers make it a habit to leave their laptops and other important items at their table while they go for lunch, in order to secure their seats in their absence. In Portugal they would be lucky to keep their belongings, much less their seats.

Back home in Portugal, as well as in Italy where I have also lived, just in the last three years I have witnessed several thefts of personal property and been the victim of bicycle theft myself. In addition, drug dealers and visibly intoxicated individuals are a common sight back home, whereas here they are virtually non-existent. It is worth spending some time reflecting on how our societies on opposite ends of Eurasia have evolved so differently perhaps to draw lessons from the Chinese development experience. There is no single explanation for this development, as there can hardly be in questions of social governance.

The topic of my undergraduate thesis in Comparative Law was precisely China's proactive approach to resolving social conflicts under the heading of *The Fengqiao Experience*, which can succinctly be explained as resolving local issues when they

are small and preventing them from festering into generalised social disruption and crime. Part of this approach has been the deployment of alternate resolution mechanisms such as "people's mediation", thus seeking to resolve conflicts by agreement and compromise, rather than judicial conflict.

This clearly challenges the Western myth that China has only achieved generalised social peace with a heavy hand. China has become safer and less prosecutorial at the same time.

Thus, it can be said that China has shown itself to be smart on crime, taking a holistic approach to social governance while cutting at the roots of social dysfunction. This has clearly produced positive outcomes.

In addition to the decrease in violent crimes, China now ranks among Nordic nations in interpersonal trust, with 63 per cent of adults stating that "most people can be trusted" according to World Values Survey and European Values Study research. In terms of perception of safety, the Chinese mainland ranks even above Hong Kong and Taiwan. Thus, it becomes evident that many explanations quickly offered up by some Western commentators fail to get to the core of the matter or miss key factors.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Chinese governance has emphasised the actual delivery of material wealth to its population, in its quest to basically realise socialist modernisation from 2020 to 2035 and build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects

by the middle of this century. By 2021, China had managed to provide its citizens with the assurances of adequate food and clothing and guarantees of access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing for impoverished rural residents. In the West, homelessness and deep poverty are seen as inevitable facts of life or even appropriate punishments for sloth and other vices, rather than as social problems that can realistically be eliminated. Desperate poverty breeds desperate individuals and communities and ultimately fosters a culture of crime as a way of life, a social vortex of bad incentives.

Perceived social dysfunction affects all our lives, from the most important decisions – where to live, where to study, where to spend moments of leisure – down to the most basic of our day-to-day choices – what mode of transport we take or even which pocket we put our wallet in. Societies that actively tackle all sources of such dysfunction are bound to prosper, whereas those that do not are forced to cope with the aftermath of the collapse of social trust. Given these divergent civilisational paths we have embarked on, the level of culture shock as regards social trust and public safety experienced by Western visitors to China, as well as many from the Global South, is only bound to grow.

The author is a comparative legal jurist currently studying Chinese at the Beijing Language & Culture University

Global Times



Workers' Notes

NCP returns to Ipswich

by New Worker correspondent

Comrades and friends assembled in the Friends Meeting House, on a wet and windy evening, to form a *New Worker* Supporters Group in Ipswich, the Suffolk port that goes back to Saxon days.

This gathering, after a break of several years, marked the return to Ipswich of political activity for the New Communist Party. The betrayal by the Labour Party of its core values, growing poverty and the prospect of an extreme right-wing government taking power, contributed to the decision to step up the class struggle by forming the new group. The new organisation aims to hold regular meetings to encourage discussion and debate amongst left-wing parties to build friendship and unity and overcome sectarianism. It will enable the *New Worker* to reach out to a wider audience and expand its influence.

NCP leader Andy Brooks took the chair. Samuel Swale, a recent university graduate in geography from Bangor University, gave a presentation detailing the economic failure of Britain and the causes and effects of poverty. Gawain Little, the general secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, spoke about the changes and challenges facing the labour movement.



• Gawain Little, Samuel Swale, Andy Brooks and John Maryon at the meeting.

He outlined the difficulties in trying to convince workers that immigrants were not the cause of Britain's problems. And John Maryon, an NCP Politburo member, spoke about the decline of Britain and the political and economic crisis facing the USA as its grip on world hegemony was challenged. The contrast between the USA and People's China was illustrated by comparing the 50,000 km of high speed rail built in the Asian nation over the last 12 years while the USA had built none.

The *New Worker* Supporters Group meeting was a success and further events are planned. We already have a new member and others are considering taking our paper. Once we are fully established then similar moves will be taken to spread the word to other towns.

Carlisle workers walk out

by New Worker correspondent

RMT members working for Carlisle Support Services on

the Northern Trains' revenue and gateline contract stopped work for two days this week.

The strike follows widespread reports of bullying and harassment by managers, including attempts to pressure staff into breaking the strike, denying extra hours to union members, and forcing redeployments at short notice to remote locations.

RMT General Secretary Eddie Dempsey said: "Carlisle bosses think they can intimidate staff into silence instead of negotiating a fair deal. Our members have shown tremendous courage and unity by standing firm on the picket line for a second day and I congratulate them for that.

"All they are asking for is respect, fair pay and decent conditions that private contractor Carlisle could easily fulfil. Management needs to come back with a serious offer because our members will not be bullied or worn down and are prepared to escalate matters if necessary.

"This dispute highlights again why outsourcing has to end. The government must deliver on its promise to bring these contracts back in house and put all rail

workers into secure, directly employed jobs."

Refugees are not to blame!

The far-right are attempting to spread racist lies, falsely blaming refugees and migrants for violence against women and girls.

They see such attacks as nothing more than opportunities to organise racist hate mobs. This toxic racist atmosphere does not help victims and survivors of sexual violence.

Refugees are not "unvetted criminals". They are ordinary people fleeing war, persecution, torture and terror. Many have faced violence themselves. They deserve safety and support – not suspicion and hate.

Refugees are not "living in luxury" or getting special treatment. They are forced to live in overcrowded and often unsafe accommodation. Around a third of refugees are placed in hotels. Many are placed in detention-like accommodation, isolated from communities and services.

They are banned from working and must survive on as little as £8.86 per week. Some have been stuck in this system for years, waiting endlessly for decisions on their claims.

They are not all "single young men". Home Office statistics show that 42 per cent of asylum claims made in 2024 were from women and children. No-one, least of all these women and children, are "protected" by racist mobs targetting their accommodation.

The truth about migration and sexual violence

Despite the lies pushed by the far-right, there is no evidence that refugees or migrants are more likely to commit acts of sexual violence.

Figures such as Tory MP Robert Jenrick use false and distorted statistics to spread racist lies.

Recent far right protests have claimed to be protecting "our girls" and "our children" from either refugees or so-called "Pakistani grooming gangs". They're lying.

There isn't nearly enough research about child sexual abuse or child sexual exploitation, partly because victims and survivors are repeatedly ignored by the relevant authorities.

The Casey Report published in June 2025 shows however, that white people are more likely to commit child sexual abuse and exploitation than Asian people.

It used statistics from the Complex and Organised Child Abuse Dataset – the most comprehensive database for England and Wales. Another report, from the Home Office in 2020, found that "group-based child sexual exploitation offenders are most commonly white". Sexual violence is not caused by race or nationality.

Who is really to blame?

Sexual violence is endemic across society and is not taken

continued on page 4...

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.....



...continued from page 3

seriously. Women and children are let down every day by the police and authorities.

Meanwhile, any support for survivors has been absolutely gutted, leaving victims with nowhere to turn. Standing with victims and survivors means demanding justice from those truly accountable. But when the far-right single out a tiny section of society for blame, it means the vast majority of abusers escape suspicion.

The far right doesn't care about victims and survivors

The far right claim they care about women but their actions prove otherwise. Their real goal is to spread racist division, not to stop violence. In fact, their own ranks are full of abusers – at levels far greater than the British population as a whole. Police data showed that two in five of the 899 people arrested after participating in last summer's riots had previously been reported to the police for domestic abuse.

These are the same forces that claim to be 'protecting' women today. They are also happy to march alongside the multiple sex offenders, domestic abusers and violent misogynists in their own ranks.

The far-right has never been

serious about protecting women. Its aim is to promote racism, Islamophobia and division. We know where this rhetoric leads. It fuels hate, stokes racism and encourages violent attacks on refugees, migrants and Muslims.

Across the country, people are standing up to the far right. Join us. Join us today We can stop the far-right. But we need to get organised. Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) has groups around Britain. To become involved with its campaigns please get in touch and follow SUTR on social media.

High fares hurt Londoners

by New Worker correspondent

London's high public transport fares obstruct access to employment opportunities, education and reasonable living standards, a briefing published this week by Fare Free London shows.

Working Londoners spend many extra hours a week – and, in some cases, many extra hours a day – commuting, to avoid expensive trains and use cheaper but slower buses. Students tangle with trade-offs between housing costs, which are lower outside the capital, and travel costs that are much higher.

London's tube and train fares are among the highest in the world. They exacerbate social isolation and mental illness among the most vulnerable Londoners. They obstruct people's ability to socialise, to take their children places, and to access London's cultural treats.

The briefing, *Fares Unfair: London public transport and the cost of living crisis*, is based on the results of a survey conducted over the summer by volunteer researchers.

Pearl Ahrens of Fare Free London said: "We did not have the intention, or capacity, to survey a demographically representative group of Londoners. We focused on the way that the relatively high cost of public transport in London affects lower-income households, whose views are often least heard.

"Nearly half of our respondents said they worry about costs every time they use public transport. More than half said they use cheaper modes of transport because better ones are too expensive. This often meant people taking long journeys by bus instead of tube."

Respondents' quotes in the survey are a stark reminder of the yawning gap between London's wealthiest and poorest households.

One of them takes a journey from Lewisham to the Royal Docks using three buses and the Woolwich Ferry "to save the money I would have to spend if

I took the Underground or the DLR". Another takes an hour's journey to school by bus, double the time it would take by train.

A single man told one of our researchers of how he had had a cleaning job in Zone 1. To start work at 7:00am, he caught a bus from SE18 at 5:00am, got off in Zone 2 and walked the rest of the way.

A single mother of two explained how she takes three buses to work, from SE9 to Piccadilly. She described herself as "struggling to make ends meet – doing a balancing act" and having to limit her children's weekend outings due to travel costs.

Another respondent said "ev-

ery time I step out of the house, I spend more money on travel than even groceries. It disconnects me from seeing my family as well as my friends."

The briefing urges the Greater London Authority and the Mayor's office to consider how the impact of high fares affects policy goals including those in the Mayor's Transport Strategy and policies on tackling social inequality.

It urges that these issues are included in discussions about the funding basis of Transport for London, to "consider how this can be changed, to reduce and eventually abolish reliance on fares income".



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

14th October 2005

MILLIONS of Belgian workers downed tools last Friday in their first general strike for more than 12 years.

The 24-hour protest strike, which brought Belgium to a standstill on 7th October, was called to oppose plans by the government and employers to raise the retirement age by five years – a demand first mooted at the European Union's 2000 Lisbon summit.

The 1.3-million-strong democratic trade union federation (FGTB) led the strike. Although the right-

wing Christian Democratic union federation (CSC) with almost 1.6 million members opposed the action, a large number of its members joined their comrades of the FGFB in the strike and protest actions and it was a resounding success.

Antwerp, the second port of Europe after Rotterdam, was shutdown. Arcelor, the steel giant, was paralysed and so was the car industry: including General Motors, Ford, Volkswagen and Volvo. The same was true for Caterpillar, the chemical and petrochemical industry, the retail sector, the nutrition sector and the textile sector.

Public transport came to a standstill, and large parts of the postal services and education sector were paralysed.

True to tradition, and to the irritation of the employers, flying pickets went to industrial parks to block strategic roads and to encourage the workers of small enterprises to join them.

Through the issue of early retirement, the people also question the entire system, the government and

employers about many other issues.

Workers Party of Belgium (PTB) members have documented hundreds of testimonies from all sectors of life. They unanimously state it is not possible to work till 60, let alone 65. The workload is too heavy, productivity is too high and people feel worn-out.

That is the basis of the discontent and dissent. Apart from this, everyone sees that the young have great difficulty in getting a job in the first place. Why then can older workers not retire while the young contribute to social security by having genuine jobs? Because employers actually want a large reserve army of unemployed to ensure that downward pressure on wages to maximise their profit margins.

PTB members mobilised massively in support of the strike. They had already distributed 130,000 leaflets in advance. On 7th October they visited many pickets and were touched by the warm reception from the strikers.

They sold the weekly newspaper *Solidaire* and a pamphlet on the retirement issue and social security.

Fascist forms: Reactionary imagery and Trump's aesthetics

by Alex Petrongelli

On a recent architecture tour of Chicago, I learned that Adrian Smith, the architect of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, is also responsible for designing the Trump Hotel here in the city. The tour guide mentioned it almost off-handedly but I immediately began connecting the two: both towers are designed to overwhelm, to equate size with significance, and to make the individual (whose exploitation made these monuments possible) feel small and powerless.

The Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, rises so high that it erases from view the graves of the slaves who built the city surrounding it. The Trump Hotel's sheer size and the giant "Trump" logo stamped across its glass façade present an image of power, wealth and permanence.

Examining the aesthetics of the far-right moves beyond simply categorising visual tropes or condemning 'bad taste'. Reactionary imagery acts as a pedagogy of perception, not through communication but by command. It attempts to train the audience in the 'correct' way to perceive the world and measure importance.

Spectacle (the staging of grand displays to command attention), monumentality (the use of size to project authority) and repetition (the overwhelming recirculation of ideas and phrases) are its most crucial tools for staging the new reality as natural and inevitable. Together, they redefine 'shine' as substance and 'size' as power while distracting from worsening material conditions and convincing audiences that real progress is being made.

This logic is not new. Benito Mussolini, the father of fascism, used oversized busts of himself as propa-

ganda to project an image of omnipresence and authority. Adolf Hitler hired architects to design massive structures that affirmed Nazi ideology through scale and uniformity. In both cases, design choices were intentionally made to anaesthetise interpretation and teach viewers how to feel their own insignificance in the presence of authority.

Today, the Trump regime relies on the same aesthetic strategies, though adapted to a decaying neo-liberal empire (and, let's be honest, in a cheapened, dumbed-down form). With Trump, everything is always "the biggest" and "the best".

Take, for example, his "Big Beautiful Bill". The name itself serves as a distraction. The bill is devastating for Americans; it cuts funding from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and Medicaid while financing tax breaks for the rich. But by framing it as monumental, Trump's base is duped into supporting it and mistaking devastation for victory. At the very moment when social services are being stripped



away from millions of Americans, the regime announced its plans to construct a \$200 million ballroom for the White House, a monumental vanity project designed to impress.

Spectacle and monumen-

• **Trump's tower in Chicago.** tality are utilised not to deliver material improvements but to distract from crises of poverty, debt and social collapse with glitter and scale.

Unlike the regimes of the past, today's reactionaries have access to a particularly dangerous medium: generative AI. US government agencies, as well as the president himself, have been flooding the internet with AI-generated propaganda. It focuses on vilifying those whom the right has deemed as the enemy (immigrants, Palestinians, trans people, etc), while worshipping Trump and his regime.

Trump recently posted an image on his Truth Social that reads: "I love the smell of deportations in the morning. Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR." The post is accompanied by an AI-generated image of Trump kneeling in front of the burning skyline, with military helicopters flying overhead, and text that reads "Chipocalypse Now".

In another post, Trump

shared an AI-generated video that shows Gaza being transformed into "Trump Gaza", a luxurious Gulf resort. The video includes scenes of a child holding a golden Trump balloon, a gift shop selling Trump statues, and Elon Musk dancing on the beach with dollar bills raining down from above. It is accompanied by an AI-generated song with lyrics that include "Trump Gaza shining bright. Golden future, a brand-new light".

The goal of this digital propaganda isn't to persuade people emotionally or intellectually. It's to overwhelm discourse through complexity and repetition, while also disarming critique by turning politics into a circus. These images often combine photo-realism with surreal elements (Trump as a god riding an eagle or the White House as a golden castle), blurring the line between reality and fiction. This inherent quality of generative AI reflects a political tendency toward denying facts and history. Mocking the gaudiness merely grants the posts virality and does nothing to address the underlying message: Reality is whatever the rich and powerful decide.

Rhetoric itself has also become a medium for the far-right's pedagogy of perception.

Through repetition and exaggeration in media coverage, marginalised groups, such as immigrants, people of colour and transgender people, are portrayed as threatening and morally corrupt. And thus, scapegoats are established for the real, worsening material conditions that many Americans are facing (rising costs of living, stagnant wages, crushing debt and lack of healthcare).

This is a strategy long used by the ruling class to divide the working class and distract from the economic system that actually causes these



• **Mussolini's new Rome.**

continued on page 6...

...continued from page 5

problems. Without class consciousness, anger is misdirected. Frustration at systemic inequality is turned toward those with even less power, while the elites truly responsible remain untouched.

Demonisation of these marginalised groups also allows the Trump regime to stage faux 'wins'. Projects such as building the wall at the southern border or deploying the National Guard in American cities are presented as evidence of progress under his leadership.

Of course, these actions don't actually solve



• The Nazi rally grounds in Nuremberg.

any problems. Instead, they act as monumental displays for Trump to point at while praising himself for improving the lives of Americans.

Repetition in the media coverage reinforces the preferred narrative. Meanwhile, the underlying material conditions responsible for so much

suffering are only deteriorating further.

Unlike the regimes of the past, today's reactionaries have access to a particularly dangerous

medium: generative AI. An image was posted by Trump on Truth Social with text reading: "I love the smell of deportations in the morning. Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR."

In buildings, AI images, and political theatre, far-right aesthetics distract from deepening crises. Monumentality, repetition and spectacle do not improve lives. Instead, they hide decline and direct public anger away from elites and toward the marginalised. These are not neutral or decorative choices, but tools designed to shape

perception and block class-consciousness.

Examining how these tools are used reveals the interconnectedness among the struggle for liberation among all marginalised groups, which is ultimately the struggle for a reorganisation of society that utilises resources, wealth and power to serve the needs of all people, not just those at the top. Reclaiming perception by recognising our interconnected struggle is essential for redirecting power toward the majority.

People's World
(USA)

What is behind the surging radical right-wing influencers

by GT staff reporters

Up to 150,000 people joined an anti-immigration rally organised by a far-right activist in central London last month. The "Unite the Kingdom" rally, organised by Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known as Tommy Robinson, led to substantial police presence and violent clashes between protesters and the police. It was dubbed by the media as the biggest right-wing demonstrations in British history.

Tech billionaire Elon Musk spoke to protesters on Whitehall via video link. Some protesters wore MAGA (Make America Great Again) hats, and several speakers at the demonstration also paid tribute to slain American conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

This London march has been interpreted by many Western media outlets as a large-scale eruption of emotions

stemming from unresolved immigration issues and increasing social divisions. And the Kirk incident, which emerged as a political symbol during the protest, served as a stark reminder of increasingly radical right-wing narratives on a global scale. Some Chinese observers say radical right-wing icons, such as Tommy Robinson and Charlie Kirk, are becoming increasingly appealing in the West.

What triggered this right-wing march in the UK? How was Robinson able to mobilise such a large crowd? Why did Kirk attract millions of followers on social media?

Let's take a detailed look at the rise of radical right-wing online influencers and opinion leaders such as Robinson and Kirk and explore what impact they have on the current global landscape and social conditions.

Robinson and his connection with the US right-wing

March organiser Robinson was evidently a central figure at this right-wing demonstration, as the *Guardian* reported that during the march, the crowd broke into chants of Robinson's first name, "Tommy" and some also held signs in support of him.

Robinson, 42, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, is probably one of the most influential right-wing activists in the West, with approximately 1.6 million followers on X. According to an October 2024 article by the *New York Times*, Robinson is the founder of the English Defence League (EDL), "an Islamopho-

bic, nationalist group known for its violent street protests in the late 2000s and 2010s".

Funding for Robinson and the EDL also largely comes from right-wing individuals or organisations. In a December 2018 article, the *Guardian* revealed that he had received funding from a US tech billionaire and a thinktank based in Philadelphia, and two other US thinktanks, partly funded by some of the biggest names in right-wing funding, who "have published a succession of articles in support of Robinson".

Robinson used to be a marginal figure in British politics and was banned from Twitter (now known as X) in 2018 for breaching its rules on "hateful conduct". However, after Musk bought Twitter in 2022 and renamed it X, Robinson's account was reinstated and soon gathered numerous followers

online.

Robinson's connection with Musk has never been a secret. On several occasions, Robinson has called billionaire Elon Musk his supporter, reported the *Hindustan Times* in September. In January this year, Musk publicly called on X to "Free Tommy Robinson" who had been sentenced to 18 months in prison for contempt of court in October 2024.

Notably, many other symbols associated with US right-wing individuals or organisations were also observed during the march, including MAGA hats and banners mourning Kirk. Joey Mannarino, a self-styled US right-wing commentator with some 640,000 followers on X, said he attended the march in London. The march "was inspiring", Mannarino wrote on X. "It also made me realise that we, as right-wing Americans, have not stood up and been accounted for

in some time."

Some Chinese observers believe that the killing of Kirk was being used by Robinson to mobilise support. The prominent display of American radical right-wing symbols during the protests reflects the spill-over of US political violence and the mutual support among global radical right-wing forces.

The USA and the UK share significant ideological and cultural similarities, often described as "when America sneezes, Britain catches a cold". Also, social media accelerates this dynamic, amplifying the resonance between radical right-wing groups in both countries says Teng Jianqun, a research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies and former director of its Department for American Studies.

The recently gunned down Kirk was one of the most prominent rad-

ical right-wing influencers in recent years, and a representative figure symbolising the surge of radical right-wing influencers and opinion leaders in the West.

Kirk, 31, was described by many media outlets as “an influential right-wing activist and a close ally of US President Donald Trump”. Before his murder, Kirk had amassed more than seven million followers on short-video platforms, and his accounts across the internet had gained extra millions of followers in the three days following his death.

For years, Kirk’s controversial remarks had spanned multiple domains, including race, feminism, gender identity and politics, many of which had been cited by numerous right-wing media outlets and netizens, while also sparking widespread criticism.

A search via Google’s AI Overview showed that Kirk’s followers primarily consisted of young conservatives, particularly from Generation Z and Millennials, but also included older conservative voters.

Kirk was among the growing cohort of radical right-wing influencers who, similarly, have drawn an increasing number of conservative followers, particularly among younger generations, through their sharp right-leaning remarks on political and social issues, complaints about dissatisfaction with the current state of society, formidable mobilisation capabilities both online and offline, and, probably, personal charisma.

Isabella DeLuca is one of the big names on this list. Kirk’s killing “has awakened an army of believers” said 25-year-old activist DeLuca, who was arrested in 2024 for her role in the 6th January 2021 riot at the US Capitol and



• The Robinson rally in London.

was pardoned by Trump in January.

Another name is Laura Loomer, 32, who was described by the BBC as a far-right conspiracy theorist. A former Republican congressional candidate, Loomer is also known for her anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim views. Though she had previously been banned by some social media platforms, she was reinstated on X after Musk’s takeover and has amassed over a million followers. Loomer joined multiple Trump campaign events during the presidential election cycle of 2024, as per public information.

Another one is Candace Owens, an African-American conservative activist who attacked Black Lives Matter and said George Floyd was “not a good person”. She earned attention and praise from Trump himself years ago and the president has invited her to multiple White House events in his first term.

Teng Jianqun said that in recent years, radical right-wing movements have gained traction in some Western countries, and this surge stems from two main factors: First, increasing social polarisation, particularly intensified racial tensions and widening economic dispari-

ties since 2019; second, opportunistic radical right-wing actors seeking power by exploiting divisive issues such as immigration, economic policy and gun control through inflammatory rhetoric.

The growing prominence of radical right-wing rhetoric, and actions in Europe and the USA, result from a combination of societal shifts toward conservatism and the strategic manoeuvring of opportunists, intertwining to fuel this trend, according to Teng.

Divisions and fractures within far-right groups are not uncommon however, perhaps due to the fact that the interests and demands they represent are not always aligned. Loomer, for instance, published a lengthy post in July in which she criticised Kirk as a “charlatan” and “political opportunist” who engaged in “mental gymnastics” and “stabs the president in the back”.

Moreover, the suspect involved in the killing of Kirk has been identified as Tyler Robinson who comes from a MAGA family. According to CNN, one of Robinson’s former classmates said that several years ago in high school, Robinson – like his family – was politically conservative, and Robinson’s neighbours

said that his parents are registered Republicans.

More division, instability to come

Why do some radical right-wing influencers, such as Tommy Robinson and Charlie Kirk, have such a strong appeal to their followers and even the general public?

Teng believes that, in today’s media-saturated environment, irrational or uninformed individuals are easily swayed or manipulated. Radical right-wing influencers and elites exploit this susceptibility, steering public sentiment toward distorted political and social outcomes, making extreme and conservative ideologies more appealing to certain groups.

Moreover, it is increasingly the case that nowadays, a movement does not spontaneously emerge among the general public in the West but is, in fact, exploited by a small number of elites, said Cui Hongjian, a professor at the Academy of Regional & Global Governance at the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

“In other words,

elites use so-called populism to challenge another group of elites,” Cui told the *Global Times*, saying that some right-wing online influencers, including a few politicians within the USA’s MAGA camp, exemplify this situation. “Their words and deeds appeal to so-called public opinion, yet there are clear political motives behind them, still rooted in an elite mindset. This makes the issue even more complex.”

Social media platforms have become a kind of powerful magnetic field for right-wing influencers in this era of information explosion, continuously drawing the attention of an ever-growing public. A 2024 study by the Pew Research Center, which surveyed 10,658 Americans, revealed that an increasing number of young people in the USA are getting their news from the accounts of social media influencers, most of whom are male and lean toward the right.

As observers have warned, however, academic attention and research on this phenomenon have lagged behind, to the extent that there has been a lack of awareness regarding the ‘rightward turn’ that has occurred in several Western countries including the USA in recent years.

Not only the academic community but also mainstream political parties in some Western countries have failed to recognise this trend, Cui explained noted: “They are either slow to react, insensitive to changes in today’s information dissemination and social interaction patterns or simply unwilling to lower their stance. Therefore, when another group of elites, usually from the right-wing, continuously takes the initiative

to launch challenges using populism, these so-called mainstream parties can only follow behind.”

As violent incidents such as shootings and marches with injuries have recently occurred in more than one country, more and more people have realised that the rise of radical right-wing influencers is increasing and may continue to further deepen social division and political polarisation, analysts warned.

“When economic or political systems falter, extremist ideologies, including far-right ones, seize the opportunity to gain traction. This mirrors historical examples, such as Hitler’s rise during Germany’s economic crisis, where he positioned himself as a saviour, manipulating public support and leading Europe into catastrophe,” Teng noted.

Similarly, interest groups or individuals today push far-right agendas through extreme actions or rhetoric to gain power. If successful, their policies could severely harm the environment and public welfare. The rise of populism and extremist ideologies reflects broader societal issues, not merely individual demands, added Teng.

Cui believes that the influence of the right-wing surge will continue to grow in the West as certain contradictions intensify. “These contradictions, such as unequal distribution, sluggish economic growth, relative impoverishment of the populace and external turmoil, unfortunately, are hardly thoroughly resolved by current Western political systems,” Cui noted. “And these are precisely the root causes of the current predicament of the West.”

Global Times

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

What is being marketed as “Trump’s ceasefire plan” is neither a solution nor a peace initiative. It is an imperial project aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and legitimising massacres against our people in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Attempts to present this plan as a “settlement” are nothing but a declaration of organised extermination intended to subjugate our people and consolidate the occupation under diplomatic and economic cover.

The Palestinian people, who have resisted for decades policies of uprooting, cleansing, and forced displacement, will not accept being excluded from any decision that concerns their fate, nor will they allow their suffering to be turned into deals among war criminals such as Trump and Netanyahu and their reactionary backers.

Marxist-Leninist analyses confirm that imperialism is not a source of peace but a source of plunder, wars, and extermination. The scene in Palestine today embodies this truth: an expansionist occupation backed by the United States and Europe, alliances with reactionary Arab regimes that openly submit to imperialist and Zionist interests – all aimed at erasing Palestinian identity and legitimising the seizure of land and people. Therefore, the Palestinian Communist Party affirms:

No peace with the occupation: We cannot accept any plan that ignores the historic right of the Palestinian people to

establish their free, fully sovereign state over the entire national territory – a democratic, secular state for all its inhabitants, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The right to resistance: Resistance to the occupation is necessary and legitimate in all its forms against the machinery of repression. Attempts to criminalise resistance do not alter the reality of injustice.

Rejection of displacement and extermination: We reject any scheme to displace Palestinians or to institutionalise a project of extermination. We demand guarantees for the return of the displaced in accordance with law and international resolutions.

Release of the prisoners: Immediate freedom for all Palestinian prisoners held in the occupation’s jails.

Accountability for the perpetrators: We demand that the leaders of the Zionist entity and those who support them be held to international account for war crimes, extermination, and destruction.

Escalation of boycott: We call on progressive forces, labour parties, and popular organisations worldwide to intensify campaigns of boycott and to politically and economically isolate the Zionist entity and its allies.

Formation of a broad national front and restructuring the PLO: We urgently call for the construction of a wide national front that includes all Palestinian national, progressive, and independent forces – a front that leads popular and national resistance, ends the detested division, and works to restructure the Palestine Liberation Organisation into a genuinely representative national institution on national and revolutionary foundations. This institution must commit to a unified line of struggle to confront the occupation

and restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. We propose an immediate convening of a comprehensive national conference that includes representatives of political forces, popular forces, popular resistance committees, trade unions, and civil society organisations to set a clear unifying programme for confrontation and national policy.

O sons of our people, the aim of these Trump “plans” is to silence the voice of Palestine and erase our national and social cause. We repeat: Palestine is not for sale and not negotiable, and the blood of our martyrs will not be exchanged for schemes intended to erase our identity.

We say with one voice: we will continue the struggle until liberation and the establishment of a democratic, secular state – a state of social justice and equality for all citizens, with no occupation and no exploitation.

Glory to the martyrs – Freedom for the prisoners – Victory to the resistance – Long live a free, proud Palestine!

Palestinian Communist Party

Dear Comrades

The Left urgently needs posters and stickers connecting Nigel Farage to fascism. If we fail to do this Farage could possibly

end up as the next prime minister or become the leader of the second largest party in parliament. That’s how Hitler came to power by increasing Nazi membership of the Reichstag in the general elections.

It is absolutely imperative we connect Nigel Farage personally to fascism in the eyes of the voters. He is playing down his fascism to get in but the Left needs to expose him. These posters and stickers must be up and running well before the next general elections...

**Tony Clark
London**

Dear Comrades

The people of Bahrain have reacted angrily to the arrest of two Bahrainis by the Israeli forces as they were trying to deliver aid to the people of Gaza. Mohammed Abdullah and Sami Abdul Aziz were taken away from their boat, which was part of the Sumud Flotilla, last week and subjected to severe ill-treatment. Pressures mounted for their release, together with all other members of the Gaza Aid Flotilla. When they returned to Bahrain, they were interrogated and ill-treated by the authorities.

**John Hughes
Bahrain Freedom Movement
London**

Book launch: Why Boycott Israeli Universities?

Join us for the launch of the 2025 edition of **Why Boycott Israeli Universities?** published by the **British Committee for the Universities of Palestine (BRICUP)**.

**6pm, Tuesday
21st October
Central London**

Speakers:
Professor David Johnson
Dr. Ghada Karmi
Professor Avi Shlaim
Professor Neve Gordon
Chair: Dr. Nadia Edmond

BRICUP
British Committee for the Universities of Palestine



Diary

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

UNTIL 10 NOV
Folklife Films: *Gentle, Angry Women* film about young women taking up the Greenham Common mantle. Various locations in England. Book on FF website.

UNTIL 14 NOV
Prince Charles Cinema: Films of Andrei Tarkovsky’s season. (Soviet film director 1932–86.) PCC, 7 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BY. Detail and tickets on PCC website.

TUES 14 OCT–SAT 18 OCT

Arcola Theatre: Michael Mear’s *The Mistake*, a play about Hiroshima with Q&A. Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL. Book on Arcola’s website.

THURS 16 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: Trade Unions and Trades Union Councils – Mobilising for class politics within communities. 19:00–21:00, Online panel discussion. Book on MML website.

THURS 16 OCT

International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity: Release thousands of Ukrainians imprisoned for humanitarian work. 18:30, Protest at Ukrainian Embassy, 60 Holland Park, London W11 3SJ (behind Holland Park Avenue).

SAT 18 OCT

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: No new British nukes. Protest: RAF Marham, Main Gate, Woodview Road, Upper Marham, King’s Lynn PE33 9NP. Time TBA.

SAT 18 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: Book Sale. 11:00, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

SAT 18 OCT

Korean Friendship Association UK: The Workers Party of Korea and Current Reality of People’s Korea. 14:00–17:00, **CHANGE OF VENUE:** Kings Cross Neighbourhood Centre, 51 Argyle St, London WC1H 8EF.

MON 21 OCT

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: *Hellfire: a journey from Hiroshima*. Film and discussion. 18:00–20:00, BLOC cinema, ArtsOne, Queen Mary University of London E1 4PD.

THURS 23 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: William Morris: Politics and Art. 18:00, In person, MML.

THURS 23 OCT

Working Class Movement Library: *Kirkby: Legacies of Struggle*. 18:00–20:00 Film about an Unemployed Centre in the 1980s and 90s. WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX. Booking required.

SAT 25 OCT

SOS NHS: End Social Care Disgrace, National Conference. 13:00–17:00, Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JL

SAT 25 OCT

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil. 12:00–14:00, Main Gate RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Brandon, Suffolk IP 27 9PS.

SAT 25 OCT

Scotland Demands Better, march and rally. Edinburgh. Assemble 10:00 Scottish Parliament for march to 13:00 rally at the Meadows.

SAT 1 NOV

Scottish CND: For a peaceful nuclear-free Scotland! Conference. 10:00–16:00, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, 209 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4HZ. Book on SCND website.

SAT 1 NOV

Society for Co-operation for Russian and Soviet Studies: HGW Davies on Everything for the Front! Resource Management in the Red Army 1941–1945. 14:00–15:00, In person, SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London, SW9 6AB.

SAT 1 NOV

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Len Crome Memorial Conversation. Panel on the Toxic legacy: the lasting impact of Francoism on Spanish Democracy. 14:00, In person, Marx Memorial Library.

SAT 8 NOV

New Communist Party: Reception to commemorate the 1917 October Revolution. 18:30, Party Centre, London SW11.

TUE 11–SUN 16 NOV

Havana Glasgow Film Festival. Details from <https://hgfilmfest.com/>

SUN 16 NOV

Working Class Movement Library: Radical Readings. 14:00–17:00, Maxwell Hall, University of Salford, Crescent, Salford M5 4WT.

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

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

Access to Scotland's "immense resources" will only be available if the country becomes independent says First Minister John Swinney, who launched a new white paper on independence this week. A *Fresh Start with Independence* looks at how independence would help raise the standard of living in Scotland and give Scots more control over their economy and the NHS, as well as tackling issues relating to pensions, social security and migration.

The First Minister and leader of the SNP said he wanted to champion a society in Scotland that

was "tolerant, inclusive and welcoming". But he warned of the 'dangers' of UK's 'rightward drift' and said he was "appalled by what Tommy Robinson represents" after Scots were heard chanting the racist leader's name at asylum hotel demonstrations.

Swinney said: "I firmly believe that the people who live in Scotland are best placed to make decisions about Scotland. That is the fundamental democratic and practical argument underpinning the case that we make. Too many people in Scotland today do not have a decent standard of living and are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

"That is because standards of living in the UK have improved little in over 10 years, due to a failing economic system and Westminster decisions such as austerity and the disastrous decision to leave the European Union. Scotland did not support aus-

terity and it did not support Brexit. The reality is Westminster is not working for Scotland."

Scottish Labour's Neil Bibby said: "The idea that John Swinney – a man now having his second stint as SNP leader after first leading the party in 2000 – can offer Scots a fresh start, is frankly laughable.

"This is a party that has been in power in Scotland for 18 years, during which time they have presided over a decline in public services, rising waiting times in our health service, and a fall in our education standards. Rather than focusing on the priorities facing Scots, John Swinney refuses to end his obsession with division, with the SNP woefully out of touch and obsessing over the arguments of the past."

The health of the nation

The SNP has ruled over the NHS for 18 years but it is unlikely that the SNP will be boasting about its record in the Holyrood elections.

One example of this is the NHS app. Ironically, Scottish digital companies have secured contracts to improve the NHS app that has enabled people using NHS England to book appointments since 2018. North of the Border, however, seeking an appointment with a GP still involves listening to Vivaldi starting at 8 am in morning.

There is still no NHS app in Scotland. One is planned to be launched in part of Lanarkshire later this year, but this will be very basic and only for dermatology patients. We are promised that if it goes better than the SNP ferry building programme it will be rolled out nationwide in April (just before the election, strangely), but it will not equal the English app until 2030.

Those digital companies which have repeatedly

offered to help claim they are being ignored by the Government. It has been suggested that this could be due to the SNP refusing to follow an English example simply because it came from England, but it is definitely the case that when NHS England offered to use some spare capacity to treat Scottish patients on waiting lists, it was ignored for fear of bad headlines about Scottish patients travelling to England.

While Health Secretary Neil Gray said the service would revolutionise the way people manage and receive healthcare, others were not impressed. The Tory Health spokesman and GP described it as "half-baked", adding that "we have repeatedly called for this to be rolled out to support patients and staff but instead the nationalists have been unable to do the basics and have squandered millions in the process". Labour deputy leader, Jackie Baillie pointed out that "by the time this app is finally rolled out in full, the technology will already be obsolete".

Paul Johnston, CEO of Public Health Scotland, warns that these delays cannot be tolerated as "people in Scotland now die younger than in any other Western European country. People spend more of their lives in ill health. The gap in life expectancy between the poorest and the wealthiest is growing." Johnston says this will get worse but he didn't say it might be the result of all those square sausages and deep-fried Mars Bars.

The British Medical Association (BMA) Scottish Chair, Iain Kennedy, asserts the NHS is "dying before our eyes". Delays in getting treatment are causing unnecessary deaths. There is a shortfall of at least 1,000 GPs and the same applies to hospital consultants. As a result, patients can wait "two, three or even four weeks" to see a doctor – six for more seriously "life-threat-

ening" cancer victims. The health service is no longer doctor led. Instead it's run by managers.

In most cases the vast majority of patients report getting excellent treatment, once they manage to get seen, although patients who died waiting for care are unlikely to have lodged complaints.

As a result of the inability to see GPs, patients often head to A&Es, which of course leads to hospital overcrowding with ever more 'corridor care'. Increasingly people are turning to private medicine, especially when they are in serious pain. Increasing resources for GPs would prevent many trips to hospital.

Kennedy reports claims of a "toxic culture" within the NHS, with complaints from doctors about patient safety or issues of wrongdoing resulting in managers taking retribution and retaliation in the form of referral to the General Medical Council rather than addressing the issues raised. He says Health Boards are more concerned about their image and keeping in with the Health Secretary than with dealing with the problems.

Deplorable discrimination

A humble working-class woman whose life began in 1971 in a one-bedroom house without a shower or bath in the east end of Glasgow, and who later left school with no qualifications, has been vilified by the capitalist press, the judiciary and members of the political establishment, resulting in her being forced from her public sector job. The *Financial Times* cruelly said she was "completely shameless and, when you have no shame, you can get quite far". Tory party leader Kemi Badenoch

denounced her for bringing "embarrassment and shame" and should have the "book thrown at her".

The victim of such bile said she was the victim of a vendetta "connoting vengeance, feud and blood feud, is incendiary and has directly increased the risks to my personal safety". She informed the Prime Minister that "it confirms that the machinery of the state is being deployed with the specific object of pursuing a vendetta against me, a private citizen and fellow parliamentarian".

The unfortunate woman is Baroness Michelle Georgina Mone, OBE, of Mayfair in the City of Westminster, who has announced that she will not be returning to the Lords as a result of all this criticism. She clearly has done nothing wrong to deserve all this criticism apart from ripping off the public over a £202 million contract for useless PPE at the start of the pandemic, just like many other dodgy businessmen. From this she raked in a £65 million profit, which she wisely invested in property including a £19.8 million London townhouse and many houses in the west end of Glasgow. She has been told to repay £122 million to the Department of Health by the middle of the month.

The 'noble' lady pointed out that lying to the media about her connections to dodgy companies is "not a crime" and that she and her husband are being made "scapegoats" for the whole pandemic PPE chaos. To a limited extent she has a point on both matters, in that she is not the only one who behaves like that. Of the £1.9 billion of suspected COVID loan fraud only £7.2 million has been recovered.

She made a big mistake in her choice of title. Had she called herself after her native Dennistoun in the City of Glasgow she might have secured some street credibility.

FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

The Middle "Class" by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
The ruling class, fascism and the State by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
The poisoned well (an insight into imperialist intelligence work). £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
Communists and the united front by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p. (New Worker reprint).
New technology and the need for socialism £2 plus 50p p&p.
Communists in Britain today £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
Peoples's China in perspective £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
The case for communism £2 plus 50p p&p.
The basis of scientific socialism, the 1st chapter of *Anti Daring* by F Engels. £2 plus 50p p&p.
On Stalin £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).
Stalin & the BRS £2 plus 50p p&p.
How we got in the State we are by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
All in the family by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
Arab nationalism and the communist movement by Andy Brooks. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
Killing ourselves to live by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
The first 30 fighting years of the New Communist Party of Britain £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).

NCP Lit. PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.
 (cheques to New Worker)

Protesters defy Starmer call

by New Worker
correspondent

Hundreds of protesters were arrested in London last weekend for demonstrating in support of the recently banned Palestine Action movement. Called by Defend Our Juries, some 488 protesters were arrested at a silent vigil in Trafalgar Square in support of the banned organisation.

The demonstration went ahead despite Keir Starmer calling on protesters to call it off to “respect the grief of British Jews”, while Jewish figures called the action “phenomenally tone deaf” after two Jews were killed in a terror attack at a Manchester synagogue last week.

Responding to Starmer’s suggestion that the



action should not go ahead,

a Defend Our Juries supporter, Zoe Cohen, told

the *Guardian* that “Those who have used the attack

on the Jewish community in Manchester to call for to-

day’s vigil to be cancelled are wrongly conflating the actions of the Israeli state with all Jews. Jewish people around the world are not responsible for Israel’s crimes and there are many Jewish people who do not support the actions of the Israeli state. Cancelling today’s vigil would have perpetuated this dangerous narrative which fuels anti-Semitism.”

She said if there was a strain on policing resources on Saturday, the blame lay with the government. “If the protest had been cancelled, it would have been ‘letting terror win’. When I was brought up learning about the Holocaust and we said ‘never again’, I learned that this means ‘never again’ for anyone.”

Helping hands in Hanoi floods

by Alex Reeves

Wading ‘uncles’ offering make-shift water-taxi. Complete strangers pushing bikes together. Machete-wielding Party men clearing fallen trees. Hanoi unites. If I’m going to be topical, what else could I possibly write about this week?

If you’re reading this, I hope it’s from a safe, dry spot and not between shifts throwing buckets out of your living room. Has somebody angered the gods?

I’ve been here a canny while now (more than a few years, for those not versed in northern British slang) and I can barely remember a more flooded city. Maybe it’s payback for scoffing at Typhoon Ragasa’s pitiful attempt last week. Either way, I’ll show the unpredictability



of nature a little more respect from now on.

After a week of bracing for the worst, especially after the grim footage from Hong Kong, this one still managed to catch us off guard. I knew, thanks to regular updates from local

legend “Hanoi’s Weatherdude”, that it would be wet. But I didn’t expect it to be raining through the walls wet.

Thirty-minute commutes tripled. Every time I thought I’d found higher ground and a route home,

another flooded street blocked the way. Social media filled with floating restaurant signs, stalled cars and uncles on make-shift paddle boards. Everyone has a story from yesterday and last night, some traumatic, others

thankfully heart-warming.

These weather events grow more extreme by the year, from Yagi last year to this season’s deluge and the seemingly endless rain of late. I dare say next year I’ll half expect another serious event. Footage of a literal tornado rolling around Ninh Binh is, to the best of my knowledge, not normal.

The more extreme the weather, the more extreme the experiences, for better and worse. There’s destruction and disruption, yes, but also the resilience that holds this city together.

Caught off guard, many schools ended up with students who simply couldn’t get home, parents stranded and roads impassable. Educators and administrators stepped up with movie nights, pizza, instant noodles, and in some cases, a sleepover on campus. Hats off to those who stayed and

made students feel safe and looked after. You’re a credit to your profession.

As someone pointed out, if the government wanted an advert for electric vehicles, this might be it. VinFast cars seemed to glide past the litany of bikes stuck in the low-lying pools. One thing I suspect I’m not alone in wishing for is a flood risk map that charts the city’s trouble spots, updated in real time. It’s 2025, after all.

For now, the great drying will have to wait, the rain is hammering down again as I type. More storms are lining up, landslide risk remains high in the mountains, and some areas are still underwater. Help your neighbours if you can, be cautious on bike trips, and keep an eye on the forecast. Stay safe, Hanoi.

VNS

When Stalin Became the Chief of the American Indians

In 1941, after the Soviet victory near Moscow in 1941, when the myth of the Nazi Germany's invincibility was dispelled, Joseph Stalin, the leader of the peoples, was elected "honorary chieftain of the Indians". There was also a symbol of his new rank: the national Indian headdress. The Museum of Contemporary History of Russia told Sputnik the unique history of the exhibit.

Stalin was awarded this distinguished title by the Indian Confederation of America, comprising 27 tribes of the USA, Canada, Mexico and Central America. Roach, the headdress of the North American Indian chiefs, became the symbol of Stalin's new status. It was made of feathers, decorated with ribbons, beads and sewing. According to the tradition of the Western Hemisphere indigenous peoples, this attribute of power not only meant military leader status, but it



• The ceremony in New York.

also possessed spiritual and protective power.

"There were many candidates, but it is Joseph Stalin whom the Indian chiefs elected the outstanding military leader as of 1941," Edward Carter, Chairman of Russian War Relief, wrote to Konstantin Uman-sky, the Soviet Ambassador

to the USA.

It was impossible to personally award the leader of the peoples with the headdress: it was still a long way to the end of the Second World War, so Chief Paul Horne (Fallen Trees), Head of the Indian Confederation of America and Chief of the Iroquois

Mohawk, handed the gift over to Edward Carter, who was a metalworker at Brooklyn Port and a trade unionist. The gift ceremony took place in February 1942 in New York in observance of Native American rituals.

"We present Joseph Stalin with the chief's

headdress, which he should wear as the distinguished chief of our tribes, as a symbol of our unity in the struggle against Hitler and our admiration for his leadership in this struggle," Paul Horne said.

The gift of the American Indians to Joseph Stalin made headlines right

across America.

Historical sources are silent about whether the leader of the peoples liked the gift and whether he got around to trying it on. Nevertheless, this friendly gesture was appreciated: on 9th December 1944, the Stalin Secretariat handed the American Indians' gift over to the State Museum of the Revolution.

The Indian headdress is currently stored in the reserves of the Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, the successor to the Museum of the Revolution. The Museum of Contemporary History of Russia is one of the world's largest contemporary history museums. Its exhibition talks about Russian history from the second half of the 19th Century to the present day. The museum is located in the city centre, on Tverskaya Street, in a building that is a monument to late 18th Century Russian classicism.

Sputnik

Ukraine: How I'd end the war

Alexei Arestovich, a former adviser to the head of the Ukrainian president's office, recently spoke to Russian journalist Ksenia Sobchak about what he would do in Vladimir Zelensky's place, and disclosed previously unknown details about the 2022 peace negotiations in Istanbul.

Imagining himself in the position of Ukraine's leader, Arestovich said his first move would have been to go to Moscow to confront Russia directly. "I'd go to Moscow immediately –

not on my knees, but like Sasha Bely [a character from the Russian TV series *Brigada*], for a sit-down." In his view, it would be an opportunity to "sum up relations between Russia and Ukraine since 1991".

He recalled that Russian President Vladimir Putin had repeatedly invited Zelensky to Moscow, calling it the best venue for peace talks. Arestovich described that invitation as a "unique chance" for the Ukrainian leader. "Putin's invitation with '100 per cent security guarantees'

was a challenge," he said. "Not going would damage his image; going would give him a chance no one else had."

Addressing the issue of territories that joined Russia following the 2022 referendums, Arestovich said that if he were in power, he would have conceded those lands to achieve peace, while refusing to recognise them legally as Russian. "I'd give up four regions and Crimea, but I wouldn't recognise them as Russian," he said. According to him, Kiev could withdraw

its forces, sign a long-term truce, and rebuild relations with Moscow and Minsk.

Arestovich also revealed new details about the Istanbul negotiations held in March 2022. He claimed that a direct meeting between Putin and Zelensky was scheduled for 9th April of that year, following the signing of the Istanbul communiqué by Vladimir Medinsky and David Arakhamia, the heads of the Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

"I knew the exact date," Arestovich said.

"The meeting was fully agreed upon." However, the meeting never took place. Arestovich blamed the then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for disrupting the peace process, calling his intervention "a crime against Ukraine".

In his conversation with Sobchak, Arestovich also commented on President Putin's political abilities. "I praise him as a qualified player," he said. "I'm not saying he's an ideal person or a saint – just that he makes moves like a real player." He added

that Putin remains in excellent form and "never breaks agreements". "If I were leading Russia, I'd be tougher than Putin," Arestovich concluded.

The former Ukrainian official, who resigned in early 2023 after controversy over his comments on a deadly missile strike in Dnipro, has since become one of Kiev's most vocal critics. He continues to argue that Ukraine's survival depends on neutrality and restoring relations with both Russia and Belarus.

Pravda.ru

Free Marwan Barghout!

by Nikos Mottas

More than 20 years have passed since Marwan Barghout, one of Palestine's most respected national leaders, was seized by Israeli forces and sentenced to life imprisonment.

His 'crime' was not terrorism, as Israel's courts declared – it was daring to represent what every system of oppression fears most: a unifying, legitimate and popular voice for liberation and peace.

Barghouti's continued imprisonment is not merely an injustice against one man. It is an attempt to silence the conscience of a people. His release is both a moral obligation and a political necessity – for Palestine, and for all who struggle against occupation, inequality and domination.

Born in 1959 in the West Bank village of Kobar, Barghouti grew up under the shadow of Jordanian military rule. As a teenager, he joined Fatah, the leading movement of the Palestinian national struggle, and quickly distinguished himself through his discipline, intellect and commitment to mass organising.

He was arrested for the first time at just 15 years old for his activism. After completing his secondary studies, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Birzeit University, where he later obtained a master's degree in international relations. At Birzeit, he became a key organiser of the student movement, known for his ability to unite students across ideological lines.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Barghouti played a central role in the First Intifada and later he helped establish



the Tanzim movement, a grass-roots structure within Fatah that emphasised community mobilisation and resistance grounded in popular participation.

Barghouti has always linked the national struggle for liberation with the social struggle for equality. His politics are rooted in the conviction that Palestine's freedom cannot be separated from democracy, social justice and workers' rights.

Despite enduring years of imprisonment, Barghouti has never abandoned his belief in co-existence between Palestinians and Israelis, provided it is based on equality and mutual respect.

He was one of the earliest Palestinian leaders to publicly endorse the two-state solution, calling for the establishment of

an independent State of Palestine alongside Israel, based on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as a shared capital. But unlike the sterile diplomacy of elites, his vision of peace is grounded in justice – in ending occupation, dismantling segregation, and securing the right of return and self-determination for all Palestinians.

Barghouti's writings from prison – smuggled out and shared across the world – testify to his humanity, intellect and clarity of principle. They echo Mandela's words from Robben Island: that reconciliation cannot come without freedom, and that the oppressed must never relinquish their dignity, even behind bars.

The Israeli state brands Barghouti a "terrorist". Yet among Palestinians and progressive forces globally,

he is regarded as a freedom fighter, a moral leader and a symbol of perseverance.

Even from his cell, he continues to command broad respect across political divisions – from Fatah to Hamas, from secular intellectuals to grass-roots organisers. In a landscape fractured by internal rivalry and external pressure, Barghouti remains a rare unifying figure.

The comparison to Nelson Mandela is more than symbolic. Both men were imprisoned by systems of racial segregation and dispossession. Both advocated dialogue grounded in equality not submission. And both inspired their people to hold fast to hope in the darkest of times.

Mandela's release marked the beginning of South Africa's democratic renewal. The release of

Marwan Barghouti could play a similar historic role – reviving Palestinian leadership, restoring legitimacy and rekindling the vision of a just and peaceful future.

Barghouti is more than a prisoner of conscience. He is the most credible candidate to lead a future independent and sovereign State of Palestine – a man who combines revolutionary credentials with democratic conviction, integrity and political experience.

Polls consistently show that he enjoys wide support among Palestinians of all backgrounds. His leadership is rooted not in factionalism or corruption, but in a lifetime of service, sacrifice and intellectual engagement. He represents the kind of leadership capable of rebuilding the Palestinian political system on principles of accountability, social justice and unity.

A free Marwan Barghouti could help guide the Palestinian people through the transition to genuine independence – a state built by the people, for the people, and in peace with its neighbours.

For communists and progressives, the Palestinian struggle is inseparable from the global fight against exploitation and oppression. The occupation of Palestinian land persists through systems of militarisation, economic dependency and imperial support – the same forces that sustain inequality and war across the globe.

To demand Barghouti's release is to stand against those structures. It is to declare that no people's right to freedom can be indefinitely imprisoned, and that genuine peace must rest on justice.

The world once united to free Nelson Mandela. Today, it must do the same for Marwan Barghouti. Trade unions, leftist parties and solidarity movements should raise their voices together:

Free Marwan Barghouti. Free all Palestinian political prisoners. Let the Palestinian people determine their own destiny.

Barghouti's freedom would not just return a leader to his nation – it would return hope to millions. Because, as history teaches us again and again, you can imprison a revolutionary but never the revolution.

Nikos Mottas is the Editor-in-Chief of In Defence of Communism

JOIN US!
For peace!
justice!
socialism!

I would like to join the New Communist Party....
I would like more info about the NCP....

Name.....

Address.....

postcode.....

phone.....

Send to NCP, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

