

Major Israeli break of ceasefire

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

THE ISRAELIS launched a massive wave of airstrikes across the Gaza Strip last weekend in a major violation of a ceasefire brokered by US President Donald Trump.

Trump pushed for a ceasefire deal as part of an American diplomatic effort, engaging Israel and Hamas along with Turkey, Egypt and some of the feudal Arab states to end the fighting and allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. However, Trump's 20-point Gaza deal has been shaky from the start. According to the Palestinian authorities in Gaza, Israel has already violated the agreement 47 times, killing dozens of Palestinians.

Over a hundred Palestinian civilians were killed or wounded in the Israeli strikes on what the Zionists called "terror targets" across the Palestinian enclave after claiming that Hamas guerrillas had attacked its troops in Rafah. Hamas denied involvement in any attacks and reaffirmed its "full commitment" to the ceasefire.

Senior Hamas official Mohammed Nazzal accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of deliberately seeking to undermine the Trump deal, warning that the Palestinian resistance will not tolerate continued viola-

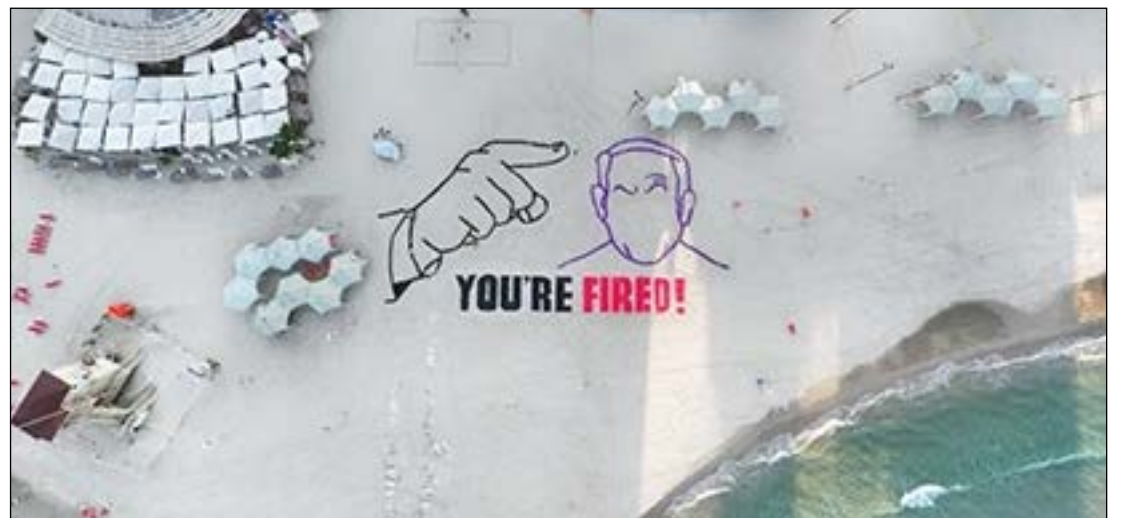
tions of the ceasefire. Nazzal said Netanyahu and "the ruling gang in the Zionist entity" are attempting to provoke conflict by claiming Hamas has not adhered to the terms of the agreement. "Netanyahu is willing, with premeditation and malice aforethought, to violate the agreement and send a message that he can violate it whenever he wants," he said.

Commenting on speculation about the future administration of the Gaza Strip, Nazzal said Hamas had presented a proposal that was agreed upon by eight Palestinian national movements during meetings in Cairo that includes the formation of a governing committee of independent technocrats.

But Hamas firmly rejected the idea of a High Commissioner for Gaza currently being floated in imperialist circles with Tony Blair in mind – calling it a form of recolonisation.

Meanwhile relief agencies have expressed concern that the latest attacks would exacerbate civilian suffering in Gaza, where hospitals, shelters, and schools are still struggling to recover from two years of destruction and blockade.

UNRWA, the UN relief works agency, warns of the danger that the arrival of winter poses for the Palestinians in the beleaguered Gaza Strip.



Massive anti-Netanyahu protest on the beach in Tele Aviv seen from the air.

"As winter approaches in Gaza, people increasingly need shelter and warmth," the UN agency said, referring to the humanitarian crisis the Palestinian enclave is experiencing after two years of Israeli aggression.

UNRWA called on Israel, for the umpteenth time, to fully re-open border crossings to increase the flow of humanitarian aid to this coastal enclave, where more than 68,000 deaths have been reported as a result of the conflict.

Shelter materials and winter supplies for displaced families are in UN warehouses in Jordan and Egypt, unable to enter after UNRWA was banned from entering the Strip by Israel in January.

Before the ban UNRWA was Gaza's main provider of humanitarian and social services. It supported about 1.4 million Palestinian refugees, operating schools serving some 300,000 children, health clinics offering primary care and vaccinations, and large-scale food and cash assistance programmes.

UNRWA also helped coordinate shelter and relief efforts, run community and mental health initiatives and, under the face of Israeli blockade, served as a de facto public service provider.

The UN, along with various NGOs and governments, accused Israel of violating the terms of the ceasefire agreement, which came into effect on October 10 and in-

cluded a substantial increase in aid to Gaza.

Half of Gaza's population suffers from hunger, despite the truce reached, says Michael Fakhri, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food. He told Al Jazeera TV that the food infrastructure in that coastal enclave must be rebuilt and emphasized that the situation in the north is dire.

FUND

We raised £608 for the October fighting fund pushing the needle up to £1,541 thanks to a comrade in Devon who PayPaled £200 and a number of contributors in Essex, Yorkshire and the Midlands whose regular donations are the foundations of our fund-raising efforts. We now need £1,959 to hit our target for the month.

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Labour on the rocks

THE WELSH nationalist victory in the Caerphilly Senedd by-election last week was a slap in the face for Starmer and his band. Plaid Cymru won the seat in the Welsh parliament with 47 per cent of the vote in a town which had been a Labour stronghold for over a hundred years. Labour came a poor third behind the Faragist Reform platform that has become a beacon for disaffected Welsh Tories whose numbers have soared since Kemi Badenoch won the Tory leadership race in November 2024.

This isn't surprising. Labour's support has collapsed all over the country. Workers are abandoning Labour in their droves. Some are turning to Reform lured by Nigel Farage's glib tongue into believing that asylum seekers and immigrants are the source of all our woes and that the only way out of the economic crisis we are in is to totally embrace the cut-throat capitalist system of the United States. Others turn to the Welsh and Scottish nationalists or look to the Liberal-Democrats, Greens and the Corbynistas for answers.

Reform now tops the list in the opinion polls way ahead of Labour and the Tories – whose old dominance is now being seriously challenged by the Lib-Dems and the Greens. But mid-term opinion polls can be misleading – particularly in these volatile times. The Tories could easily make a comeback if they dumped Badenoch and returned to the traditions of their bullish racist and anti-union past that Farage now promotes to his own advantage. But it's not so for Labour.

Hundreds of thousands of supporters have been driven out of Labour's ranks. They're not going to come back in a hurry – and they never will as long as Starmer and the old Blairite has-beens he surrounds himself with remain in charge. And though there's murmurs in union circles and Labour's back-benches no one is, so far, prepared to step forward to challenge Starmer. Least of all Andy Burnham, the Labour mayor of Greater Manchester, that some of the dissidents say is the only man who can restore their standing in time for the next election.

Burnham is, of course, a good campaigner on the street – unlike Starmer whose arrogant and remote attitude to working people reflects the loathsome policies of austerity and oppression that are the hall-mark of his administration today.

Burnham, or maybe others in his camp, may move against Starmer next year. But the fight-back against austerity can't rely on the whims of ambitious Labour politicians or the legion of union bureaucrats that dominate our labour movement.

Despite public quarrels at the top Jeremy Corbyn's new political party has enthused hundreds of thousands who flocked to his banner when he was leader of the Labour Party. Whether they can build an alternative left platform, in tandem with the progressive elements still in the Labour Party only time will tell.

But the mass movement in solidarity with the Palestinians has shown the way. The anti-war movement is back on the streets and the apologists for imperialism and Zionism are on the defensive – smears, common abuse and police oppression are now the only arguments they've got left.

Millions of people scramble to earn a living just to keep a roof over their heads. A tiny elite live lives beyond the reach and often beyond the imagination of most workers. Socialism can end this. Only through socialism can the will of the masses, the overwhelming majority of the people, be carried out. Only socialism and mass democracy – not the sham democracy of the bourgeoisie or the myths of the social democrats, can end the class system and free working people from their slavery. Our argument – for socialism must be put back on the workers' agenda.

British Museum: commercial exploitation of priceless relics

by Chen Xi

IN AN ACT that Greek Culture Minister Lina Mendoni condemned as “provocative indifference” the British Museum hosted a lavish fund-raiser at £2,000 per ticket last weekend. Dubbed the “Pink Ball” and held in the room housing the Parthenon’s “Elgin Marbles”, it ignited fierce criticism and revived long-standing debates over cultural ethics and colonial restitution. The high-profile fund-raising dinner in the Parthenon Marbles room, featuring 800 A-list guests, including rock legend Mick Jagger and supermodel Naomi Campbell *The Times* reported.

The uproar underscores a deeper crisis – the museum's mission to safeguard humanity's shared legacy is being systematically undermined by commercial greed and colonial-era double standards. Such commercial exploitation has surely betrayed the sanctity of civilisation.

As one of the world's oldest and most revered public institutions, the British Museum claims its mission is to preserve human history for future generations. Yet its decision to transform a space holding ancient Greek sculptures into a backdrop for champagne toasts and celebrity photos reveals a troubling departure from that very purpose.

Mendonis's statement highlighted the core issue: “The safety, integrity, and ethics of the monuments should be the main concern of the British Museum... such actions are offensive to cultural assets and endanger the exhibits themselves”.

Her criticism echoes a broader consensus among archaeologists and heritage experts: When artefacts are treated as party decor, their dignity is stripped, and their physical safety is at risk.

This is not the first time that the museum has blurred the line between culture and commerce. In 2024, the same room was used for a fashion show, drawing similar protests from Greece. Each such event reinforces the perception that the museum's leadership views

its collections, particularly those acquired under colonial contexts, as assets to monetise rather than heritage to protect.

Greece's case is not unique. China, Egypt and Nigeria, among others, have long demanded the return of their stolen heritage.

Egyptian archaeologist and Egypt's former minister of state for antiquities affairs, Zahi Hawass, who is leading a petition for the return of the country's priceless Rosetta Stone from the British Museum, has highlighted the psychological trauma of seeing national icons displayed in former colonisers' museums. These narratives expose a colonial-era hierarchy in which Western institutions dictate cultural ownership, perpetuating historical injustice.

The British Museum has exhibited the Parthenon marbles since their acquisition from Lord Elgin in 1816.

not insurmountable

Due to the 1963 British Museum Act, the law prevents the museum from returning any of its collection permanently except in very limited circumstances. However, legal hurdles are not insurmountable, especially when there is political and moral will.

For example, in 2024, more than 200 ancient pre-Hispanic artefacts ranging from ceramics to important works of indigenous art were successfully reclaimed by Peru from collectors and institutions around the world.

What the Pink Ball reveals is that the real obstacle may not be the law, but an attitude. If the British Museum is serious about being a museum for the world, it should stop treating world heritage as its private party venue.

In fact, the tide is shifting. Recent years have seen growing momentum for relic repatriation.

In 2022, Germany returned 22 artefacts looted in the 19th century to Nigeria. In 2025, Egypt successfully retrieved 25 smuggled artefacts from the USA, demonstrating that international cooperation works.

China, as a leader in cultural heritage advocacy, has repatriated more than 2,000 artefacts since 2012, including the

Zidanku Silk Manuscripts from the USA in 2025.

Such cases inspire Greece, which proposed a cultural partnership to fill the British Museum's Greek galleries if the marbles are returned.

Professor Huo Zhengxin from the China University of Political Science & Law says that there is no longer any substantial gap between China's ability to conduct cultural relic protection, restoration and research and that of Western countries.

The British Museum, however, has been hit by a series of scandals involving stolen cultural relics in recent years and cannot even guarantee the safety of its collected cultural relics.

Therefore, if countries with lost cultural relics, especially those in the Global South, can coordinate their positions and speak with a unified voice under international multilateral mechanisms, they can promote the further improvement and implementation of international rules.

Stamatios Boyatzis, a professor at the University of West Attica in Greece, also echoed that since Greece is now fully capable of safeguarding its own cultural relics, the British Museum should return them rather than using so-called conventions as an excuse.

He told the media during the 2025 Sanxingdui Forum that under the current international landscape, it is hoped that Greece, China and other more source countries of cultural relics can join hands to make their voices heard on the global stage.

In summary, the Parthenon Marbles controversy is a referendum on the ethics of cultural ownership. The British Museum's commercialisation of these artefacts is a moral abdication, symptomatic of a broader crisis in how Western institutions wield power over global heritage.

As Greek Culture Minister Mendoni stated, the British Museum's actions “endanger the exhibits themselves,” both physically and symbolically. It is time for the museum to listen, not just to the clinking of glasses, but to the voices of those whose history it holds.

Global Times

Workers' Notes

Whose streets? Our streets!

by New Worker correspondent

EXCELLENT turnout for the Whitechapel anti-fascist mobilisation last weekend. Thousands march through the East End of London following racist threats to launch a “crusade” in Tower Hamlets on the day as part of a series of events across the country promoted as a “mass deportations tour”. They wanted to parade through the streets bearing wooden crosses to “reclaim Whitechapel from the Islamists”. But the march, called by UKIP, a racist sect that Nigel Farage abandoned in 2018, was banned by the police as there was a “realistic prospect of serious disorder”. Although the fascists were correctly banned from spreading their poison in the area, it was still necessary to turn up and show solidarity with the local community.

At the rally called by the Stand Up to Racism movement the main speakers were Jeremy Corbyn and the borough mayor, Lutfur Rahman, whose Aspire party leads Tower Hamlets’ council. And the whole community turned out including large numbers of local youths and members of the Muslim community as well as the maverick Labour MP Apsana Begum and a large bloc of local youths.

Shiver Me Timbers

by New Worker correspondent

Readers will be delighted to learn that Britain’s most southerly workers have secured a hefty pay rise. Antarctica to be precise. The M



part of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) has secured rises of up to 37 per cent for workers employed by the British Antarctic Survey on new pay scale and wage rates. These range from 10 to 37 per cent, with most getting 26. In addition, specialist allowances and end-of-year performance payments have also been secured for staff.

Mariella Giancola, head of HR at the Survey, put on a brave face at this addition to the pay roll to say: “We are delighted with this outcome, which recognises the vital skills and expertise of our marine crew who operate and maintain the UK’s icebreaker the RRS *Sir David Attenborough*. We acknowledge that our salaries were not competitive, and we have now developed a new pay framework that better reflects the responsibilities and specialist capabilities required for these roles”.

Eddie Dempsey, the general secretary of RMT, added “this is a fantastic win for our members and I want to congratulate them and their negotiators for securing it. We have won substantial pay increases, and secured a new allowance system based on union involvement and proper recognition of experience and skill for all those contributing to the British Antarctic Survey”.

It is not known if the deal means that the intrepid mariners will now get something other than penguins for dinner...

meanwhile...

...on dry land, and in the

warmer climes of Manchester, workers on the city’s trams are balloting for strike action which could prevent citizens from wasting their money at the city’s Christmas markets if they take action in a dispute over working conditions and concerns about tiredness.

50 hours on

At present shift patterns mean drivers have to work 450 hours over a 12-week period. As a result some drivers working 50 hours on, followed by only two days off, then back into another 50-hour work pattern. During the working day they often have difficulty in finding time for breaks.

They are employed by KeolisAmey Metrolink Limited at two depots and serve all routes in Greater Manchester which is part of the city’s celebrated integrated Transport network.

Their union, Unite, notes that despite operating heavy vehicles they also have fewer rest days compared to all other operational departments. The response to Unite raising these matters was that there is no funding available to support any meaningful improvements to working patterns, and members were told to start working even earlier.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said “Our hard-working members at Metrolink do a vital job – but fatigue is putting themselves and the public at risk. Management can’t sweep this key safety issue under the carpet and they must come back to the table with workable solutions. Metrolink workers

will have Unite’s full support throughout this dispute”.

Regional officer Colin Hayden added that “any strike action will cause a great deal of disruption but it is entirely the fault of Metrolink, which is not taking the issue of driver fatigue seriously. It is dangerous for fatigued workers to be driving trams and they should not be put in this situation. We are demanding that Metrolink and Transport for Greater Manchester work with Unite to find a solution to this problem to avoid industrial action”.

On the Buses

by New Worker correspondent

Tuesday saw the announcement of an alleged great step forward for the travelling public: The Bus Services Act came into law. This will make it easier for local authorities to take over bus services in England.

The Starmer Government claim this will enable thousands of bus passengers to benefit from more reliable and dependable journeys, passengers will be protected from sudden cuts to crucial routes, and training will be provided to drivers on how to handle anti-social behaviour.

The Act hope to reverse a decline in bus services. Between 2010 and 2004 about 300 million fewer miles were driven by bus services in England in 2024. At the same time 5,000 bus routes have been lost since and the

number of bus workers has reduced by nearly 20,000, nearly a quarter of the entire workforce. This is largely due to private bus companies speedily withdrawing services when they become unprofitable. Now local authorities will have more power over services. The modest results of the new Act will “end the risk of routes being scrapped at short notice by tightening the requirements for cancelling vital routes”.

While it does not allow for renationalisation or council ownership of existing bus operators it will lift the ban on local authorities setting up their own bus companies. This will allow them to run services, most likely on unprofitable routes. Indeed, the Act makes bus franchising easier.

welcomed

Trade union leaders welcomed the measure with more enthusiasm than necessary, TUC General Secretary Paul Nowak declared that “this landmark Bus Bill is great news for the hundreds of thousands of workers across the country who rely on our bus networks to get to and from work each day. We’ve already seen the real difference that effective franchising can make in places like Manchester”.

At the same time RMT General Secretary Eddie Dempsey took a more restrained view saying “we welcome some elements of this legislation Bill such as the removal of the ideological ban on new municipal bus companies. However, we are concerned that the provision of decent bus services could continue to be a postcode lottery, and government needs to go much further and deliver a national plan for high quality locally delivered and properly funded publicly bus services which put passengers before profits”. That is not surprising from a Government led by Sir Keir Starmer.

On the same afternoon the Employment Rights Bill was in the House of Lords where the noble lordships sought to water down the Bill. Perhaps because it does not cost very much, the Government is promising to reject an opposition amendment calling for a six-month qualifying

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period before new workers qualify for protection against unfair dismissal.

Paul Nowak humbly requests their lordships should “step aside” adding that the UK has “some of the weakest unfair dismissal protections” in the developed world, “leaving workers to shoulder all the risk while bad bosses get a free pass”.

It is interesting that union leaders make so much of what is a fairly small issue. Were the Bill to allow workers to take strike action without going through a rigmarole of postal ballots, they

tember. Few were surprised at the result. Though her rival, Bridget Phillipson, was favoured by the old gang Blairites who prop up the Starmer government Powell was always the front runner. What was surprising was just how few people voted.

The polling showed Powell won with 87,407 votes, over 13,000 more than her opponent, Bridget Phillipson, who is Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities. Those who were eligible to vote included Labour members and union affiliates, which includes 970,642 people in total. This means only 16.6 per cent of those who could vote did so.

While campaigning for the position of party deputy leader, Powell vowed to stand against the politics of “division and hate” noting that the Labour Party “needs to do better” as the future existence of mainstream politics wobbles.

Powell is a Member of Parliament for Manchester who is said to be a supporter of Andy Burnham, the Manchester mayor who is less than covertly campaigning to oust Starmer in the new year. She was previously the Lord President of the Council and leader of the House of Commons after Labour Party won last year’s general election. She lost her seat in the Cabinet during Starmer’s reshuffle last month.

Lucy Powell wins in top Labour poll

by New Worker correspondent

LABOUR ELECTED Lucy Powell as its deputy leader on Saturday, in a move triggered by the resignation of Angela Rayner in early Sep-



Your Party Launched in Southampton

by Ben Soton

MONDAY 27th October saw the launch of Your Party in Southampton. Earlier this year the Independent Alliance MP Jeremy Corbyn along with Sara Sultana launched the new left party along with other independent MPs elected in the 2024 election. At a well-attended meeting in Kell Hall close to the city centre heard speakers from Palestine Solidarity, Stand

Up to Racism, Southampton Trades Council, along with representatives from the WASPI Women and the Trade Union Socialist Coalition (TUSC).

Maggie Fricker from Southampton Trades Union Council stated that Labour under Starmer had abandoned the working class in favour of austerity at home and genocide in Palestine. Nadia Ditta from TUSC told the audience that she came from a deprived area with a high Muslim population with only one small area of green space.

She went on to say that should communities could expect nothing from Starmer’s Labour Party. The speaker from Palestine Solidarity

talked about the work of the campaign in organising protests in support of Palestine; whilst the representative from the WASPI Women (women of pensionable age born in the 1950s) talked about their betrayal by the Starmer Government.

After the speeches those in attendance broke up into workshops to discuss their hopes and expectations for the new party. Many echoed the view that the Labour Party could no longer be expected to play a progressive role in British politics. Whilst feedback included calls for public ownership, trade union disaffiliation from Labour and an irreversible shift in wealth and power in favour of working people.

20 years ago this week
in the New Worker

New Worker 4 November 2005

Work and Pensions secretary David Blunkett resigned from the Cabinet last Wednesday after accusations that he broke the ministerial code of conduct while out of the Cabinet by taking jobs that compromised his independence – in spite of three

written warnings to seek advice.

Blunkett claimed he had done nothing wrong and would not resign but he had certainly behaved in a way that he would not tolerate in other people and on Wednesday he admitted he made mistakes

Blair paid tribute to him after his resignation as a “decent and honourable man”. But ultimately the decision about whether or not he kept his job rested entirely in the hands of Prime Minister Tony Blair – and he has recently been in dispute with Blair over changes to the incapacity benefit system.

Blunkett is understood to have sent an “intemperate” letter to Blair last Friday, saying that he could not accept last-minute changes demanded by Downing Street.

Blunkett is not known for being a softie; in many quarters he is regarded as New Labour’s equivalent of Norman Tebbit. But he has resisted the extent of cuts being urged by Blair.

Blunkett has said that the disabled and long-term sick could be helped back to work rather than forced.

But Blair believes this does not go far enough. He is urging the use of means testing to cut benefits to better-off claim-

ants and restricting the length of time they can be claimed – following the pattern in the United States.

Blair is at odds with a growing number of government departments, including the Home Office. The controversial anti-social behaviour tsar Louise Casey is blocking Government plans to withdraw housing benefit from disruptive families because of the harmful effect this will have on children who are made homeless.

The outbreak of small rebellions among his former sycophants is a strong indication that Blair’s power and au-

thority as Prime Minister are waning and his opportunist underlings are now more concerned with winning favour from his most likely successor, Gordon Brown.

But Blunkett was in a weaker position. When he was forced to resign as Home Secretary he bought £15,000 of shares in DNA Bioscience testing company and became a board member. This was in breach of parliamentary guidelines. Rival DNA companies complained that it was not accredited in Britain and would not have been eligible to seek Whitehall contracts.

by Dermot Hudson

Dermot Hudson, the Chair of the UK Korean Friendship Association, recently spent a week in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to join in the celebrations marking the foundation of the Workers Party of Korea (then the Communist Party of North Korea) on 10th October 1945. The Communist Party of North Korea later developed into the Workers' Party of North Korea (WPNK) when it united with the New Democratic Party (NDP) in 1946. The Workers Party of Korea as it exists today was founded in June 1949 by merging the WPNK with the Workers' Party of South Korea (WPSK) and another smaller movement known as the People's Party.

I TRAVELLED to People's Korea on the 7th October and stayed until the 14th October. It was a week in paradise away from the stress of life under decaying capitalism and imperialism! This was my 20th visit to People's Korea. The purpose of the visit was to participate in the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the great Workers Party of Korea (WPK), the supreme general staff of the Korean revolution and organiser and guide of all the victories of the Korean people. I was leading a delegation of the British Group For the Study of the Juche Idea.

It was not my first time visiting the DPRK to attend keynote anniversaries; I had previously visited the DPRK for the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September 2018 and for the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Workers Party of Korea in October 2015. What I saw this time far exceeded the celebrations I witnessed in 2018 and 2015 in terms of

Return to the land of Juche

scale and quality.

Our delegation travelled via Beijing, and arrived on the afternoon of the 7th October. Waiting to check in for the Air Koryo flight we met delegations from Brazil, Poland, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, Bulgaria and many other countries. It is a myth that the DPRK is "isolated". In fact not only did followers of the Juche Idea and friendship organisations make their way to Pyongyang but also high-level delegations from China, Russia, Vietnam and Laos including Party general secretaries. There were also high level delegations from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Nicaragua. The Iranian delegation got a round of applause on the plane.

Even before we landed in Pyongyang we got a flavour of the rapid development of People's Korea – namely Air Koryo's (the national airline of the DPRK) in-flight catering has been upgraded and improved. The stewardess handed out boxes which contained not



Dermot Hudson at the International Seminar of the Juche Idea.

only the famous Air Koryo burger but biscuits and other confectionery including chocolate bars. On the way from the airport we saw whole new streets that were not there in 2019 and 2024. A block of flats near to the Koryo Hotel that was under construction in April 2024 had been completed.

Our delegation had been invited by the Korean Association of Social Scientists but was guided by Kim Kyong Chol of the Korea

Association for Cultural Exchange with Foreign Countries. Kim was a keen singer and an enthusiastic person.

During our visit we visited the following; the Korean Revolution Museum, the Museum of Party Foundation, the Pyongyang Central Zoo and Natural History Museum, the Central Cadres Training School of the Workers Party of Korea, the Great Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Hwasong Street at night,

the Taekwondo Hall, the Juche Idea Tower and Kim Il Sung University. We were honoured guests at the National Meeting and Grand Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance on the 9th October, at the Military Parade on the 10th October and the Public Procession and Torchlight Gala on the theme of the immortal banner of building a just and peaceful world.

It is difficult to detail all that happened and that we saw in the DPRK so I will just give a few important highlights.

Firstly, the International Seminar on the Juche Idea that was held in the People's Palace of Culture from the 8th to the 9th October attracted participants from all over the world including the following countries; Austria, Brazil, Belarus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Switzerland and many others.

I made a speech on behalf of the British Group For the Study of the Juche Idea in which I said (in part) the following "the Juche idea teaches the peoples of the world to build countries that are politically independent, economically self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence. Peoples' Korea itself is a living example of the application of independence, self-sufficiency and self-defence. Whilst conflicts rage in many parts of the world, the Korean peninsula enjoys peace thanks to the nuclear deterrent of the DPRK. Today People's Korea is a society free from division, conflict and disorder. It is an oasis of calm in a troubled world"

We attended the national meeting for the 80th founding anniversary of the WPK and the Grand Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance Long Live the Workers' Party of Korea in the May Day stadium on Rungna Island. The May Day stadium is actually the biggest stadium in the world with a seating capacity of



On a picket line in London.

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over 150,000. It is not rotting and rusting as falsely asserted by the reptile bourgeois media but in good condition.

First we heard the speech of respected leader Kim Jong Un, the general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea. He rounded off his speech with the following words “availing myself of this opportunity, I will always cherish love for the people and not neglect my obligation of requital. I affirm my commitment to working harder to live up to their trust.

“I will surely turn this country into a more affluent and beautiful land and into the best socialist paradise in the world, with belief in the people supporting our Party and by always becoming one in mind and body with them”.

At the end of the meeting there was a rousing rendition of the Internationale by a military band and a choir. After the national meeting the mass game “Long live the Workers Party of Korea” was held. This was a dazzling array of colour, gymnastics and songs. The famous DPRK singer Kim Ok Ju sang many of the songs. In my opinion it surpassed other DPRK mass games such as “Arirang and “Glorious Country”.

The set piece of any DPRK celebration is the military parade. I had never attended a night-time DPRK military parade before. Previously I had only attended parades during the day time.

This parade was not held under easy or ideal conditions but in the rain and wind. Other countries would not have been able to do this but People’s

Korea, Korea of Juche was able to do this. The parade included the Korean People’s Army fighters who had fought for the liberation of Kursk and also new ICBM ballistic missiles. A friend from Italy said to me as the new ICBM rumbled past “that is for Washington”. At the end of the parade comrade Kim Jong Un came and waved at the crowd. To my astonishment I found myself within five metres of him. I could not believe it.

No less impressive was the Public Procession and Torchlight Gala on the 11th October in Kim Il Sung square. The sky was lit up by lasers and later fireworks. The procession was led by a float which depicted the history of the Workers Party of Korea starting with the Down With Imperialism Union. I was delighted to see modern DPRK farm tractors in the procession.

among the first

We were among the first foreigners to visit the Central Cadres Training School of the Workers Party of Korea which is situated on the outskirts of Pyongyang. It is the size of a university. Displayed at the school are the portraits of Marx and Lenin. There is also a red flag displayed in every lecture room on the instructions of Kim Jong Un who said that they must uphold the Red Flag of communism. Seeing the portraits of Marx and Lenin made me deeply realise the falsity of the ultra-leftist slanderers who assert that the DPRK had abandoned Marxism-Leninism and the communist ideal. Revisionists and ultra-leftists both criticise the DPRK from

different ends of the spectrum but at the end of the day it is just finding excuses not to support the most demonised and most advanced and revolutionary socialist country, it is also doing the dirty work of the CIA for them.

We saw that Pyongyang was a blaze of light and colour at night. The imperialists are lying when they say that there is no electricity in the DPR Korea. Rather than “everyone starving”, we saw no homeless or beggars on the streets and the guide for another delegation said that people get free housing and food only costs 0.3 dollars per month. Just compare that to the UK, No comment!

Now the construction of the 4th stage of Hwasong Street is under way, I saw it with my own eyes. This rapid development is being carried out under conditions of intense sanctions by the imperialists as well as natural disasters and the DPRK’s border being closed for four years due to the global health crisis. This development is being achieved without outside help, ‘aid’ or foreign capital. It is a miracle of self-reliance and shows what a socialist country can do when it relies on its own resources and believes in itself.

I will conclude here. I would like to thank the following for their kind assistance; Kim Kyong Chol and other guides from both the Korean Association for Cultural Exchange with Foreign Countries and the Korean Association of Social Scientists, the staff of the Koryo Hotel in Pyongyang and the DPRK Embassy in London.

Might May Rule the Moment, but Right Prevails Forever



Sun Yat-sen, 1924.

by Tings Chak & Shiran Illanperuma

ON 28th November 1924 the Chinese leader Sun Yat-sen delivered a speech in Kobe, Japan titled *China and Japan: Natural Friends, Unnatural Enemies*. Here, he outlined his progressive vision for Pan-Asianism – a world where the ‘rule of right’

would triumph over the ‘rule of might’, where the multitudes of oppressed peoples in Asia would unite to ‘terminate the sufferings of the Asiatic peoples’ and ‘resist the aggression of the powerful European countries’.

Sun Yat-sen traced Asia’s regeneration to the rise and modernisation of Japan, which had abolished unequal

treaties with the West, developed its scientific and military prowess, and successfully defended itself in a war against the Russian Empire in 1905. He ended his speech with a grave warning: “Japan today has become acquainted with the Western civilisation of the rule of might, but retains the characteristics of the Oriental civilisation

of the rule of right. Now the question remains whether Japan will be the hawk of the Western civilisation of the rule of might, or the tower of strength of the Orient. This is the choice which lies before the people of Japan”.

Western mainstream narratives of World War II (or what we prefer to call the World Anti-Fascist War) often begin with the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939 or the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941. But for millions across Asia, the war began much earlier. On 18th September 1931, Imperial Japan – gripped by the vicious logic of capitalism, fascism, and racism – staged a false-flag attack near Mukden (Shenyang). This date, known in China as the 9.18 Incident, marked the start of a brutal occupation of China and set the stage for Japan’s wider war of aggression across Asia. On 7th July 1937 Japan launched a full-scale invasion of Manchuria in north-east China. For the next eight years, the Chinese people fought an existential War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. By the conclusion of this war on 2nd September 1945, 23.6 million Chinese people had been killed (considering the years 1937 to 1945 alone) – 20.6 million direct deaths from combat and massacres, plus three million dead from the 1942 Henan famine caused by the Japanese invasion. With wounded included, total casualties rise to a staggering 35 million.

Imperial Japan’s rampage extended from north-east Chi-



Leaders Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Kim Jong Un.

na to Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), Singapore, and Burma (Myanmar). According to new research by Tricontinental, 8.7 million colonial subjects died during the World Anti-Fascist War – ten times the Anglo-American death toll. Among these were 3.4 million people killed in the Dutch East Indies (nearly 5 per cent of its population), 1.5 million in

Indochina (6.1% of its population), and 345,000 in Burma.

It wasn’t just the brutality of Japanese militarism that led to the deaths of colonial subjects – the policies of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill directly led to the Bengal famine which killed three million Indians. Colonial subjects were also on the frontlines of the battle against fascism. Around two and half million Indians fought under British command during

the war, out of whom 89,000 died in battle. These soldiers were subject to racial discrimination, segregation, and lower pay, even as they risked their lives for Britain’s sovereignty.

The horrors of war destroyed Sun Yat-sen’s dreams of pan-Asian unity, leaving the region scarred and divided. On 6th and 9th August 1945, the United States dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing over 400,000 people,

mainly citizens, and seemingly ending the war. But wars in Asia did not stop there; the region would remain a theatre of death – from the British Partition of India (1949) to the US war on Korea (1950–52) and then Vietnam (1955–1975) to the US-backed anti-communist killings in Indonesia (1965–66). On and on it went, imperialism’s blood-thirst insatiable. Sun Yat-sen called Japan and Turkey the eastern and western barricades of

Asia – according to data from a 2024 US congressional report, there are around 115 overseas US military bases between these two barricades.

On 3rd September, China commemorated the 80th anniversary of its victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War with a massive parade in Beijing. ‘Serve the people!’ roared the over 10,000 military personnel as President Xi Jinping made his rounds in the Hongqi convoy, followed by a display of the People’s Liberation Army’s modernised system of military arms and services. The celebrations were attended by twenty-six foreign leaders, including Russia’s President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. This was followed by a series of high-level discussions, including with Cuba’s President Miguel Díaz-Canel, in which China affirmed its continued support for Cuba and its fight for sovereignty and dignity.

‘Might may rule the moment, but right prevails forever. Justice, light, and progress will inevitably triumph over evil, darkness, and regression’, Xi said in his speech at the event. ‘At all times, we must always commit to the path of peaceful development, stay resolved to safeguard global peace and tranquillity, and work together to build a community with a shared future for humanity’.

Tricontinental Asia



Thousands celebrate victory.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

A cowardly group of incompetent and devious leaders from the majority of states within Europe continue to press on with policies that can only lead to a catastrophic economic collapse and possibly World War 3. Even while being humiliated by Washington over trade and tariffs they continue to grovel and eagerly obey US imperialism. The latest move by the the Dutch government is a typical example of such stupidity. Following pressure from the USA the Dutch seizure of Chinese Chipmaker Nexperia came out of the blue. Two significant outcomes are likely. International businesses will become far less willing to invest in Europe and the effects on supply chains will be disastrous.

Already panic has set in among users of mid-range microchips. Nexperia's Chinese factories, where most of the chips are made, have told suppliers that shipments of products will cease following the takeover. The Dutch move is seen as the dumbest move in recent European industrial histo-

ry. Major German car factories are preparing to stop or curtail production and many smaller businesses face ruin. The USA has succeeded in weakening Europe again and its so-called leaders have fallen for it. They should have known that being a friend of America is fatal. The reality is now that the Dutch control a redundant stolen office block while China still has the factories and technology.

Within three days of the hostile seizure, realisation that their geo-politically motivated action was turning into a disaster, the Dutch government decided to seek talks to overcome a self inflicted wound. Whatever the outcome lasting damage has been done which will reduce the credibility of the Dutch government.

The whole unsavoury debacle underlines the importance of an effective class struggle in Europe. To struggle for real socialism, with a planned economy, that supports a system that is just, respectful and honest. We need socialism and we need it now before capitalism destroys the world.

John Maryon
Suffolk

Dear Comrades

Celtic fans love to sing a song speculating about Michael Fagan's interaction with the Queen. But who was or is Michael Fagan?

Fagan was born in Clerkenwell in North London. A 31 year-old painter and decorator with a family of four, he'd been in and out of work. And he'd had his run ins with the law.

On 9th July 1982 at 6.45am he scaled one of Buckingham Palace's 14 foot perimeter walls. In doing so he carefully navigated the spikes and barbed wire.

Then after shinning up a drainpipe he entered the palace through an unlocked window.

He smashed and accidentally cut his hand on a glass ash-tray. Still undeterred and bloody from his injury he wandered the corridors in his bare feet.

At 7.15 am he made his way into the Queen's bedroom. She pressed the emergency buzzer. However the police sergeant guarding her door had gone off duty at 6 am. The footman was also exercising the dogs. Two calls to the palace receptionist also failed to bring help.

Meanwhile Fagan – visibly intoxicated on whisky – was telling the Queen about his disintegrating marriage. He even threatened to slash his wrists with shards of glass.

Eventually the Queen was able to get the attention of a maid. Fagan was ushered into a pantry and offered a cigarette until the footman returned.

Fagan is still alive by the way. When the Queen died in 2022 he said he lit a candle in a local church. Meanwhile the Celtic songs go on!

Alan Stewart
Wakefield

Dear Comrades

The Nobel Peace Prize. We've heard a lot about that prize of late, and Trump's desperate wish to win it. But, what about the life of the man who was behind that prize?

Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, the third son of Immanuel Nobel, an engineer and inventor of some note. Alfred was born in Stockholm in 1833. Having completed his studies in America, he was assistant to his father at St. Petersburg and in Sweden, whither they returned in 1854.

Nobel's first patent, for a type of gasometer, was taken out in 1857, and then he devoted himself to the researches on explosives, which were to occupy the rest of his life. He gave his attention first to nitro-glycerine, discovered in Italy in 1847, and by 1862 he had perfected the manufacture and opened a factory for the production of this explosive, known as Nobel's Blasting Oil. It began to be widely used in Sweden, in conjunction with the detonator patented by Nobel in 1864; and an explosion at his factory near Stockholm in which his brother was killed, impelled him to seek a method by which it could be handled safely. This method, that of mixing with the nitro-glycerine in a certain porous earth, was discovered by him in 1866. He called the mixture dynamite. Nobel came to England in 1871, formed the Nobel's Explosives Co Ltd and opened the Ardeer factory in the west of Scotland.

He next invented blasting gelatin and gun cotton, patenting it in 1876; and among his later inventions in this field were ballistite and nitro-cellulose smokeless powders, on which later work on smokeless powders was based. In all he took out some 120 British patents, but even these did not cover all his inventions, as was shown in 1894-95, when a series of lawsuits concerning inventions which remained uncovered by his patents was won by the British Government. He spent his later years in applying his inventions to the petroleum fields in Baku, owned by his brother and in which he himself had interests. He died at San

Diary

TUES 4 NOV

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Screening of Sankara's Orphans – on children from Burkina Faso in Cuba in 1982. 20:00, Sands Films Cinema Film, 82 St Marychurch Street, London, SE16 4HZ and online. Book on CSC website.

SAT 8 NOV

Stand Up to Racism: AGM, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD. Register on STUR website

SAT 8 NOV

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

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.

UNTIL 14 NOV

P21 Gallery: Each Child a Light, collaborative quilt project in memory of children killed in Gaza. P21 Gallery, 21-27 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD.

TUE 11–SUN 16 NOV

Havana Glasgow Film Festival. 10th Anniversary Details from <https://hgfilm-fest.com/>

THURS 13 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: UK plc in crisis: what can Marx tell us? 18:30 Hybrid panel discussion. Book on MML website.

SAT 15 NOV

Viva Venezuela: stand against fascism, imperialism and war. 13:00-18:00, Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way, London, W1T 5DJ. Book on Eventbrite.

SAT 15 NOV

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: March for peace and planet. 13:30, All Saints Park, Oxford Road, Manchester.

SAT 15 NOV

Friends of Korea: Stand of the DPRK and its People Against Imperialist Intervention. 15:00-17:00, Hybrid: Vida's Café, 2b Saltoun Rd, London SW2 1EP. For Zoom link email friendskorea@yahoo.co.uk by 14 Nov.

SUN 16 NOV

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

THURS 20 NOV

Marx Memorial Library:

Vic Clarke: Reds on the Green: Clerkenwell and Chartism. 16:00, In person, MML.

SAT 22 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Workers Organising Against Genocide Trade Union Conference. 10:00–17:00, London. Register on PSC website.

SAT 22 NOV

CND: Stop British nuclear expansion: how to reverse the government's disastrous war drive. Conference. Green House, 244-254 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9DA.

TUES 25 NOV

Peoples Assembly Against Austerity: Eve of budget protest. 18:00, opposite Downing Street, Whitehall, London SW1

THURS 27 OCT

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: The Matchwomen's Strike. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SAT 29 NOV

International Day for Palestine. Demonstration, central London Details TBA

SAT 29 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Manfred Sohn: Engels and Historical Optimism. Engels Memorial Lecture. 11:00 - 12:30. Online book on MML or WCML website.

SUN 14 DEC

Visible Women UK: Unveiling of communist writer Sylvia Townsend Warner's statue. 13:00, Goulds, South Street, Dorchester DT1 1BS.

THURS 26 JAN

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: Mary McArthur and the National Federation of Working Women. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SAT 7 FEB

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Latin America Conference. 10:00–17:00, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

FRI 13 FEB

Ipswich New Worker Group: Eyewitness account of life in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea by Dermot Hudson. 19:30, Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, Ipswich IP1 3JH.

THURS 26 FEB

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: The 1918 Equal Pay Strike. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SAT 28 FEB

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Stop British Nuke Jets – national demonstration. Assemble at RAF Marham, Upper Marham, King's Lynn PE33 9NP.

CONTACT US...

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Remo in 1896.

Nobel left a large part of his immense fortune to the establishments of the five annual Nobel prizes. They were directed to be awarded to those who had in each year distinguished themselves in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine or literature (for the most distinguished work of an idealist tendency), and to the “one who shall have acted most and best for the fraternity of nations” (The Peace Prize). The prizes were first awarded in 1901.

Some would say that Nobel’s inventions made possible many of the “greatest mining and engineering achievements” of capitalism, which without his explosives would have remained undone. But I would say that they also are responsible for many of the worst horrors of modern warfare, Nobel endeavoured to persuade himself that to increase the horrors of war was to have made war more remote. “My factories” he said “may end war sooner than your peace conferences”. Nobel’s institution of a peace prize is an indication of his doubt in his own statement.

A McKerl
Fife

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political
affairs correspondent

LAST WEEK’S report on the Scottish Green Party somewhat underestimated the discontent in the Greens’ ranks. Three of the party’s eleven councillors in Glasgow have defected to Jeremy Corbyn’s ‘Your Party’. These defections give the Corbynistas their first elected representatives in Scotland. The defections weaken, but do not end SNP and Green control of the council. At the same time it was announced that five MSP candidates have taken the same route: two in Glasgow and three in West of Scotland.

In his parting shot, one of the departing councillors said of Green MSPs that “their MSPs have their heads deep in the sand, voting to cut budgets year after year and enabling the largest sell-off of public land to

the private sector” adding with remarkable optimism “while Your Party is still in its early days, it’s the largest step toward unity that I’ve seen on the left in my lifetime”.

And Craig Murray, a former diplomat who became a Scottish independence campaigner, has also broken ranks to join the Corbynistas. Murray, the former British ambassador to Uzbekistan, was a member of the fringe nationalist Alba Party, but stood on George Galloway’s Workers Party of Britain platform at the last Westminster election in 2024 (one of the reasons he was dumped by Alba). He came a poor third in a bid to unseat Labour in the Blackburn seat in Lancashire which was won by one of the independents now in Corbyn’s bloc in the House of Commons. As the sages say – if you can’t beat them, join them...

Alba has, however, also been making the headlines for other reasons. It has been discov-

ered that in May they called in the police over “irregularities” in Party finances. Apparently, an internal investigation began before former leader Alex Salmond died last year.

The party said “a review of Alba Party HQ operations and finances was instigated by Alex Salmond while he was alive as he had concerns with the management of the party. Subsequently a number of internal financial and administrative irregularities have come to light before and after the former general secretary was dismissed for gross misconduct.” We hope that this matter is resolved quicker than the SNP’s camper-van saga, but fear it will not be nearly so entertaining.

It has also been fun and games at the SNP’s Dalkeith branch. Here local MSP Colin Beattie has been installed as convenor after what rivals said was a coup. As reported a fortnight ago the former National Treasurer offered to give

£20,000 if he was reselected. His latest triumph was apparently due to an “army of pensioners” who had never attended a branch meeting before. Ironically the ousted convenor defended Beattie. The vote means that as Branch Convenor Beattie will be now monitoring himself.

An irate member told the Scottish Mail on Sunday: “It’s bizarre and reeks of desperation. Colin knows people are unhappy because he promised huge amounts of money that haven’t materialised. Instead of dealing with it, he’s decided to take control and shut down any dissent”.

On the Castle Battlements

Historic Environment Scotland, the Government agency with a £74 million annual budget that looks after over 300 historic monuments and properties, such as churches and castles because the original owners no longer worship God or slaughter each other, has no shortage of troubles.

The Chair resigned for unknown reasons before his term of office was due to expire, after it was made clear his contract would not be renewed. A director was accused of racism for quoting Groundskeeper Willie’s “cheese-eating surrender monkeys” view of the French. Another was accused of exotic dancing in front of guests and partaking of lavish dining in HES properties. One of its 1,600 employ-

ees told the Herald on Sunday that “senior staff walk round as if they own the castles”.

The CEO appointed in September last year has just returned to work after being off sick due to stress, and it was discovered that she too had been suspended after complaints over

her conduct. She wanted to adopt a more commercial model which involved introducing admission charges at more properties and increased hiring out others for events.

Richard Hardy, national secretary for Scotland and Ireland for Prospect, the main trade union

in HES complained that “I work with over 15,000 Prospect members across different organisations in Scotland and Ireland and HES is taking up a substantial amount of my time”.

These woes come at a time when it has a backlog of urgently needed repairs which will cost £843 million to put right. While the CEO gets £145,000, HES low pay is a problem.

Pay talks recently broke down in a bad-tempered shouting match. Prospect’s officer points out that repairs to ancient properties need to be done by trained conservators and stonemasons, but “they are people who have trained up but they have a big issue with recruitment and retention because of the pay structure”. The average stonemason’s daily rate in 2025 typically ranges from £250 to £350.

FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

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New challenges for China

by New Worker correspondent

NCP LEADER Andy Brooks joined social scientists, businessmen, solidarity workers and other communists for an economic seminar at the Chinese embassy in London last week.

And the Chinese ambassador, Zheng Zeguang, opened on the new developments in China and the opportunities it gave to the world that was the theme of the symposium and the discussion that followed.

He said China is marching towards the second Centenary Goal – a call to action for the entire country to seize the momentum and advance Chinese modernisation.

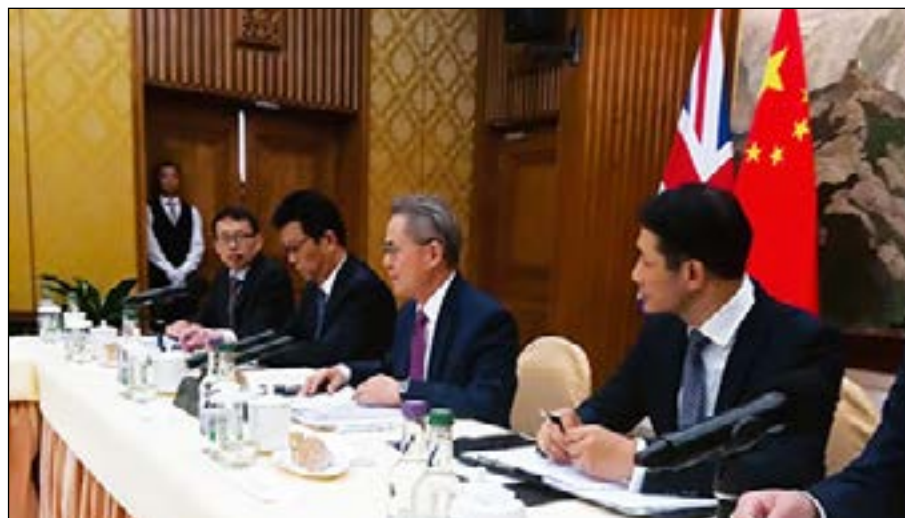
The Communist Party of China with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core sets to unite and lead the Chinese people to write yet another chapter on the mira-

cles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability and to open up new horizons for Chinese modernisation.

China was ready to share opportunities and seek common development with the world. China cannot develop in isolation from the world, while the world cannot prosper without China. While pursuing modernisation, China will strive to safeguard world peace and development.

Zheng pointed out that since last year, under the strategic guidance of the leaders from both China and Britain, positive progress has been made in China-UK relations.

But, from time to time, this relationship has also been undermined by anti-China forces. The improvement and development of China-UK relations is in the fundamental interest of people in both countries, and it



Zheng Zeguang opens the seminar.

requires the concerted efforts of both sides.

The UK side should have the right perspective. Those who attack China by touting “China threat” and fabricating lies are ignorant and arrogant. They do not represent the mainstream of the UK, and their attempts are doomed to failure. Both sides should uphold mutual respect and non-interference in each other’s internal affairs. The UK

must honour its commitment, and properly handle Taiwan-related issues in accordance with the one-China principle. The two sides should commit to mutually-beneficial co-operation, create new highlights of cooperation and bring more benefits to the two peoples.

In his contribution Andy Brooks said “stable growth, stable policies and stable expecta-

tions – this is what the people want. China’s development follows a clear direction that is taken with confidence and determination... this is China’s answer to Western calls for tariff walls and trade wars. China’s approach to development is not about fighting for your own corner but about serving the people for the benefit of the entire world...

“The imperialists

think that their guns will ensure that they can ignore the will of the people for as long as they like. But they were proved wrong in the 20th century and they will be proved wrong today.

The days when people listened to the rich men who told us that the greatest virtue of humanity was the possession of the largest amount of money are over...

Everywhere we look in the capitalist world we see unemployment, homelessness, poverty, drug abuse and crime. The symptoms of industrial decline, inflationary pressures, stock market volatility and economic stagnation. This is capitalism. And working people are being made to carry the burden of its failure. But in People’s China working people aren’t simply reacting to global challenges – they are shaping the very future of our world.”

Irish patriot remembered in Brixton

by Theo Russell

AROUND sixty activists gathered at Brixton Prison in South London last Sunday to remember Terence MacSwiney, the elected Sinn Féin Lord Mayor of Cork, Ireland, who died there after 74 days on hunger strike on 25th October 1920.

MacSwiney, who was also an author and playwright, had been arrested by the British Government for possession of “seditious articles and documents” during the 1919-21 Irish War of Independence (the “Tan War”).

After joining the hunger Cork Prison

strike he was transported to Brixton gaol.

Thomas Gould, the Sinn Féin MP for Cork North Central, told the crowd that MacSwiney was born in Knocknaheeney, Cork’s toughest working class district, and said “it’s brilliant to be here today with so many working class people, 105 years after his death”.

Gould recalled that the sisters Dolores and Marian Price were also on hunger strike in Brixton Prison, which lasted for 208 days because they were forced for 165 days.

He added: “What the Israelis are doing to Palestinian civilians, to



Outside Brixton prison.

women and children, it’s hard to believe that anyone could do these things to another human being. I would say this to ye, come out with your flags and your banners, come out and protest. The question now is do the Palestinian people have a right to exist?” he said adding that the solution to the Israel Palestine conflict

lay in a two state solution.

Gould also welcomed the election of Catherine Connolly, who was supported by Sinn Féin and other left parties in Ireland, as the country’s first female Uachtarán (president), saying it was “a great day for Ireland”.

Frank Glynn spoke for the Terence

MacSwiney Commemoration Committee about many other Irish hunger strikers, including Thomas Ashe, who died in Dublin’s Mountjoy Prison in 1917, and Michael Gaughan, who died in 1974 in Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight, both of whom dying as a direct result of violent force feeding.

Joe Murphy and Michael Fitzgerald, who were Terence MacSwiney’s comrades and also died on hunger strike in Cork Gaol in 1920; Frank Stagg, who died in 1976 in Wakefield Prison after 62 days on hunger strike; and of course the ten hunger strikers who died in the Maze Prison, Northern Ireland in 1981.

He also reminded those present that fifteen women in Armagh Women’s Prison joined the 1981 hunger strike.

The singer Sean Brady and uilleann piper Tom Lynch provided powerful songs and tunes.

The Terence MacSwiney Committee also organises for events at Parkhurst and Wakefield prisons to remember Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg.

by Ramzy Baroud

“ISRAEL CANNOT fight the world Bibi” Donald Trump declared – a direct warning he is said to have previously delivered to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin ‘Bibi’ Netanyahu. A single, candid statement by US President Donald Trump during a Fox News interview on 9th October may illuminate the true calculus behind Israel’s decision for a ceasefire in Gaza, following a relentless, two-year genocidal campaign that has tragically killed and wounded nearly a quarter of a million Palestinians.

The stark reality is that very few people around the globe currently support Netanyahu. Crucially, a significant segment of his own populace has already held him in contempt, a resentment that predates the war on Gaza – a war which he treated as a desperate, personal quest for renewed domestic popularity.

Yet, his delusion persists. Even as millions globally protest his systematic extermination of innocent Palestinians, Netanyahu has seemingly convinced himself that world opinion is miraculously shifting in his favour – a shift that would require the world to have liked him in the first place. But what precisely did Trump mean by “you cannot fight the world”?

The term “fight” here clearly transcends physical combat. Gaza, besieged, starved, and devastated, was the entity enduring the physical confrontation. Trump’s reference is unambiguously to the combative surge of anti-Israel sentiment worldwide: the official sanctions imposed by nations like Spain, the critical legal proceedings initiated at the world’s highest courts, the widespread demands for boycott, the organising of freedom flotillas and more.

It is profoundly sig-

Israel: ‘You cannot fight the world’



Protesting for Palestine in Dublin.

nificant that, in the minds of both Washington and Tel Aviv, these global events have registered as a serious strategic concern. Future historians will likely designate this moment as the definitive turning point in global attitudes toward the Israeli occupation of Palestine. If deliberately and strategically fostered by Palestinians, this burgeoning solidarity movement holds the potential to fully isolate Israel, compelling it to finally relent and free the Palestinian people from its enduring system of colonialism and apartheid.

However, “Bibi” is not merely losing the world; he is fundamentally losing America itself. For decades, the United States has operated as Israel’s indispensable benefactor, underwriting every war, financing every illegal settlement, justifying

every act of violence, and consistently blocking any international attempt to hold Israel accountable.

The reasons for America’s decades-long, unwavering commitment to sustaining Israel are profoundly complex. While the overwhelming influence of the powerful pro-Israel lobby in Washington and Israel’s disproportionate sway over major media are correctly cited as factors, the dynamic is far deeper.

core values

The prevailing, mutually reinforced narrative in both Israel and the United States has consistently framed Israel not merely as an ally, but as a crucial, essential extension of America’s political identity and core values.

Yet, cracks in this political edifice began to appear with unmistakable

clarity. What were once marginalised dissenting voices, often labelled as ‘radicals’ within the American left, gradually solidified into mainstream dissent, particularly within the Democratic Party. Poll after poll demonstrated a mass shift, with the majority of Democrats turning against Israeli policy and lending their support, instead, to the Palestinian people and their rightful struggle for freedom. One of the most telling polls was conducted by Gallup in March 2025. It found that 59 per cent of Democratic voters say they sympathise more with Palestinians, while only 21 per cent say they sympathise more with Israelis.

The Israeli genocide in Gaza catalysed more than just dissent within one of America’s two major political parties. Outright opposition to Israel has rapidly be-

come mainstream, transcending traditional political lines – a rupture that has profoundly alarmed those determined to maintain the illusion that Israel can act with impunity, free from American objection.

The pro-Israel media apparatus in the USA fought a shameful war to obscure the extent of the Israeli genocide. It consistently sought to blame Palestinians for Israel’s actions and brazenly promoted the insidious notion that the war against Gaza’s innocents was a necessary component of the ever-elusive ‘war on terror.’

But it was ordinary people, powerfully amplified by countless social media platforms, who collectively fought back. They successfully defeated a mainstream propaganda machine that had, for decades, served as the primary

defence line for Israel.

A particularly troubling fact for Israel was the erosion of its newly established base of support: the Evangelicals and the broader Republican party. Polling indicated a significant exodus, especially among young Republican voters. A survey conducted by the University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll in August 2025 found that only 24 per cent of Republican voters aged 18–34 said they sympathize more with Israelis than with Palestinians.

According to the American news outlet Politico, Israel even attempted to manipulate social media by paying influencers significant sums of money to circulate Israeli fabrications and deception. That campaign employed roughly 600 fake profiles posting over 2,000 co-ordinated comments per week, targeting more than 120 US lawmakers.

But can Israel possibly swing the narrative back in its favour? While vast sums of money will, undoubtedly, be committed to launching sophisticated campaigns aimed at polishing Israel’s severely tarnished image, the efforts will prove futile. The once-marginalised Palestinian narrative has surged, becoming a powerful, compelling moral authority worldwide. The strong, unyielding, and dignified resilience of the Palestinian people has garnered global sympathy and galvanized support in ways unprecedented in history.

This new reality may very well represent Zionist propaganda’s final stand, as truly no amount of money, newspaper coverage, or Netflix specials can ever successfully polish the image of a state that has so openly committed a genocide, one of the most thoroughly documented in recorded history.

People’s World (USA)

UN again calls for end of Cuba blockade

THE UNITED Nations General Assembly has once again called for an end to the decades-long US economic embargo on Cuba, defying Washington's sustained pressure campaign to influence the vote.

The 193-member body overwhelmingly approved a resolution condemning the embargo for the 33rd consecutive year, with 165 countries voting in favour, seven against, and 12 abstaining.

"We cannot underestimate the impor-

tance, the impact, of the powerful message year after year by the General Assembly, which is the most democratic, representative body of the international community," Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez stated after the vote on Wednesday. "It is not binding, but it is powerful," the top Cuban diplomat added.

He had urged the countries to back the resolution again, Rodriguez said that "doing so would be an act of justice in favour of a peace-loving people



that is facing not only the blockade, but with the blockade, another monstrous hurricane".

The Cuban foreign

minister told the media on Monday that his government had heard from other countries, especially European

states, that Washington was pushing them to vote against the resolution.

The US embargo

was first imposed in 1960, following the Cuban revolution led by Fidel Castro and has since expanded in scope.

In 2016, the then-US president Barack Obama officially restored relations with Havana. However, his successor, Donald Trump, in his first term, reversed these efforts, intensifying sanctions. The embargo continued under Trump's successor, Joe Biden, and was tightened again after Trump returned to office this year.

ABNA

Sectarian violence sweeps Syria

by Adonis Qabbani

SINCE EARLY September, the Syrian city of Homs has been gripped by a surge of violence, killings, and kidnappings targeting civilians, turning it into a forgotten city ruled by chaos and fear.

The numbers alone reveal the scale of the tragedy: over 42 deliberate murders, claiming the lives of 32 young men, four women, three elderly men, and three children, along with 15 kidnappings, including two young women.

According to local sources, most perpetrators belong to Bedouin factions spread across the city, often using motorcycles to carry out their deadly attacks. Others are reportedly members of the 'General Security Directorate', accused of executing

civilians at checkpoints for sectarian reasons.

Local authorities in Homs have shown no serious effort to address this collapse in public safety. No arrests, no investigations, no deterrent measures – as if what is happening were none of their concern.

Meanwhile, arbitrary arrests and raids have expanded across rural areas such as Al-Hamidiyah, Al-Muhajireen, Umm al-Azam, Fahel, Al-Mahfourah, and Jabourin, as well as Tal-kalakh and Al-Qusayr.

The security chaos in Homs cannot be understood in isolation from the broader struggle for influence within the regime itself or from the social and economic fragmentation that has afflicted the city in recent years.

Local militias, which are supposed to operate under the



Syrians protest against killings.

state's umbrella, now compete for control over neighbourhoods and main roads, driven by financial interests and the smuggling of fuel and food supplies, while residents live between the hammer of fear and the anvil of poverty.

This gradual erosion of the concept of "the state" has made weap-

ons the only guarantee of security, and loyalty – rather than competence – the standard for survival. Homs has thus become a microcosm of Syria itself: a country torn between competing authorities that share the destruction while leaving civilians to face their fate alone.

Beyond lawlessness, Homs is witnessing

what appears to be a targeted campaign of intimidation with sectarian motives.

Armed men have been throwing grenades at homes in neighbourhoods such as Al-Nazihin, Al-Sabeel, Al-Muhajireen, Karm al-Zeitoun, and Al-Zahraa – mostly Alawi Shia-majority areas – to terror-

ise residents and force them to flee. This organised violence seems designed to alter the city's demographic fabric through fear and forced displacement.

What is happening in Homs today is not a passing phase of unrest, but a stark manifestation of state collapse in areas supposedly under government control.

When a city once known as the "capital of the revolution" becomes a stronghold of fear, and when justice is replaced by loyalty, Homs becomes a dark mirror reflecting the fate of all Syria.

Homs has been abandoned – just like the Syrian people were long ago. While regional powers redraw their zones of influence, the blood of civilians remains the only fuel keeping this endless nightmare alive.

Telesur