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# people's VOICE

**New Tory  
attack on E.I.**

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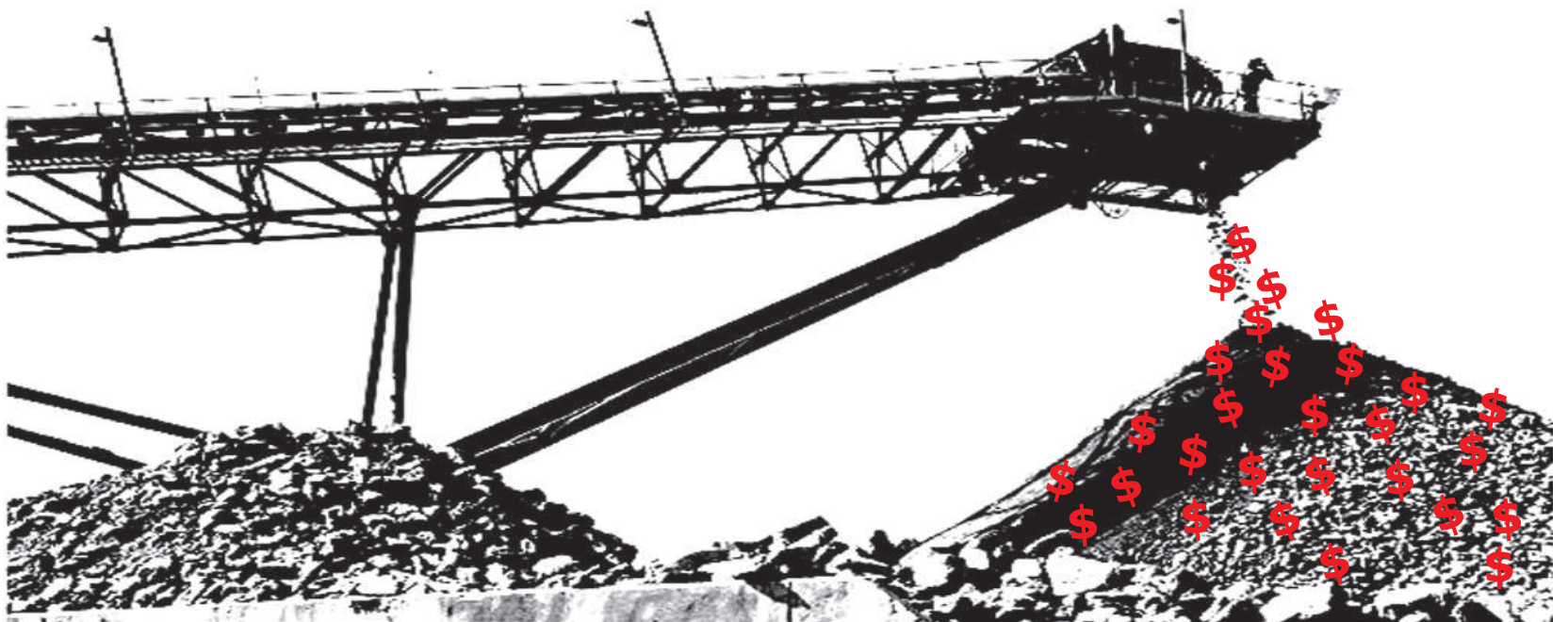
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## Mass protests shake Turkey

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### **The real scandals**

While corporate media eyes are on the Senate and Rob Ford, bigger scandals keep bubbling along, from massive electoral fraud, to a stream of anti-labour legislation, to vicious sexual harassment in the RCMP.

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### **Global check-up**

Here's a question: what will happen when the US Federal Reserve stops injecting 85 billion dollars into the economy every month?

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### **Gulf state struggles**

The Gulf states have seen rapid capitalist growth in recent decades, fuelled by cheap labour from Asian countries. Now there is huge pressure for better wages and working conditions..

# G8 Summit: We deserve a better kind of politics

By Ruairi Creaney

The countdown is on to the G8 summit, where the leaders of the world's eight richest countries will convene in Co. Fermanagh [Northern Ireland] to hammer out how meddling foreign policies and a destructive economic doctrine known as "austerity" will be implemented over the next 12 months.

The G8 has been accompanied by an imposing mix of propaganda, revealing much about the state of Northern Ireland's obedient local media. The propaganda takes both a positive and a negative form.

On one hand, "business leaders" hail the summit as an enormous boost for the local economy - the silver bullet needed to rejuvenate a rural county long forgotten by policy-makers. Absurd claims of a tourism boost go largely uncontested in a buttering-up process intended to encourage the population not to notice the deficit hawks, war criminals and a mafia gangster.

On the other hand, a malicious smear campaign has been orchestrated, lumping entirely peaceful protesters together with dissident republicans and fictional "anarchists" who are said to exist in their thousands. The purpose of this is obvious. People are being intimidated by the threat of arrest and imprisonment if they take part in any counter-demonstrations.

The "liberal" local justice minister David Ford has set aside an entire wing of the maximum security Maghaberry prison for "rioters" while the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has employed the use of surveillance drones. Remarkably no main party in Stormont has so far voiced any concerns. Press releases issued by the PSNI and local government have, predictably, been regurgitated by a local press eager for an easy news story.

In a bizarre front-page article earlier this month the *Irish News* reported that "thousands of anarchists" were intending to take over buildings in Belfast during the summit. The scaremongering is blatant.

Yet any analysis explaining why many people feel the need to protest

against the G8 is glaringly absent in the vast majority of news reports. Of course, little of this is surprising.

Since the Good Friday Agreement 15 years ago, a new "common sense" has taken hold. The public sector is said to be "bloated" and the only remedy for our weak economy is to lure foreign investment by radically slashing taxes for the rich. The politics of green and orange is overlapped by an economic consensus which contends that "the markets" know best, taxes should be minimal and the role of the state is merely to facilitate the successful operation of private business.

Dublin academic Conor McCabe, author of *Sins Of The Father*, describes this as the "double transition" - a transition towards both peace and neoliberalism.

"Eastern Europe, South Africa and Northern Ireland," he wrote, "are all unique in terms of the dynamics of their history and geography. What they have in common is that they found themselves as societies in transition at a time when economic thought had solidified around neoliberal principles."

To oppose an administration which has overseen a doubling of unemployment in six years is to oppose the "peace process."

"Sure it's better than the Troubles," is the popular reaction.

The adherence to neoliberalism is clear to be seen in the approach of politicians and mainstream commentators.

"I think this will be a brilliant advertisement for Northern Ireland," gloated David Cameron when the announcement about the summit was first made. "I want the world to see just what a fantastic place Northern Ireland is - a great place for business, a great place for investment, a place with an incredibly educated and trained workforce ready to work for international business."

Northern Ireland is no longer a country - not that I ever accepted that it was. It's a business and should be run as such. The economy should be, above all else, "competitive" - a euphemism for low wages and high profits. So goes the conventional

narrative.

Despite this apparent negativity, the G8 summit is an opportunity to challenge this tedious mantra. On June 15, thousands will pack the streets of Belfast to demonstrate their opposition to the policies of those attending the summit.

On the following Monday another rally will make its way from Enniskillen towards the Lough Erne Hotel where the summit is being held. The smears and intimidation shouldn't discourage anyone from attending either protest.

As well as these demonstrations a four-day festival of political discussion, comedy and music will take place in Belfast. Organised by activists from ICTU (Irish Congress of Trade Unions) Youth and the Belfast Trades Council, the Another World is Possible Festival is an opportunity for discussion, debate and activism. Highlight speakers include George Galloway and Tariq Ali as well as trade union leaders from Nipsa, Unison and Unite.

The potential is there to inspire people to become involved in trade unionism and socialist politics who wouldn't otherwise do so.

The festival can begin to challenge the trite politics of Stormont, confront the dogma of "the markets" and build a movement for change. Ignore what is claimed in the media. This is not about damaging property or throwing bricks at the police. This is about the age-old working-class principles of action, education, agitation and organisation.

We deserve a better kind of politics - and a better media, for that matter.

If you're angry at unemployment, cuts, bank bailouts, austerity, emigration, the divide-and-rule tactics of conservatives, racism, war, imperialism, inequality, the destruction of the environment, lousy wages, overwork, immoral corporations, poverty, hunger or unrepresentative politicians, this festival is for you.

No-one's political activity should be confined to sitting on an armchair screaming at the evening news. Everyone has the ability to change society.

We don't need to wait on odious

sycophants such as Bono and Bob Geldof to raise the issues which affect the bulk of humanity. We have the ability to empower

ourselves.

Another world is possible.

(This commentary appeared on June 10 in the UK Morning Star.) ●

## REASONS TO PROTEST AGAINST G8

[www.anotherworldispossiblebelfast.org](http://www.anotherworldispossiblebelfast.org)

### 1. The G8 pushes bail-outs for the banks and austerity for us.

Since the Financial Crash of 2008, more than \$13 trillion has been pumped into the global banking system. Governments invented a new word, "re-capitalisation", for shovelling public money into private banks. They also took over the bad debts run up by the banks and made the ordinary people pay for them. The amount of money that was spent on banks could have ended world hunger for fifty years. The neoliberal policies they are promoting triggered the greatest economic crash since the 1930s, yet it is those at the bottom of the pile who are expected to tighten their belts while the policies of the G8 have not changed one inch.

### 2. The G8 leaders have a history of violence.

The G8 countries spend more on weapons than any other country, bar China. The USA and Russia devote 17% and 14% of overall spending on weapons of war. This is more than on health or education and it is still rising. The US alone, despite 5 years of President Obama, still leads the way in militarisation, accounting for 41% of all spending on weaponry. One of the most sinister developments is Obama's support for drone warfare. These are small, unmanned aircraft that unleash bombs and missiles on innocent people in Pakistan and Yemen, triggered by CIA operatives sitting in the US. Between 1,000 and 3,000 people have been murdered by these machines.

### 3. The G8 leaders talk about world hunger but every summit leads to empty promises.

Over 900 million people in the world are malnourished. The G8 leaders talk platitudes and do little. At the 2009, L'Aquila summit they promised to contribute just \$20 billion to alleviate this starvation but only contributed \$5 billion. Respected geographer David Harvey has estimated that more than \$4 trillion has been pumped out of the poorest countries in the world through so called structural adjustment policies. Jubilee 2000 the faith based London organisation has argued that this set of policies in turn is responsible for the deaths of around 7 million children in Africa, Asia and Latin America every year. This amounts to a holocaust every 24 months as millions die completely needlessly.

### 4. The G8 is not making genuine attempts to tackle climate change.

The G8 leaders are taking no serious action about rising global temperatures which are leading to more freak weather patterns. Despite the huge opportunity provided by the world's leaders gathering in one place they refuse to share technology on green energy. Instead, they rely on the 'free market' to persuade corporations to change. They continue to subsidise fossil fuels - the subsidies having increased from \$400 billion in 2010 to \$630 bn in 2012. Worse, they are now leading the way on fracking - a technology that destroys the environment and increases global warming. In Canada, they expend vast amounts of energy to extract oil from tar sands.

### 5. The G8 leaders promote ever more attacks on civil liberties.

The G8 leaders talk about democracy and freedom but the reality is more complicated. Every time they hold a summit they create an atmosphere of fear through propaganda in order to demonise protest. G8 summits have a history of state violence and arbitrary arrest and other restrictions on civil liberties yet whip up fears about protesters. In Russia punk rock group, Pussy Riot, have been jailed by Putin's regime for daring to challenge his legitimacy while the United States detain without trial, 166 prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. Many of these prisoners are now on hunger strike. ●

## Finish line in sight for PV Drive

Completing the annual Fund Drive for People's Voice is never easy, but we can almost see the finish line. As of June 10, \$38,190 has been turned in, or 76.4% of our \$50,000 target. We are working to collect another \$2,000 from greetings in our May Day issue, and our supporters in Surrey

have announced that the annual PV Walk-A-Thon will take place on the Aug. 3-4 weekend. Pledges and donations for this event raise over \$3,000 every year. So we are confident in calculating that only \$7,000 more is needed to complete the 2013 Drive!

Alberta (\$3100 raised out of

\$3500) and Ontario (\$19,000 out of \$21,600) are currently tied for the lead, each with 88% of their targets achieved. British Columbia (\$13,005, or 65% of \$20,000) is just ahead of Quebec (\$320, or 64% of \$500), followed by Saskatchewan (\$320, or 53% of its \$600 goal) and then Manitoba (\$750, or 31% of a \$2400 target). Another \$100 has been received from the Atlantic, plus a very generous \$1900 from friends in the USA.

Very special thanks go to comrade Liz Payne from the Communist Party of Britain, who has been our special guest at PV events in Vancouver and Toronto. Comrade Payne was the keynote speaker at the annual PV Banquet on June 8 in Vancouver, where her literature table sales helped boost the revenues for the event. Look for a report on her tour in our next issue.

Until then, remember that we are close to the target, but we do still need your support! ●

## Here's my contribution!

Enclosed please find my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the 2013 People's Voice Press Fund Drive.

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On the web: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Phone 1-202-456-1111 Fax 1-202-456-2461

Telegram: President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 2500, USA

For more information, see <http://thecuban5.org> or [www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca](http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca)

# That's even more scandalous!

By Jean Kenyon

Canada's mainstream media have lately been full of Conservative Senators fudging expense claims, the Prime Minister's Office trying to keep it quiet, and a video of a crack-smoking Rob Ford which has mysteriously disappeared. But while they've been preoccupied with these salacious dramas - and they are of some importance - the media have been under-reporting some even more scandalous goings-on.

As Canada Day 2013 approaches, here are my suggestions for Canada's National Scandal Sheet.

## 1. ELECTION FRAUD GOES UNPUNISHED

On May 24 Judge Richard Mosley found that a campaign of voter suppression occurred in ridings across Canada in the 2011 federal election, as voters who had indicated they were not supporting the Conservative Party received phone calls directing them to non-existent polling stations. Mosley also stated that Conservative MPs in six ridings, where the result was challenged by the Council of



Canadians, had sought to obstruct his investigation.

What have been the consequences? No MPs have lost their seats, no one has been named, fined, or jailed, and the media are giving all their attention to the Senate expenses scandal.

The eight voters who brought this suit have decided not to take it to the Supreme Court. Instead the Council of Canadians has launched a petition calling for a public inquiry, and to bring the perpetrators to justice: <http://canadians.org/election/petition.html>

Meanwhile Chief Electoral Officer Marc Mayrand told a House of Commons committee that Elections Canada needs more powers to compel witnesses to testify. He told reporters that Conservative officials have repeatedly refused to speak to E.C. investigators in the election fraud case.

## 2. G20 COP ACQUITTED

In June 2010, Dorian Barton was peacefully demonstrating in the area designated by Toronto

police for G20 protests. As he saw mounted police appear on the scene, he started taking pictures. He never caught the badge number of the officer who stepped forward from a line of police, struck him with a baton, and broke his shoulder with a riot shield. An eyewitness caught the officer's face on camera, but not the actual blows.

Funny that no one in that line of police could identify their colleague. At trial the eyewitness's character was impugned, and the officer was acquitted.

This is the first of a series of trials of G20 police. Personally I'm more worried about the police cracking heads than whether the Toronto mayor may be a crack head.

## 3. DOCUMENTS KEPT FROM TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Following Stephen Harper's 2008 public apology for Canada's past practice of forcibly removing Aboriginal children to residential schools, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission was set up to let victims of abuse tell their painful stories - and to create a historical record of the residential schools.

But as the Commission nears the end of its mandate, it is still waiting for millions of documents to be released by the federal government. Library and Archives Canada estimates that to find and digitize them all would take 10 years. Will the Commission's mandate be extended, so the work can be completed? Will it have to go to court to get the documents?

Harper would like to take credit for his public apology, while behind the scenes trying to prevent Canada's true history from being told.

## 4. HEAD STILL IN THE TAR SANDS

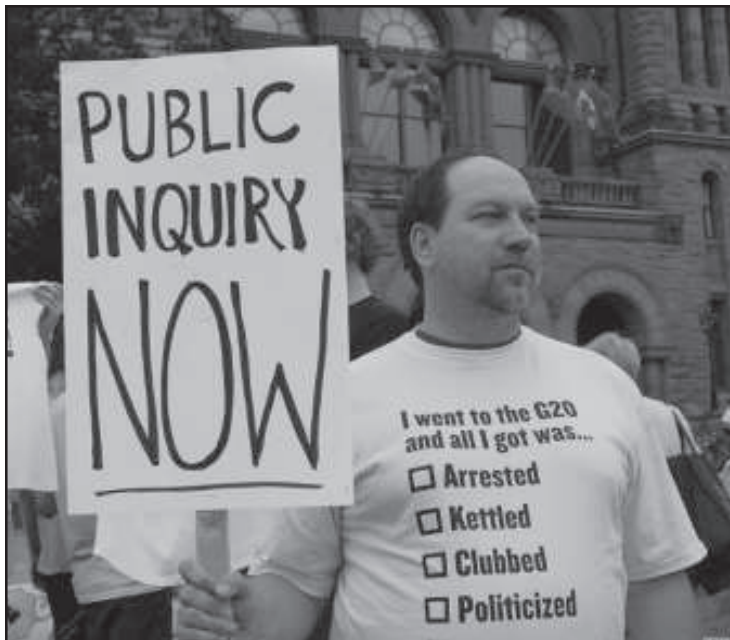
Harper gave a speech to the US Council on Foreign Relations recently, urging approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry huge quantities of bitumen from Alberta to the US Gulf Coast, leading to further expansion of the tar sands.

Yet Canada's own military has issued two reports stating that climate change will lead to major threats to global security. Not even these voices influence Harper to shift away from his full-speed-ahead promotion of the tar sands. The COFR also grilled Harper on Canada being the only country to pull out of the Kyoto protocol.

And if you need another reason to hate the tar sands, see this 3-storey mountain of petroleum coke piled along the Detroit River, on a strip of beach owned by one of the Koch brothers (of Tea Party fame): <http://mobile.nytimes.com/2013/05/18/business/energy-environment/mountain-of-petroleum-coke-from-oil-sands-rises-in-detroit.html>

## 5. CONTEMPT FOR U.N. ARMS TREATY

On June 3, sixty-one nations signed a treaty to control the international trade in small arms, such as handguns and grenades. But Canada refuses



PV photos by Ed Bil (above), K. Cariou (below left)

to sign. NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar asked why, pointing out that half a million people die every year because of the illegal trade in small arms, especially in conflict zones like Sudan and Congo.

Our honourable foreign affairs minister's reply? "We don't want to see the NDP and their friends in the Liberal Party try to bring in a long gun registry by the back door."

There's no connection with the long gun registry, and John Baird knows it. Just a sleazy remark. Harper had earlier demonstrated his contempt for the UN talks by sending a Quebec gun dealer as Canada's representative.

## 6. RCMP BOSS DISPARAGES HARASSMENT CLAIMANTS

First it was one woman, then 2 or 3, who ventured to speak out about persistent sexual harassment within the RCMP. Now a lawsuit, awaiting class action certification, has gathered the names of 300 current and former Mounties who claim that their workplace was toxic because of sexual harassment and bullying.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson was called to speak at a Senate committee looking into these matters. He picked out some complainants by name, stating that they were women who failed to make advancement in the force and were looking for someone to blame. He singled out two male complainants as being involved in union organizing activities, and therefore not credible. Clearly the culture within the RCMP hasn't changed much.

## 7. ANTI-LABOUR BILLS GOING THROUGH PARLIAMENT

The newest Omnibus budget bill, C-60, has attracted attention for the way it will threaten the independence of the CBC. Less noticed has been its provision for federal officials to sit in on collective bargaining talks at all Crown corporations, including the CBC. In this way the federal government will exert control over staffing, salary, pensions, and more.

Meanwhile Bill C-377, passed in the Commons in December, is working its way through the Senate. It will impose complicated

accounting procedures on unions,

including a requirement to divulge exactly how much staff time they

spend on political activities.

As if all this were not enough, a new private member's bill, C-525, is coming next. Sponsored by an Alberta Tory MP, C-525 will make it harder to certify a union and easier to decertify, in the federally-regulated sector (telecommunications, banking, and transportation). And before the end of June, the Conservative party convention is expected to vote on a policy resolution to eliminate dues check-off and union shops altogether.

This barrage is intentional. Before we can organize to fight back against one assault, two more come at us. Even more scandalous, the Harper Conservatives were not elected with any mandate to target organized labour.

Well, that's the National Scandal Sheet for yet another week in the life of this disgraceful Harper Conservative government! ●

## Reverse the Tory attacks on Employment Insurance

Central Committee,  
Communist Party of  
Canada, June 2013

higher, since those who have given up looking for non-existent jobs are no longer counted in the active workforce.

The Communist Party of Canada joins with the labour movement, the Catholic Bishops of Atlantic Canada, and many other voices which have condemned the Harper government's moves to sharply limit access to Employment Insurance benefits, especially by seasonal workers in hard-hit areas of eastern Canada. Protests this spring have included a march by tens of thousands in Montreal, and many other rallies in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

During 2012, under the demagogic guise of so-called "reforms to curb abuses", the Tories tightened regulations to make it virtually impossible for many such workers to qualify for benefits. This includes forcing jobless workers in areas of extremely high unemployment to prove that they are actively seeking work, and to accept any job within 100 kilometres of home, even if the pay is just 70 per cent of their previous salary. While the government claims that the changes will save \$12.5 million this year and \$33 million next year, Human Resources Minister Diane Finley has admitted that no studies were done in advance to gauge the impact of these changes upon workers. Regional EI offices have been given monthly quotas for slashing EI benefits, and there are media reports that government staff are showing up at homes of jobless workers to snoop on them.

These "savings" impose a deadly burden on working people and their communities. Over five years into the economic crisis which broke out in the fall of 2008, Statistics Canada reported in April that 1,361,700 were officially counted as unemployed, or 7.2% of the total workforce. In the 15-to-24 age group, unemployment stood at 14.5% and 46.8% of young workers are employed only part-time. The real unemployment figures are much

Even more shocking, only 13% of unemployed workers in the 15-to-24 age group were able to qualify for Employment Insurance in 2012, a figure which breaks down into a mere 7.0% of unemployed young women and 17% of unemployed male youth. Clearly, by tightening the EI eligibility rules, the Harper Tories have condemned young Canadians to lengthy periods of utter poverty, even though they pay into the EI fund during periods when they are employed. Overall, only 37% of unemployed Canadians qualify for EI benefits, and there are 5 unemployed people for every job vacancy.

If this was not enough bad news, on April 1, 250 referees who hear 26,000 EI appeals a year were replaced by just 39 people.

Despite overwhelming evidence that the EI cuts and the rest of the anti-working class Tory agenda are creating huge hardships for working people, PM Stephen Harper has outrageously blamed trade unions for "engaging in a campaign of misinformation about changes to the EI program".

Employment Insurance was a major victory for the working class of Canada, achieved thanks to massive and militant struggles during the 1930s by the Communist-led Relief Camp Workers Union, the Workers Unity League, and other progressive forces, over the stubborn resistance of Conservative PM "Iron Heel" Bennett.

Clearly, similar militant struggles are needed today, to block the continued attacks on EI, and to force governments to put the interests of working people ahead of corporate profits. The Communist Party will continue to press for broad, united, militant mass action by the labour movement and its allies, to defend EI and to reverse the entire agenda of the Harper Tories.

# EDITORIALS

## Another heroic whistleblower

The latest revelations of global U.S. surveillance operations are not surprising, but should serve as a warning. On the day after Sept. 11, 2001, the Communist Party of Canada warned against "any attempt internationally or domestically to use this tragic episode as a justification to limit democratic rights including the rights to assembly, privacy, legal due process or extend repression against the people." Since that time, a wide range of democratic forces have condemned the relentless drive to spy on critics of imperialist policies in the name of "fighting terrorism."

Now, ex-CIA employee Edward Snowden has leaked the details of U.S. phone and internet surveillance programs. As Snowden told the UK Guardian: "The NSA has built an infrastructure that allows it to intercept almost everything. With this capability, the vast majority of human communications are automatically ingested without targeting. If I wanted to see your emails or your wife's phone, all I have to do is use intercepts. I can get your emails, passwords, phone records, credit cards..."

It is true that such activities require intensive human involvement to take action on raw surveillance data, making the process expensive and complicated. But any official promises to avoid invasion of privacy rights are just so much baffleleg. The U.S. ruling class, with the complicity of right-wing regimes like the Harper Tories, will continue to spy on any movements which pose a serious or potential threat to the global domination of the transnational corporations. In turn, the data reaped from such surveillance will continue to be used to infiltrate, divide and weaken such opposition movements, in particular revolutionary forces which challenge the capitalist system itself.

Like Bradley Manning, Edward Snowden has done the world a tremendous service by blowing the whistle on this nightmare. Everything possible must be done to defend these two heroes.

## Union-busters 'R Us

The Tory union-bashing drive took another step on June 5, when Conservative MP Blaine Calkins (Wetaskiwin) introduced Bill C-525. This Act aims to overturn decades of hard-won collective bargaining rights, by changing the certification and revocation sections of the Canada Labour Code, the Public Service Labour Relations Act and the Parliamentary Employees Staff Relations Act.

Masked as giving workers the "choice" of whether to join a union, this private member's bill would actually remove the "card check" automatic certification of bargaining units. Adoption would mean that workers under federal jurisdiction will face the highest barriers to unionization in the country. Employers in the federal sector, on the other hand, would have full scope to intimidate such workers, making it nearly impossible to organize effectively. Just as significant, C-525 also changes the rules for decertification, so that if a minority of members of a bargaining unit (45%) apply for revocation, a mandatory vote is called. For the unit to remain unionized, the majority of employees in the unit must vote in favour of continued representation, since all "no-shows" would count against the union. As the Public Service Alliance of Canada warns, "this Bill stacks the deck against workers who wish to be represented by a union."

By sneaking C-525 in as a Private Members' Bill, the Tories hope to avoid being seen as anti-labour, despite their notorious record. It appears that the organization promoting these changes is Merit Canada, an employer lobby group which advocates for an end to unions in the construction industry.

Instead of more angry news releases, the Canadian Labour Congress and its affiliates need to get huge numbers of trade union members and their allies into the streets. Bill C-525 can be stopped, but only through mass mobilizations, before another big chunk of labour rights is legislated out of existence.



# The Perils of the Perils of Indifference

As part of his English 30-1 high school course in Alberta, PV contributor Graham Wilson was assigned to read a speech by Elie Wiesel, on "moral indifference". In the end, our writer says, the prominent Zionist's speech was little more than a defence of military interventionism, in this case the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999. Wilson came up with this response, receiving a full mark of 5/5.

On April 12, 1999, before an audience of White House dignitaries including then U.S. President Bill Clinton, Holocaust survivor and Nobel peace prize laureate Elie Wiesel delivered an address titled "The Perils of Indifference". In this speech, he outlined his thoughts on the philosophy of indifference, describing it as "a strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and compassion, good and evil."

He notes how indifference is "more dangerous than anger and hatred", because anger sometimes drives a person to do "something special for the sake of humanity because one is angry at the injustice that one witnesses." He concludes finally that indifference is "always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor - never his victim."

There is truth to these words, even in circumstances as seemingly mundane as a national election, where voter apathy and vote suppression is used to maintain domination by hateful and corrupt governments, which dodge hideous scandal after scandal by exploiting public apathy and the will to forget.

Wiesel then goes on to cite the example of the *St. Louis*, a cargo ship loaded with Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, which made anchor on the shores of the United States, only to be sent back again. He questioned how President Roosevelt could have let this happen, given documentation showing American awareness of the persecution of the Jews by Hitler's government. He also lists instances of American corporations trading and engaging with Germany's fascist regime, such as U.S. oil which powered the Blitzkrieg into France in 1940. He asks how it is that these agents could have remained silent despite their awareness - how they could have remained indifferent to the sufferings of the many trapped in the Nazi concentration camp system. On these counts, Wiesel is absolutely correct in his assertion that everyone has a

moral obligation to raise their voice to evil when apparent, and correct about our obligation to analyze the full results of our own actions.

However, in the concluding passages of his speech he starts to overstep the bounds of promoting awareness and activism, and falls into the trap of imperialist interventionism. He sings the praises of the "joint decision of the United States and NATO to intervene in Kosovo", which he feels to be "justified" as "a lasting warning that

### Other voices...

never again will the deportation, the terrorization of children and their parents be allowed anywhere in the world". While undoubtedly the violence that struck the area of the former Yugoslavia was horrible to behold, it is considerably ironic for NATO to have felt itself the region's knight in shining armour when it had been using and promoting religious and ethnic tensions in its effort to destabilize the former country's communist regime, which had presided over almost fifty years of relative peace.

Furthermore, the very means of the intervention left much to question, as NATO forces sought to protect, as Wiesel put it, "those refugees, those who were uprooted by a man whom I believe that because of his crimes, should be charged with crimes against humanity" through the large scale aerial bombardment of civilian areas, including factories and television stations, with the predictable resultant 'collateral damage'. Even worse was the particular types of armaments used, including cluster bombs and depleted uranium - many of which are still killing to this day, made yet more dangerous by the continuing lack of reconstructed infrastructure. Many have charged that NATO was simply experimenting with weapons while using the people of Serbia as mere guinea pigs, as well as trying to enhance their foothold into a region newly broken away from Russia's influence.

This was not a one-off case either. The same weapons were again used in Iraq and Afghanistan, showing the dark legacy of almost all the "humanitarian interventions" of the past decade.

The latest in Libya has proved perhaps the most embarrassing for NATO forces. The weak central government they set up in Gaddafi's place has failed to check fanatical

Islamist elements, leading to the death of the U.S. Ambassador during the consulate attack in Benghazi during September 2012. More catastrophic is the flow of arms to Islamist terrorists elsewhere in the continent - most notably to northern Mali, where the response has been yet another intervention by the French military; who knows what the end result of that will be. If indifference innately denies our humanity, it must be checked by how often action is nothing more than inhumanity in disguise.

Again, Wiesel is correct to note the actions of the United States and others in the build up of Nazi Germany, and right to note their partial responsibility for the horrors that followed.

The message that he failed to grasp is that the solution to war and violence is peace and development, not force and bombing from another power. Respect for the sovereignty of nations and the rights of people to self-determination is not justified to be violated on the grounds of one-sided lists of abuses and crimes. The world is not black and white, and justice is not served by narrow-minded shots in the dark. This is the difference between peacekeeping and war-making, mediation versus conflagration. Thus this is not a call for indifference, but a recognition that the difference we make must be the right one. Sometimes it is better to do nothing than to do harm, but always it is better to do good than nothing at all. The trick is having the wisdom to avoid indifference by making the correct difference. ●

Graham Wilson, May 23, 2013

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**Volunteers and contributors for this issue:**

Dave Arland, Ed Bil, Jean Kenyon, Liz Rowley,  
Gurpreet Singh, Adrien Welsh, Graham Wilson, and  
our mailers in Vancouver & Toronto.

**Editor: Kimball Cariou Business Manager: Gabriel Au**

**Editorial Board: Kimball Cariou, Miguel Figueroa,  
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## Marxist Theory

# The Global Economy: A Midyear Snapshot

By Zoltan Zigedy

What happens to the US economy when the Federal Reserve stops printing money to buy mortgage based securities, treasury notes, and other bonds? What happens when that body stops injecting 85 billion dollars into the US economy every month?

These questions torture the economic pundits in the mainstream press.

Contrary to what most believe there has been no recovery. The reports from the other principal global economies have been dismal, recording stagnation or anemic growth. In the mean time, the US economy has been sustained by forced feeding. The Federal Reserve quietly prints notes and takes around 85 billion dollars worth of various securities off the market and parks them on the Fed's balance sheets.

The announced reasons for this action are to keep interest rates low, attracting borrowers, and to thus stimulate business growth and job creation. An unannounced consequence of the 85 billion dollar injection has been a surge in equity markets and housing prices. Since both stock portfolios and home values are the principal components in the psychological "wealth effect" - the subjective, personal sense of financial well-being - they have spurred the impression of recovery and consumer confidence. Behind this conjured image of recovery, the US economy continues to stagnate and erode.

Whenever the Federal Reserve has suggested that it might slow or end this life-support, markets have dropped precipitously.

Obviously, the Federal Reserve program, dubbed "quantitative easing," is a back-door stimulus program. Not a stimulus program of the New Deal type, not public works and public jobs, but more a reclamation of the garbage piled up after the massive, destructive party thrown by the financial sector and a rekindling of the pre-crisis euphoria. No one in the political establishment, neither Republican nor Democrat, had the stomach for a full-blown New Deal program, nor did they have any desire to pass even a little of the cost of a fix-up on to their corporate masters.

So the task of recovery fell in the lap of the Federal Reserve, an ostensibly independent non-political body. The Federal Reserve is not political, except when it is. While it can't be dictated to by the branches of government, its make-up of ivy league professors and financial industry veterans guarantees loyalty to corporate moguls. It also keeps an ear open to the powerful as well as the rich. On occasion the Fed even hears the voices from the barricades, but only when they are at the barricades!

It shares that "independence" with the Supreme Court. Like the Supreme Court, the Fed gets occasionally chastised when it either missed or failed to get the message of a ruling class change in policy.

All central banks boast of their independence, but all listen closely for a shift in political favour. The

Central Bank of Japan recently demonstrated its fealty to political change. With the election of Shinzo Abe as Prime Minister, the Bank relented to his pressure and began a policy of quantitative easing with the goal of doubling Japan's money supply in two years. Abe, a right-wing nationalist, advocates purchasing securities and bonds through a speed-up of the Bank's printing presses, but makes no effort to conceal his real goal: radically reducing the exchange rate of the national currency, the Yen.

Like his foreign policy initiatives, Abe's currency policy is a bold act of aggression, in this case, economic aggression. A weak yen makes Japanese manufacturing products cheaper in global markets, giving Japan a competitive edge against other global manufacturers. The rise of Japanese nationalism has not gone unnoticed by other Asian powers. Chinese demonstrators have trashed Japanese cars in a way reminiscent of similar spectacles in the US decades ago. Japanese automobile sales have dropped sharply in the PRC.

While retaliation may well be on the horizon, the Abe policies have brought a sharp drop in the Yen's value, but also great volatility in Asian equity markets.

Similarly, for all the US Federal Reserve's aggressiveness in printing money, the stock market's surge and the recovery of housing prices have masked serious issues plaguing the real US economy.

**[June 2: "Investors have ignored poor economic news as stocks have risen... The Basel, Switzerland based Bank of International Settlements said... that central banks' policies of record low interest rates and monetary stimulus had helped investors 'tune out' bad news—every time an economic indicator disappointed, traders simply took that as confirmation that central banks would continue to provide**

**stimulus." as reported by Fox News.]**

Disposable personal income growth is collapsing, for example. Excepting the 2008-2009 collapse, disposable personal income growth was lower in 2012 than any time since 1959 and is trending even lower in 2013. Not surprisingly, the personal savings rate - a rate that grew dramatically after the frivolity leading to the 2008-2009 collapse - has now dropped sharply. Clearly, workers



are taking home less while reducing their savings to pay the bills. While unsustainable, this fact has buoyed consumer spending.

**[May 31: The Commerce Department reported a .2% pull back in consumer spending for April, 2013.]**

Manufacturing production in the US has declined for three of the last four months. Caterpillar Inc., a bell weather of the basic manufacturing sector, has witnessed factory orders of machines, calculated on a rolling three-month average, decline steadily throughout 2012, moving into negative territory at year's end.

Hyper-exploitation in 2009, in the form of unprecedented gains of productivity growth, pulled the

US economy from its nadir. But since 2009, productivity gains have slackened with a substantial decline in the last quarter of 2012 and only a very modest recovery in the first quarter of 2013. Consequently, anemic corporate revenue growth is increasingly crimping earnings, once again threatening the rate of profit.

Pressures on profit are demonstrated by the falling yield on junk bonds. The demand for yield - the never-ending search for

a higher rate of profit - has driven the yield on the riskiest investments lower than at any time in recent memory (a leading high-yield bond index records a return below 5%, the lowest since records began in 1983!). Conversely, treasury bonds, once popular as a safe haven, are now commanding greater and greater yield despite the fact that the Federal Reserve gobbles them up and removes them from bond markets. Obviously, investors do not want safe Treasuries; investors do want risky junk bonds! The gap between Treasury yields and junk bond yields are narrower than any time since 2007. Are we skating on the same thin ice, the same crisis of accumulation?

Accelerating private debt in

Asia suggests that much of the capital seeking higher profit growth rates has landed there. But Asia is not the hot bed of growth that it was a few years ago. The mounting private debt in Asian economies supports risky, speculative projects and services like commercial and residential real estate. With international trade tepid, these once export-leading countries are attempting to sustain growth through speculation and the hope of global recovery.

The new Chinese leadership seems determined to reduce the role of the state sector, market regulation, and public financing, the very factors that allowed the PRC to painlessly weather the global crisis. They are determined to entrust the fate of the economy to global markets. The simultaneous shrinking of government debt and the explosion of private debt underline this policy shift.

**[May 31: The Reserve Bank of India reported the lowest annual GDP growth rate in a decade for the end of the fiscal year, March 31.]**

The once robust South American economies are also slowing. Exports to the PRC are declining and exports to the EU are on the skids, retarding growth throughout the region. Stagnant growth presents new challenges to the conservative neo-liberal regimes on the continent as well as the more progressive social democratic governments. Nor do South American economies offer any relief, as they have until recently, to the global economy.

And, of course, Europe is in a depression - a deep and profound depression. The EU as a unity faces both centrifugal and centripetal forces that challenge any policy resolution. Moreover, the major parties - conservative, liberal, and social democratic - have exhausted their policy toolboxes. Until a new road is

see GLOBAL, p. 11

## Defeat Bill C-60! Canadian sovereignty and democracy demand an independent public broadcaster

**Adopted by the Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, June 1-2**

The Harper government has once again attempted to hide legislation in its omnibus budget bill that would profoundly undermine Canadian sovereignty, democracy, culture, and labour rights if it becomes law.

Bill C-60 requires that the Prime Minister and Cabinet approve salaries, working conditions and collective bargaining positions for CBC unionized employees, giving the Treasury Board the same powers over salaries and working conditions of non-unionized employees, thereby eliminating the arms length relationship between the government and Canada's public broadcaster that has existed since the CBC was created.

As a result, the CBC will no longer be able to fulfill its

mandated role of providing wide-ranging and objective news and information about events and developments in Canada and globally, on which Canadians depend to form their opinions and views.

The CBC is also mandated to reflect, popularize and help develop Canadian culture, and to strengthen Canadian sovereignty and democracy. Because Bill C-60 also extends these new Cabinet and Treasury Board powers over three other vital cultural and scientific agencies - the Canada Council for the Arts, the International Development Research Centre, and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa - it is clear that this Bill also intends to attack vibrant Canadian culture.

The government's intent with this Bill, as with the previous years of deep budget cuts, is to turn the CBC into a mouthpiece for its anti-democratic, neo-liberal

policies of war, austerity, corruption and corporate greed. But C-60 is also intended to set up the CBC for privatization to commercial interests whose only mandate is to make profits for shareholders.

Since the Tories came into government seven years ago, the entire CBC Board of Directors has been turned over, and stacked with Tory patronage appointments. All but one have made large financial contributions to the Tories, with the current Chair donating the maximum allowed last year. Clearly the Board is tasked with overseeing the destruction of Canada's public broadcaster, setting it up for privatization to the highest bidder.

If Bill C-60 passes, Canadians will lose an important instrument of democracy, sovereignty and independence. Further, Bill C-60 is a direct threat to free collective

bargaining in the federal public service and to public sector workers across Canada. It is another page in the Tory government's effort to smash free collective bargaining.

The Communist Party demands that the government immediately withdraw the Bill. We call on the labour and democratic movements, and all those who value Canadian sovereignty, democracy, culture, and an independent Canadian broadcaster, to mobilize to defeat Bill C-60 and the government at the earliest date possible.

Our Party also salutes the Friends of Public Broadcasting for its efforts to alert Canadians to the threat that Bill C-60 poses. For our part, we will do everything we can to defeat this Bill by supporting the petition campaign, and by mobilizing Canadians to stop the Bill before the Tories are able to pass it into law. ●

# Resources sector: obscene profits, obscene exploitation

By Anna Pha, from *The Guardian*, weekly of the Communist Party of Australia

Whoever said the class struggle is dead should take another look at the present campaign being waged by the resources sector with the assistance of the mass media. "Resources boom falls to earth", "Growth hit by mining boom end", "We are ill set for exiting boom era", are typical of the flood of headlines. Below the gloom and doom headlines are grim warnings that "Australia's international competitiveness is at risk." And the main culprits, if you are to believe them, are overpaid workers and obstructive trade unions.

Billions of dollars of investment in liquefied natural gas, natural gas and petroleum and iron ore projects have been cancelled. As a result, they claim the Australian economy is at risk if the government does not act immediately and meet their demands.

"We remain optimistic about the Australian investment environment, but it requires significant national leadership to

improve our international competitiveness including fiscal stability, increased productivity and industrial relations changes that focus on Australia's long-term interest," warns Chevron Australia's Roy Krzywosinski.

**In recent years, the ruthless actions of profiteering resource corporations have come under increased criticism in Canada and around the world. This article looks at the issue from an Australian perspective.**

"Our country's attractiveness as a place to do business in a highly globalised industry is slipping due to a combination of rising costs, declining productivity, increasing regulation and new taxes," from the Minerals Council of Australia CEO Mitch Hooke is another typical claim.

The rising costs are wages, capital investment (which has a labour component) and government regulations such as approval processes and environmental

protection. They want to operate in a totally deregulated environment where they can carry out drilling and mining anywhere they like, regardless of the impact on local communities, existing businesses and farms, water

resources and other environmental consequences.

The reference to "declining productivity", although no such evidence is produced, is boss-speak for labour costs. They want lower wages, longer working hours, unpaid overtime, loss of penalty rates and other entitlements and short cuts on health and safety. In other words they want to increase the rate of exploitation of workers, which is already the highest of any industry in Australia.

They are also anxious about attempts by trade unions to restrict the use of 457 Visa workers and to prevent their employment conditions undercutting industry standards. [Note: The 457 visa is a program for employers to sponsor skilled overseas workers to work in Australia, for between three months and four years. Such employees are restricted to working for their sponsor. There are currently 107,500 457 Visa holders working in Australia.]

Employers have been exploiting them as a vehicle for undermining union negotiated collective agreements and award rates.

The Australian Petroleum

Production and Exploration industry organisation claims the cost of wages paid to Queensland Curtis LNG employees, is about 30 percent more than East Africa. That gives an idea of how low they want the wages to go and the sort of employment conditions they are after in Australia.

To achieve their goals, they would like to get rid of trade unions and bring back individual employment contracts. The Coalition's Policy to "Improve the Fair Work Laws", a softer sounding rehash of Howard's WorkChoices, promises to deliver for them, in particular its "Individual Flexibility Agreements". They are campaigning to abolish the right of entry for trade union officials, and to outlaw strikes, pickets and all other forms of industrial action with harsher penalties.

The anti-union, building industry police force, the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC), would have its powers increased and extended to cover the Maritime Union of Australia which is active in relation to oil rigs.

With unions out of the way, and a completely deregulated environment, then the sky's the limit when it comes to exploiting workers, gouging Australia's resources and profit-making.

The complaint about new taxes is a direct reference to the mineral resources rental tax, which was designed by the Big Three mining corporations - Xtrata, BHP and Rio Tinto. It is hardly a burden! It is more about the principle, the hide of a government to introduce such a tax, that they are complaining about. To them it is a dangerous precedent and could always be amended to ensure they really return some of the wealth they extract to the people of Australia who own it.

Another demand from the mining CEOs is a "stable fiscal environment". Essentially they do not want to pay taxes because this eats into profits. They fiercely object to any measures that might close tax loopholes or reduce tax credits. They are also highly critical over the government's failure to carry out previous commitments to further reduce the taxation of their profits.

Every round of corporate tax cuts means less money for the government to spend on social

welfare, education and health. These tax cuts hurt people - ultimately they come out of the pockets of students, the unemployed, pensioners, workers and their families. They are all affected whether it be cuts to universities, longer hospital waiting lists, failure to increase the dole, cuts to benefits or lack of public transport.

Just as the wages struggle in the workplace is an economic form of the class struggle so too is the demand for lower taxation of company profits.

The rise in the Australian dollar and falling commodity prices have also contributed to the decline in resource sector profits, but the same CEOs who want to starve workers are not so vocal on this issue. They support deregulation of the financial sector and "free markets". They want workers and the community to pay for the higher dollar and the end of the mining boom so that their obscene profits are maintained and increased.

Some of these companies are making a gross profit of \$1 million per worker per annum. Others only half a million.

Gina Rinehart, one of the richest woman in the world, has seen her wealth take a hit as a result of the the business cycle taking a downward turn. Her estimated accumulated wealth fell from \$29 billion to \$22 billion, according to Business Review Weekly's annual Rich 200 list. No wonder the poor woman has taken up the political struggle to protect her interests!

Fortesque Metals Group Andrew Forrest has seen his fortunes fall by \$2.2 billion from \$3.85 billion and Clive Palmer down \$1.65 billion to \$2.2 billion. They too have extended their participation in the class struggle to the political arena. Palmer has set up his own political party - needless to say it is extremely reactionary, with workers, trade unions and environmental protection high on the hit list.

In the coming period, the political struggle will be imperative if trade unions are to defend existing rights and conditions, and the environment is to be saved. It will not be won inside Parliament; it depends on the building of a mass movement and a left and progressive alternative capable of winning wider public support. ●



## Scrap the "cheap labour" Temporary Foreign Workers Program

Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, June 1-2, 2013

Under enormous public pressure, the Harper Conservatives announced in late April that changes would be made to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). But the government has not changed its fundamental strategy to create a larger pool of cheap labour for the benefit of big capital.

Following media revelations that big corporations such as the Royal Bank were deliberately abusing TFWP regulations to replace Canadian workers, the government promised to step up enforcement of rules, such as the requirement that employers seek to hire Canadian employees, and to end the practice of paying migrant workers up to 15% less than other workers. Companies will now have to pay for the cost of processing applications when migrant workers are recruited under the TFWP, a fee which had previously been absorbed by the government, i.e., Canadian

taxpayers.

But as the labour movement has noted, much of the change the Harper government has promised is already on the books, without being enforced. Over the past month, new reports have emerged that federal employees are threatened with dismissal if they do not process TFWP applications quickly and with minimal review. Without real and effective monitoring or enforcement, the announced changes will not improve the existing situation.

The fundamental problem is not that the Harper Tories have "failed to listen" to complaints, but rather that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program is a deliberate corporate strategy to funnel foreign workers into poorly-paid jobs without legal rights, protections or benefits such as parental rights. As our Party's recent Central Convention pointed out, "These super-exploited workers are at the mercy of employers, and when their services are no longer needed, they must leave the country or face immediate deportation."

The TFWP is one expression of the global drive by big capital to treat workers as disposable profit producers rather than human beings, and to drive down the wages of all workers by increasing the "reserve army of the unemployed" in every capitalist country. The TFWP also gives right-wing forces an opportunity to divide the working class by promoting anti-immigrant, racist views at a time of economic crisis and high unemployment.

The Communist Party of Canada calls for the abolition of the TFWP, and instead demands that all migrant workers be provided a path to citizenship, with all the economic, legal and political rights and protections achieved by the working class in Canada. We urge stronger unity of all workers - domestic and foreign-born, organized and unorganized, employed and unemployed - to fight back against the Tory government's racist agenda and the drive by the corporations to attack wages and working conditions. ●



Australian mining tycoon Gina Rinehart

# “Even the Times knows we can turn the tide”

By John Rees, June 3, from the Morning Star (UK)

It's not often that you can quote Rupert Murdoch's Times as a guide to the labour movement - but an article this weekend did at least pose the right question.

Political commentator Martin Bright reported: “Three weeks from now, the delegates of the People's Assembly will gather at Westminster Hall in Central London ... This meeting has been grandly trumpeted as a ‘coalition of resistance’ and it will certainly be a substantial show of force for those on the left campaigning for an alternative economic strategy. It will also throw down the gauntlet to [Labour Party leader] Mr. Miliband, who will need to decide whether it is he or the anti-austerity movement that is leading the left's response to the crisis.”

Bright describes the People's Assembly as “an extraordinary coalition including the trade unions, the Stop the War movement, the Communist Party, CND and Socialist Resistance ... Chavs author Owen Jones acts as its most vocal cheerleader, its president is Tony Benn and Tariq Ali and Ken Loach are supporters.”

For many in the labour movement this is a moment of hope. At last the unions, the left and the anti-austerity movement are getting it together.

Bright does acknowledge the social reach of the movement that is emerging.

“The UK Uncut movement, Boycott Workfare, the People's Assembly Against Austerity, Citizens UK and the anti-racist Hope Not



Hate can all, in their different ways, lay claim to the activist base well beyond the reach of the traditional labour movement.”

But for Bright this movement is a danger for the Labour leadership, not an opportunity to inflict a defeat on the Tory-led government's austerity programme.

The danger comes because the new movement may undermine the efforts of the “circle around Miliband, from his most trusted

adviser Stewart Wood through to guru figures such as Maurice ‘Blue Labour’ Glasman and the Oxford academic Marc Stears” to rebrand Ed Miliband as a leader more in touch with the people. This rebranding is designed to present the Labour leader as a kind of “geek with a heart.”

I'm not making this up. Bright reports that “over the past months there has been a conscious attempt to turn the Labour leader's awkwardness into a virtue.

“A narrative is developing that presents Miliband as an unlikely hero, taking on the vested interests of the early 21st century. In Hollywood film producers talk about ‘high concept,’ a short pithy premise that captures the essence of the plot.

“In *Ed Miliband: The Movie* the pitch would be: ‘What if a geeky intellectual took on the banks, the media and the multinational corporations?’”

It's a good question. An

even better one might be “will Miliband take on the banks and corporations?”

After all, this would have to mean a little more than making some mildly critical remarks about the need for Google to pay tax. It would, if it were to dent the massive indifference which his leadership currently inspires, have to actually help stop the destruction of the welfare state on which this government is intent.

And however much the Brand Ed team might wish it this will not happen because their leader has a Clark Kent moment in a nearby telephone kiosk. It will only happen if a genuinely popular mass movement opposes the Tory project by engaging the support of millions of working people. This

is the only chance of stopping the Tories on any meaningful timescale.

It might also convince Miliband to abandon the so-called middle ground, join the resistance and lend a hand - or it might not. If he did so his popularity would certainly rise. But this is not the main aim of the People's Assembly.

It is not a party political project. It is a mass movement of all left parties and many who are in none, of the unions, of the anti-austerity campaigns of all sorts.

Its aim is to stop austerity and to alter the terms of the whole national political debate around who pays for the economic crisis that began in 2008.

If the Labour leadership has not lost all contact with the people who vote for the party they will seek to benefit by identification with this movement. But if they do not, the movement will chart its own course with the participation of thousands of Labour supporters.

Their aim is clear - no matter who governs us, austerity must end.

Far away from the glass offices of the spin doctors, in the homes of millions of working people, it is this for which they yearn. They will judge the whole left, and every organisation within it, by whether or not we help make that happen.

John Rees is one of the organisers of the June 22 People's Assembly Against Austerity. ●



## Salute the contributions of Dr. Henry Morgentaler

Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada, June 1-2, 2013

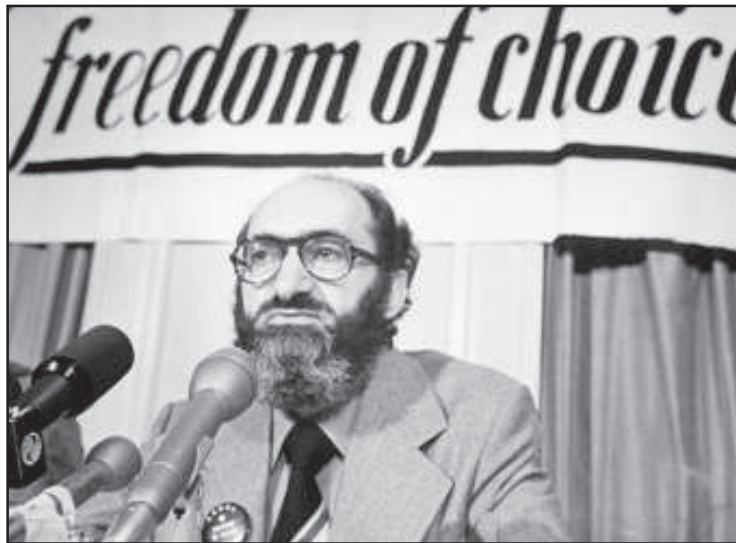
The Communist Party of Canada joins other democratic movements in paying tribute to the many remarkable contributions of Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who passed away on May 29. The women's movement and other equity seeking organizations, such as the Communist Party, have long fought for the rights of women to choose if and when they have children.

Dr. Morgentaler played a historic and pivotal role in that struggle to secure a fundamental human right for women - the right to direct their own lives and destiny by controlling their fertility and bodies. Recognizing the importance and necessity of women's access to safe and legal abortion, Dr. Morgentaler openly defied Canada's unjust laws, refusing to perform abortion in secret. For his actions, he was repeatedly jailed and faced countless death threats. His willingness to challenge the law resulted in three acquittals by juries in Quebec, and ultimately in a sweeping court victory on January

28, 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the abortion law in its entirety. That case became known as the “Morgentaler decision” and today stands as one of Canada's strongest legal precedents for the advancement of human rights.

A survivor of the Nazi death camps, Dr. Morgentaler also became a powerful defender of civil liberties and democratic freedoms,

and passionate supporter of social justice in Canada. As we salute the memory and achievements of Dr. Henry Morgentaler, we also renew our commitment to stand with all supporters of women's equality, to defeat the efforts by anti-choice forces to roll back history, and to remove the remaining barriers to full access to the entire range of reproductive rights in all parts of Canada. ●



Dr. Henry Morgentaler at a 1976 news conference in Ottawa.

## What is Britain's “Coalition of Resistance”?

Many progressive activists in Canada have been urging the labour movement and other forces opposed to the austerity agenda to build broad fightback coalitions and alliances. There have been some limited steps in this direction, such as the Common Front which includes the Ontario Federation of Labour.

In Britain, a “Coalition of Resistance” (CoR) has emerged as “a broad united national campaign against cuts and privatisation in our workplaces, community and welfare services, based on general agreement with the Founding Statement issued by Tony Benn in August 2010.”

The CoR is not linked to any particular political party, but works with “all organisations seeking to co-ordinate resistance; and is dedicated to supplementing, rather than supplanting, trade union, student, pensioner and community opposition to austerity measures.”

Thousands of individual CoR supporters and affiliated organizations function as a national umbrella for a network of local and sectoral campaigns. The CoR and its local groups publish newsletters, and hold meetings, conferences, lobbies, rallies, marches, demonstrations and other events.

The CoR “vehemently opposes all proposals to ‘solve’ the crisis by discrimination or scapegoating on the grounds of disability, race, religion, ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation or identity, and encourages a wide debate on “how to protect the welfare state and develop an alternative programme for economic and social recovery.”

The CoR steering committee meets weekly, and is accountable to the coalition's National Council.

The next major event organized by the Coalition of Resistance is the People's Assembly Against Austerity, which is expected to draw over 3,000 participants to a June 22 gathering in London.

For more information, visit [www.coalitionofresistance.org.uk](http://www.coalitionofresistance.org.uk). ●





# GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

## Police attack garment workers

Police in Bangladesh opened fire on June 5 at a protest near the former Rana Plaza garment factory, now demolished. The death toll from the April disaster now stands at 1,130. Hundreds of protesters, including former workers and relatives of victims, were demanding compensation or outstanding salaries promised by the government and the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

A police official claimed that the demonstrators stopped traffic on the highway for three hours, and then began damaging public transport vehicles, but protesters denied the allegation.

"We did not commit any vandalism but still the police opened fire and [used] teargas," said Fatema Khatun, 20, a survivor of the collapse, who said she had yet to receive outstanding pay.

According to the local media, around 50 people were injured when police charged with batons. There have been several such protests in recent weeks. Official investigations have blamed poor construction and corruption for the collapse. The owner, Sohel Rana, has been detained.

Several western retailers have admitted sourcing clothes in the Rana Plaza factory. Companies including Primark, Marks & Spencer, Mothercare and Next have signed up to a legally binding agreement to improve conditions in factories where clothes are sourced. The garment industry in Bangladesh now exports \$20 billion of clothes each year.

## Argentine prisoners organize

The first prisoners' union in Argentina, a country with a strong organised labour tradition, fights for the rights of inmates.

"No one had ever fought before for anything like this in here," 33-year-old inmate Gustavo Moreno, serving a 22-year sentence in the Complejo Penitenciario Federal in Buenos Aires, told IPS (InterPress Service).

Moreno is the social action secretary for the new prisoners' union, the Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores Privados de la Libertad Ambulatoria (SUTPLA), created in July 2012, which is recognised under an agreement with the Federal Penitentiary Service. SUTPLA belongs to the Central de Trabajadores de la Argentina (CTA), whose leaders said the union is being watched by the International Labour Organisation as an example for other countries.

"We have 700 male and 100 female members, and the basic idea is to defend the rights of people who are in a defenceless and vulnerable state," Rodrigo Diaz, the secretary-general of SUTPLA, told IPS. Once the union's legal status is achieved, it will have to begin collecting union dues, but this is not an immediate concern.

At present 64 percent of the nearly 10,000 federal prisoners in

Argentina are working. Another 49,000 prisoners are in facilities dependent on provincial governments, where the proportion of inmates doing remunerated work varies. Argentina's 2012 prison law stipulates that inmates have the right to work and study, as part of their rehabilitation. It also states that their work "must be



remunerated."

The Justice Ministry established that all prisoners who work would receive the national minimum wage, equivalent to \$553 a month, regardless of their actual hours. But in practice, most working inmates are paid much less, because the SPF makes a number of controversial deductions.

The head of the prison system admits that in the past there were irregularities in deductions, which were to be credited to a reserve fund for prisoners when they were released. But he claims that anti-corruption bodies are now exerting greater control.

With the help of lawyers, the new union lodged various appeals against pay deductions, except for contributions toward pensions. This year, the fight against deductions and other demands led to the first strike by SUTPLA workers, lasting 72 hours.

The union is also demanding that proper clothing and footwear be issued for safety and health reasons, especially when inmates handle waste or other contaminating materials. The work done in prisons is varied and includes agricultural production - vegetable gardens, nurseries, growing fodder, dairy production - and industrial workshops - printing, sportswear, bicycles, bags and furniture. Maintenance work is another option.

## Finnish union fights overtime

Since March, the Finnish union TEK has been conducting an innovative campaign against unpaid overtime, using social media, articles and ads in magazines and newspapers, and buttons, flyers, mugs and other products. Advertisements are run frequently on the Finnish airline because many executives and managers are forced to travel on their own time and give up Sundays and evenings.

Short videos can be seen online - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNTcD3ljJak](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNTcD3ljJak) - making the point that if the number 8 is tumbled, it turns into infinity.

The objective of the campaign was to create members' awareness

for negotiations that will start in September, beginning in the metal and technological industries. The message is that people should not work more than eight hours a day, the most traditional demand of the labor movement. If it is necessary to work more than eight hours, then they should be paid overtime. Finnish labor law is strict, but many employers take advantage of loopholes to avoid paying overtime.

## Greek health workers protest

Greek health workers protested on June 7 in front of the parliament in Athens, saying that spending cuts have caused the collapse of the country's health system. They were joined by health sector workers from France, Belgium and Portugal, who were in Athens for a summit. A French protester said that Greece was a test for "the destruction" of the health system for all of Europe. Protesters complained that wage and staff cuts have increased their work load and made their job impossible.

This comes after the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and European Commission clashed on their handling of the initial Greek bail out. The IMF said that the debt should have been restructured in 2010, and instead pushed an extra burden onto euro zone taxpayers.

At the rally, Greek trade unionist Kostas Tsirikas said he feels recognising the mistakes has come too late. He said: "The cuts were both unjust for workers but also represent a street to nowhere."

## Czech firefighters lose wages

The umbrella Czech Trade Union Confederation (CMKOS) has called on the government to raise the low wages of firefighters, pointing out the incredible efforts of these workers during recent floods in the country.

Criticising the right-wing coalition cabinet of Petr Necas (Civic Democrats, ODS) for budget cuts, CMKOS head Jaroslav Zavadil said, "It is a shame that the basic pay of rank-and-file firefighters who are saving the people's lives and property hardly amounts to the national average."

Since 2010, the number of firefighters has decreased by 400 and their monthly pay dropped by some 3000 crowns (\$150) on average due to austerity measures. Since early June, when floods erupted in the Czech Republic, some 22,800 professional and voluntary firefighters have been deployed. They have assisted in over 5000 cases, and evacuated almost 19,100 people. The floods that hit the western part of the Czech Republic, including Prague, have already claimed eight lives. Transport has been disrupted in many places and thousands of households have been left without power.

The unions said the firefighters managed their work fully professionally in spite of their high physical and psychological strain. "In many cases, their own homes

are inundated but they help the others," the CMKOS writes, calling on the government to raise the firefighters' low wages to a dignified level.

The median monthly salary of civil servants in the Czech Republic amounted to 24,261 crowns (about \$1,200) last year. Firefighters' average monthly pay was 33,932 crowns in 2010, but in 2011 it dropped to 30,840 (about \$1550).

## Another murder of SA mineworker

The Congress of South African Trade Unions has condemned the murder of a member of the National Union of Mineworkers, on June 3 at Lonmin's Western Platinum mine, near Marikana. The worker was attacked with a gun at the NUM office and died later.

This latest tragedy follows the death of at least 60 people in disputes around the Lonmin and Impala mines last year. COSATU is concerned at the lawlessness and anarchy in the area, which has created a prevailing sense of impunity. No one is being arrested and not a single person has been convicted for any of these murders.

The federation calls on all workers and community members to remain calm and do everything possible to prevent a new cycle of violence and death, and repeats what its 11th National Congress declared in September 2012: "We condemn violence, warlordism and intimidation from any quarter and strongly support the principle of Freedom of Association, especially for the working class. Membership of any union or any party should never cost a life."

## Banana strike may mean shortage

Importing countries may face a shortage of bananas, after 18,000 Colombian workers voted in early June to strike over pay.

The British campaign group Banana Link is predicting that 288 farms across Uraba in western Colombia will be "paralysed" if the strike goes ahead. "The flow of well over a million boxes per week, mostly to northern Europe, will dry up within a fortnight of the start of the strike," it has warned.

Bananas are the most popular fruit in Britain, and more than one in five imported into the country are grown in Colombia. Campaign groups say bananas are sold too cheaply, although pay and working conditions in Colombia are seen as above average for the tropical fruit industry.

According to the Fairtrade Foundation, a kilo of bananas cost consumers an average of 1.08 UK pounds (about \$1.60 Can.) in November 1997, but today sells for just 68p (\$1). Banana Link said the crisis showed that "bananas on the cheap ... are simply not sustainable".

Colombian workers are seeking a two-year pay deal that gives them an 8% pay rise in the first year, followed by a 5% rise in the second.

"We recognise that the industry is facing a serious crisis, but it is not for workers to pay the price of a crisis that only the companies and the government can resolve," the president of Sintrainagro, the Colombian agricultural workers' union, has said.

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

## Send me information on 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](mailto: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: [pcq@cpc-pcc.ca](mailto:pcq@cpc-pcc.ca) Tél: 438-338-8890

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604-254-9836 <[cpcinfo.bc@gmail.com](mailto:cpcinfo.bc@gmail.com)>

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Tel: 780-465-7893 Fax: 780-463-0209

**Calgary CPC**  
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**Saskatchewan CPC**  
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**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

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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



# France mourns murder of student activist by fascists

By Adrien Welsh

Progressive and democratic-minded people across France are responding with deep sadness and horror after the death of Clément Méric, student union leader and anti-fascist activist from the Political Sciences' Institute in Paris. Méric, who was 18 years old, was attacked on the evening of June 5 near the Saint-Lazare train station, in central Paris, by a group of skinheads linked to a far-right movement. While police are interrogating some skinheads, the group they could belong to is not yet known.

Méric's death is being considered a "political assassination," as a headline from the progressive French newspaper *l'Humanité* said, and linked to the tense social climate in the country. The young man was announced brain dead on arrival at the hospital and died shortly after. To honour his life and denounce his murder, rallies and demonstrations were quickly organised across France, bringing together more than 15,000 people.

The right-wing has responded by again claiming that "there will always be violence" between extreme groups. French communists and progressives, however, argue that this barbarian aggression has to be put in relation to the difficult social situation of France, within which the struggles of working people and the popular classes are developing. For several months now, right-wing groups have been fomenting anti-social sentiment around France's new equal marriage laws which would allow same-sex unions.

The murder also takes place in the context of the worst capitalist economic crisis to hit France since the Second World War. Record numbers of workers are jobless or in precarious work, while the "socialist" or social democratic government of President Francois Hollande is not pursuing substantive alternative measures to remedy the situation. On the contrary, Hollande's government continues on the path of the anti-social policies outlined by the previous Sarkozy administration.

This constitutes a fertile terrain within which far-right groups are able to "seed" their poisonous discourse, especially among youth, and often smuggling in fascist ideas with populist-sounding calls for social vindication or even false but revolutionary-sounding demands. Over the past weeks *l'Humanité* has documented numerous attacks on the LGBT community such as at Pride events and gay bars in numerous cities including Tours, Lyon, and Toulouse.

At the same time, the far-right is increasingly present in the corporate media. The right-wing Front National (FN) has emerged



Rally held in Orleans, France, in memory of Clément Méric.

to become arguably the third-largest political party in France. The FN is now led by the daughter of its founder, Marie Le Pen, who polled just over 6 million votes in the first round of the 2012 presidential election. Despite her more "Republican" image, Le Pen's anti-immigration party has an especially close friendship with

the extreme right.

French communists note that this tragedy is a disturbing reminder of the far-right's historical role as a kind of "crash rail" or bumper guard for capitalism. Far from promoting any sort of ideology of social progress, the far right's principal goal is to divide working people in

order to prevent such "temptations" as socialism. As for those who really fight the system, like young Méric, we see coldly that the far-right would take no prisoners.

There are long-standing calls by the Communist Party of France and the Left Front party to ban and disband these fascist organiz-

ations. However, many see the proposals by Hollande's Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, who suddenly jumped on this bandwagon and called to "cut into pieces all the far-right groups," as shamefully opportunist and cynical.

The policies of Hollande's pro-employer government, after all, actually help reinforce the current difficult situation from which the far-right groups are profiting. And Hollande could potentially use this threat as a pretext to justify a national-union government to impose austerity plans invoked by Brussels.

In reality, the opposite direction is needed to fight fascism. In 1944, after the liberation of France from Nazi occupation and the collaborationist Vichy regime, the goal of the Resistance National Committee was to rebuild French society on a new basis which would prevent any proliferation of fascism. Ultimately, as the communists have said for a long time, the solution is to bring down the capitalist system which was also complicit in Méric's death, and build a socialist France

No pasaran!

(Adrien Welsh is a student in Paris and a member of the international commission of the YCL Canada.) •

## Gulf states under pressure to raise wages

From a Reuters article by Praveen Menon

A strike by thousands of migrant workers at Dubai's biggest builder Arabtec last month may be a harbinger of a new wave of industrial activism that threatens to disrupt the Gulf's latest construction boom.

Gulf nations have relied heavily on the supply of cheap labour from Asia to build their vast housing and infrastructure needs. But their treatment of foreign workers has been criticized repeatedly by rights groups who have demanded that governments repeal oppressive labour laws.

"Any Gulf government that seeks to significantly reform its labour system will face tremendous opposition from its national (employers) who benefit greatly from legal and regulatory shortcomings," said Nicholas McGeehan, researcher for Qatar, the UAE and Bahrain at Human Rights Watch, a U.S.-based non-governmental research and rights advocacy group.

"This problem is eminently fixable, but as yet no Gulf states have shown the necessary political will and the exploitation of migrant workers is as bad as ever," he said.

Most blue collar workers in the Gulf Arab states are migrant labourers hired on a contract basis

from countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Typically employed on low wages, workers are usually housed in camps with basic facilities on the outskirts of cities. They are tied to a Kafala or sponsorship-based employment system which binds them to one employer, and the workers pay heavy recruitment fees to agents, leaving many in debt even before they start work.

The lack of workers' rights coupled with low wage growth are now starting to make the Gulf less attractive to workers from South Asia and elsewhere. That is adding to a labour shortage that could jeopardize Gulf states' ambitions to host world events, including Dubai's bid to host the World Expo in 2020, which governments consider vital to their ambitions to be seen as global cities.

Qatar's preparations to host the soccer World Cup in 2022 are throwing the spotlight on working conditions there. At the FIFA Congress in the Maldives on June 1, representatives from the International Trade Union Confederation staged a demonstration criticizing the lack of worker rights in Qatar and calling for a re-run of the World Cup bidding process.

Strikes by foreign workers are illegal across the Gulf although protests are more common in Kuwait among public sector workers. Last month more than 1,000 workers at the state-run Oil Sector Services Co. went on strike demanding better pay.

At Arabtec in Dubai last month the workers downed tools illegally to call for a wage hike of around \$50 a month, but their demand was eventually refused. About 400 who went on strike left Dubai after the stoppage and returned to their home countries.

Wage demands are starting to echo a previous building boom in the Gulf in 2006-07 before the global financial crisis and Dubai's property market collapse.

Hundreds of thousands of construction workers protested in Dubai in 2006-07, sometimes violently, against living conditions and delayed wage payments. The unrest spurred a wave of labour reforms in the UAE, including a wage protection system to ensure salaries are paid on time, and the introduction of a three-hour work break during peak summer months. However, the government ignored calls for minimum wage laws, and salaries remained largely unchanged. The sponsorship system also continued and there has been no move to legalize unions.

Human rights groups say governments need to abolish the sponsorship system to allow workers to switch employers, introduce minimum wages, improve workers' living conditions and allow unions and

peaceful protests.

In 2011, more than 130 artists said they would boycott a branch of New York's Guggenheim museum in Abu Dhabi, which is being built on Saadiyat Island, due to what they said was exploitation of foreign workers. Arabtec is building a branch of Paris's Louvre museum on the island.

Despite the global attention unrest is often suppressed. Gulf authorities are even more wary of protests after the Arab Spring, which toppled rulers in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen and threatened many others.

The oil-rich nations of the Gulf have been appeasing their citizens by doling out free housing, employment and even waiving loans. The disparity in wages between local citizens and migrant workers is widening.

Mohammed Jindran, managing director of Overseas Labour Supply, a recruitment firm in the

see GULF, page 11

### Wealth returns to USA (for the rich)

The US as a whole has regained all the household wealth it lost to the recession, but the rich have scooped all the cash, the Federal Reserve said on June 6. US household wealth jumped \$3 trillion to \$70 trillion in the first quarter of this year, but the average household has recovered only about 63 per cent of the wealth it lost.

Affluent households have benefited because most of the recovered wealth has come from higher share prices and the wealthiest 10 per cent of US citizens own about 80 per cent of them. Average household wealth was \$539,500 at the end of last year, said the Fed, but most own far less than that.

House prices have been rising steadily since last summer, but remain about 30 per cent below their 2006 peak. Shares have more than doubled since they bottomed in 2009, and hit record highs last month.

But the distribution of the wealth has been uneven and disparities mean a smaller fraction of the population is near the average. Homes accounted for two-thirds of working-class assets before the recession and shares made up just 7 per cent. •

**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>



## Worth viewing this summer: a TV crime drama about national oppression

Review by Kimball Cariou

How often is the “national question” a major focus of plot lines for a TV series? Rarely, in my experience. But this summer, the second season of the western crime drama *Longmire* (on A&E) continues to present mysteries set in the intersecting territories of the Cheyenne Nation and the United States.

For those who feel most at home in the wide open spaces of the Great Plains, *Longmire* is a breath of fresh air - although the episodes are actually filmed in New Mexico. Based on novels by Wyoming author Craig Johnson, the series follows Walt Longmire, Sheriff of the fictional Absaroka County, as he returns to work following the tragic death of his wife. Key characters include Walt's daughter Cady, his new deputy Victoria “Vic” Moretti, and best friend Henry Standing Bear (the terrific Lou Diamond Phillips, playing the proprietor of the Red Pony tavern). Walt



*Longmire* cast members, including Robert Taylor (the Sheriff, at left) and Lou Diamond Phillips (right)

investigates a string of brutal crimes while preparing to run for re-election against Branch Connally, a brash young deputy

who wants the sheriff's job.

Like the settings of other small town TV mysteries, Absaroka County has an unusually high murder rate. Certainly the series debunks the myth that violent crime is exclusively an urban phenomenon.

But for radical-minded viewers, the fascinating contradiction of law enforcement under two adjoining nations forms the moral centre of *Longmire*. And make no mistake about it, the Cheyenne in this series, like Officer Mathias, chief of the reservation's tribal police (played

by Zahn Tokiya-Ku McClarnon, an actor of Native American and Irish descent) are quite distinct from the USA, and they take the border with Absaroka County quite seriously.

It's rare for a TV show to present indigenous nationhood within the North American context as a fact understood by both sides. Sheriff Longmire respectfully accepts that he needs prior agreement from Officer Mathias to carry out policing duties on the reservation.

The historical oppression of Native Americans is a regular aspect of the show, often presented with bleak humour. Henry refuses to include turkey on the menu at the Red Pony, for example, as a personal response to the colonial institution of Thanksgiving - or as he calls it, “Thankstaking.” Since the Cheyenne were largely massacred by the U.S. Cavalry during the genocidal “Indian Wars” of the 19th Century, Henry's attitude is hardly surprising.

The series features plot lines from more recent history, such as the seizure of indigenous children by the state, often known in Canada as the “Sixties Scoop.”

In one powerful episode from the first season, Walt investigates the disappearance of a Cheyenne boy from a foster home. The missing boy's real parents tell the Sheriff a social service wrongfully took their son away. Two other

boys have also gone missing from a group home after being removed from their Cheyenne families, following anonymous phone calls reporting alleged “abuse”. The unfolding story involves a murder committed in a dispute over theft of government money earmarked for foster families that adopt Native American children. Walt is finally able to return the boys to their homes on the reservation, but this is no “happy ever after” fairy tale; the moral is that the Cheyenne still face terrible racism and oppression at the hands of the U.S. state, despite the good intentions of some individuals.

*Longmire* faces the limits of a TV series trying to reach a mass audience. The adjacent Northern Cheyenne and Crow reservations, for example, are actually in Montana, just across the Wyoming state border. I'm not sure this should bother me, but it does. So does the fact that with the exception of Lou Diamond Phillips, the cast regulars are all white.

Despite these shortcomings, *Longmire* portray the residents of Absaroka County as complex individuals, all struggling with their internal demons to survive in a beautiful but harsh environment. Walt and his fellow officers have no CSI lab to help solve murders within a day or two, but if you want a crime drama with a large element of social realism, check out *Longmire* on Monday evenings this summer. ●

### TORONTO PRIDE PARADE Sunday, June 30



Join the Communist Party of Canada  
and Young Communist League  
contingents at this year's parade!

Meet us at 1.30 p.m. at the Parkette, NW corner of Bloor & Church  
Further info: Dave Foreman @ 416-960-1465 or dforeman@hotmail.com

Toronto Club Council, CPC and  
LGBTQ Commission of CPC-Ont.

## Popular upsurge in Turkey...

continued from page 12

violence. Three big cities - Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir - witnessed big protests, where people re-grouped after every police attack. Other cities, including Bursa, Kocaeli, Edirne, Samsun, Hatay, Adana and Antalya, followed the big cities. In no case did the protesters use violence other than to defend themselves. The protests in big cities were terrorized by police forces, which used heavy pepper gas leading to asthma crises, breathing problems and wounds when directly targeted at people.

On June 1, hundreds of thousands of people converged on Taksim Square from all over the city. The police attacked at first using pepper gas, but then retreated. The masses demanded the resignation of the government and punishment for police violence. The masses returned to Taksim Gezi park and waited. However, some people who left the square and walked to Besiktas, a nearby district, were trapped by police forces and attacked by pepper gas. People in Besiktas were severely injured, with many vomiting and suffering chemical wounds on the skin. In the evening, protests continued in every district of Istanbul, until late at night.

On June 2, a peaceful protest and concert was held in Taksim Square, where people again demanded the resignation of the government. The cruelty in Ankara and other cities was condemned.

Some people stayed in Taksim Gezi park and others left for their homes. Again, after this demonstration, people were attacked in Besiktas by the police. In the evening, once again demonstrations were organized in every district of Istanbul, with people pouring into arterial roads. In Umraniye, a taxi sped into the masses killing one 20-year-old.

In Besiktas, the police attacks continued all night. There are Youtube videos showing police firing pepper gas into people's houses.

One of the cities suffering police cruelty was Ankara. There the masses of people got together in several districts on June 1 and 2 protesting the police violence and demanding the resignation of the government. The central square was filled with people, who were brutally attacked by police using concentrated pepper gas. Several people were injured by the gas capsules directly aimed at them by police. On June 1, a man lost his eye.

Wounded people were cared for by volunteer doctors in the buildings of trade unions, non-government organizations and political parties. However, police attacked these buildings as well.

In Izmir, police attacked demonstrations, and several people are still in police custody. Videos show police hitting young people sitting at the seaside. The protests and police attacks continued until late at night. Police followed individuals leaving the protests to go home and beat them in isolated

locations. It is claimed that members of the AKP also followed protesters to their homes and attacked them.

During these events, police attacked members and buildings of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) several times. On June 2, police attacked the central building of the TKP in Ankara and the Nazim Hikmet Cultural Center garden. The Cultural Center was used as an infirmary for people injured by police attacks. The police attacked wounded people and volunteer doctors using tear gas, and some people were taken into custody.

The party building was also attacked and damaged, but TKP members succeeded in repelling the attacks. In Ankara, more than a thousand people are still in custody, including TKP members. The people in custody have been beaten and are not allowed to talk with their lawyers.

Again on June 2, in Iskenderun, Hatay, a car carrying five TKP members was fired on by police. The car flew into a water channel while trying to escape. The TKP members were injured; one of them is seriously injured and in intensive care. Adana TKP members were also attacked by armed police.

On June 3, the protests spread to university and high school students. Students boycotted lectures and final exams, in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Kocaeli, Bursa and other cities. Taksim Square is again full of protesters, mainly students. Protests and police attacks in Ankara continue... ●



### La Trova Nuestra

Friday, June 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."

## Paash remembered at Surrey event

By Gurpreet Singh

Revolutionary Punjabi poet was remembered in Surrey on June 2. To mark the 25th martyrdom anniversary of Paash, who was murdered in 1988 by Sikh separatists, members of the Khalistan Commando Force, *Apna Paash*, a documentary on his life and work was shown at the Surrey Central Library.

Paash was associated with the ultra leftist Naxalite movement and was imprisoned for his involvement in various political actions. He first became a supporter of the Communist Party of India, but later joined the Naxalites. He was murdered for his opposition against religious fanaticism and theocracy.

The director of the film, Rajeev Kumar, took questions from the audience that included relatives of Paash and representatives of several progressive South Asian groups. Kumar recalled how the documentary was made in the early 1990s during difficult times on account of paucity of funds. "We were forced to rely on very basic

technology and had to produce this film with very limited sources."

This was Kumar's first documentary, based on interviews with family, friends and allies of Paash. Kumar is also credited for making films based on social justice and other sensitive issues. His recent film, *Nabar*, based on human trafficking, received a national award in India.

The event was organized by the Chetna Association and Watan Magazine. Later, Kumar was honoured by the organizers for promoting people's cinema. Among those present were former BC

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh and his wife Raminder Dosanjh, a leader of the India Mahila Association.

Among the speakers were prominent authors, Sukhwant Hundal and Sadhu Binning, as well as Harjit Daudhria of the Communist Party of Canada and the Indo Canadian Workers' Association organizer, Kulwant Dhesi. Among others present were the Chetna Association leader Jai Birdi, Committee of Progressive Pakistani Canadians leader Saif Khalid, and Taraksheel Sabha office bearers Avtar Gill and Parminder Swaich. ●

## People's Voice deadlines

July 1-31 issue: Thursday, June 20

August 1-31 issue: Thursday, July 18

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

## Gulf states face wage pressure....

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UAE, which has about 4 million migrant workers, says unskilled workers in the UAE earn on average around 750 dirhams (\$200) a month, the same rate as six years ago. Skilled workers' wages are above 900 dirhams.

"Companies have not increased

wages. We are feeling the bite while recruiting ... no workers are willing to come to the Gulf on the salaries offered here," said Jindran.

Any increase in wages would mean an increase in project costs that have already been budgeted for and crimp profits. Rapid growth of Asian economies, however, means workers can now get almost

double wage rates on offer in the Gulf back home. Workers from India are now in decline due to better opportunities at home, forcing Gulf employers to look more to other parts of South Asia and to Africa for labourers.

"Companies will have to go back to the drawing board and rethink pricing if they want workers for these projects," said Jindran.

Qatar is rushing to build world class facilities in preparation for hosting the World Cup. In late May it awarded contracts worth \$5.4 billion to build a metro system in the capital Doha and is awarding contracts to build stadiums for the soccer tournament.

Saudi Arabia, the biggest economy in the Gulf, also has projects worth \$790 billion in progress or planned. The kingdom is currently pursuing sweeping labour reforms that aim to tackle domestic unemployment by pushing firms to hire Saudi nationals.

A crackdown on illegal employment of foreigners in the country has seen thousands of migrant workers return home, throwing a challenge to the government as it seeks to build 500,000 homes and to meet vast infrastructure needs. ●

## Global economic picture....

continued from page 5

chosen, the European Union will only drag the world economy towards a similar fate.

[May 31: Eurostat reports the EU unemployment rate reached a new high - 12.2% in April - the highest level ever recorded since euro-wide tracking began in 1995.]

The global economy faces two stubborn challenges: first, a crisis of accumulation and second, an insufficiency of global demand. They are, of course, inter-related, continuation of the 2008-2009 collapse, and immune to conventional treatment. The vast inequalities of wealth and the resultant massive accumulation of capital hungering for investment opportunities (driven by Marx's tendency for the rate of profit to fall) stand at the center of the

lingering crisis. Capital continues to seek increasingly risky and unproductive profit schemes, schemes that strangle productive, socially useful (but unprofitable!) activities. At the same time, the crisis has immiserated millions and idled a vast mass of human capital. Left with limited resources and limitless insecurities, these casualties of the crisis have necessarily reduced their patterns of consumption. A shrinkage in global demand followed.

Some still harbour illusions of taming capitalism and slaking its thirst for profit. As the years of crisis continue, it looks more and more like the beast must be slaughtered.

zoltanzigedy@gmail.com ●

**News for people, not for profits!**



## Celebration of Life JIM BULLER

Saturday, June 22, 1 pm

Pine Hill Cemetery & Visitation Centre  
625 Birchmount (north of St. Clair)

(Subway to Warden Station, then Birchmount bus)  
Parking available

Please join us to remember the life of a militant,  
Communist trade unionist, social, political and peace  
activist, & proud son of Communist leader Annie Buller

Everyone welcome

## What's Left

**Cumberland, BC**

**Miners Memorial Weekend**, June 20-22, "Songs of the Workers," pancake breakfast and much more. For info, visit [www.cumberlandmuseum.ca](http://www.cumberlandmuseum.ca)

**Vancouver, BC**

**Car-Free Day**, Sunday, June 16, visit display by People's Voice & CPC supporters, at Commercial & Venables, ph. 604-725-8864 for exact location.

**La Trova Nuestra**, evening of Latin American music and socialising, admission \$10, 8 pm, Friday, June 28, Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive.

**Left Film Night**, Sunday, June 30, 7 pm, at Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive. For film and details, call 604-255-2041.

**Winnipeg, MB**

**Marxism Course**, Contact Communist Party of Canada Manitoba Committee to join, 586-7824 or [cpc-mb@changetheworldmb.ca](mailto:cpc-mb@changetheworldmb.ca).

**PV Fund Drive - have you sent your donation?**

**Toronto, ON**

**E.I. Teach-In**, on the impact of EI changes, Good Jobs For All Coalition, with speakers Armine Yalnizyan (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives) and guests from mass mobilizations in Quebec and New Brunswick, Thursday, June 20, 7-9 pm, Ryerson Student Centre (Tecumseh Hall), 55 Gould St. (near Dundas subway).

**Cuban LGBT/Trans Human Rights Today**, queer & allies Pride event, Friday, June 21, 7-8:45 pm, Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St. Endorsed by CUPE 3903 & CAW/Unifor, all welcome, free or PWYC. Informal Café discussion, YouTube clips. For info contact: LGBTQA/Trans & Allies Rainbow Sea of Red Open Collective with Cuba, email <[seafredopencollective@gmail.com](mailto:seafredopencollective@gmail.com)>.

**St. Catharines, ON**

**Niagara Fights "Right to Work" Conference**, Sat., June 15, 9:30 am, CAW Local 199 Hall, 124 Bunting St., free admission, music, display tables, and food. Organized by Niagara Regional Labour Council.

**Montreal, QC**

**Palestinians And Jews United**, boycott/disinvestment/sanctions picket, every Saturday, 1-3 pm, outside Israeli shoe store "NAOT", 3941 St-Denis Street.

## Carmen Concha

Friends and comrades of Carmen Concha, who passed away on May 28 in Montreal, gathered on June 1 to pay tribute to her remarkable life.

Born in Chile, Carmen Concha devoted her life to the international working class. In 1957, she attended the 6th World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow as part of a delegation of progressive, socialist and communist Chilean youth. Carmen made an extraordinary journey for a young person in those days, travelling around the world to the Soviet Union, the first socialist state. Deeply inspired by meeting young people who were helping to build socialism in their countries, as well as those struggling in the capitalist world for national liberation and social progress, she became a militant for the Communist Party.

On return from the festival, Carmen was assigned to be an organizer in the railway workers union, known for their militancy and courage, but also machismo. This is a testament to her tenacity and strength of purpose. Carmen never stepped away from the struggle for full equality between men and women.

When the CIA-supported fascist coup began a reign of terror in 1973, Carmen was forced to find a new home, and settled in Montreal. Only a few thousand Chilean refugees were allowed into Canada, facing harassment and monitoring by the RCMP.

Despite these difficulties, Carmen did not renounce politics and struggle. Her contribution bringing together democratic-minded Chileans in Montreal to form the Chilean Association will long be remembered. This brought her in touch with Canadian communists, and led to her eventually joining the Parti communiste du Québec.

In her PCQ club meetings, Carmen always stressed the importance of linking ideology and theory with practice. For her, Marxism-Leninism was not a dogma but a scientific guide to action which remains relevant today. In debates within the PCQ, Carmen strongly agreed with the party's position in support of a new constitution for Canada guaranteeing the right of self-determination for Quebec, including the right of separation. She took a Leninist understanding: that a country with more than one nation, like Canada, cannot be free unless all nations have the right to self-determination, just as a marriage cannot be equal without the right to divorce. Carmen considered narrow nationalism a trap; she thought the working class of English-speaking Canada and Quebec were stronger when united on such an equal basis.

Even in her old age, Carmen found the energy to come to demonstrations and public events. A friend of Palestine and Cuba, she took strength in the Bolivarian Revolution and the anti-imperialist struggle of Latin America. She deeply believed in world peace.

Carmen was a contemporary of many famous Chilean communists. Her party and the movement helped craft her deep revolutionary spirit, which continued long after she left her homeland. That spirit was characterized by steadfast confidence in the working people and all humanity to make their own destiny - in socialism. Her vision was always one of the future.

Meeting in Toronto on June 1-2, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada extended deepest condolences to Carmen's family, friends and comrades. ●

# "Turkey is witnessing a genuine popular movement"

**Central Committee,  
Communist Party of Turkey,  
June 4, 2013**

For days now Turkey is witnessing a genuine popular movement. The actions and protests, which started in Istanbul and spread all over Turkey, have a massive, legitimate and historic character. The most important of all is the striking change in the mood of people. The fear and apathy has been overcome and people gained self-confidence.

The Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) has been part of the popular movement beginning from the first day and mobilized all its forces, tried to embolden the proletarian and revolutionary character of the movement, endeavoured to pervade a mature attitude of discipline, organized numerous actions and demonstrations. In this process, the police forces carried out a heavy assault on our party headquarters in Ankara. All over Turkey, several party members have been injured and arrested. There have been some attempts to abduct our party cadres. But the attempts of provocations against our party were defeated.

Our emphasis on the role of the TKP does not aim to underestimate the spontaneous nature of the movement or contribution of the other political actors. On the contrary, the TKP stressed that this movement has an aspect beyond the impact of any political actor or any kind of political



Flags of the TKP have been highly visible at many of the protest rallies in Turkey.

opportunism.

The call of the masses for the government to resign is an absolute truth of this movement. Although it is obvious that a leftist alternative cannot be built "right now", this demand should be expressed loudly. This option for the working people can be generated only through benefitting from the energy that came out at this historical moment. The TKP will focus on this and expose the real meaning of alternatives like "the formation of a national government", which will most likely be put forward to deceive the working masses into thinking that the crisis can be overcome that way.

Without a doubt, the holders of political power will try to calm the people down, institute control and even attempt to use the situation to

their advantage. They can have temporary achievements. Even in that case the popular movement would not be wasted. The TKP is ready for a period of stubborn but intense struggle.

In order to act in concert, different branches of the socialist movement sharing similar goals and concerns need to evaluate the rise of this popular movement immediately. The TKP, without interrupting its daily missions and activities, is going to act responsibly regarding this issue and endeavour to create a common ground in line with the urgent demands below.

In order to nullify the plans of the government to classify and divide the popular movement as legitimate and illegitimate, all forces need to avoid steps that might cause damage to the legitimacy of the movement. It is the political power that attacks. The people should defend themselves as well as their rightful action but never fall into the provocation trap of the government.

While the masses are chanting the slogan "government, resign", negotiations limited to the future of the Taksim-Gezi Park are meaningless. The government pretends not to understand the fact that the old balances have been upset fundamentally and cannot be restored. Everybody knows that the popular movement is not the product of susceptibility towards the trees in the Gezi Park. The anger of the people is over the urban transformation projects, the terror of the market, open direct

interventions in different lifestyles, the Americanism and the subordination to the US, the reactionary policies, the enmity towards the Syrian people. The AKP [the governing right-wing Justice and Development Party] cannot deceive the people with a discourse of "we will plant more trees than the ones that we will chop down."

While rolling up our sleeves in order to create an alternative of the working people, the movement needs to lean on certain concrete demands. These demands are valid in the case of the resignation of the government or of Erdogan:

a) The government must announce that the projects that involve the demolition of the Gezi Park and of the Atatürk Cultural Center are terminated.

b) Those who were taken in custody during the resistance must be released and all charges against them must be dropped immediately.

c) All officials whose crimes against the people are proven by the reports of the commissions formed by the Union of Bar Associations and local bar associations must be relieved of their duties.

d) Attempts to hinder the right of the people to get true news on the developments must be stopped.

e) All prohibitions regarding meetings, demonstrations and marches must be repealed.

f) All *de facto* or *de jure* obstacles that block the political participation of the people, including the 10 per cent election threshold and the anti-democratic articles of the "law on political parties", must be abolished.

g) All initiatives that attempt to impose a monotype life style to all people must be stopped.

These urgent demands will in

no case affect our right and duty to continue opposition against the political power. The people's reaction to the government must be reinforced, and efforts must be concentrated to bring about a real alternative in the political scene.

The star and the crescent Turkish flag, intended to be used to provide a shield for reactionary and chauvinist attacks against labourers, leftists, Kurdish people after the fascist military coup of September 12, 1980, has now been grasped by the People from the hands of fascism, and given to the honourable hands of Deniz Gezmiş [a famous Turkish revolutionary, executed by the government in 1972] and his comrades, as a flag in the hands of patriotic people.

The People's movement, ever since the beginning, has persistently let down the sinister strategy to play one community against another in Turkey. This attitude must carefully be maintained, leaving no room for chauvinism or vulgar nationalism.

Appealing to our Kurdish brothers and sisters, we had already declared that "There can be no peace agreement with the AKP". There can be no deal with a political power to which its own people have turned their back, and the true face of which has been revealed. Kurdish politics must give up "cherishing hopes of proceeding further with AKP", and become a strong constituent of a united, patriotic and enlightened working people's movement.

Our citizens who have lost their lives through the hands of the police force of the political power, have sacrificed their lives in the name of a just and historical struggle. The people are never going to forget their names, and those who are responsible for their death will pay the price before law.



This photo of a Turkish cop tear-gassing a young woman in a red dress has been seen around the world.

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11/13

## The national upsurge

Updates from the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP),  
with editing for readability by Liberation News.

The protests in Istanbul started when heavy construction vehicles entered Taksim Gezi Park on May 28, to destroy the park and prepare the area for shopping mall construction. Activists protested the destruction of the park, the only public green area near Taksim. Activists stayed and started peaceful demonstrations. However, police attacked the activists using pepper gas. The construction vehicles were stopped and people waited in the park to prevent the vehicles from entering. The demonstrations continued peacefully the next day.

On May 30, the police attacked the people waiting in the park at dawn, around 5 am. Protesters' tents were set on fire by police. People were driven out of the park with intense use of pepper gas.

The people of Istanbul reacted to this cruel attack, and thousands of people met in Taksim Gezi park that evening. People not only protested the shopping mall project but also the police violence against peaceful demonstrations. Police violence has especially increased during the term of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), and the protests turned to target the government.

When the police again attacked the people waiting in the park using pepper gas and pressurized water on the morning of May 31, many people, mainly young, got together in Taksim Square. The police turned Taksim Square into a battlefield. Police even fired pepper gas capsules into the Taksim metro station.

Many people, including journalists, were wounded. Ambulances were obstructed by the police. Police attacked a trade union presence on 10 am in Taksim Square. People were forced from the Park and Taksim Square by violence. However, people continued to gather near Taksim, protesting the police violence. The protesters demanded the resignation of the prime minister and the government. The police used thousands of pepper gas capsules, directly targeting people's heads. Several people were injured, suffering head trauma. The protests continued late into the night.

Over the weekend, the protests intensified amid increased police

see UPSURGE IN TURKEY, p. 10