

JAN.  
1-31,  
2015  
  
VOL. 23  
#1  
  
\$1.50

# people's VOICE

**Mewa Singh,  
Canadian hero**  
*See pages 6-7*

Printed in Canada by union labour  
on recycled paper  118-M  
Publications Mail Agreement #40011632

## ***After the Paris killings:***



# No to racism!

# Unite to defend civil liberties and democracy

*See pages 2 & 4*

# The Five Cuban Heroes are free at last! - *page 5*



### **3** BC labour

After 15 years in office and leading a wide range of important working class struggles, BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair steps down, as a new President and Secretary-Treasurer are elected.

### **INSIDE**

### **9** War in Afghanistan

Maybe you thought the war in Afghanistan was finally over after 13 long years, but 10,000 U.S. troops are still deployed.

### **12** Boycott Israel!

The Israeli government and its backers in North America are outraged by the ongoing "Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions" campaign - because it might actually be effective.

# After the Paris attacks: far right on the rise

By Adrien Welsh, PV correspondent in Paris

On January 8th, the weekly satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo was the target of an armed attack in Paris. The famous cartoonists Jean Cabut ("Cabu"), Georges Wolinsky and Stéphane Charbonnier, who both collaborated with the newspaper L'Humanité (historically linked to the French Communist Party) were among the victims.

This is the deadliest attack in France since 1961 when a bomb - placed by the Secret Army Organization (OAS), an ultra-right paramilitary group fighting to maintain French colonization over Algeria - exploded under a train, killing 28 people.

It didn't take long for solidarity actions to be organized. Caricaturists around the world drew tributes. On the evening of the tragedy, thousands of people around France gathered to mourn, many holding the placard *Je suis Charlie* (*I am Charlie*).

Political declarations also came fast enough. President Francois Hollande called for "national unity", urging people to gather in the streets, and identifying a "direct, savage attempt to attack [France's] dearest republican principles, freedom of speech."

The Socialist Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, invited former President Nicolas Sarkozy and his rightist party UMP as well as other political formations to the "Republican March" on Sunday, January 11. Rallies that day gathered about 3.7 million people in total, of which 2 million in Paris, as most important political forces called people to the streets.

Sarkozy's Party also called for "national unity", saying that everybody "attached to the values of our Civilization, whatever their partisan choices are, have to be united against barbarism." The ultra-right and xenophobic Front National declared that *ihadism* is not only a question of foreign policy, but also "an internal threat". They were the first to use this

tragedy as a political manoeuvre, calling for a referendum on the death penalty, stronger border controls, and a fight against the "decadence" of the French nationality. The FN did not participate in the Paris Republican March, which was attended by no less than 40 foreign heads of state, including Mariano Rajoy from Spain, David Cameron (UK), Matteo Renzi (Italy), and Angela Merkel (Germany). Also present were Viktor Orban, the Prime Minister of Hungary (said by Amnesty International to be the one who killed freedom of the press in his country), Benjamin Netanyahu, who assassinated 17 journalists last summer, and the General Secretary of NATO.

Many countries issued solidarity declarations and demonstrations were held around the world in solidarity with the victims. On January 8, Stephen Harper declared that "the international jihadist movement has declared war", with the clear intention of using this tragedy to justify the latest imperialist war in Iraq. In an election year, this can only be beneficial for his Conservatives.

In France, the general feeling is that freedom of the press was attacked and that the people should therefore unite behind republican values. But a more critical analysis is needed.

Of course, this act needs to be firmly denounced. Islamo-fascist elements certainly have to be defeated through unity, but not through unity behind the ruling class which is, in many respects, responsible for what happened.

This tragedy has a lot to do with France's involvement in different imperialist wars (Mali, Libya, Iraq, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, etc.) and with the austerity policies implemented by governments which contribute to a general mood of social and economic distress, paving the way for the emergence of a more organized ultra-right.

The Hollande government's role is particularly important in this affair. Since the beginning of its

mandate, its goal has been to set the debate so that some fundamental issues are not discussed. This was the case when mobilizations against gay marriage paved the way for the ultra-right. On the other side, the government attacked the labour movement through austerity measures even stronger than what the right could have accomplished.

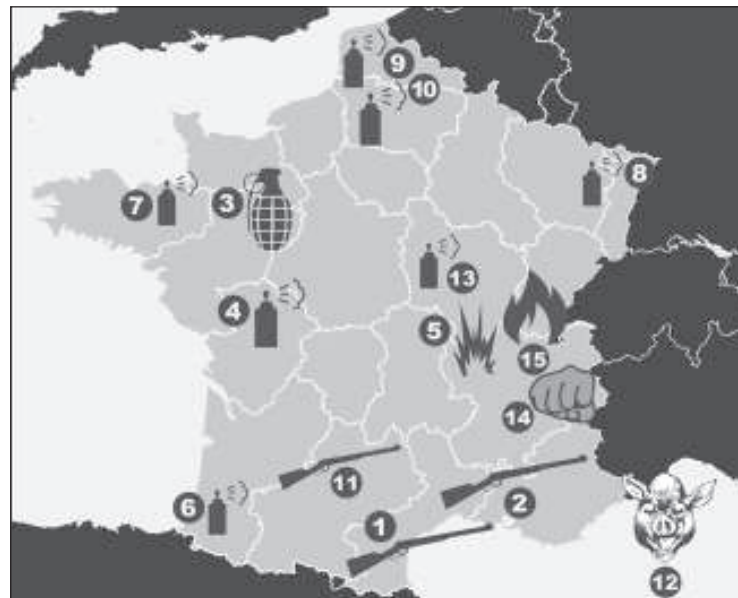
This has to be understood in a completely electoral perspective: to win the next national elections in 2017, Hollande and the Socialist Party must ensure that they confront the ultra-right in the second round vote.

If we try to define who will benefit politically from the Charlie Hebdo attacks, Hollande is not in a bad position. With a popularity barely above 10% a few weeks ago, he managed to organize the biggest supportive rally in French history! Internationally, many top EU leaders were claiming that Hollande's "reforms" were going too slow; well, they all marched along with Hollande on Jan. 11!

The crowd marched behind the President and a big chunk of the G8, under the banner of "national unity", for the values of the republic, singing the national anthem, flags in hand and chanting slogans like "vive la France!", "liberté, égalité, fraternité", all of these being symbols generally associated with right-wing rallies.

It was also shocking to see people with pacifist placards saying "no to arms", while French troops were killing people in Iraq. It will now be much more difficult to oppose the imperialist foreign policy. Also, while everybody keeps talking about these events, the government will have no problem adopting its new budget, which ironically includes extending the workday on Sundays. Had the attacks taken place a few months later, the crowd would probably be reduced, as more people would be working.

The general feeling of the people is that these attacks targeted freedom of the press. Analysing this more deeply, we can understand that the government wanted people



Anti-Muslim attacks after the Charlie Hebdo massacre, recorded up to 6:30 pm, Jan. 9, 2015.

1. Shots fired at a prayer room in Port-La-Nouvelle.
  2. Car belonging to a Muslim family targeted by gunfire in Vaucluse.
  3. Three training grenades thrown at a mosque in Le Mans.
  4. The gate of a mosque in Poitiers tagged with graffiti stating "morts aux arabes" (death to Arabs).
  5. Explosion of "criminal origin" targets a kebab shop near a mosque in the town of Villefranche-sur-Saone in Rhone.
  6. Graffiti found outside a mosque in Bayonne, reading "Charlie freedom", "assassins", and "dirty Arabs."
  7. In Rennes, Islamic cultural centre vandalized with the slogan "outside" in Breton and French.
  8. Proposed mosque in Haut-Rhin vandalized with the slogan "Ich bin Charlie" ("je suis Charlie" in German)
  - 9 & 10. In northern France, two proposed mosque sites vandalized with anti-Islamic graffiti.
  11. Four gunshots fired towards the entrance of a mosque near Albi in southern France.
  12. In Corsica, a boar's head and entrails is left outside a prayer room, along with a note that reads, "next time it will be one of your heads."
  13. In Macon, a street is vandalized with the slogan "Islam is going to f\*ck you - Charlie"
  14. A 17-year-old of North African descent is assaulted by a gang after suffering racist abuse near Isere.
  15. Mosque in Aix-les-Bains catches fire in a suspected arson.
- Source: [www.tellmamauk.org](http://www.tellmamauk.org)

to think this, more so than the spontaneous reaction. The first to set this tone was Prime Minister Valls who declared the attacks a stab at the heart of France.

But what happened was not just about a satirical weekly newspaper, which had a nasty editorial line dividing people through its extreme anti-religious rhetoric. This was actually the fourth attack in about a month, along with others in Joué-les-Tours, Dijon and Nantes in the last week of December. Nor was the attack against Charlie Hebdo the only one by the Kouachi brothers and Amedy Coulibaly. It was just an attack perpetrated by a reactionary Islamist group, but the slogan of press freedom was used by the government as a useful propaganda tool.

The truth is that newspaper most often censored, and which suffered repeated attacks from ultra-right groups, to a point that security militia had to be organized for its distribution in the 1970s-80s, is L'Humanité, the journal of the Communist Party.

Another important point is the strong international support for Charlie Hebdo. Literally thousands of people have rallied in cities around the world. Montréal's mayor, Denis Coderre, took part in one gathering, saying "tonight, we are all French". This certainly means that the tragedy will be replayed worldwide to further justify imperialist aggression.

By comparison, the war in Syria has killed 153 journalists to date, but they didn't get the same treatment as their colleagues from

Charlie Hebdo. Probably because they were killed by the allies of imperialism against El-Assad's government.

Of course, mourning the dead is important, as well as struggling for this to never happen again. But it is equally important to denounce the ruling class and the policies it implements to divide the working class.

What will happen in the next few months? Islamophobic feelings will divide the people, and this mobilization will be used as a pretext to increase the aggressiveness of French imperialism, to attack civil liberties, and to silence opposition. Ultimately, the ultra-right will benefit.

Actually, this has already started. Valérie Pécresse, former Minister for Higher Education and Research under Sarkozy, has called for a French version of the Patriot Act. One day after the March, MPs voted for an internet censorship law which will allow the government to shut down websites without needing the approval of a judge. Several attacks against the Muslim community of France have already been perpetrated.

Of course, the world is amazed at how many people walked down the streets to *Place de la Nation*. But what is needed now is unity in action, unity in the struggle, unity against austerity measures and for a people's alternative, not unity behind those responsible for the wars, exploitation, and crises which foster the rise of the ultra-right, fascism and islamism. ●

## Dentistry misogyny at Dalhousie

By Nicole Hattie, Halifax

A widespread public outcry has been heard across Nova Scotia following news that 13 male Dalhousie Dentistry students were members of a self-described "gentlemen's facebook page" used to discuss chauvinistic and misogynistic messages. The men engaged in a poll, which asked who they would like to "hate fuck," and discussed using chloroform to rape women. The results of the poll were posted on Dec. 6 - the 25th anniversary of the Montreal massacre.

The response by some people, like the Globe and Mail's Margaret Wente, has been to say that this was a "joke" and should not be taken as a direct attack on women. But many labour, community and women's groups sharply disagree. A protest of approximately 300 students, faculty and other people on Dalhousie's campus rallied against all forms of sexism and harassment, denouncing the university's approach as unacceptable.

Bowing somewhat to public pressure, Dalhousie president Richard Florizone later suspended the men from clinical duties at the Dalhousie clinic, saying the school is looking at many options and is not ruling out expulsions. Despite this, many continue to be outraged.

These violent sexualized acts of hate speech had reportedly been taking place months prior and the university was well aware. However, nothing was done about the issue until it went "viral" in the media. There had also been reports of a male professor showing sexualized videos in class that objectified women as a way to "wake the male students up."

The dentistry programme at Dal is, it appears, basically a sexist "old boys club" for the sons of Nova Scotia's well-heeled elite.

The university unilaterally decreed a policy of restorative justice, despite objections from some of the women involved. They argued that Dalhousie has to also take into consideration the effect of these events on the broader

public. Avalon, the sexual assault centre in Halifax Regional Municipality, called for more than a restorative justice approach to be taken into consideration, stressing that the men involved in the facebook page were still potentially to be given access to sedatives and clinical duties.

As a female student of the Dalhousie social work program, and a person who has worked for a women's centre as an outreach worker for a program that sought to fight back against sexual violence, I am not shocked that this sort of behaviour is alive and well. Furthermore, I am not shocked that the initial response of the president was to cover the school. The University administration had a choice that could have led in a direction that would both facilitate women to have a voice, and to set the precedent that Dalhousie does not and will not tolerate sexualized violence.

The misogyny at Dal comes on

see DALHOUSIE, p. 11

# Communist Parties hold 16th annual meeting in Ecuador

By Drew Garvie, the Communist Party of Canada's representative at the 16th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties

The 16th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties (IMCWP) took place Nov. 13-15, 2014 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fifty-three Communist Parties from 44 different countries sent representatives.

The theme of the meeting was declared as "The role of Communist and Workers' Parties in the struggle against imperialism and capitalist exploitation - which causes crises and wars and gives rise to fascist and reactionary forces. For workers' and peoples' rights and for national and social emancipation; for socialism".

The Communist Party of Ecuador was the host of this latest annual meeting of the international Communist movement. Guayaquil holds a special place in the struggles of Ecuador because of its militant history. After an independent revolt by the population of the city, Simon Bolivar and San Martin (the two great liberators of South America from Spanish colonial rule) decided to use the city as their only meeting place in 1822. The historical figure of Bolivar has become a symbol of independence from US imperialism in the 21st century, especially thanks to the "Bolivarian Revolution" in Venezuela.

In 1922, one hundred years after the famous anti-colonial meeting, Guayaquil became the site of a massive general strike of great importance to the Ecuadorian labour movement. The strike was met with bloody state repression by the army and police, with the wealthy of the city also shooting at workers from their balconies. Thousands of strikers were slaughtered over a few short hours, their bodies thrown into the river. November 15th marked the 92nd anniversary of the "crosses above the water" massacre.

Delegates of the IMCWP accompanied hundreds of militants from the Communist Party of Ecuador in a march to the waterfront. The participating parties denounced ongoing repression against Communists, trade unionists and members of people's movements that is occurring around the world.

The meeting itself was an opportunity to share developments and analysis on the struggles of all the Parties present, and those which were unable to attend but sent greetings. The meeting highlighted the need for unity in action in the face of the capitalist economic crisis, which has led to an increase in imperialist aggression and the rise of fascist and reactionary forces.

to fight the turn by the ruling class of many countries towards war, austerity and the removal of democratic rights, the Communist Parties adopted plans for several joint actions. This includes the immediate need to fight for peace and against the new imperialist aggression in Iraq and Syria and "the manipulation of the so-called fight against terrorism". The meeting acknowledged that the

Islamic State and other "extreme reactionary groups" are "supported by imperialism and reactionary states".

Specifically on the question of militarism, the international Communist movement will denounce imperialist military bases and will also focus on NATO's "Trident Juncture 2015". This will be NATO's largest military exercise in 20 years, set to take place in October and November 2015 in Spain and Portugal. The meeting also highlighted the need for common action against the US and the EU's intervention in Ukraine and their support for fascism and anti-communism in that country, as well as increased aggression on the continent of Africa.

The Parties renewed their pledge to carry out solidarity work with Palestine, by organizing actions on the 29th of November, the United Nation's "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People". A solidarity visit to Palestine will also be organized by international Communist Parties.

With strong participation from Communist and Workers' Parties from Latin America, the meeting discussed the struggle for sovereignty and the many victories achieved in this part of the world. Ricardo Patino, Ecuador's Foreign Minister, addressed the meeting and highlighted the government's removal of the US military base, and the renegotiation of the debt, saying that the current government "has the political will to confront imperialism".

In the statement on joint actions, the meeting condemned "imperialist impositions, interferences, and aggressions" in Latin America, and reaffirmed "solidarity with the struggles for the construction of socialism". The Parties present highlighted the important role of Socialist Cuba and planned to continue work to end the US blockade, and to counteract the war against Cuba carried out by the corporate media.

The joint actions planned for 2015 also include the integration of important upcoming anniversaries into the work of the Parties. This includes commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Fascism. The meeting pledged to highlight the role of the USSR and the Communist Parties in defeating Nazism, and to reinforce the struggle against the reactionary rewriting of history and whitewashing of fascism. This holds particular importance for democratic forces in Canada, who are fighting the Harper government's multi-million dollar commitment to build a "monument to the victims of Communism", and Harper's role in supporting fascism in Ukraine. Last fall, Canada became one of only three countries in the world to vote against a recent UN resolution condemning the glorification of Nazism.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the victory of Vietnam against the United States. The meeting recognized the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people and agreed to integrate the anniversary in the Parties' work for 2015.



Winston Alarcon, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Ecuador (at podium) addresses delegates. Photos by Drew Garvie.



Communist Party of Ecuador members prepare to march in commemoration of the "crosses above the water" massacre.

Several international anti-imperialist mass organizations have anniversaries this year that will be used by the Communist Parties to strengthen their work. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), and the World Federation

of Democratic Youth (WFDY) are all commemorating 70 years since their founding, and the World Peace Council is celebrating its 65th anniversary. Parties also committed to mobilizing for May 1st, International Workers' Day, to support struggles "for the labour, social and democratic rights of

workers".

There was a frank exchange on the different approaches to building socialism in the Parties' respective countries, which will be continued at future meetings. The "Working Group" consisting of several Communist Parties which coordinate these important meetings, has received an offer from the Communist Party, Turkey to host the upcoming 2015 meeting. It was also agreed that the Working Group and Communist Parties from Eastern Europe, would initiate a review of whether it is possible to host the 2017 meeting in a country from the ex-USSR, in order to commemorate the centenary of the 1917 October Revolution.

The 16th IMCWP completed its work at a critical juncture for the Communist movement, full of new dangers and opportunities. The meeting was a success in developing unity in action amongst the Parties, and did its part to strengthen the international working class movement against war and reaction, and for socialism. ●

## BC Fed elects new leadership

By Peter Marcus, Vancouver

Late November saw the last convention of the B.C. Federation of Labour to be led by Jim Sinclair as President in his tenure of 15 years. The new contest leadership became the prime focus of the attending delegates.

In his final speech as President, Sinclair brought the house to its feet, condemning government attacks on health care, education and social services, tax cuts for big business and the rich, and the assault on workers and unions. He talked of the Federation's legacy over the last fifteen years of supporting workers inside or outside the house of labour, such as IKEA workers, teachers, North Shore Winter Club employees, the mushroom farm workers killed on the job by poison gas, women farmworkers killed in an unsafe van accident and a night gas station attendant murdered trying to stop a thief, leading to Grant's Law which was to protect

such workers.

But the tone for the convention was set by the debate over a resolution to reject strategic voting in the next federal election, by supporting only the NDP in order to defeat the Stephen Harper Conservatives. Despite opposition from the majority of unions represented on the Executive Council, delegates narrowly voted in favour after three attempts.

Both NDP leaders, John Horgan (provincial) and Tom Mulcair (federal) spoke to the convention. They supported a child care campaign and the \$15 an hour minimum wage (which was the focus of a lunch-hour rally), but neither spoke about more substantive issues, such as the demand for "living wage" jobs.

The convention also endorsed resolutions to oppose the Canadian European Trade Agreement (CETA), without mentioning NDP support of these so-called trade agreements, which have caused massive job losses to the Canadian working class. The anti-strategic

voting resolution gives a blank cheque to the NDP to do as it pleases once in office.

Many progressive resolutions were passed, mostly on social justice and labour issues, including one unanimously opposing Kinder Morgan's application to twin its pipeline from Alberta to Burnaby. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, told delegates he would go to Burnaby Mountain to confront Kinder Morgan's test drilling for the pipeline. Chief Phillip was among those arrested, but the company later ended its drilling and all charges were dropped.

What was missing was any substantive element of class struggle. Most resolutions talked about lobbying, instead of engaging the working class and its allies with extra-parliamentary action. A good example was the Canada Pension Plan, which has

see BC Fed, page 4

# EDITORIALS

## We are not Charlie Hebdo

Sometimes people should just stay off a dangerous bandwagon. After the murders of Charlie Hebdo cartoonists, many politicians and media outlets are whipping up racism and hatred of Muslims. We have no sympathy for the despicable Paris killers. Nobody has the right to execute journalists for the supposed "crime" of mocking religion, let alone slaughter people who are in the wrong place at the wrong time. But neither should elected leaders scapegoat entire religions for political advantage.

Unfortunately, the current tendency is to fan outrage over certain deaths, while ignoring others. Dozens of journalists are killed every year, often while exposing right-wing death squads and corrupt officials in countries such as Colombia, or reporting on armed conflicts, including 153 to date in Syria. Such deaths rarely hit the news in Canada. After all, the killings in Syria are mostly carried out by our brave allies, the armed gangs fighting the Assad government. (These brutal thugs are also our mortal enemies, but pay no attention to these sordid details.) Nor has Stephen Harper accused Colombia's fascist killers of "declaring war against civilization," since Canadian corporations have sizable investments in that country.

The truth is that dead journalists are sometimes quite useful as a pretext to scrap civil liberties and democratic rights, and boost spending on the military and police. That is the tragic fate of the Paris cartoonists. So excuse us for not joining the clamor to "defend western values." No, we are not Charlie Hebdo. But we will continue to demand: end NATO's wars, stop Israel's occupation of Palestine, reverse austerity policies and environmental destruction, and establish an independent Canadian foreign policy of peace and disarmament. Not least, we will keep resisting the Harper regime's strategy to suppress dissent through mass surveillance and the politics of fear.

## The rich get richer - again

Welcome to 2015. Unless you are Gerry Schwartz or another one of Canada's 100 highest paid CEOs, you actually have to work for a living. Or perhaps you are retired or a student, having worked all your life or hoping to land a decent job. In either case, Mr. Schwartz and his pals earned more before lunchtime on the first working day of January than you will during this entire year... on average, of course. If you have a higher-paying job than most, it could take one of the top 100 until quitting time to match your 2015 income. On the other hand, a minimum wage earner was left in the dust by morning coffee break.

The annual CEO pay review published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) drives the corporate elite bonkers. It's not fair, whines the Fraser Institute: the CCPA counts stock options and other perks as compensation! Even worse, the CCPA leaves out lower-paid executives, who would drag the CEO average figures down to "reasonable" levels.

Oh, boo hoo. Mr. Schwartz was paid \$87.9 million in 2013, but even Number 100 took home \$4.14 million, an increase of 30% over the 2008 figure. Working people were smacked hard by the capitalist crisis of 2007-08. But after an initial drop, pay for the top 100 soon rebounded to pre-crisis glory days, to an average \$9.2 million, or 195 times the average Canadian income of \$47,358. These big bosses "earned" 237 times the average salary of women employees, showing that some things really never change.

And here's another nugget to consider: 43 of the top 100 CEOs have a defined benefit pension plan worth an average of \$1.39 million a year, and 75 received stock options as part of their 2013 pay package, worth an average of \$3.16 million.

Yes, it's tough for the ultra-rich when their wealth is exposed for the world to see. Before long, people will start talking about taxing the greedy, not the needy. Will the horror never end?

## PEOPLE'S VOICE

ISSN number 1198-8657 Published by New Labour Press Ltd.  
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40011632

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Circulation Dept.,  
People's Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1  
Tel: 604.255.2041 Email: pvoice@telus.net

### Volunteers and contributors for this issue:

Dave Arland, Ed Bil, Johan Boyden, Wally Brooker,  
Drew Garvie, Nicole Hattie, Peter Marcus, T.J. Petrowski,  
Chevy Phillips, Liz Rowley, Adrien Welsh, and our mailers  
in Vancouver & Toronto.

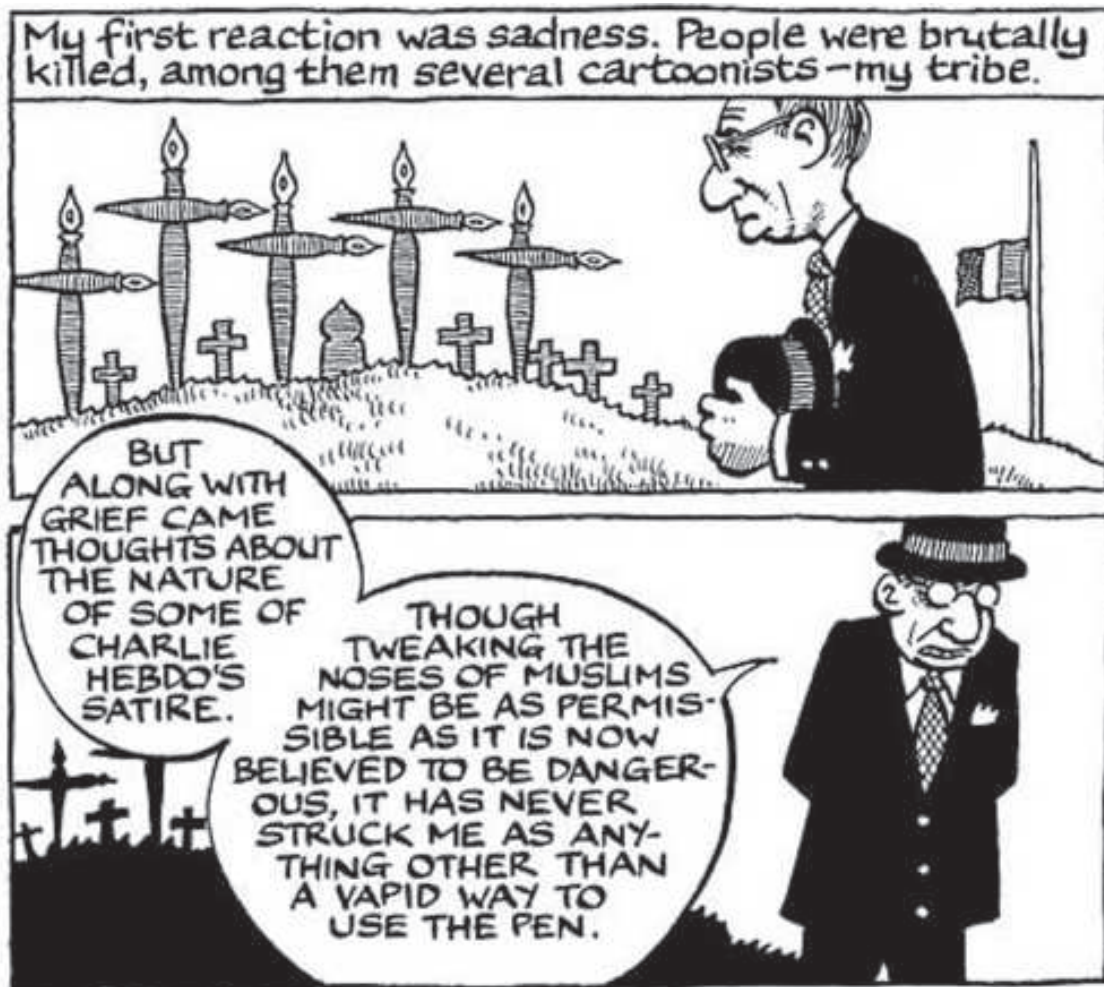
Editor: Kimball Cariou Business Manager: Hassan Azimikor

Editorial Board: Kimball Cariou, Miguel Figueroa,  
Doug Meggison, Naomi Rankin, Liz Rowley, Jim Sacouman

## LETTERS

People's Voice welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity, and to refuse to print letters which may be libellous or which contain personal attacks. Send your views to: "Letters to the Editor"  
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1 or  
pvoice@telus.net

People's Voice articles may be reprinted without permission provided the source is credited.



From "Why Je Suis NOT Charlie Hebdo," by the famous cartoonist Joe Sacco

## BC Federation of Labour convention....

continued from page 4

not been improved through lobbying on its own. Instead, the Tories raised the age to receive Old Age Security to 67 years.

Another gaping hole was foreign policy issues, such as Canadian Armed Forces involvement in foreign wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Canadian support for the coup regime backed by fascists in Ukraine and for Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, and the "free trade" deals. One reason for the silence may be that the working class are focused on domestic struggles in Canada



Irene Lanzinger

## Dalhousie misogyny....

continued from page 2

top of the federal Harper government continuing to refuse the ongoing call for a cross-Canada inquiry into the thousands of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, and while Nova Scotia is still reeling from the death of Rehtaeh Parsons. Today's "rape culture," sexual violence, the control and objectification of women's bodies, and oppressive patriarchal family structures, are all reinforced by the austerity budgets and neoliberal policies of the McNeil Liberal government.

Nova Scotia needs to make a sharp break with this direction and guarantee the full equality of all

rather than the situation elsewhere, but the Mulcair NDP expresses little difference with the government on these issues. Another area missed was the issue of nationalization of resources and banks. The discussions had a defensive tone around fighting privatization, contracting out and deregulation.

Irene Lanzinger, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer over the past four years, won the presidential vote by just 57 votes over Amber Hochin, 1137 to 1080. Lanzinger was backed by several unions widely considered to be more militant or left-leaning, such as Unifor, Hospital Employees Union, CUPW, the BC Teachers Federation, and local labour councils. She becomes the first woman President of the BCFL, and the first teachers' union activist to lead a provincial labour federation in English-speaking Canada.

Since Lanzinger did not have a running mate, it had been expected that Hochin's fellow candidate Aaron Ekman would win the Secretary-Treasurer position by acclamation. However, without campaigning, Howard Huntly of

the ILWU (Longshore) union, was nominated from the floor and won a substantial 722 votes to Ekman's 1077.

The Hochin-Ekman alliance was supported by CUPE, BCGEU, Steelworkers and other unions identified more closely with the NDP rather than independent labour political strategies. They were sharply critical of the loss of union membership during Sinclair's tenure. But unlike Lanzinger, they did not link this trend to mass layoffs, operations closings, and attacks on unions by corporate employers, or to the government cuts, contracting out, and legislative changes which have made it harder for unions to organize.

Perhaps ironically, Hochin and Ekman campaigned as the candidates of change, yet had the support of several unions which backed Ken Georgetti last spring when the long-serving CLC President sought a sixth term. Irene Lanzinger, on the other hand, was backed by unions which supported Hassan Yussuff in his successful bid to become the new CLC President. •

## Renew today!

### Check your label

Please check the address label on the front page to see if it's time to renew. Subscribers who find "2015/01/01" on their label, for example, will have their subscriptions expire with this issue, January 1-31, 2015

Don't miss a single copy - renew today!

# A win-win agreement for the peoples of Cuba, the United States, and all of this hemisphere!

**Statement by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Canada on the historic announcement of December 17, 2014 regarding the thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations**

The simultaneous statements by U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro Ruiz are of great historic significance. The comprehensive package of measures aimed at improving the economic, political and diplomatic relations between these two countries signals the beginning of the end to one of the darkest periods in the history of this hemisphere - the 50-plus years of U.S. aggression and blockade against socialist Cuba and her people.

The negotiated agreement calls for the immediate mutual release of Alan Gross (convicted and imprisoned on the charge of espionage by a Cuban court in 2011) and the three remaining imprisoned members of the Cuban Five - Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino and Antonio Guerrero - who have been unjustly jailed in the U.S. since 1998. It also includes the release of another CIA spy held by Cuban authorities, and some other Cuban "political prisoners" at the request of the U.S.

The agreement also calls for the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries, including the reopening of embassies in Washington and Havana; the easing of business and travel restrictions, making it easier for Americans to obtain licenses to do business in Cuba and to travel to the island; the removal of certain banking restrictions so that U.S. citizens can use credit and debit cards while in Cuba; and the scrapping of other trade, travel and

investment irritants and sanctions imposed by the U.S. over more than a half a century. This settlement is a tremendous victory for the Cuban government and people, and for all those around the world who have fought for the release of the Cuban Five from U.S. jails for over 15 years. But it is also an important victory for the American people who have been prevented from visiting Cuba, from having people-to-people social and cultural exchanges, and from conducting trade and other business activities with Cuba due to the hostile and aggressive U.S. policy toward its southern neighbour.

It is also a major victory for the peoples of Latin America, and for progressive and democratic-minded people around the world who have opposed the economic blockade of Cuba, and championed the cause of the Cuban Five. By opening the door to the full

normalization of relations between these two countries, this agreement constitutes a victory for regional and world peace.

While unreservedly welcoming this agreement, the Communist Party of Canada notes that there are still powerful anti-Cuban forces within U.S. ruling circles who have financed and organized terrorist actions against Cuba in the past, and who pose a serious threat to the normalization of relations today. This danger calls for the utmost vigilance by all those in Canada and around the world who support this historic advance toward peaceful reconciliation between the U.S. and Cuba.

We are also under no illusions that U.S. imperialism will abandon its efforts to overthrow the Cuban Revolution, restore capitalism, and return Cuba to its former neo-colonial status as an obedient client-state of Washington. It

would be wrong to conclude that the US corporate and political elite - by conceding that the half-century of economic blockade and subversion have failed to achieve these ends - have abandoned their main objectives of subduing Cuba; it only means that they will now change their tack.

The Communist Party of Canada will continue to stand with the Cuban people in their choice to build socialism on their island, and will oppose any and all threats or actions aimed at undermining the sovereign right of the Cuban people to determine their own future. ●



Javier Domokos Ruiz, Cuban Consul General, at a Dec. 18 celebration in Toronto for the five Cuban heroes. (Photo: Ed Bil)

## International movement hails Cuban Five freedom

**From the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, December 18, 2014**

Gerardo, Ramon and Antonio are finally back in their homeland with their families and the people of Cuba. They received the much waited embrace from Rene and Fernando after so many years of unjust imprisonment.

Today we are reminded more than ever what Fidel said in June 2001: "The Five are a quintet of giants... I only say one thing, they will return!"

This day is a triumph of truth and the fruit of the heroic

resistance of each of them, of the Government of Cuba, of the Cuban people and the international solidarity movement.

Not only has 16 years of imprisonment ended but their release opens the real possibility of initiating a new era in U.S. Cuba relations. The solution was arrived at with the mediation of Pope Francisco and the political will of both governments.

As yesterday's release was happening a letter put together by the European Coordination of the Free the Five Campaign, the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 in the Arab World and the

International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 was in its final preparations, calling for Obama to allow the remaining three to return to Cuba to be with their families for the holidays.

The letter is signed by well-known men and women from all over the world including nine Nobel laureates, the President of El Salvador, Salvador Sanchez Ceron, together with parliamentarians, religious and labor leaders, lawyers, intellectuals and actors and more.

Fortunately this is the first time, in this long battle that has spanned 16 years, that it is not necessary to send a letter of this kind but we are sending it along to you as part of

the testimony and beauty that the international solidarity movement has with the Cuban 5.

We embrace all the committees and friends of the Five who in unity fought tirelessly through all these years.

Our work is not over and we urge everyone to channel all that energy that was used to push for the release of the Cuban 5 into the effort to end the genocidal blockade against Cuba in its entirety. We must remain united to continue in our quest for a better world filled with dignity and justice.

We embrace you all with joy and love on this historic day. ●

# A day of revolutionary affirmation

**By Manuel E. Yepe, <http://englishmanuelyepe.wordpress.com/>. A CubaNews translation, edited by Walter Lippmann, December 18, 2014.**

December 17, 2014 will go down in Latin American history as the day on which the Cuban revolution, triumphant since 1959, was finally accepted by the US government as an irreversible fact, thereby recognizing the legitimacy of the road opened by Cuba for all the peoples of Latin America to move towards the affirmation of their political independence.

Few, if anyone, could have imagined that the heroic sacrifice of a small group of brave and talented Cuban patriots could lead to such a dramatic outcome. Risking their lives, they were able to infiltrate "unarmed" Cuban criminal gangs at the service of organizations in the US government which, from south Florida systematically assaulted Cuba with total impunity.

These young patriots were arrested after the results of their inquiries were placed in the hands of US authorities by the Cuban government. There followed a legal process plagued by manipulations and forgeries which

resulted in long sentences. These have just been interrupted following an agreement at the highest political level between presidents Raul Castro and Barack Obama.

This undoubtedly required a good dose of political courage from President Obama, who had been characterized by weaknesses which had placed him "through retreats and concessions" as an example of a political right dealing with difficulty with the neo-

conservative extreme right.

We recall that it was a set of exceptional circumstances which contributed to the unusual fact that the US elected a non-white President. The disrepute into which the extreme right had sunk under the inept administration of President George W. Bush was identified by many as the main culprit for the national economic debacle that had already reached the average citizen.

Many thought that this was just



President Raul Castro with the five Cuban heroes.

a tactic to download on the first black president in the history of the United States a situation provoked by the large corporations and the military-industrial complex with their sordid running of the country. Exonerating like this the real culprit, that is, the imperialist system is, at best, cynical.

The way of negotiations on equal footing has borne the fruits that should always be hoped for in international conflict resolution as an alternative to armed confrontation. 75% of the Cuban population, born after 1959, has not known anything but tension between the governments of the United States and Cuba.

Never before Cubans had been so close to achieving the main objectives of their revolution, the revolution that began in 1868, to achieve independence, national identity and justice. These objectives had to be postponed many times but that Cubans have never abandoned.

The triumph of the Cuban people against the tyranny on January 1st, 1959, was an essential step that should have reached the conclusive goals of the Cuban revolution. But from very early on, the United States was reluctant

to accept a neighbour who had to be treated on equal footing. This was apparently because of the danger that this example could extend throughout the continent. Uneven confrontation followed for another half century.

Gradually, almost all Latin American countries have moved to support the independent will of Cuba, and have developed their own regarding the United States.

Cubans have had huge successes in health, education, culture, science, technology, sports and other fields. But the climate of hostility and conditions of blockade under which they have had to develop their economy prevented them from achieving many goals in the programs of their revolution. The economic, financial and commercial blockade has caused huge losses to Cuba; losses that Cubans will still have to overcome through sacrifice for a number of years.

But now the agreements announced on December 17, 2014, have laid the groundwork for Cuba to move towards the completion of the major social objectives of its socialist program. Cubans expect to do so in harmony and friendship with their US neighbours. ●

# The eternal rebel: the campaign recognized as a

*From Radical Desi Magazine, January 2015*

When freelance journalist Gurwinder Singh Dhaliwal moved a motion at the BC Punjabi Press to seek support for a campaign to push authorities to recognize Mewa Singh as Canadian hero, he was met by immediate resistance from his own compatriots. After all, Mewa Singh remains a controversial figure in mainstream Canadian history.

Hanged a century ago for murdering Immigration Inspector William Hopkinson, Mewa Singh was a political activist who remains respected within the local South Asian community. For many he was the first South Asian martyr to meet the gallows in Canada, but the nature of the act he committed still bothers many who do not want to upset the establishment with such a demand.

It was in 2009 that Dhaliwal proposed to the press club that a campaign be started by the Punjabi media to get Mewa Singh recognized as Canadian hero. He was told outright by some hostile members that such a move would result in a backlash from the wider community.

However, Dhaliwal remained determined in his mission. As a radio broadcaster, he started holding a moment of silence on air by playing a sad tune at 7:30 am on the mornings of January 11 - the day Mewa Singh was hanged in 1915. The person instrumental behind the initiative is an independent history researcher, Sohan Singh Pooni. It was he researched the exact date and timing of Mewa Singh's execution, and encouraged Punjabi radio stations to start holding the moment of silence. Dhaliwal took the lead, and this year, when the community marks the centenary of Mewa Singh's hanging, the murmurings for recognizing his sacrifice have almost turned into a chorus.

Mewa Singh was born in Amritsar, India in 1880. Like other South Asian immigrants, he moved to Canada for a better livelihood in 1906. He worked at a mill in New Westminster. Most immigrants had come to this part of the world as British subjects, as both India and Canada were British

colonies back then. Rampant racism against the immigrants and the anti-immigration policies of the Canadian government turned people like Mewa Singh into political activists.

He soon came in contact with supporters of the Ghadar Party, established in 1913 by South Asian radicals who saw the British occupation of their home country as the root cause behind their sufferings abroad. They realised that the British government never came to their rescue in any event of racial violence, and they could live with dignity only if their motherland was free. The Indian immigrants were neither allowed to bring in their families, nor allowed to vote. The idea was to discourage them from permanent settlement to "keep Canada white". The Ghadar Party activists resolved to launch an armed rebellion against the British government to liberate India, so that they could be treated with respect in foreign lands.

Mewa Singh helped in raising funds for Vancouver's first Sikh temple, which became a center of political activities in which non-Sikh activists also freely participated. As the struggle against anti-immigration laws continued, the *Komagata Maru* episode became a major turning point. A Japanese vessel carrying over 300 passengers from India were denied entry at Vancouver port under the discriminatory continuous journey law. The ship was forced to return on July 23, 1914. The current Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized for the incident in 2008, and Canadian officials generally acknowledge that it was a wrong thing to do.

Mewa Singh and temple president Bhaag Singh tried to arrange arms to be transported to India for a future rebellion through passengers aboard the *Komagata Maru*. To make this happen they travelled to the US. But the plan did not work. Mewa Singh was arrested along with pistols and ammunition upon entering the Canadian border. Despite pressure from immigration authorities to testify against Bhaag Singh and other prominent Ghadar party leaders, he did not cooperate with the authorities. He was later released.

Following this episode, a fight between the pro-establishment faction of the South Asian community and the radicals broke out. On September 5, 1914, Bela Singh - who was penetrated into the community by the controversial Immigration Inspector William Hopkinson to spy on the activities of the Ghadar Party - went inside the Sikh temple and shot at Bhaag Singh and many others. Bhaag Singh and Badan Singh succumbed to their injuries. Bhaag Singh had left behind his small daughter. His wife had already died.

This incident had a devastating impact on Mewa Singh. As Bela Singh was facing trial, Mewa Singh went to the courts on October 21 and shot Hopkinson dead. He courted arrest without any confrontation. During his trial, Mewa Singh remained determined and gave a powerful testimony in which he explained how the shooting inside the temple and the subsequent death of Bhaag Singh shook him to the core. He went on to suggest how racism was adversely affecting the lives of the immigrants, and the immigration officers were harassing the community and forcing everyone to bribe the authorities. He had no regrets for his action, and when he was taken to the scaffold on January 11, 1915, being a devout Sikh he chanted prayers. 400 Indians had gathered outside the New Westminster jail where he was hanged and raised slogans in support of Mewa Singh.

Dhaliwal believes that the simple facts of history suggest that Mewa Singh's act was the culmination of Canada's racist immigration policies. "Now when our Prime Minister has also apologized for the *Komagata Maru* incident, we need to revisit Mewa Singh's story and present the correct history to our kids. He will always remain a martyr for us. All we need to do is that his image should be rehabilitated in the mainstream history."

Dhaliwal has been raising this issue through his writings and public speeches. He points out that Louis Riel, a hero of the Métis resistance, was long viewed as a criminal. "If Riel can now be recognized as a respected figure in Canadian history, why can't Mewa

Singh?"

He is not alone to raise this demand. Waryam Singh Sandhu, a renowned scholar and history writer, has been crisscrossing Canada with the same message. Wherever he goes, Sandhu reminds people that the Canada which now guarantees equal rights to immigrants and claims to be a human rights leader in the world was not the same a hundred years ago.

"All these privileges we are enjoying are an outcome of the struggle started by Mewa Singh," says Sandhu. "Canada needs to recognize that these values were shared by Mewa Singh who sacrificed his life for a just society."

He points out that the right to vote, which was given back to Indian immigrants in Canada in 1947, and the privilege to bring families, were the result of tireless activism by men like Mewa Singh. "If Canada respects all these rights what is stopping them from recognizing him as a Canadian hero?"

Gurbaksh Singh Sanghera of the Shaheed Bhai Mewa Singh Society is soon going to launch a petition to get Mewa Singh recognized as a Canadian hero. "We plan to present this petition in the House of Commons through elected officials of our community. They must understand that they are in the parliament due to the efforts of Mewa Singh and his associates."

The Society has been organizing special prayers and vigils in memory of Mewa Singh for the past ten years and has produced and distributed T-shirts bearing his picture to the community. Sanghera is currently trying to mobilize community groups for letters of support for an initiative to construct a memorial at the site of Mewa Singh's hanging in New Westminster. Naveen Girn, a young history researcher, is behind the initiative. He was the main force behind a marker that was installed at the site where the first Sikh temple was established by Mewa Singh and his comrades.

The Shaheed Mewa Singh Sports and Cultural Association is another group that organizes sports events in his memory, where the young winners are rewarded with free T-Shirts bearing his picture.

"The idea is to generate interest for Mewa Singh and his contribution among the inquisitive members of the younger generation", explains Parminder Swaich, who is close to the group and has written articles for the souvenir brought out by the association. The two groups are unanimous in their demand for rectifying Mewa Singh's image in the history books and accept him as a Canadian hero.

However, independent community activist Parshottam Dosanjh holds a critical view. For him the recognitions and apologies mean nothing as "institutional racism" continues to prevail in Canada. The Harper government has tightened immigration and citizenship rules hitting hard at family reunions over the past several years.



**This archive photo shows Canadian authorities and the Komagata Maru in Vancouver harbour, in the spring of 1914**

Bill C24, which can be used to take away citizenship, has particularly evoked sharp reaction within the immigrant communities. "What's the point seeking such recognition from a right wing Conservative government which is bringing controversial immigration laws that might strip citizenship of people of foreign origin?," asks Dosanjh. "A government that continues to attack the rights of the immigrants and refugees cannot be expected to accept such a demand in the first place. Even if we assume that it does accept the demand, it becomes meaningless when we see its ongoing onslaught on the immigrants."

He also expects the activists to get over symbolic demands, and rather focus on real issues. "We need to keep Mewa Singh's struggle against oppression alive rather than wasting energy on seeking apologies for the past mistakes and recognition of historical wrongs."

Swaich agrees and says that Mewa Singh will always be known as a hero in the South Asian community, whether or not the government recognizes his contributions. "His action needs to be situated in a broader context of the history of racism in this country. Unfortunately, racism refuses to die despite the apology for the *Komagata Maru* incident by this government. It's unfortunate that immigrant communities and refugees continue to bear the brunt of the inhuman laws under a Prime Minister who had apologized for something that happened a century ago." ●

**Last year's  
activists  
the h  
"Koma  
Canada  
passe  
disem  
decis  
"conti  
ships  
of orig  
stopp  
passe  
passe  
where  
the an  
This g  
"exclu  
immig  
and th  
South  
racist  
includ  
becom  
in 191  
to sup  
coloni  
for h  
Inspe  
is now  
strugg  
coloni  
his sta  
mome  
from th  
a Sur  
report  
from a**

# Campaign to get Mewa Singh Canadian hero



Year saw a wide-ranging series of articles to commemorate a key episode in the histories of Canada and India. The "Komagata Maru" incident of 1914 saw British officials refuse to allow over 300 Indian immigrants on a Japanese steamship to disembark at the port of Vancouver. The case was based on the so-called "continuous journey" law, which barred immigrants which had not sailed from the country of origin directly to a port in Canada, without stopping en route to pick up more immigrants. The Komagata Maru and its passengers were forced to sail back to India, and many faced repression and joined the anti-imperialist liberation movement. A glaring example of early 20th century "exclusion laws" designed to keep out immigrants of Asian origin out of Canada. The United States fanned the anger of Asians on the West Coast against the attitudes of the authorities. Many, including Mewa Singh (above), had already been active in the Ghadar Party, founded in 1913 to fight racism in North America and to support an armed uprising against British imperial rule in India. Executed as a murderer in the assassination of Immigration Inspector William Hopkins, Mewa Singh is widely hailed for his role in the historic struggle against racism, discrimination and imperialism, and the demand to recognize Indians as a true Canadian hero is gaining momentum. The articles on these pages are from the January 2015 issue of Radical Desi, a New York-based monthly magazine which focuses on current issues in India and Canada from a progressive and secular perspective.

## "I have sacrificed myself for this good cause"

*The following excerpts are from the statement read for Mewa Singh at his trial on October 30, 1914. The original trial transcript is in the National Library and Archives Canada, RG 13, Vol. 1467.*

My name is Mewa Singh. Up till to-day I have been a man that has always had my prayers, a God-fearing man. There are no words in my language to express the sorrow and troubles and worries I have had to put up with here in Vancouver.

All of us living Sikhs, when we go to the Sikh Temple, it is with the object of saying our prayers, but these others have gone to ruin us altogether, and others going into the temple, and firing there, destroyed the goodness of the temple spoiled it by having them shooting, and the man being killed there.

In the temple that day that the shooting was done by Bela Singh, that day the police caught hold of me, and tightened me up, and said, "Did you do the shooting too," and then when they caught hold of Bela Singh, Bela Singh said, "Why, I have done the shooting in the temple; Mr. Reid and Mr. Hopkins are well aware of it, they know why I have done the shooting."

At the time that Bela Singh did that shooting we were saying prayers that anybody hearing them would have warmed their hearts together, and come to God with hearing those words, and Bela Singh, first of all shot Bhag Singh, and he has two little children, without thought Bela Singh killed him, and leaving those two little infants without a mother. Bhag Singh had no wife, just the two little children. Seeing that badness done there, the killing of the innocent people has burned into my heart...

All this trouble and all this shooting, Mr. Reid and Mr. Hopkins are responsible for, and I shot Mr. Hopkins out of honor and principle to my fellow men, and for my religion. I could not bear to see these troubles going on any longer...

Let our best judges and barristers fathom this out, why Mr. Hopkins has been shot, and get at the end of this trouble. They are always doing evil before us. The other men may go and drink, and do whatever they like, and go to the Immigration, and are accepted as right. We, that are God-fearing, and say our prayers, are being crushed, and dragged down. I cannot, as a God-fearing man, look on at that any longer.

In Sumas I had a case against me, and I got a pistol, and the

Immigration men caught me, and I was taken in front of the Judge, and was fined \$58. After that case was dismissed, they brought another case against me, saying that I had brought the fire arms from one country to the other, and at that time Bela Singh, Hopkins and Reid went there. When I was locked up at Sumas, they took me out of the gaol, and Hopkins, Mr. Reid and Bela Singh said, "You have got to say that these pistols were for Bhag Singh, Balwant Singh, and Harnan."

When they took me out of gaol Mr. Reid, Mr. Hopkins and Bela Singh said to me, "I will get you off free if you say that Bhag Singh, Balwant Singh and Harnan have given you these pistols to give to Mr. Raheim."

I turned around and told them, "You can cut me into little bits, but I will not tell that lie for you." Bela Singh said this to me, but the others, Reid and Hopkins, told Bela to say it to me. First of all the three said it, and then Bela Singh kept on saying it to me. First of all, the three followed me around for days, and afterwards only Bela Singh.

Mr. Hopkins said to me again, "I am all powerful here; I can get you right off if you make that statement." I told Mr. Hopkins, "I cannot, I am a God-fearing man, I may be cut into little pieces, but I cannot say that." Then Bela Singh said to me, "Give Mr. Hopkins some dollars, and get it settled." I said, "I will give you the dollars, but a lie I will not tell. I do not mind paying the money, but lies I will not tell." The case where I was charged they had it put aside, and dismissed. I paid \$40 to Bela Singh. Mr. Hopkins was present. They told me the whole case is settled. There will be nothing more about it.

I do not know if they had really settled this case or not, but I got a letter from the Ottawa Government. After my case was all dismissed from there, one day, Bela Singh took me down to the Immigration Office. He took me inside, and Mr. Hopkins was present. Mr. Hopkins started writing a letter, and he turned round, and asked me to tell him where I came from, my father's name, my village, and everything. Mr. Hopkins and Bela Singh were present in the office. I told them all this, and they wrote it down. Mr. Hopkins said, "Do you not remember I got you off five years gaol the other day. Now, you tell me the names of the men that are against the Government"; they said, "You know them, give out their names, and tell us." I told him I did not know who is with the

government, or against the Government. I can give you no information. Then again they said to me in that office Mr. Hopkins, and Bela Singh, to say that those pistols that I had at Sumas were given to me by Bhag Singh, Balwant Singh and Harnan to give to Mr. Raheim, and then we will be your friends.

"No," I said, "I have given you the dollars before, and now again you tighten me up, and want me to tell lies. I cannot give innocent men away, and get them punished by making false statements." Then they said to me, "If you will not make this statement, then you are no friend of ours, we cannot make any more friendship with you."...

*After seeing all this, that is why I shot Mr. Hopkins. It is to show the Vancouver public the truth of this matter, and of our sufferings...*

All night long it haunted me that here I am a man that says my prayers and those men harassed me like this with these wrong statements, and trying to disgrace me, and bring me into trouble. I kept this in my heart all that night, and could not sleep with thinking that this disgrace should follow me about. Why should Mr. Hopkins bring me down to this disgrace...

I took all this deeply to heart, I thought I must do something. I then thought it better to die, I will die like a man straight. These people have disgraced us altogether; They think we are nothing. Sikhs are nothing; there is nothing of us left, we are walked on. There is no judge listens to us. These four men are all powerful. No one can do anything here except Bela Singh, Baboo Singh, Mr. Reid and Mr. Hopkins. That is why I have killed Mr. Hopkins and I have sacrificed my own life.

Hopkinson was a deceiver, both to the Government on one side, and to us Sikhs on the other, and was a blood sucker. He catches hold of two or three on one side, and two or three on the other, and uses them as the tools in front of the Government. Anyone that could pay Hopkins properly he would manage to get off. He would do the Government, bring new men right in here, and say those are old men that have been here before. He used to take \$100. from each of the new men. He used to take from both the Government side, and from our side. The Government listened to Hopkins, and never paid any attention to us. We are poor, only coolie men, and whatever Hopkins said was law. The Government listened to him completely. Everyone knows that Hopkins did these underhand

things, and it must be brought to light. The European public must be aware of the fact that Hopkins draws money from us poor native men. In the Vancouver public there are a few who are Christian men, who have received us with the proper spirit, the other have treated us like dogs.

For two months I have gone with Bela Singh, and saw Mr. Hopkins doing all these underhand things, taking money, etc. After going with Bela Singh, then my eyes were opened. I could not believe before that Hopkins used to do these things, but now I know it is a fact. I have never, and no one in

the world has known what underhand bad dealings have gone on in Vancouver, and without anyone's help or suggestion from anyone, I alone killed Mr. Hopkins.

Any meetings that we ever had in the Sikh Temple were in the bottom storey, and there we always talked about not having been allowed to have our wives here, but that was never talked of in the top storey where the shooting was done. That shooting disgraced the temple. Mr. Hopkins has brought us all these cases, and trouble, and has taken the money to the Government, and left us almost without bread, and all this has been through Mr. Hopkins. After seeing all this, that is why I shot Mr. Hopkins. It is to show the Vancouver public the truth of this matter, and of our sufferings, and Mr. Reid, and Bela Singh, and Baboo Singh; there is no use the Vancouver public listening to Mr. Reid, and Baboo Singh any longer. If they listen to them there can be no justice done to us, and in the cause of justice I wish this exposed, and the Sikhs helped. If they listen to Baboo Singh, and Mr. Reid, the trouble will go on. That is why I have given Mr. Hopkins's life, and am going to give my own, and the trouble will never end while the Government and police will listen to these tales from Mr. Reid, and Baboo Singh, and this is my wish, that I, Mewa Singh, wish this thing cleared up.

... I could not bear to see the wrong done. That is why I have lost myself to save this wrong. I am a lonely man, I have no wife. I have not got the Immigration Department behind me, nor the Committee behind me, and I have sacrificed myself for this good cause. ●



# GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

## General strike by Guinea unions

The umbrella body of six Guinean trade union centers announced an unlimited general strike notice for January 12 across the country, to denounce delays in implementing a new salary table and pension system. The government responded by declaring a public holiday, making the day non-working and payable.

After tough negotiations with President Alpha Conde, union leaders confirmed their walk-out due to failure of the talks. Negotiations were to continue, but union officials said they intend to return to their original demands.

The unions are also angered by the state's indifference to the situation of workers in the Friguia factory in Sotelgui, Feralux and Conakry port, the non-enforcement of special status for education and health, and a failure to respect agreements on fuel prices.

As a result, four years following his election in December 2010, President Conde faces the first union walkout during his rule. In January and February 2007, a similar strike by the unions and civil society managed to paralyze 30 of the 33 prefectures of the country, forcing then-president Lansana Conte to form a "government of broad consensus".

## "To attack press freedom is to attack democracy"

On January 8 at noon, several hundred journalists gathered in front of the editorial office of Charlie Hebdo, at the invitation of SNJ, SNJ-CGT and CFDT, the three French journalists unions affiliated to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its European group (EFJ).

Addressing the crowd, Anthony Bellanger, Deputy General Secretary of the IFJ said, "We are gathered here to pay tribute to our colleagues in Charlie Hebdo who were killed on Wednesday (January 7). We must stand up for them and for the entire profession, here in France but also around the world. We have received messages from Asia, Oceania, Africa and America. They are mobilizing everywhere to defend freedom of expression and freedom of the press. We are all Charlie Hebdo today."

SNJ General Secretary, Dominique Pradalié said "We must remain mobilized" as she praised the work of the colleagues who died while working. Emmanuel Vire, General Secretary of the SNJ-CGT, insisted that the government had failed to do enough for the satirical weekly and must now do more to help the press. Isabelle Bordes, Deputy General Secretary of the CFDT, raised his pencil on behalf of journalists.

Mogens Blicher Bjerregaard, President of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) said: "I came to Paris to pay tribute to our French colleagues of Charlie Hebdo. This is a tragedy. To attack the freedom of the press is to attack democracy."

## 6,000 workers in fire evacuation

A building under construction at the Galaxy Macau resort in Cotai caught fire on Jan. 8. About 6,000 construction workers and 150 subcontractors inside the building at the time were evacuated with the assistance of firefighters.

The fire broke out before 11 am on the top floor of the tower, according to a worker at the nearby Light Rail Transit construction site. "The fire was emitting thick black smoke for quite a while. When it was burning, we couldn't see anyone on the building top from



here," he told the media.

"All construction workers were safely evacuated with no injuries reported. GEG [Galaxy Entertainment Group] is working closely with the relevant parties for further investigation related to the fire," stated the company afterwards.

The building is part of the second phase of GEG's expansion on Macau's Cotai Strip. About 40 firefighters were deployed to fight the blaze. Their major difficulty was to approach the fire scene step by step, as construction works were underway in many spots and most parts of the path was obstructed.

According to the initial investigation, a giant decoration mounted on the outer wall of the top floor of the building caught fire as workers were carrying out welding work nearby. Made of fibreglass, it emitted black smoke when it burst into flames. Burning debris broke off from the decoration and fell to ground level during the incident.

## Attendants fired for safety walkout

Thirteen former United Airlines flight attendants say they were fired for refusing to work a commercial flight from San Francisco to Hong Kong after the airline discovered "threatening" words and "menacing" images drawn on the tail cone of the Boeing 747. The aircraft was being prepared for takeoff last July 14 when flight attendants became aware that oil from the aircraft's auxiliary engine was used to paint the words "BYE BYE" in six-inch-high letters above two faces, "one smiling and the other with a more troubling devilish expression," according to a federal complaint filed with the Department of Labor.

The flight attendants say that United Airlines ignored a "serious and credible threat to the security and safety of passengers by ordering them to fly in order to

avoid cost and disruption to the airline's flight schedule and revenue". The attendants told the airline they were "uncomfortable flying unless United took steps to address this security threat, including deplaning 300-plus passengers and conducting a thorough security inspection of the aircraft."

"There was no credible security threat," the airline said in a statement. "All of FAA's and United's own safety procedures were followed, including a comprehensive safety sweep prior to boarding, and the pilots, mechanics and safety leaders deemed the aircraft entirely safe to fly."

The attendants said in the "wake of the disappearance of Malaysia Flight 370 and a warning issued by TSA about consumer electronic device bombs just a week earlier," they had a "heightened duty and legal responsibility" to do whatever was necessary to make sure everyone onboard was safe.

Grace Lam, one of the terminated flight attendants said, "given the gravity of the risks involved - the lives of passengers and crew alike - we were not willing to bow to United's pressure to ignore an unresolved security threat."

The flight attendants were fired in October for insubordination. The federal complaint accuses United of bullying and retaliatory firings. The attendants want their jobs back, back pay and compensatory damages.

## Nigeria health workers struggle

Nigerian health workers threatened to escalate strike actions by stopping "skeletal and concessional services" in all healthcare facilities, after the federal government failed to attend a scheduled meeting between both sides on January 5. The Joint Health Workers Union told the media that the suspension of activity in the wake of the strike was to ensure "total compliance", describing federal government's attitude as "lack of commitment and seriousness."

The association is demanding that the federal government implement agreements reached since 2009 and several rulings of the National Industrial Court in their favour. The chairperson of JOHESU, Ayuba Wabba said, that two previous meetings since the strike started on November 12 have been "without meaningful progress."

The union has also accused the government of threatening and intimidating its members, in effect pushing "double standards" different from how government treated doctors who went on strike earlier.

JOHESU condemned calls to police by hospital management in Lagos state to quell picketing healthworkers, and the denial of pay for 28 selected union leaders in Federal Medical Centres in Birnin Kudu and Bida.

"We have specific cases that we have taken stock of, but the bottom line is when NMA did theirs, they supported them, and

those issues were not issues," said the union. "This is a dispute of rights, arising from failure of government to implement collective agreements."

The union called on its members to prepare for a "long drawn battle, if need be," insisting it "will not turn back until victory is achieved."

## Kenyan teachers strike for raise

Kenyan teachers have vowed to continue a strike over employment terms after rejecting the government's offer of \$102 million in benefits and allowances.

"The strike will continue until the demands of teachers are met," Kenya National Union of Teachers Chairman Mudzo Nzili said on Jan. 9. About 288,000 educators in public schools are taking part in the stoppage that started on Jan. 5, after the government's withdrawal of a proposal to increase pay by as much as 60 percent.

The International Monetary Fund claims that the Kenya's wage bill is more than half of the country's tax income, and the government says no additional funds exist to raise educators' salaries. The most recent offer meets teachers' demands relating to housing, hardship, and leave allowances, Labor Secretary Kazungu Kambi stated in a Jan. 6 statement. The proposal would increase the total annual wage bill for teachers to about 10 percent of the budget, he said, adding that salary levels will only be reviewed after completion of a job evaluation for all public-sector employees including teachers, police officers and health workers.

Kenyan teachers' last strike lasted three weeks in July 2013,

before the union and the government agreed to conclude a collective agreement within the following 90 days. That pact was never completed, the union says, arguing that its members have lost considerable economic ground to high inflation rates.

## Coal miners resist privatization

Coal India Ltd. struggled to produce and ship less than half of its daily target during a five-day strike that began on Jan. 6, hampering government efforts to privatise the industry. Unionized miners at the world's top coal producer are protesting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to allow private companies to mine and sell the fuel for the first time in 42 years. Modi's ministers have said that increasing competition is key to ending India's power shortage.

But miners warn this will lead to pay and job cuts at Coal India, which is a state enterprise. S.Q. Zama, secretary general of the Indian National Mineworkers Federation, said unions would end the strike if the government assured them that private companies would not be allowed to do any commercial mining for at least the next six months and that more talks would take place before the industry was opened up.

Coal India produced 645,000 tonnes on Jan. 6, less than half of its usual daily output at this time of year, mainly using contract workers. But the output could fall further if any contract workers join the strike. Coal India has a permanent workforce of 286,196, and also employs about 65,000 contract workers.

Many items in our "Global Class Struggle" column are from the Labour Start website, [www.labourstart.org](http://www.labourstart.org)

## Join the Communist Party of Canada



The Communist Party of Canada, formed in 1921, has a proud history of fighting for jobs, equality, peace, Canadian independence, and socialism. The CPC does much more than run candidates in elections. We think the fight against big business and its parties is a year-round job, so our members are active across the country, to build our party and to help strengthen people's movements on a wide range of issues. All our policies and leadership are set democratically by our members. To find out more about Canada's party of socialism, contact the nearest CPC office.

### Central Committee CPC

290A Danforth Ave, Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6

416-469-2446 <info@cpc-pcc.ca> [www.comunist-party.ca](http://www.comunist-party.ca)

**Parti Communiste du Quebec** (section du Parti communiste du Canada)  
5359 Ave Du Parc, Suite "C"  
Montreal, QC, H2V 4G9  
Email: [pccqcc@gmail.com](mailto:pccqcc@gmail.com) Tél: 438-338-8890

**B.C. Committee CPC**  
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1  
604-254-9836 <[cpinfo.bc@gmail.com](mailto:cpinfo.bc@gmail.com)>

**Edmonton CPC**  
Box 68112, 70 Bonnie Doon PO  
Edmonton, AB, T6C 4N6  
Tel: 780-934-7893

**Calgary CPC**  
5421 - 8th Ave. SE  
Calgary, AB, T2A 4L7 Tel: 403-248-6489

**Saskatchewan CPC**  
Email: <[mail@communist-party-sk.ca](mailto:mail@communist-party-sk.ca)>

**Ottawa CPC**  
Tel: 613-232-7108

**Manitoba Committee CPC**  
387 Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R2W 2M3  
Tel/fax: 204-586-7824

**Ontario Ctee. CPC**  
290A Danforth Ave., Toronto, M4K 1N6  
Tel: 416-469-2446

**Hamilton Ctee. CPC**  
265 Melvin Ave., Apt. 815  
Hamilton, ON, L8H 2K3  
Tel: 905-548-9586

**Atlantic Region CPC**  
Box 70, Grand Pré, NS, B0P 1M0  
Tel/fax: 902-542-7981



# Venezuela taking steps to overcome recession

Venezuelanalysis.com,  
December 31, 2014

The Venezuelan government has published previously withheld data revealing that the economy entered a recession in the second quarter of 2014. However President Nicolas Maduro said on Dec. 30 that significant changes to Venezuela's economic model were being planned and that an economic "recovery plan" would be implemented in early 2015.

A report released by the Venezuelan Central Bank (BCV) showed that the economy contracted by -4.8% in the first quarter of 2014, -4.9% in Q2, and -2.3% in Q3.

The slowdown occurred in the context of a series of economic problems facing the South American OPEC nation, which include an increasingly overvalued fixed-rate currency, shortages of many basic products including some food and medicines, and Bolivarian-era record annual inflation of 63.6% as of November.

These problems have been compounded by a fall in the oil price from US \$99 per barrel in June to \$48 by Dec. 30, effectively reducing the government's foreign export revenue by 50%. Oil sales account for almost all of the country's foreign earnings.

The inflation statistics were published after a three month absence. According to newspaper *El Universal's* report on the data,

inflation in food prices is far higher than overall inflation, at 92.8% annually.

The BCV also reported that despite these negative trends, Venezuela registered a trade surplus in the first three quarters of 2014 of \$6.8 billion, reflecting a positive balance of payments. International reserves are \$20,890 billion.

Nevertheless, the import of goods to Venezuela fell by 1.4%, mainly due to a decrease in private sector foreign purchases of 12.3%. This was compensated by an increase in public sector imports. Through 2014 private companies complained that they were unable to get access to sufficient dollars through currency controls to import the necessary products from abroad to satisfy demand in their respective markets.

The BCV statement cited continuing positive trends in certain social indicators, including that unemployment is at a low of 5.9% and that extreme household poverty measured by Unsatisfied Basic Needs had fallen slightly to 5.4%.

The Venezuelan government argues that the economic problems are due to an "economic war" being waged by hostile business elites, the conservative opposition, and the U.S. government. They cite the violent opposition protests which shut down several Venezuelan cities earlier this year, and widespread practices of contraband, hoarding and price speculation as evidence to support their position.



Venezuela is working to expand its system of people's communes, while also tackling the immediate problems posed by the international capitalist economy.

Critics say government economic policy is largely to blame, pointing the finger at distortions created by "strict" foreign currency exchange controls, price controls, and domestic subsidies such as on the sale of gasoline.

President Nicolas Maduro said that significant changes to Venezuela's economic model and currency control regime were being planned for early 2015.

"This recovery program is focused on maintaining social investment and recuperating production. The plan will have three phases, of six months, two years and four years," Maduro told journalists.

The president said that an increase in the price of domestic gasoline, which is the cheapest in the world and is sold at below production cost, would not be implemented in the short time, as "today it wouldn't help". However both the currency control and price control systems are set to be reformed, with details to be announced in early January.

While Maduro underlined the government's position that an "economic war" was responsible for the situation in the country, mentioning the violent "guarimba" protests and various destabilising economic practices, he also stated that his government had made

mistakes which must be corrected.

"It is necessary to rectify the mistakes in models, in management, in the direction of important [nationalised] companies and productive facilities, and in the Venezuelan fields which are in the hands of the Bolivarian revolution. When I say this, I say it with absolute knowledge and responsibility," he said.

The steps outlined by Maduro will include:

1) The creation of a new currency exchange system to perfect the needs of different economic sectors.

2) Fiscal reform to increase the amount raised in taxes.

3) The streamlining of public spending to reduce "wasteful" or "luxurious" expenses, in order to focus on social spending and productive investment.

4) The strengthening of international reserves, especially the strategic dollar and strategic bolivar funds.

5) The efficient application of the establishment of price controls to ensure "balanced and fair" prices to confront the "economic war".

6) Initiatives for investment and economic growth in different areas of national production.

7) Initiatives to address the savings and excess liquidity (in bolivars) in the productive sector as an anti-inflationary strategy.

8) The establishment of special economic zones along the Colombian border and oil producing areas to strengthen anti-contraband efforts. ●

# Afghanistan war is far from over

By T.J. Petrowski

After 13 years, the U.S. and NATO are announcing the end to combat missions in Afghanistan and the withdrawal of troops. But despite the symbolic flag-lowering ceremony, the U.S.-led war is in fact not ending, and the brutal war is set to continue through 2015. NATO is set to "transition" to a non-combat, "Resolute Support" mission to assist the Afghan National Army in its operations, with 4,000 NATO troops to remain in Afghanistan into 2015.

President Obama has authorized 10,800 U.S. troops to remain in Afghanistan in 2015 (an increase of 1,000 from his May 2014 pledge to reduce troop levels), to resume combat operations against Afghan militants (including night raids by Special Operation soldiers, previously banned by former Afghan President Hamid Karzai), and aerial strikes. A senior American military officer was quoted saying that "the Air Force expects to use F-16 fighters, B-1B bombers and Predator and Reaper drones to go after the Taliban in 2015."

The continuation of combat operations comes after the signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between the U.S. and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, a former U.S. citizen and World Bank employee. The highly

controversial agreement allows for thousands of U.S. troops to remain for another decade and grants all U.S. service personnel immunity from prosecution under Afghan laws. Several massacres and unlawful acts were committed



by U.S. troops in Afghanistan, including the murder of 16 civilians in Kandahar and footage of U.S. soldiers urinating on the dead bodies of Afghans and posing for photographs with dead civilians.

Imperialism has a long history of occupations and interference in Afghanistan. In the 1980s, the U.S. and its allies, through Pakistan, funded radical Islamic counter-revolutionaries, including bin Laden and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, fighting to topple the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), then implementing widespread social reforms that benefited millions of Afghans. These "freedom fighters," as former U.S. President Reagan described them, tortured teachers

and activists, burnt down schools, poisoned children, and raped women.

After the PDPA was overthrown, the U.S. largely disengaged from Afghanistan, having accomplished its primary objective, and the various counter-revolutionary factions fought amongst themselves in a devastating civil war. The Taliban, an organization of Islamic students led by Mullah Mohammed Omar, defeated these factions and captured Kabul in 1996. The U.S., keen to see Afghanistan under strong central rule to allow a US-led group to build a multi-billion-dollar oil and gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to the Arabian Sea, indirectly supported the Taliban's rise to power through Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The U.S.-led 2001 invasion of Afghanistan had nothing to do with 9/11 or bin Laden. The invasion was an imperialist war of resource plundering and transferring public wealth into private hands. The media went into a frenzy when the U.S. "discovered nearly \$1 trillion in untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan" in 2010. The *New York Times* even declared that Afghanistan could become "the Saudi Arabia of lithium," a mineral used in the manufacture of batteries. It is inconceivable that

U.S. authorities weren't aware of Afghanistan's mineral wealth before the invasion; the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s confirmed the existence of enormous mineral reserves and produced "superb geological maps and reports that listed more than 1,400 mineral outcroppings, along with about 70 commercially viable deposits."

Prior to the invasion, opium cultivation was banned by the Taliban in collaboration with the United Nations, and by 2001 the crop had declined by 90% to 185 tonnes. After the U.S. invasion the opium crop skyrocketed under Hamid Karzai. The drug trade was an important source of covert funding for the Afghan counter-revolutionaries during the 1980s and 1990s and has long been under the control of the CIA. Mujahideen counter-revolutionaries forced Afghan peasants to plant opium, turning the

Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas into the world's top heroin producer, with the collaboration of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Islamabad.

The money from the drug trade is laundered through banks and recycled as covert funds for intelligence agencies. Money laundering, according to the IMF, constitutes 2-5% of the world's GDP, and a significant share of money laundering is linked to the trade in narcotics. Narcotics represents the third largest commodity after oil and arms, with powerful financial interests behind the trade. "From this standpoint, geopolitical and military control over the drug routes is as strategic as oil and oil pipelines," writes Professor Michel Chossudovsky.

Working people need to reject the various pretences used by Western imperialism to exploit the people and resources of other countries around the world. ●





## The Interview: cheap cultural stereotypes

By Chevy Phillips (updated from a commentary posted on the Rebel Youth blog, Dec. 21, 2014)

In late December, President Obama admonished Sony for cancelling the release of the Seth Rogen comedy, *The Interview*, as an "affront to free speech". Sony, for its part, claimed it had no choice since terrorist threats had been made against movie-goers. By January, *The Interview* had been released in theatres and online.

The government in Pyongyang has denied being behind the cyber-attack, which dumped emails, movie scripts, and other sundry confidential material on-line and left Sony reeling. It has also denied with equal vehemence making terrorist threats against movie theatres.

Who is responsible?

Despite the FBI's certainty that North Korea was behind this whole affair, it's tough to prove either way. One may also question the likelihood of North Korea preparing to kill US civilians en masse for going to see the movie, since even one such attack would undoubtedly result in an unimaginably severe counter-attack from the US. Would North Korea really put its very existence at stake over a film, however offensive? Besides, US media is constantly ridiculing the leadership of North Korea, and the North has no track record of either threatening or carrying out attacks against US civilians as a result.

We'll probably never know who the "Guardians of Peace" (GOP) actually are. Some discussion has even suggested it was a revenge attack by former Sony employees. In a recent development, as reported in *Business Insider* on Dec. 20, the GOP uploaded a video to Youtube (1) mocking the FBI and seeming to suggest the Feds were way off in attributing blame to North Korea. (2)

On Dec. 19, the BBC's Radio 4 news program PM featured an IT security expert claiming there was "more evidence of Iraq having WMD than there was of North Korea being behind the Sony hack." (3)

Chinese media has also made a point of commenting. *Global Times* pointed out that, "The vicious mocking of Kim is only a

result of senseless cultural arrogance", while also observing that the Chinese themselves were also not so long ago the targets of such mockery and opprobrium. (4)

The situation on the Korean peninsula has been tense for decades, including annual joint military exercises conducted by US forces and their southern Korean allies. The North feels these are little more than "invasion exercises," and fears nuclear annihilation should such an invasion be mounted. Nuclear threats against the North go back to the 1950s and General MacArthur's ravings about creating a "wasteland" in the north, right up to the modern day as seen in the memoirs of former CIA chief and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

The Korean War (1950-53) was an extraordinarily destructive one, with up to three million Korean casualties, and included threats by the US-led forces of chemical and nuclear attacks. (5)

Noted North Korea expert Bruce Cummings points out: "Napalm was invented at the end of the second world war. It became a major issue during the Vietnam war, brought to prominence by horrific photos of injured civilians. Yet far more napalm was dropped on Korea and with much more devastating effect, since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had many more populous cities and urban industrial installations than North Vietnam.

"In a major strike on the industrial city of Hungnam on 31 July 1950, 500 tons of ordnance was delivered through clouds by radar; the flames rose 200-300 feet into the air. The air force dropped 625 tons of bombs over North Korea on 12 August... By late August B-29 formations were dropping 800 tons a day on the North. Much of it was pure napalm. From June to late October 1950, B-29s unloaded 866,914 gallons of napalm. (6)

And this from the notorious USAF general, Curtis LeMay: "We went over there and fought the war and eventually burned down every town in North Korea anyway, someday or another, and some in South Korea too.... Over a period of three years or so, we killed off - what - twenty percent of the

population of Korea as direct casualties of war, or from starvation and exposure?" (7)

The extraordinary loss of life and destructiveness of the US-led campaign against the North has not been forgotten in Pyongyang. The North Koreans are often accused of being paranoid, but perhaps that's not surprising.

Let's imagine that the situation was reversed. Let's imagine a country like Iran, or perhaps the North Koreans themselves, had produced a blockbuster movie, complete with well-known actors, about the assassination of President Obama. How would the US react? Would they accuse the offending movie (and state) of threatening peace and stability, and promoting terrorism? Such a reaction is not particularly hard to conceive.

We should therefore not be too surprised that North Korea has reacted badly to the prospect of *The Interview*. But we should also not assume that nation's government to automatically be behind the cyber-attack on Sony. The latter does not necessarily follow from the former, and just about anyone (nation state or otherwise) with an interest in causing harm to Sony could now be using the North Korean's understandable anger as cover for their own machinations.

In light of all of this, perhaps it's not such a bad thing a movie depicting the assassination of a real life, currently-in-office, national leader in an extremely sensitive and possibly explosive region was pulled. However humorous it was intended to be, we can assume (probably safely) that the last thing the citizens of either the north or south of Korea want is aggravation of a long-standing, bitter conflict that has cost so many lives. Feelings are likely to be the same in the nations surrounding Korea, particular China and Japan.

The principle of free speech has been invoked in the critical reaction to Sony's cancellation of the release, but this is misplaced. When the long-standing possibility of war breaking out (again) on the Korean peninsula is concerned, keeping the peace and potentially saving millions of lives is far more important than a few laughs and cheap shots at cultural stereotypes. The world is not a poorer place as a result of one low-brow comedy being consigned to "straight-to-DVD" release. ●

### Endnotes

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiRacdl02w4>
2. [www.businessinsider.com/the-sony-hackers-just-pranked-the-fbi-2014-12](http://www.businessinsider.com/the-sony-hackers-just-pranked-the-fbi-2014-12)
3. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04v5xys](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04v5xys)
4. [www.globaltimes.cn/content/897742.shtml](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/897742.shtml)
5. See Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman, "First victims of biological warfare," *Le Monde diplomatique*, English language edition, July 1999.
6. [www.japanfocus.org/-Bruce-Cummings/2055](http://www.japanfocus.org/-Bruce-Cummings/2055)
7. *US Strategic Air Power 1948-1962: Excerpts from an interview with Generals Curtis LeMay, Leon W. Johnson, David A. Burchinal, and Jack J. Catton. International Security #12, 1988.*



## MUSIC NOTES

By Wally Brooker

### Rise Again: a Rise Up Singing sequel

Peter Blood and Annie Patterson created the popular group-singing songbook *Rise Up Singing* in 1988. The compact 1200-song anthology, originally published by Sing Out! Magazine, has sold more than a million copies, an impressive number considering that it's chock full of songs that express several centuries of peoples' struggles within the USA and around the world. Now, in response to popular demand, Blood and Patterson are releasing a second 1200-song anthology called, appropriately enough, *Rise Again*. The new book, scheduled for publication next summer, continues the original concept of providing just words and chords (with illustrations by Patterson). Pete Seeger, who died in January 2014, was active in the project. He encouraged the authors, helped select the songs and contributed a preface. Seeger believed that people need to sing together and that this new edition (with more blues, country, rock & roll, and recent popular and indie songs) would carry on the work of *Rise Up Singing*. Check out the website. It's a valuable resource where you can listen to recordings of the songs. If you can help out, the authors are still accepting donations. For more info: [www.riseupandsing.org](http://www.riseupandsing.org).

### Solidarity Notes on Burnaby Mountain


Not long ago I received a most inspiring musical video in the mail. It was the Solidarity Notes Labour Choir singing "We Won't Go" at the November 8th rally on Burnaby Mountain, where activists had gathered to defend the Coast Salish Territories. The Texas-based energy infrastructure giant Kinder Morgan wants to expand its pipelines through this land, to carry oil from the tar sands to markets in the USA and Asia. If the plan goes ahead, every day an oil tanker will sail past Vancouver, Victoria and the Gulf Islands. Solidarity Notes is a group of activist singers founded in 2000 with the support of the Vancouver and District Labour Council, which is seeking to bring community activists and unionists together. Today it has more than 80 members. Its criteria for membership is simply a willingness to sing and a commitment to the principles of the labour and social justice movements. While they have some pretty impressive gigs in their resume, these folks mostly sing on picket lines, peace marches, demonstrations, memorials and social justice benefits. Look for "We Won't Go - Solidarity Choir" on YouTube. Learn more at <http://www.solidaritynotes.ca/>.

### Two new David Rovics releases

The outstanding radical singer-songwriter David Rovics is so prolific that he's hard to keep up with. He's recorded more than thirty albums over the last eighteen years. His latest release is a double album: *When I'm Elected President* and *Wayfaring Stranger*. The former consists of new compositions, while the latter is a collection of covers. It's a fundraiser for what Rovics hopes will be an independent write-in "David Rovics For President" campaign in 2016. Like all of his work it's both compassionate and militant. Highlights for me include Rovics' response to the glorification of World War I ("Neither King Nor Kaiser"), and his song for Michael Brown ("His Hands Were in the Air"). Another new Rovics album, *Falasteen Habibti* (roughly "Beloved Palestine"), is actually a compilation of previously released material, but it's more a revelation than a repackaging. The many fine songs Rovics has recorded over the years in tribute to the Palestinian struggle are brought together and carefully ordered to make listening to *Falasteen Habibti* a deeply engrossing experience. As always, Rovics displays impressive narrative skill, incisive political analysis and a keen sense of history. For more info: <http://davidrovics.bandcamp.com/>.

### Musicians campaign for streaming \$\$\$

A special conference of the International Federation of Musicians (IMF), held Nov. 20-21 in Budapest, has endorsed a worldwide declaration calling for a more equitable share for musicians of online music service revenues. The motion was presented to the IMF by American Federation of Musicians President Ray Hair and Alan Willaert, AFM Vice-President from Canada. The Budapest Declaration calls for a 50-50 sharing of streaming revenues with record producers. The shift away from physical recordings and digital downloads to on-demand service providers such as Sirius XM, Spotify and Pandora, has led to a drastic drop in royalty revenues for professional musicians. Last year U.S. superstar Taylor Swift withdrew her entire catalogue from streaming giant Spotify. In 2013 Radiohead's Thom Yorke did the same. Former Talking Head singer and music industry critic David Byrne has declared that the company is "not a viable business model for musicians". For more info: [www.fim-musicians.org/budapest-declaration](http://www.fim-musicians.org/budapest-declaration).



## La Trova Nuestra

**Friday, Nov. 28, 8 pm**

### "La Peña Nuestra"

Centre For Socialist Education, Vancouver  
706 Clark Drive (Clark and Georgia st)  
\$10 Entry

**About Vancouver's "La Trova Nuestra"**  
La Trova Nuestra is composed of 20 individual trovadores who originate from across Latin America and now reside in Vancouver. These trovadores are the keepers of a musical tradition which began with pioneers of the vernacular song. La Trova Nuestra incorporates this tradition interplaying music and poetry. At its foundation is the essence of a popular culture interpreting daily expression... an expression with origins deep within La Raza Mestiza (mixed roots) of Latin America - an expression of the explosive changes within the continent of Latin America today. La Trova Nuestra could be defined as "The encounter between a man, a guitar and poetry - voices pledging for a better world."

## Ontario judges declare "housing is not a human right"

By Howard Tessler, Parkdale Club, Toronto

The first week of 2015 was bitterly cold in Toronto. The first week also saw the homeless population of the city decline - not due to the housing policies of newly elected mayor, John Tory, or better affordability of rental housing. It dropped because two of Toronto's homeless froze to death.

Mayor Tory and his Public Health department argued about when an "extreme cold weather alert" should be announced, and by whom. Tory also announced that two additional warming centres would be opened. Activists in the Ontario Coalition against Poverty (OCAP) saw this as a partial victory for their activities and pressure.

Torontonians responded by holding a candle-light vigil by the bus shelter where the first homeless man was found frozen to death. And the *Toronto Star* editorialized that the deaths "seem less a problem of flawed policy and more an error in judgement on the part of public health authorities." (see "More flexibility is needed in issuing extreme cold weather alerts." January 8, 2015)

But it was indeed the policies of the federal, provincial, and municipal governments that killed those two men, as well as the 158 people who died in Toronto's

shelters between 2007 and 2013.

The vacancy rate in Toronto is 1.6%. A "healthy" vacancy rate, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), is 3%. Toronto's official unemployment rate for adults is 8.8% while youth unemployment stands at 17.6%. The national average is 7% and 13.4% respectively.

Federal governments over the last 20 years made it harder to receive unemployment insurance. There is still no national housing strategy, drawing the condemnation of United Nations. On any given night, 235,000 people in Canada are homeless. In the next three to five years federal subsidies to non-profit co-op housing will end. Thousands of families living in rent-geared-to income units will face eviction.

Since the mid-1990s Ontario has seen the ending of non-profit co-op housing, replacement of rent control with rent regulation, welfare rates cut by 22%, and the de-funding of pro-tenant housing advocacy groups.

In Toronto, there has been a steady increase in the numbers of people waiting for social housing. At the end of 2013 the waiting list for social housing was 77,109 households, up by 4,413 households over the previous year. Emergency shelter use has increased as well.

In 2010 housing advocates began a Charter challenge to the Supreme Court, arguing that homeless people's rights to equality, life, liberty and security of the person had been violated by a lack of affordable housing and cuts to social programs.

The federal and Ontario governments appealed to Ontario's Superior Court to block the case from going to Canada's highest court. The housing advocates brought experts to testify, and had 10,000 pages of studies and statistics to show exactly how the governments and their policies violated the human rights of hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

On September 8, 2013, a decision was reached. Mr. Justice Thomas Lederer did not disagree with any of the evidence brought forward by the homeless advocates. He acknowledged their facts. But he agreed with the governments lawyers. He said that human rights have nothing to do with economic security: "The Charter does nothing to provide assurance that we all share a right to a minimum standard of living."

It seemed that in Canada, housing is not a human right.

The homeless advocates went to Ontario's Court of Appeals, but on December 1, 2014, the court ruled against the homeless. Justice Gladys Pardu said that the case was political, not legal. The federal and provincial lawyers said "the Charter does not include a general right to housing or oblige governments to provide

## What's Left

### Vancouver, BC

**La Trova Nuestra**, evening of Latin American music, admission \$10, 8 pm, Friday, Jan. 30, Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive.

**Left Film Night**, "No Justice, No Peace," 5 pm, Saturday, Feb. 7, Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive. Ph. 604-255-2041 for details.

### Surrey, BC

**Palestine: 68 years of struggle and resistance**, Sat., Jan. 17, 1:30 pm, Room 418, City Centre Library, with speakers Dr. Sunera Thobani (UBC), Hanna Kawas (Canada Palestine Assoc.), Sid Shniad (Independent Jewish Voices).

Organized by Fraser Valley Peace Council, 604-940-0420.

### Toronto, ON

**Jose Marti Dinner and Dance**, Sat., Jan. 31, 7 pm, 1604 Bloor St. West, Cuban dinner and cultural program, dancing with Pablo Terry and Sol de Cuba band. \$35 advance, \$45 at door. Sponsored by Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto. To reserve tickets: 905-951-8499 or 416-534-5340.

**Bethune Day Dinner, 7 pm**, Sat. Feb. 28, 2015, 290 Danforth Ave. Tickets \$5, door prize all-inclusive trip for two to Cuba. Media sponsor: People's Voice. For tickets, call 416-469-2446.

## People's Voice deadlines

February 1-14 issue: Thursday, Jan. 22

February 15-28 issue: Thursday, Feb. 5

Send submissions to PV Editorial Office,  
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, V5L 3J1  
<pvoice@telus.net>

social assistance and housing support. Economic and social policies are political matters.."

The two men frozen to death on

the streets of Toronto attest to the political and economic realities of life in Canada, and not to the weather. ●

## Tribute to a Comrade, a Friend and a Mentor

It is difficult to write about a man like Harold Keeton without placing him in the era wherein his activities and contributions made a significant mark. Harold was born in 1918 in the industrial city of Hamilton. He was a teenager at the beginning of the Great Depression, and barely 21 at the outbreak of WW2.

As a young returned soldier, Harold went to work in the Firestone Tire Plant and became a member of Local 113 of the United Rubber Workers Union, a local that he represented in many ways over the years. Prior to this he joined the Communist Party of Canada around 1940, a membership he retained with pride the remainder of his life.

In 1946 there erupted a labour war in Hamilton which was much larger than the Steelworkers, and included Rubberworkers, United Electrical workers and Typesetters at the daily paper. Harold was instrumental in organizing the returned veterans from a government training facility that led to the "Veteran's March", the largest of the strike support marches. He also was the prime mover in bringing Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to entertain at a massive rally at the Stelco plant gates.

Many labour activists rested after 1946, but for Harold Keeton it was the beginning of a life of activism. When I met Harold in 1962, he was active in the anti-nuclear movement, environmental movement, the struggle for universal Medicare and later the struggle against the Vietnam war. As a Communist labour activist Harold was involved in the Unity Caucus in Hamilton that resisted the raids and McCarthyite agenda to destroy the left unions in Canada. He was always the strong voice of reason and always very respected. In the Hamilton Labour Council Harold was the catalyst for the left, for unity and militancy. He was a mentor for the young and the militant.

In the 1976 CLC work stoppage against the Trudeau wage controls, Harold was working fervently on preparations when he discovered that the CLC had no official flag to lead the pending protest of 40,000 workers. He promptly designed a flag and had it adopted by Labour Council; subsequently it flew over Hamilton City Hall on the day of protest. This flag was presented by Harold Keeton and Council President Hugh Usher to the next CLC Convention and was officially adopted by the delegates. The CLC Flag of today was designed by Harold Keeton.

Harold loved music. There weren't many Saturday nights that he wasn't playing his drums in some musical group. An invitation to one of his and Florence's barbecues was an introduction to art, music and labour activism, and the interesting people who nurtured these values. Harold also loved sailing and the natural environment of the Muskokas, where the family cottage was eventually winterized into a retirement home for him and Florence.

In the dark days of McCarthyism and the cold war the offensive against the left was both insidious and brutal. But workers like Harold Keeton, a revolutionary and internationalist, could never be separated from their brother and sister workers because they carried the dream of a better world and acted on it every day of their lives.

Harold passed away peacefully from the effects of a stroke at Algonquin Grace Hospice in Huntsville, aged 97 years. He is survived by his children Jan and Dan Keeton, son-in-law Stephen McBride and grandchildren Emily, Morna and Shona McBride. He was predeceased by his wife Florence Edna Keeton and his brother Roy Keeton.

Farewell Comrade!  
- Sam Hammond

## Ontario Communists launch recruiting drive

Across Ontario, clubs and activists are organizing to build the Communist Party in their cities, on campuses, in workplaces. In fact, Communists are fighting to change the world, and to build a strong revolutionary party, and a powerful labour and people's movement.

According to the CPC's Ontario Committee, change is in the air. There is an urgent demand for jobs, rising wages and living standards, affordable housing, strong universal and comprehensive social programs including Medicare, childcare, accessible post-secondary education, and a Canada Pension Plan that kicks in at age 60 and delivers benefits equivalent to a living wage.

People want action now on climate change. They want action on Aboriginal rights and land claims, and an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

They want more democracy, not less, and more say over Canada's

energy policy (penned by Big Oil), on our foreign policy (dictated by the US State Department, Big Oil and Harper), and national sovereignty (rapidly down the tube thanks to Harper, Big Oil, and free trade deals).

Unemployed workers and youth are tired of waiting for the good jobs, prosperity and opportunities promised by the Big Business parties during elections. The policies of austerity, unemployment, falling living standards and disappearing social and political rights, are universal to the Big Business parties - and to those like the New Labour NDP who would like to join that exclusive club.

Politics are polarizing in Ontario, as the election campaigns in 2014 showed. The capitalist crisis has created openings on the far right for Tea Party politics like the Ford Brothers in Toronto City Hall. Other "mini-Fords" in Ontario just waiting for an opportunity.

But these right-wing politics have also created openings for the left, a new urgency for mass action in the labour movement. There is a new receptiveness to the Communist Party and its Prescription for a People's Recovery, its alternative of peace and development, and an anti-monopoly, anti-imperialist, democratic people's coalition that puts people before profits and curbs corporate power.

The Communist Party's vote doubled in the 2014 provincial election, and recruits also doubled in 2014. Progressives are reaching left, and some are reaching out for the Communist Party and radical, fundamental change.

This winter, Ontario Communists are reaching out to welcome all those interested in finding out more about the Communist Party and socialism. Another world is possible, and this is the best place to fight for it - and win it.

The CPC's new Central Organizer, Johan Boyden, will be in Ontario in January, and again in February for an important weekend.

Saturday, February 21, is a special night in a special weekend for new members who joined in 2014 and 2015, and those who brought them into the Party. This is the night we recognize them and their decision to join and build Canada's Party of Socialism.

This exclusive event is only for new members and for the Party builders who helped them decide to join. Tickets are available at the CPC Provincial Office, at 416-469-2446 or through Communist Party clubs in your area.

Come and join the Party! Another world is possible! We have a world to win! ●

Celebrate the father of socialized medicine in Canada!

### NORMAN BETHUNE DAY

Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:00 pm

GCDO Hall, 290 Danforth Ave., Toronto

Tickets just \$5... Door Prize:  
One week all-inclusive trip  
for Two to Cuba!



Organized by Bethune Day Committee.  
Media Sponsor: People's Voice  
Info: 416-469-2446

# Behind Israel's fear of boycott

On December 10, UAW Local 2865, the union of TAs, GAs, tutors, Readers and student workers in the University of California system, released the results of its December vote on supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel for its violation of Palestinian human rights. The vote carried, 65% YES to 35% NO. In addition, 52% of respondents opted in to a voluntary academic boycott pledge as part of the vote. This makes UAW 2865 the first labour union in the United States to adopt BDS in support of Palestinian rights. The following article by Tithi Bhattacharya, *The Electronic Intifada*, was written before the vote was announced.

This week United Auto Workers 2865, representing 13,000 student workers across nine University of California campuses, could become the first labour union in the US to join the Palestinian-led movement for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.

The union's December 4 vote comes in the wake of a momentous period of organising for BDS on college campuses and within scholarly associations - a process marked by a spectacular victory for our side when the American Studies Association voted overwhelmingly for BDS in December 2013. This followed the Asian American Studies Association, which in April 2013 became the first scholarly association to adopt BDS.

This is despite, and in response to, the violence unleashed by Israel on Palestinian lives and homes during the summer in the genocidal military campaign against Gaza. One way to judge our success would be by the measure of outrage on Zionist organisations, such as the Anti-Defamation League.

The Anti-Defamation League has made an alphabetical list of all university campuses that in 2014 considered or voted on BDS. That number, just for 2014, was an impressive 15, of which five student governments actually passed a BDS motion, usually by huge majorities.

"Perhaps more disconcerting," according to the Anti-Defamation League, was "the extent to which support for BDS has seeped into the realm of scholars."

Following the American Studies Association vote, several scholarly organisations - including the Peace and Justice Studies Association, the Modern Language Association and the National Women's Studies Association, among others - have either passed or are considering voting on BDS resolutions.

## Tactic of the dispossessed

(It) is important to make two points as we organise towards the future:

First, that historically, boycott is a tactic used by the dispossessed against the powerful. This is not a new tactic. Boycott has deep roots in anti-imperialist struggle, internationally.

Palestinians stand alongside other anti-imperialist fighters whose rich and fierce history of struggle is worth recalling today - not simply because it ought to be part of our collective historical memory, but also because they won against their oppressors.

Second, the tactic of BDS presents particular difficulties for Israel and its allies, because it is an international movement and not tied to particular nation states or their rulers.

The 2005 call for BDS from Palestinian civil society was both an acknowledgment and a call for solidarity. It was an acknowledgement the Palestinian people could no longer depend on Arab ruling elites to deliver a just victory due to their compromises with neo-liberalism and US imperialism.

Consequently, it was a call for solidarity to those Palestinians could rely on: an international citizenry who could stand with them, often against their own home governments.

Both these features of BDS deserve unpacking.

## Isolate imperialists

Boycott, as a tactic of resistance, derives its name from one Captain Charles Boycott. Boycott was a land agent in 19th century Ireland managing the estates of a large landowner, Lord Erne, in County Mayo. Boycott was known for his singular cruelty and ruthlessness

towards the Irish people who worked on his land.

But all did not go well for Captain Boycott in history. When Boycott tried to evict his Irish tenants in 1880, the workers, organised by the Irish Land League, led a "boycott" of Charles Boycott.

The entire community participated in the campaign to isolate the imperialist. Workers stopped work on his land, shops refused to serve him; he even failed to get anyone to do his laundry. Boycott finally left Ireland in 1880 but not before he gave us the verb "to boycott" in celebration of the hundreds of ordinary Irish people who kicked him out of their land.

The next successful mass boycott campaign was the Swadeshi movement in Bengal in British-occupied India. At a packed town hall meeting in Calcutta on August 7, 1905,



leading nationalists of Bengal called for a boycott of all British goods and institutions to protest the then Viceroy Lord Curzon's decision to partition Bengal and fuel Hindu-Muslim religious tensions.

The decision to boycott the colonial power was, again, rooted in internationalism. Its inspiration came in part from the Chinese boycott of American goods in protest against racist immigration laws - a tactic noted as worthy of emulation by radical Bengali nationalists.

The boycott of 1905 blossomed into a full-scale passive resistance campaign, marked by public burnings of British goods, boycott of British schools, colleges, law courts and places of work and a demand for full independence from colonial rule.

Activists and volunteers addressed massive rallies, organised lectures in villages,

composed beautiful songs and poems about the motherland, wrote street plays and even set up their own arbitration courts as parallel judiciaries to the British law courts.

Lord Curzon, known for his racism and imperial arrogance, was forced to revoke the partition and ultimately return to England. The year 1905 proved to be an inspiration and part-blueprint for the subsequent Gandhian movement of the 1920s and later. In fact the economic boycott of British goods proved to be far more intense in the 1921-22 and 1930s campaigns, worrying the major industrialists in Britain.

## Hallmark of freedom struggle

The boycott of British goods and institutions became a hallmark of the Indian freedom struggle in general, inspiring similar tactics internationally - notably in South Africa.

Through the 1950s the African National Congress and its allies spearheaded various boycott campaigns against the apartheid state. A 1958 paper by the ANC's national executive argued that "new methods of struggle must emerge - we can no longer rely on the old forms."

The movement gained international support slowly through the 1960s, passing through acts of brutal violence of the South African state such as the Sharpeville massacre and despite tenacious opposition from the US and British governments in the 1980s.

Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister, called the ANC a "terrorist organisation." Her spokesperson, Bernard Ingham, famously declared that anyone who believed that the ANC would ever form a government in South Africa was "living in cloud cuckoo land".

And yet, Nelson Mandela walked out from 27 years of imprisonment into the South African sunshine in February of 1990 - marking the beginning of the end for white minority rule.

## Boycott worked

Boycotting a settler colonial regime, then, has a proud anti-imperialist history and long history of success. The ANC revolutionaries called the strategy a "devastating weapon" when wielded in concert with "sympathetic organisations overseas." And rightly so.

Unlike the South Africans and Indians, the Palestinians in historic Palestine do not have the same strategic power over the Israeli state. In South Africa and India if the indigenous people - Black South Africans and Indians - stopped all work for and with the

colonial regime, the regime would fall. The colonised outnumbered the colonisers by several counts.

This is not the case in Palestine. Palestinians living in the state of Israel now form a minority population, compared to the Israeli settler-colonial population - all the more reasons why the right of return for Palestinian refugees ought to be an absolutely non-negotiable demand. In historic Palestine overall, the Israeli Jewish and Palestinian populations are roughly equal in number. This means that numerically, Palestinians, within Palestine, cannot pose the same strategic pressure on the settlers as their Indian or South African counterparts could.

But the rest of us can. The rest of us who stand for justice in Palestine can honour the call for solidarity from Palestine and campaign for boycott, divestment and sanctions against the apartheid state of Israel.

In my mind, there is no question that Palestinians have provided the fighting edge to the struggles of the late-20th century. I would even go as far as to say that the intifadas - uprisings - in particular and the Palestinian resistance in general provided the inspiration and confidence for what came to be called the Arab Spring.

But they cannot win this fight in isolation, and this is not just their fight.

First, there is the fact that Palestinians are largely an unarmed population resisting one of the most militarised states on the planet, which uses deadly force on everyone, including infants, with impunity.

Second, most of Israel's arms are supplied by countries of the global North, the US leading that list. This means we can put pressure on our own governments to stop the genocide in Palestine.

We can block Israel's boats, we can pass BDS resolutions in our student governments, in our labour unions and in our professional organisations. We can force companies to close their factories on illegally occupied Palestinian land.

We can do all this because numerically, we are many. And the people who uphold Israeli apartheid may be powerful, but they are few. If Israeli apartheid falls, it will not just be a victory for Palestine. Because it will be such a massive blow to global imperialism, it will be a taste of liberation for all of us.

This is why it is important to remind ourselves of the rich and deeply internationalist tradition of boycott, as we get ready to introduce BDS resolutions in our schools, unions and community organizations.

Just like the UAW 2865 will on December 4. Because boycotts have a history of winning. ●

## NEWS FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFITS!

Every issue of PEOPLE'S VOICE gives you the latest on the fightback from coast to coast. Whether it's the struggle to defeat the Harper Tories, resistance to social cuts, solidarity with Cuba or workers' struggles around the world, we've got the news the corporate media won't print.

And we do more than that—we report and analyze events from a revolutionary perspective, helping to build the movements for justice and equality, and eventually for a socialist Canada. Read the paper that fights for working people—on every page—in every issue!

people's  
**VOICE**

- \$30 for 1 year    \$50 for 2 years  
 Low income special rate: \$15 for 1 year  
 Outside Canada: \$45 US or \$50 Cnd for 1 year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: People's Voice,  
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

370-15/01

**REDS ON THE WEB**

[www.comunist-party.ca](http://www.comunist-party.ca)

[www.peoplesvoice.ca](http://www.peoplesvoice.ca)

[www.ycl-ljc.ca](http://www.ycl-ljc.ca)

[rebelyouth-magazine.blogspot.com](http://rebelyouth-magazine.blogspot.com)

<http://solidnet.org>