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people's VOICE

**The cost of
U.S. "realism"**
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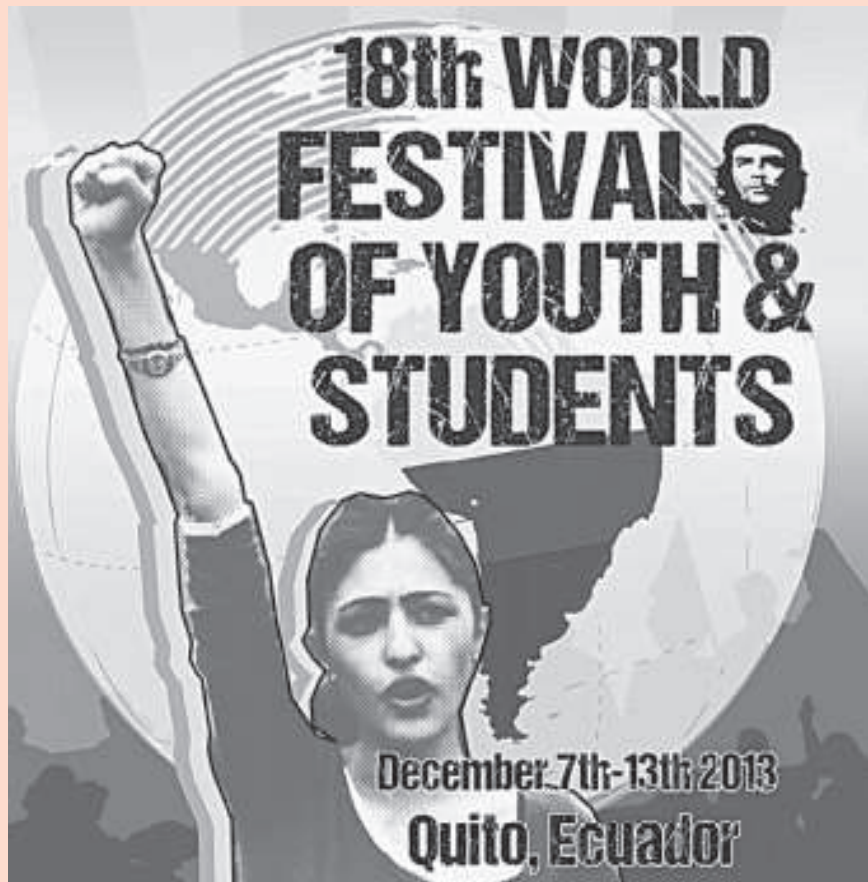
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Protect jobs, consumers and sovereignty!



Put Canada's telecommunications under public ownership and democratic control

- see page 5 -



**Cross-Canada
organizing for
Youth Festival
- still time for
delegates to
apply!**

- info on page 7 -

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Which way for OFL?

It seems some trade union leaders in Ontario want to halt the activist fightback strategy of OFL President Sid Ryan. The OFL convention next month could become a showdown over labour's crucial choices.

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Earth on the brink...

"We only have one planet, no second chances. Inaction is criminal and suicidal, promotion of fossil fuels is beyond belief and unjustifiable."

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Criminalizing poverty

Britain's super-rich defrauded the tax system of 60 billion pounds last year, but the Justice Minister has announced ten-year jail sentences for poor people who claim "too much" state benefit.

CCPA looks at Ontario's "young and jobless"

A new report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) by Sean Geobey examines the serious crisis of youth unemployment in Canada's most populous province. The following is from the executive summary. For the full report: www.policyalternatives.ca.

The global recession of 2008-09 took a heavy toll on all Ontarians. The overall unemployment rate shot up and the number of employed Ontarians plummeted. As bad as it was, a separate story was unfolding for the province's youngest workers.

As with previous recessions, Ontario's youngest workers were dealt the toughest blow. They experienced higher levels of unemployment during the recession and their employment numbers were not only worse than adult employment numbers, they took a nosedive.

The big story is that five years after the Great Recession, youth remain largely shut out of Ontario's slow economic recovery. The Help Wanted signs might have re-emerged, but Ontario's young workers find themselves on the outside looking in - and the province's current youth employment strategy isn't fast enough nor robust enough to turn things around.

This report examines lingering post-recession youth joblessness in Ontario. It focuses on labour market trends that impact Ontarians aged 15-24. A detailed analysis of the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey reveals Ontario's youth continue to suffer from unemployment levels that are twice as high as the overall provincial unemployment level. In terms of unemployment, Ontario is competing with the Maritime provinces for being the toughest place in Canada for youth to land a job.

During the 2008-09 recession, young workers were twice as likely to be laid off than adult workers in Ontario and their unemployment rate has been more than 10 percentage points higher than the adult unemployment rate in Ontario. While the youth unemployment rate is usually higher than the adult unemployment rate, since 2008 the gap between youth and older workers in Ontario has been the biggest it's ever been. This gap is worse than the youth-adult unemployment gap in the 1981-82 and the early-1990s recessions.

So far in 2013, Ontario's youth unemployment rate has fluctuated between 16% and 17.1% - higher than the Canadian youth unemployment rate, which has ranged between 13.5-14.5%. Compared to last year, the data show youth unemployment and employment improved by only less than a percentage point. This is coupled with a slight fall in population as well, suggesting some youth are leaving the province.

In some Ontario cities, the job market for young workers is even bleaker. The Windsor, Oshawa,

Brantford and London youth unemployment rates stand out because they are higher than 20% - putting them on par with high youth unemployment levels in the European Union. Youth unemployment in Toronto is also high - 18.1% - and might be driving some young workers out of the province.

To set the problem within a broader context, Ontario's youth unemployment performance is among the weakest of the Great Lakes jurisdictions. At 16.9%, Ontario's 2012 youth unemployment rate rivaled that of Michigan's and was higher than Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Only Illinois, with a youth unemployment rate of 18.5%, and New York, with a youth unemployment rate of 18%, fare worse than Ontario. Across the Ottawa River, Quebec has also outperformed Ontario, with a considerably lower youth unemployment rate of 13.7% in 2012.

Ontario's youth employment rate, the measure that helps determine how many youth actually have jobs, is worse today than it was before the recession. Significantly worse: the monthly employment rates range from 50% to 52% in Ontario, meaning half of all youth don't have jobs.

The problem is accentuated in Toronto:

*Toronto's youth employment rate of 43.5% is the worst of any Ontario region;

* In Toronto, youth joblessness problem is driving the city's overall unemployment and employment rates, both of which are tracking worse than the national rate;

*Toronto also holds the distinction of having the worst gap between youth and adult employment in the province, at 21.8%.

Many of Ontario's youth are doing everything they were told to do: get an education in order to get a decent job. But that promise is wearing thin in Ontario today. The data show young workers without post-secondary education face substantially higher unemployment rates and substantially lower employment rates than those who have completed a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree. But Ontario youth with advanced degrees have a 17.1% higher unemployment rate than young workers who have

completed high school or any other type of post-secondary education.

While Ontario's youth fared better than their counterparts in most OECD nations, the labour market trends reveal a troubling development - one that began even before the recession, around 2003. The recession just seems to have locked things in: youth joblessness isn't merely the result of a cyclical up-and-down caused by the 2008-09 global financial crisis: it's the byproduct of a strong structural component within the province's labour market.

By structural, we mean the problem of youth unemployment in Ontario is turning out to be chronic, rather than a short-term result of a global economic crisis. It's why the problem merits urgent attention.

The findings in this paper show that young workers are subject to the negative consequences of the same macroeconomic forces that are affecting the rest of the population. However, young workers are the labour market's canary in the coal mine. When there are hiring freezes, they remain out of work. When older workers must work past their planned retirement dates, they are often competing with young workers for jobs. When there are layoffs, it is newer, younger workers who often feel the brunt of the job losses. These are the cyclical elements of the macroeconomy, where young workers feel the greatest impact. What we see is that structural elements have made the situation even worse for young workers in Ontario compared to elsewhere in the country. The data reveal that higher youth joblessness trends were at play even before the 2008-09 global recession. Post-recession, that structural problem has been accelerating with no sign of abating.

So, what to do? This report concludes with a review of the province's youth employment programs to date and recommends a more robust plan of action. It points to labour market dynamics in places like Sudbury, Waterloo Region and Hamilton - all of which boast youth unemployment rates that are below the Canadian rate - to demonstrate that a better labour market and a brighter future for the young and the jobless in Ontario is possible. ●

Key findings from "The Young and the Jobless"

In 2013, the unemployment rate for Ontario youth aged 15-24 fluctuated between 16% and 17.1%, trending above the Canadian range of 13.5% to 14.5% and placing Ontario as the worst province outside Atlantic Canada for high youth unemployment.

The employment gap between youth and older workers in Ontario is now at an all-time high, with only one in two youth fortunate enough to be holding down a paying job.

Windsor, Oshawa, Brantford and London stand out as youth unemployment hotspots: their youth unemployment rate is over 20%, similar to the European Union rates.

Toronto's youth employment rate - the measure that determines how many youth actually have jobs - is 43.5%. That's the worst employment rate of any Ontario region and it may be driving some youth out of the province in search of work.

Toronto also gets the prize for having the largest gap between youth and adult employment in the province, at 21.8%. That's the highest it's ever been.

What happens when inequality, poverty, racism fear and police violence festers and grows what is damaged?

- a) London
- b) Detroit
- c) Toronto

d) All of us!



jerryleemillerunion-art.com2011

Idle No More rallies mark Royal Proclamation anniversary

Over fifty actions were held across Canada and around the world on October 7, which was declared by the Idle No More movement as a Global Day of Action to mark the 250th anniversary of October 7, 1763, the signing of the British Royal Proclamation. Aboriginal peoples consider the Proclamation an historic document which legally mandated Canada to recognize Indigenous land rights. On the same day, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Prof. James Anaya, finally began his official visit to Canada to examine the human rights situation of the indigenous peoples of the country.

Seen below, the participants at the Idle No More rally in Vancouver included 12-year-old Ta'Kaiya Blaney, an environmental activist and member of the Sliammon First Nation. Google Ta'Kaiya Blaney to find YouTube footage of her inspiring speeches and songs. ●



Vancouver Island's "most-hated" developer pleads guilty to tax charges

By Zoe Blunt, Victoria, BC

He's a walking illustration of capitalism run amok. Just five years ago, Barrie was golden - "living the dream," as one newspaper breathlessly reported. That dream has turned to dust, along with millions in monies owed to everyone from day labourers to the government of Canada.

Len Barrie was once known for his mediocre NHL career, but his real fame comes from the antics that won him the label "most hated man on Vancouver Island." His downhill slide continues October 11 when he is expected to plead

guilty to four criminal counts of violating the tax code.

In August, the McMansion that Barrie built in his brief heyday sold for a \$10 million loss. The resort he boasted would be worth \$3.5 billion was repossessed by the bank for a \$300 million debt and now is up for sale. Word is it may go for as little as \$50 million.

In laying the foundation for his resort fiefdom, Barrie chose confrontation over diplomacy. He drew the anger of local First Nations by destroying indigenous heritage sites and ignoring provincial guidelines on heritage

preservation. Under his direction, builders bulldozed and blasted caves, cairns and gravesites that were used and tended by indigenous groups for hundreds of generations. He thumbed his nose at public protests and filed a million-dollar lawsuit against indigenous activists who sought to protect the mountain they call SPAET.

Barrie was never charged with destroying indigenous heritage sites.

The first sign of the impending collapse at Bear Mountain came when nearby residents noticed work had halted at the

interchange intended to link the resort to the TransCanada Highway. Soon after, we learned that Bear Mountain, which was responsible for most of the cost of the interchange, had defaulted on its payment to the city of Langford. It is not clear whether the resort ever made good on its debt. In any event, four years and millions of dollars later, the "Bridge to Nowhere" is a roundabout, and only a rutted overgrown track leads up the mountain to the resort.

In 2010, as his ill-fated empire crumbled, it emerged that Barrie had fleeced a raft of investors, including \$13 million from fellow hockey players. Over a hundred smaller creditors were also bilked, including contractors, windows installers, concrete suppliers, plumbers, and day labourers.

It is small consolation that

Barrie is in the same boat. His family trust was wiped out and all his properties are in foreclosure. At last report, he was living in Youbou near Cowichan Lake, in a property that was foreclosed but not yet seized by creditors.

In addition to the tax charges, the RCMP is investigating allegations of fraud relating to auditor reports that Barrie improperly diverted \$16 to \$20 million from the resort to purchase the Tampa Bay Lightning. The hockey team was sold a year and a half later for an estimated \$80 million loss.

Eight years after embarking on his development career, Barrie has lost everything. His reputation is irrevocably tainted by greed, arrogance, defaulted payments and broken promises.

Developers across Canada, take note: Don't be that guy. ●

Sale of Cesnam (Marpole) lands to Musqueam finalized

After a lengthy struggle to protect an ancient burial site along Marine Drive in southwest Vancouver, the Musqueam Indian Band has succeeded in purchasing a two acre portion of "Cesnam", also known as the Musqueam Marpole Village Site.

The transaction came after 18 months of negotiation, involving Musqueam Chief and Council, Musqueam community members, Century Group (the private owners of the land), and the province of BC.

Cesnam's ancient village and burial site was declared a National Historic Site in 1933. It includes one of the largest pre-contact middens in Western Canada.

In early 2012, Century Group had approval from the City of Vancouver to develop a multi-family residential condominium project on the site. But during pre-construction archaeological work, ancestral remains were uncovered, causing great anguish to Musqueam members. Band members and supporters used a



wide range of tactics last year to draw public attention to the issue.

The proposed development would have destroyed a sacred burial place precious to Musqueam, an important link to the band's heritage extending back thousands of years in the geographic area known today as Vancouver. Like most of the rest of British Columbia, the traditional territories of the Musqueam and other Coast Salish nations have never been surrendered to colonial powers or the present-day

Canadian state. This de facto occupation of unceded First Nation territories has allowed private corporate interests to gain incredible wealth on the west coast, while Aboriginal peoples remain impoverished.

"As Chief of the Musqueam Indian Band, I am pleased with the outcome. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Musqueam members and supporters who drove this process on the ground level. It is our teachings to always protect the interests of our membership, including our lands, history, and culture," said Chief Wayne Sparrow. "The successful resolution of the development plans for these lands demonstrates First Nations and private property owners can work together to understand each other's interests, and conduct business in a respectful way."

Musqueam is currently in discussion with all levels of government to identify the next steps to ensure the protection of Cesnam for generations to come. ●



Firefighters' union warns that cutbacks pose safety risk

(CALM) - Firefighters in the City of Winnipeg have criticized cutbacks that reduced the number of trucks and available firefighters to try and curb overtime costs. Alex Forrest, president of the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg, argues that these cutbacks will place public safety at risk. In a letter to Mayor Sam Katz and all city councillors, Forrest said that the decision not only increases the potential to public danger, but it is also a violation of the collective agreement. One of the changes proposed is that fire trucks will not be dispatched until a fire is confirmed, slowing response times. ●

Crown Holdings workers fight concessions

The United Steelworkers (USW) has escalated its campaign against Crown Holdings by sending letters to Crown's CEO and Board of Directors demanding they take action to end a strike at a beverage and food can manufacturing plant in Toronto.

The 130 members of USW Local 9176 who work at Crown Holdings produce more than five million cans per day. They were forced to strike on Sept. 6 by Crown's demands to impose a two-tier wage schedule, remove a cost-of-living allowance and provide only minimal wage increases after years of pay freezes.

The USW believes Crown Holdings is engaging in a protracted campaign to lower wages and working conditions. The company has 149 plants and operations in 41 countries.

Crown is demanding cuts despite doubling its profits in 2012 and recognizing its Toronto workers with an award this year for their "dedication, commitment, teamwork and personal accountability" and for meeting or exceeding the company's expectations for "safety, productivity, quality and budget management."

"The Toronto plant is one of the company's premier plants, and it's time to draw a line in the sand to stop Crown's unwarranted attack on all its workers," said Ken Neumann, USW Canadian National Director. "We are launching a global campaign to fight back for Crown workers and their communities all over the world."

"We will leave no stone unturned in this campaign and will hold Crown's officers and Board of Directors wholly responsible for these attacks," Neumann added.

Crown customers in Canada, such as breweries and soft-drink companies, may be forced to seek other suppliers if the strike is prolonged.

IndustriALL, the global union federation representing over 50 million members, recently condemned Crown's efforts to crush a union in Turkey. As part of the international campaign, three demonstrations will protest the ongoing conflicts at Crown plants. The first one will be held on October 16 in Philadelphia, where the company is headquartered; the second, on October 18, is in Baar, Switzerland, the company's European headquarters; and the third will be in Turkey on October 21.

(For details, visit www.usw.ca) ●

Ontario Tories back anti-union policy

After Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak's relentless attack on unionized workers, it came as no surprise that the party voted in favour of a policy that would eliminate the mandatory collection of union dues. What was surprising was that their recent convention vote was divided, with just 53 per cent of delegates voting in favour of the

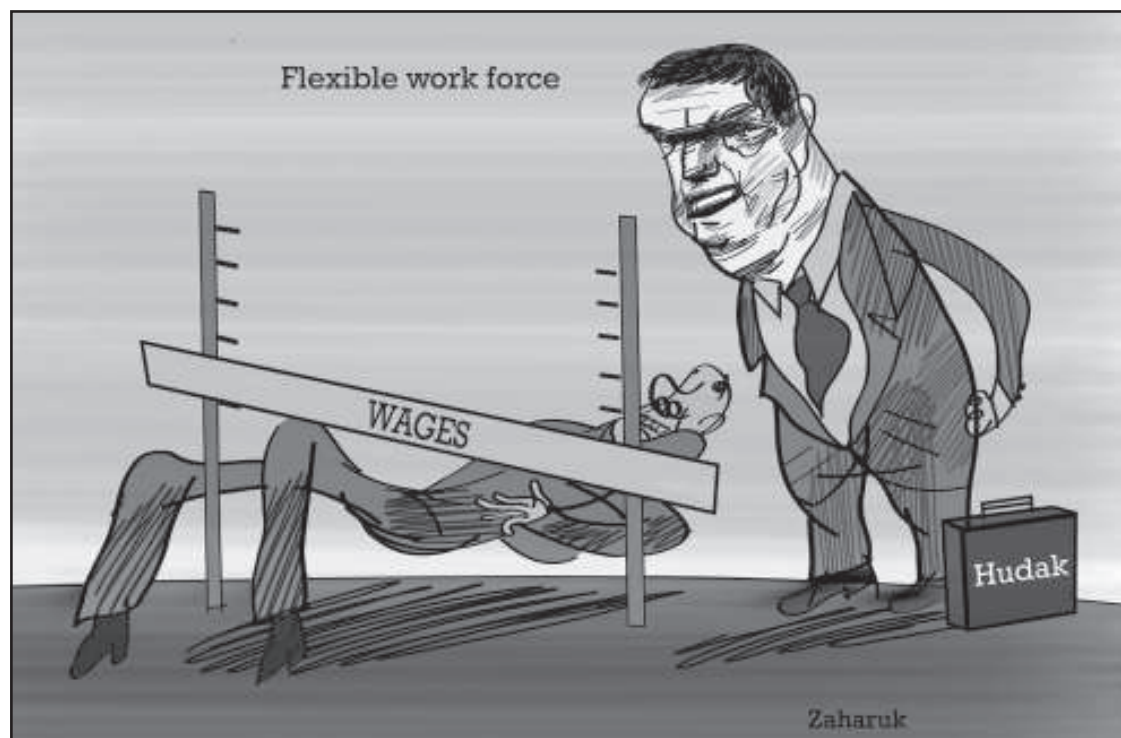
motion. Some delegates feared that this and other anti-worker policies would drive union members away from the party.

The Ontario Public Service Employees' Union has (OPSEU) launched a 20-minute documentary film which demonstrates the havoc that Tim Hudak's proposed labour legislation will wreak on Ontario's workers.

The film features stories from

the United States where similar legislation has been implemented. On average, states with so-called "Right to Work" legislation pay workers \$1500 less per year. The documentary's premiere aired at the same time as the convention of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

(Canadian Association of Labour Media) ●



EDITORIALS

Support indigenous land rights!

Canadian governments often act as though they can erase basic human rights by a vote in Parliament or even just a signature on a piece of paper. Perhaps the most fundamental examples concern the nature and structure of the country we call Canada, starting with the forced colonization of Aboriginal peoples. From the time of Confederation in 1867, politicians and corporate interests have argued that the formation of the Canadian state signalled that all the land and resource base, except for some reservations, belonged entirely to the European majority.

But the original peoples of this country have never surrendered their inherent national rights. They maintain to this day that the Royal Proclamation of October 7, 1763, outlining the relationship between the British Crown and the nations in Turtle Island/North America, remains a valid document which legally mandates Canada to recognize indigenous land rights. It was therefore highly significant that on October 7, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Professor James Anaya, began an official visit to Canada to examine the human rights situation of the indigenous peoples of the country.

Inspired by the Idle No More movement, more than fifty events were held on Oct. 7 to mark the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation. Together with the recent Reconciliation Walk which brought tens of thousands of Aboriginal peoples and allies into the streets of Vancouver, these actions prove that inherent indigenous rights are not going to be put into a museum as a dusty relic of the past. Despite the pretensions of governments and corporations, these rights remain valid and binding today, and the struggle for inherent Aboriginal national rights will continue to advance.

Yes: we can eradicate poverty

October 17 is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, but sadly, this goal is far from being achieved. The United Nations' food agencies estimate that during the years 2011-13, 842 million people were suffering chronic hunger. That is a staggering 12 per cent of the world's population, or nearly one human being out of eight.

These figures are said by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to represent some progress over the past twenty years. But the same organizations say that many countries will not meet the UN's Millennium Development Goal to halve the extent of hunger by 2015. They report that the countries which face the biggest challenges are those which have experienced civil conflicts and wars, as well as landlocked countries and those with weak economic and social infrastructure. In Africa, more than one in five people are undernourished.

But this is not just a "global south" problem. Here in "wealthy" capitalist Canada, hunger and poverty are persistent, especially for Aboriginal peoples on reserves and in many impoverished inner-city neighbourhoods. Brutal cuts to social assistance rates have left many impoverished Canadians with little or nothing to eat near the end of each month.

On a global scale, the real problem is an economic system based on maximizing private profits for the shareholders of transnational corporations, rather than meeting the real needs of human beings and the environment. Greed and war are highly profitable enterprises, while efforts to reduce economic inequality only cut into the huge share of global wealth and income held by the "one percent". It's time to turn things around. Poverty can only be wiped out as part of a wider struggle to put people before profits - and to dump the right-wing politicians who favour the interests of corporations.

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The Shutdown Game in Washington DC

By Glen Ford, <http://mldtoday.com>

The government shutdown battle is more like a Civil War reenactment than the real thing. A face-saving bargain will soon be struck, returning 825,000 furloughed federal employees to their jobs at wages that have been frozen for the past two years not by the Republicans, but on President Obama's orders.

The clock has been stuck with both hands on "austerity" since Obama came fully out of the closet as a GOP fellow-traveller following the 2010 midterm elections. From that moment on, Republican-imposed gridlock has been the only barrier to Obama's long-sought Grand Bargain to eviscerate entitlement programs.

When the current theatrics are over, Obamacare will remain intact and the president will be back on his ever-rightward stride. The GOP will take Obama up on his offer, earlier this year, to cut Social Security and will probably be offered other bits and pieces of the social safety net in the interest of "shared sacrifice" and domestic peace.

In the interim, while the reenactors haul their cannons around the cow pasture, waiting for the rich people who call themselves "markets" to signal an end to the charade, rest assured that national security is sacrosanct.

For example, the pause in some government spending will have minimal effect on the National Security Agency's spying on Americans and the rest of the Earth's inhabitants. The NSA circulated a memo stating that its "intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance activities required to support national or military

why the Obama administration challenges voter ID cards in North Carolina but does not deploy the Justice Department to enfranchise the majority of Blacks in the state of Michigan, whose votes have been rendered worthless. Detroit's ability to borrow money or, in this case, to be stripped of every asset of value for the benefit of Wall Street bankers trumps citizenship rights, every time.

The same logic will dictate that the Republicans turn the spigot back on. Forget about social justice, the rule of law, and political decorum. The sanctity of U.S. Treasury notes is what holds the nation and its global empire together.

As the "liberal" economist Paul Krugman writes, "Financial markets have long treated U.S. bonds as the ultimate safe asset; the assumption that America will always honour its debts is the bedrock on which the world financial system rests".

Which is another way of saying that the U.S. maintains its supremacy in the world, not merely by force of arms, but through the artificial supremacy of the dollar, as the world reserve currency. ●

Other voices...

requirements necessary for national security" are exempt from the fiscal exercise, as are all programs that are necessary for "protection of life and property."

Presumably, that means President Obama can still spend next Tuesday morning selecting the week's victims for his Kill List.

Protection of property being the prime directive of both wings of the Corporate Party, democracy will remain in shutdown mode in Detroit and all of Michigan's largely Black cities, whatever happens on Capitol Hill.

The disenfranchisement of Detroit under the iron rule of a corporate lawyer is simply another form of "shared sacrifice" necessitated by austerity which is



Detroit workers fight for jobs, pensions, and public safety.

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Time for public ownership of telecom industry

Statement by the Central Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada, October 2013

The decision by the giant U.S.-based Verizon not to enter the Canadian telecommunications market at this time ended one sharp battle over the immediate future of this major industry. But the issues raised by this episode remain on the table, as seen by the proposal from CEP/Unifor to establish a publicly-owned crown corporation in the telecommunications sector. The Communist Party of Canada believes that the best way to protect Canadian sovereignty, jobs, and consumer interests would be to put wireless and the entire telecommunications industry under public ownership and democratic control.

Verizon intended either to take part in an upcoming wireless spectrum auction, or to buy one of the smaller telcos operating here, with the aim of becoming a dominant force in Canada's telecommunications sector. That strategy was backed by the Harper Conservatives, using a smoke-screen of "more choice for consumers." But Verizon was strongly resisted, by the current three big companies in the Canadian market, by unions representing workers in this sector, and by a majority of Canadians opposed to foreign-owned wireless companies entering the Canadian telecommunications market.

The opposition expressed by Rogers, Telus and Bell Aliant is understandable. These domestic corporations rang up \$3.3 billion in profits last year, from combined revenues of \$26.6 billion, and they mounted a huge public relations campaign to preserve their lucrative

How we see it...

monopoly status in Canada.

But there were many other reasons to speak out. Existing "free trade" rules mean that Verizon's expansion would effectively create one integrated North American market, dominated by U.S. capital. The CRTC would lose any meaningful ability to protect Canadian consumers. Allowing Verizon to piggyback on communications technology built by and for Canadians would put thousands out of work, without lowering costs for consumers.

This crisis arose from last year's federal omnibus budget, which allowed foreign-controlled corporations to buy 100% of telco companies holding up to 10 per cent of the Canadian market, and from there to expand without limit.

Since telecom firms increasingly also provide broadcasting services, opening the sector to foreign companies is a step towards foreign ownership in broadcasting,

inevitably undermining Canadian cultural content.

This scenario is clearly the goal of the Harper Conservatives. According to a leaked German document, Canada has included telecommunications "liberalization" in the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) currently under negotiation with the European Union. CETA would make it nearly impossible for the people of Canada to own, protect and regulate this vital sector of the economy.

There are also serious national security and privacy concerns related to this debate. Verizon has worked closely with the U.S. National Security Agency to collect personal data on millions of customers, and the company has close ties to the U.S. military. If asked by U.S. authorities for the personal information of Canadian subscribers, Verizon would likely have to comply under the U.S. Patriot Act and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

For all these reasons, Canadians must remain vigilant against any new proposals by giant U.S. telecom firms to enter the Canadian market, and against the dangerous CETA deal.

Instead, the Communist Party of Canada calls to put this important industry, one of the "commanding heights" of the economy, under full public ownership and democratic control.

Such a strategy is necessary to ensure equal and affordable access to services which all Canadians need. Cable and internet, land lines and cell phones, should be seen as important public utilities rather than a source of huge profits for private shareholders.

Public ownership under democratic control is needed to protect the jobs of many thousands of Canadians who work in this sector, and to direct the profits from this industry towards the urgent economic and social needs of working people.

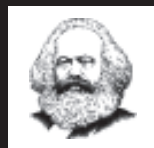
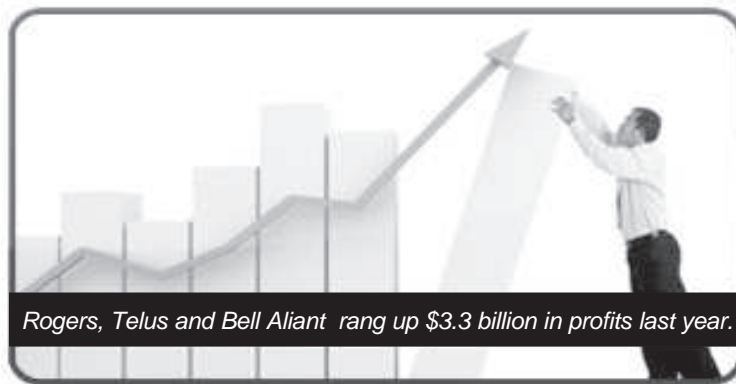
The increasing domination of

TV, radio and internet by U.S.-based transnationals poses a direct threat to the cultural development, democracy and sovereignty of the peoples of Canada. Our interests cannot be protected by private corporations or even by publicly-funded entities, such as CBC and TVOntario, which operate at the dictates of right-wing governments.

Not least, as the recent NSA scandal shows, private corporations will not resist the increasing U.S. pressure to allow access to communications data for purposes of so-called "national security".

It is also timely to call for public ownership in other key sectors, such as oil and gas, resources, pharmaceuticals, and banking and insurance. Such highly profitable industries could become the material basis for a radical transformation of the economy, focused on jobs, housing, social programs, and environmental sustainability.

Expanded public ownership is not a utopian dream; it is an urgent necessity as the private profit economy known as capitalism attacks to the living standards of working people and threatens the very future of our planet. Placing the telecommunications sector under public ownership and democratic control would help to put people's needs ahead of corporate greed, a good step towards a real People's Alternative for the Canadian economy. ●



Marxist Theory

Planet earth on the brink

By Anna Pha, Communist Party of Australia

The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, the sea levels have risen, and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased. These are some of the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in a report released on September 27. Instead of acting responsibly and taking urgent action to slash greenhouse gas emissions and protect human life and the biodiversity of the planet, the climate change deniers in Canberra are hell bent on increasing coal and gas production and business as usual for the big polluters.

The widely accepted international target, which the Abbott government claims to have adopted, is to limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees (Celsius) above pre-industrialisation levels.

The Alliance of Small Island States, a grouping of 43 countries particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, are seeking a 1.5C cap on temperature rises. Their slogan is "1.5C to stay alive", one which reflects the reality of millions around the world, not just small island states.

"The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels

unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. CO₂ concentrations have increased by 40 percent since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use, change emissions," the IPCC said in its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis.

The IPCC attributes this increase to human activity.

The 1.5C temperature rise requires a CO₂ emissions cap of 350 parts per million (ppm). The required cap for the 2C target is 450 ppm. In 2011 the concentration of CO₂ had reached 391 ppm. The report states that an annual reduction in emissions of 10 percent is required to limit temperature rises to 2 degrees.

"Heat waves are very likely to occur more frequently and last longer. As the Earth warms, we expect to see currently wet regions receiving more rainfall, and dry regions receiving less, although there will be exceptions," IPCC Co-Chair Thomas Stocker warned.

The IPCC found that each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850. In the Northern Hemisphere, the IPCC says it is likely that 1983-2012 was the warmest 30-year period of the last 1,400 years.

"The rate of sea level rise since the mid-19th century has been

larger than the mean rate during the previous two millennia. Over the period 1901-2010, global mean sea level rose by an estimated 19 cm," the IPCC said. Depending on the measures taken, the IPCC forecasts that sea levels could rise by between 28 and 98 cm by the end of the century.

Rises of such magnitude would be catastrophic for millions of people living, not just in the smaller island states, but in many coastal regions including Australia.

Time is running out, even if governments act swiftly to ensure there are substantial cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, a process has been set in train which

will continue for centuries to come....

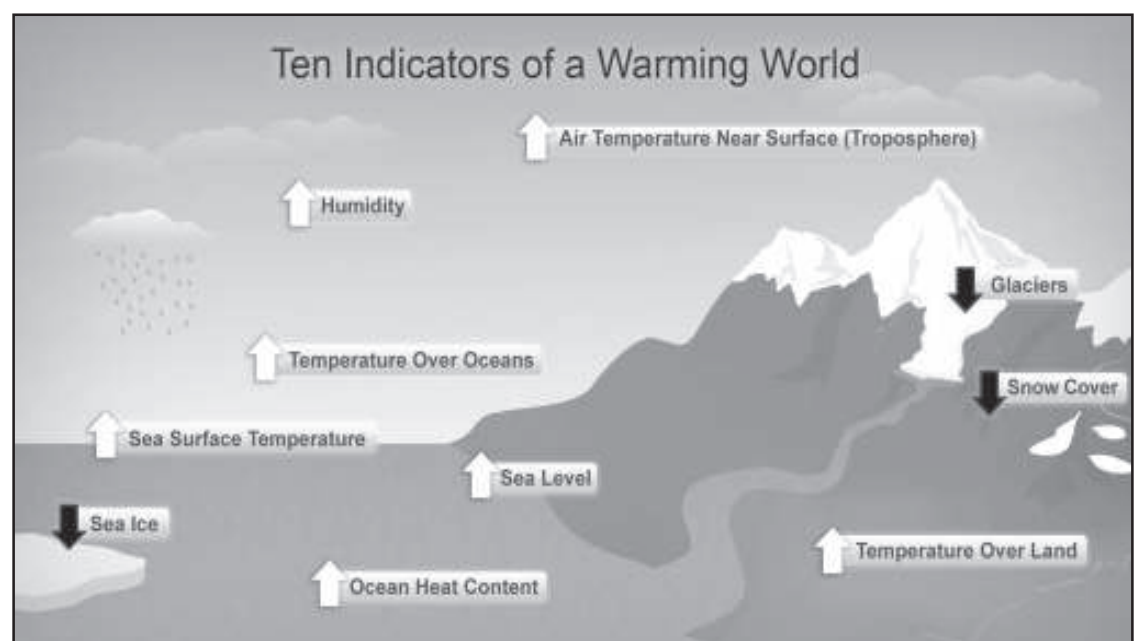
Australia needs to plan for a future that does not rely on fossil fuels for export or electricity generation. That means no new coal-fired power stations or coal mines, and no expansion to existing fossil fuel power stations or mines. It also requires the immediate axing of all fossil fuel rebates and other forms of support for fossil fuel use and production.

Government planning and investment is essential, as is the development of programs to assist coal dependent communities to make the transition to other more sustainable sources of economic

prosperity. The mining and energy sectors should be nationalised so that government has full control.

Australia also has a responsibility to assist the Island states whose lands are already disappearing under rising oceans. This includes mitigation measures and opening our doors to those displaced.

We only have one planet, no second chances. Inaction is criminal and suicidal, promotion of fossil fuels is beyond belief and totally unjustifiable in this age of scientific knowledge. The mob in Parliament are living in the dark ages and must be stopped before it is too late. ●



Battle brewing at the OFL

By Helen Kennedy

New developments in the back rooms of the Ontario Federation of Labour may threaten to derail its leadership at the upcoming convention in November. The

current President, Sid Ryan, has moved the Federation a giant step forward by mobilizing labour in strike solidarity and building a common front of labour and social justice allies across the province. Ryan's leadership has been a

welcome relief to the complacency that was the norm under the previous leadership of Wayne Samuelson, whose claim to fame was to shut down the enormously successful mobilization against Premier Mike Harris.

Since Ryan was elected there has been more vigour from the Federation: big rallies against service cuts and attacks on collective bargaining; the high profile "kill a worker go to jail" health and safety campaign, the development of a community-labour "Common Front", and major public reports exposing how inequality is growing, how Ontario is falling behind, and how the so-called "right to work" is a fraud.

The same affiliates who rang the death knell for building community labour solidarity across the province during the "Days of Action" are now plotting to run Bob Linton from the UFCW to shut down the much needed revitalization of the labour movement in the province.

The leaders of the back room deal are the District 6 of the United Steelworkers, the United Food and Commercial Workers, the International Association of Machinists, the Elementary Teachers, and the Power Workers union. The leaders of ONA (Ontario Nurses Association) and OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) are also part of the anti-Ryan faction, but they remain unaffiliated to the OFL.

If these unions are successful, this would be the second time around. In 1997, the same affiliates under the nickname the "pink paper" unions took over the Federation, against a candidate backed by CUPE and the CAW.

That period does not bear a re-run. The Federation became almost

invisible. While the decline in labour since 1997 is multi-faceted, the absence of the Federation played an important role.

Within the Federation, there are progressive affiliates like CUPE and the newly merged Unifor that support the action orientation of Ryan's leadership. In addition, many members of those affiliates involved in the latest backroom dealing have been living the austerity agenda of concessions and attacks on collective bargaining rights. Their voices need to be heard in their unions and on the floor of the OFL convention.

We must also remember that the OFL leadership fight takes place in a province that is governed by a Liberal minority, on borrowed time. The stakes are high for the Tories whose central plank in the next election will be the wholesale destruction of the labour movement by killing the dues check-off. But there are also high stakes for the NDP, who may not want Sid Ryan and his militant leadership interfering in any way with their "electability."

Ryan can be a polarizing figure. But there is no doubt that he is a determined fighter for working people - at a time when such leaders are not so easy to find. It's not an exaggeration to say that with the choice between Ryan and Linton the labour movement will decide whether they want to fight back - or not.

Our task as progressive minded unionists is to build a fighting unity at the OFL. The working class in Ontario deserve no less. ●



OFL President Sid Ryan (at left of the "Respect" banner) in the streets with labour activists during the Toronto Community Day of Action in April 2011. (Photo: Ed Bil)

IKEA drags out lockout in Richmond

PV Vancouver Bureau

There seems to be little progress toward a settlement of the labour dispute at the Ikea store in Richmond, BC, where 300 workers have been locked out since May 13.

Picket line support for the members of Teamsters Local 213 continues, including an action called on Oct. 4 by the Solidarity in Action Committee of the Vancouver & District Labour Council.

After five months on picket lines, at the labour board, and at the bargaining table, Ikea still refuses to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract for their workers.

The Solidarity in Action Committee reports that the situation has worsened as picketers face intimidation from private security personnel, and management efforts to bribe them into crossing the line. But the lockout may be taking a toll on the

employer. Since the lockout began parts of the stores operation have gradually shut down due to the resulting shortage in staffing. This first affected the children's play area and the cafeteria, and now the store is entirely closed on Tuesdays.

There has been little communication between the two



Photo by Devan Gillan

sides since late July, when the union rejected a revised contract offer from the company.

Anita Dawson, a business agent with Teamsters Local 213, told the Globe and Mail that the July offer "had a very complicated wage system [in which] if certain sales and productivity goals were not met, it could potentially take an employee who was working through a progression up to 20 years to get to the top rate of pay."

Ikea claims that the Richmond store's productivity is low, but it does not provide a per-store sales breakdown. The Richmond store is one of only two unionized Ikea stores in Canada; the other one is in Montreal.

In a Sept. 13 decision, the LRB found the "concerted action" of the union and its members constitutes a strike. But it also stated that Ikea had breached a section of the provincial labour code by hiring "replacement workers" (scabs) and ordered the company to "cease and desist." ●



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Proceeds to help send delegates to World Festival of Youth & Students

Pan-Canadian delegation grows for Ecuador's 18th World Festival of Youth and Students

PV Youth Bureau

Drew Garvie is the acting co-chair of the Pan-Canadian delegation to the 18th WFYS and a member of the Young Communist League of Canada. Drew sat down with People's Voice to talk about the organizing for the Festival.

So what is the festival in a nutshell?

The festival is basically the largest gathering of anti-imperialist and progressive youth in the world. Something like 12,000 to 17,000 youth are expected to attend from over 120 different countries! The festival itself will be held in one of the hot spots of social change in Latin America today, the Republic of Ecuador, from December 7th to 13th.

Tell us the latest news.

The Pan-Canadian delegation continues to grow. Endorsing groups of the festival now include CUPE Toronto District, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, several Quebec student unions, the BC Federation of Labour, the Young Communist League of Canada, the Vancouver District Labour Council, the Kamloops Socialist Club, Occupy Edmonton, and others. The Pan-Canadian delegation will be between 50 and 100 participants. The final size of the delegation really depends on the outreach efforts of the 10 or so local committees over the next couple weeks.

The third International Preparatory Meeting for the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students wrapped up last month in New Delhi, India. The meeting, which came after planning meetings already hosted in Ecuador, South Africa and Spain, showed that preparation for the festival is coming together quickly in a political climate facing the very real danger of imperialist war in Syria, as well as continued mass unemployment and impoverishment of youth. While the Pan-Canadian delegation was unable to attend the most recent meeting in India, we did receive a series of reports from the meeting organizers and some participants.

And we understand there is now a basic schedule set for the festival?

Yes. The 18th WFYS will have a format similar to that of previous festivals with eight days of action: the inauguration/opening ceremonies; a day dedicated to the regions of Asia, Middle East, Europe, America and Africa; another to the host country, Ecuador; and the closing ceremonies.

Each day will feature a series of different large-scale conferences and seminars on broad themes, as well as smaller workshops on specific issues. Talks with cultural and political content will vary, predominantly to publicize the struggles and situation in each region or particular countries. The rough program is finalized and will be circulated after translation.

Also on the agenda will be inter-exchange meetings where delegates can share experiences and struggles through open forums for activists from labour, students, media, women, queer groups, etc. and a three-day Anti-Imperialist Tribunal which will hear presentations from around the world about the crimes of imperialism in their countries. The Tribunal will be at the end of the festival, and will symbolically judge the crimes of imperialism against the people of the world.

It is mainly a lot of politics?

Well there is also a lot of fun too - social events, dances, parties late at night, etc. Cultural, sports, and musical performances are also part of the draft programme and it looks like they are expected every day, including an anti-imperialist soccer match. The opening act of the festival may be the Hip Hop group Calle 13. That's the word on the street, anyway.

Who are Calle 13?

Calle 13 are two step-brothers and their half-sister who hail from Puerto Rico. While relatively unknown in Canada, the left-wing rap group is a block-buster hit in Latin America. They have won a record nineteen Latin Grammy Awards.

In their biggest most recent hit "LatinoAmerica", they rap a kind of representation of the continent, singing of the struggles of its peoples. It is very powerful music and as the opening act it could kind of set a tone for the whole event.

Like in that song when they say "You can't buy the wind, the sun, the rain, the heat, the clouds, happiness, pain," etc., and then "Here we share, what's mine is yours." This is very much linked with what is going on across Latin America right now, and especially in Ecuador where there is a rejection of the sort of monopoly capitalism and imperialism which has tried to commodify everything and a search for a different way forward, like more public ownership, environmental sustainability, and socialism.

And the indigenous communities have a big role to place in the process, both supporting and criticizing the process in Ecuador. So, for example, we are learning about Transito Amaguana, an indigenous Ecuadorian woman who was an organizer of the country's first agricultural unions and joined by other human rights activists in founding the Ecuadorian Federation of Indians in 1944. Transito struggled under very harsh conditions her entire life, but she kept fighting, eventually joining the Communist Party, which led again to her imprisonment. These are really amazing stories that will be coming forward at this festival.

Tell us about the logistics.

So now we know that the Festival will take place in the brand new Quito Bicentennial Park, formerly Mariscal Sucre International Airport which is now being converted into a convention center, school, aquarium, and green space.

Over a hundred and twenty hectares in size (that is very big!), almost all Festival activities will take place inside, including a camping area where over 5,000 Ecuadorian youth participating in the Festival will stay in large military tents. The park is located in the north central part of the city, which is a safe and quiet area.

The international delegates are expected to stay in hotels or in a space created especially for that purpose such as a large vacant convent. Food plans are

*I am what that they left
I'm all about what that was stolen.
A village hidden on the peak,
My skin is from leather
that's why it stands any weather.
I'm a factory of smoke,
A peasant working hand for your consumption
A Cold Front in the middle of summer,
Love in the Time of Cholera, by brother...
I am developing raw,
a political speech without saliva.
The most beautiful faces I've met,
I'm the photograph of a disappeared person.
I'm the blood in your veins,
I'm a piece of land that is worth it.
I'm a basket with beans,
I'm Maradona against England scoring 2 goals...*

Calle 13, LatinoAmerica

Will there be an opportunity to see other parts of the country?

Probably not, but festival delegates are already beginning to plan side-trips after the festival, to places like the Amazon or the Galapagos Islands, or elsewhere in Latin America. Ecuador is a tremendously ecologically and climatically diverse country. The temperatures in Quito are relatively stable throughout the year between 10 and 27 degrees.

Quito is a generally temperate climate, but December is a month of rain. The entire city is a UNESCO heritage site, and at an elevation of 9,350 feet (2,800 meters above sea level), it is the highest capital city in the world. I visited the city around the same time, in late November last year, and did not find the high altitude a problem.

Is there a deadline to register?

We have an excellent opportunity to bulk buy plane tickets through a connection to a Latin American airline. To do this we require \$50 per delegate registered 45 days before our departure. We are in the process of setting up a system to collect the money and to register delegates.

This will probably give us a very reduced rate on tickets, possibly in the hundreds of dollars less per ticket, unfortunately we will not know the deal until we do the registration. If you are going to the Festival, and haven't yet bought a ticket, please have \$50 handy and watch your email as we will have to do the registration in a hurry to have tickets reserved for the end of October!

For more information visit www.18wfys.tumblr.com or write 18wfys.canada@gmail.com. To make a donation, send cheques to the Marty Skup Memorial Fund c/o S. Skup, Treasurer, 56 Riverwood Terrace, Bolton, Ontario, L7E 1S4. ●



also advanced and seem much better prepared than the past festival.

Elena Transito Amaguana

Elena Transito Amaguana (Sept. 10, 1909-May 10, 2009) was one of the founders of the Ecuadorian Federation of Indigenous People (FEI). She is regarded as a political inspiration for the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students, which takes place Dec. 7-13 in Ecuador (see above).

Born into a family of slaves and "property" of the landowner, Transito helped her parents on their small piece of land. The family worked seven days a week for no pay and in return could cultivate food on that land to grow and eat.

As it was common for girls to be raped by the landowners, Transito's mother decided her daughter would be better marrying an older man. She was married at the age of 15 to a 25 year old and became pregnant almost immediately. Transito's husband beat her repeatedly, causing her first child's death. But she continued to become involved in politics and the injustices of the indigenous people of Ecuador. By the time she was able to free herself from her violent husband she had two more children.

On her own, Transito continued to work the land in exchange for food for herself and her children. In 1930 she helped to set up the first indigenous organization of her country and took part in 26 marches to the capital, Quito, to demand justice for her people. Quito was 66 kilometers from her home and Transito did this carrying her two children.

She helped organize and took part in the first workers' union. One strike lasted three months until the military moved in and destroyed the workers homes and detained them. Transito had to live 15 months in hiding from the authorities.



Among her people she was greatly admired, but the authorities constantly threatened her. She later joined the Communist Party and travelled to Cuba and the Soviet Union to represent the Ecuadorian people. Transito was arrested on return from one of these tours and detained, accused of trafficking weapons and Bolshevik money to incite revolution, but all she had was documentation for promoting land reforms. She was released four months later after being made to sign a declaration that she would not continue "agitating" her people. But of course, revolutionary woman that she was, she continued fighting for equality and justice for her people.

Transito retired on a state pension and died in 2009. Her funeral was attended by President Rafael Correa, vice president Moreno and indigenous leaders.

(Source: Wikipedia)



GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE

Shocking abuse of Bangladesh workers

A Bangladesh factory that sews garments for The Gap and Old Navy brands routinely forces workers to work over 100 hours a week and they are slapped, shoved and punched, says a damning report. It also says workers earn 20 to 24 cents an hour, and illegal firings are regular.

"Gap and Old Navy in Bangladesh: cheating the poorest workers in the world" was released on Oct. 3 by the Pittsburgh-based Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights.

A spokesperson for Gap Inc., said the factory in question has been audited for working conditions and the allegations "don't align with the audit and worker interviews."

But Charles Kernaghan, director of the institute, said "these abuses have been going on for more than two and a half years."

The 68-page report focuses solely on the Next Collections factory in Ashulia, a suburb of Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital city. The factory employs 3,750 workers and 70 per cent of its production is for The Gap and Old Navy. The report comes after 1,129 garment factory workers, mostly women, died last April in the Rana Plaza collapse in Savar, an industrial suburb of Dhaka, the deadliest garment-factory accident in history.

Kernaghan said in almost 30 years of interviewing labour forces in the developing world, he and his colleagues had never seen workers who looked so spent.

"They were exhausted, skinny, dazed and with deep shadows under their bloodshot eyes," he said.

Some pregnant workers are illegally fired and are also denied their legal paid maternity leave; others are made to work even harder. Among other allegations: workers are forced to work up to 17-hour shifts, seven days a week; there are consequences if workers arrive late or leave early, even if by a minute; managers are handed fake pay slips to pretend Gap is in compliance with legal hours and wages; workers are paid in cash, off the books and cheated of 15 per cent of their overtime hours; if helpers make mistakes, they are humiliated and forced to stand in front of the sewing line.

Red card for Qatar at FIFA

Trade unionists showed a symbolic red card to FIFA outside the headquarters of soccer's governing body on Oct. 3 over labour rights in Qatar, host nation for 2022 World Cup.

Around 100 protesters from Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) and the Swiss union Unia gathered at the front gates waving red cards as FIFA's executive committee began a two-day meeting to discuss the tournament.

FIFA will debate whether, in principle, they should move the

event from the June-July period, in the searing Qatari summer, as well as the situation of migrant workers on World Cup construction sites. Britain's *Guardian* newspaper reported recently that dozens of Nepali



workers had died on building sites in Qatar over the summer.

Current mortality figures for workers from Nepal and India, who account for the bulk of the 1.2 million migrant workers in the country, show on average 400 workers die each year.

"Those people working on the sites have nothing, they suffer," BWI assistant general secretary Marion Hellmann told reporters. "There is still a lot of time to change. We want to have an abolition of the sponsorship system, for example, where people are bound to their employer, their passport is withheld and they cannot escape. We want to get labour inspectors in place to go to the sites and do inspection work. We want to get a very clear commitment from the (Qatar) government and from FIFA. We want people to have drinking water, food, a good bed to sleep, good air-conditioned rooms, good salary, not just seven dollars a day."

The Swiss-based BWI groups together around 328 trade unions representing around 12 million members in 130 countries.

Honduran union leader threatened

Honduran labour leader Victor Crespo has been moved out of the country to assure his safety, and the Minister of Labour has promised to take action.

On Sept. 14 three armed attackers tried to force entry to the home of Crespo, general secretary of the Sindicato Gremial de Trabajadores del Muelle (SGTM). They left, shouting death threats, after becoming aware of potential witnesses nearby. The attack followed two months of anonymous death threats telling Crespo to stop seeking a collective agreement at the town's port. The armed attackers yelled that he should "stop making noise organising stevedores."

The International Transport Federation, an umbrella group for dockers unions, moved quickly to alert the Honduran police and political leaders, and the port's incoming concessionary operator. I T F Americas regional secretary Antonio Fritz has also met with Honduras' Minister of Labour

and Social Security Jorge Bogran Perdomo, who supported police protection for Crespo to allow him to carry on his union duties.

The ITF also raised the union's lawful requests for a collective bargaining agreement and job security at the port once ICTSI begins operations at Puerto Cortes. The Minister is now studying a paper from the ITF and STGM detailing these important matters.

Bulgarian miners seek back pay

Workers of Otkrit Vagledobiv Mines EAD, the biggest coal mining company in Bulgaria's western town of Pernik, have taken strike action over unpaid salaries. The coal mining company has a total staff of around 800.

The Republika and Obedinen mines were not producing coal in early October after the workers walked off the job. Although the Central Flotation Plant was supposed to resume operations on Oct. 4 after repair works, this did not happen.

The disgruntled miners insist that they be paid in full for their back wages. The workers have been fined 20% of their salaries for a third month in a row, as a penalty for the failure to meet work volumes stipulated in employment contracts.

The miners have been promised by management officials that they will be paid in full once the coal mining company becomes financially stable.

Vasko Markov, Deputy CEO of Otkrit Vagledobiv Mines EAD, commented that the company depended on sales to the National Electric Company. That company is in debt to the Republika and Bobov Dol thermal power plants, to which the mines have supplied coal without getting regular payments.

Another killing in Colombia

Yet another Colombian trade union leader has been assassinated. Fernando Florez Viveros, President of the Expreso Palmira trade union, a FESINUVALC affiliate, and Transport Secretary of the CTC Valle branch, was murdered in his home in Cali City, on September 27. The attack demonstrates once again that the lives of Colombian trade unionists remain under constant threat.

In a letter the authorities, the International Trade Union Confederation is urging the Colombian President to take all the necessary measures to stop violence and impunity, and to launch an investigation to bring to justice those responsible for this brutal murder.

According to human rights treaties ratified by Colombia, it is the government's responsibility to safeguard the lives and the physical integrity of all Colombian citizens.

The International Solidarity Centre reports that some 4,000 trade unionists have been murdered over the past 20 years in Colombia, making it the most dangerous country in the world for labour activists.

HK beverage workers strike

More than 100 workers at Swire Beverages in Hong Kong went on strike on Oct. 3 to demand more staff to help them deal with their increased workload. The strikers, most of them storage and delivery workers, started their walkout at 8 am outside the company's factory in Sha Tin district.

Waiving placards and shouting slogans, they protested against long working hours and the employer's refusal to hire more staff. The strikers are also concerned the company has plans to contract out some of their jobs.

The soft drinks company, owned by Swire Group, manufactures, bottles and distributes Coca-Cola and related soft drinks. A workers' union leader said the industrial action had slowed the production line and delivery schedule.

Representatives of the workers were scheduled to meet management to discuss the strikers' demands, but the unions say they will maintain the strike until the company addresses their needs.

Part-timers lose out in South Korea

the South Korean government has been accused of failing to create decent jobs for part time government workers. The Park Geun-hye government had pledged to create quality part-time jobs for public employees as part of the goal of achieving an employment rate of 70%, but these jobs have turned out to be less than promised. The longer part-time government

employees work, the greater the gap between their wages and those of full-time government employees.

A report in the *Hankoryeh* newspaper says that part-time workers are becoming a marginalized occupational group, regarded as inferior to contract workers at private companies.

The Public Sector Transportation Labor Union Alliance, part of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, said on Oct. 3 that it had run a simulation to compare the wages of part-time public employees with those of full-timers. The analysis showed that a part-time public servant earned 50% of the wages of a full-time worker in the first year, dropping to 41% in the tenth year, and 32.1% in the twentieth year. The longer part-time workers remain at their job, the bigger the gap in real and comparative wages between part-timers and full-timers.

The income gap increases mainly because it takes part-time employees at least twice as long as full-timers to rise to the next pay level.

The government claims that taking into account payroll taxes and other factors, the actual take-home wages of part-timers is closer to 65% of full-time workers. But calculations by labour activists tell a different story.

About one-third of the wages of public employees come in the form of allowances, says the Alliance. Depending on the allowances, the wage gap between part-time and full-time employees often becomes even larger. The Alliance says that if the government must hire part-time public officials, it should adopt a method that guarantees a living wage and decent treatment.

Many items in our "Global Class Struggle" column are from the Labour Start website, www.labourstart.org

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Criminalised poor swelling Britain's "labour camps"

By Tony Gosling, RT News

Click! Another notch on the ratchet turning the UK from civilisation to fascism as Britain's Justice Minister, Chris Grayling, announced ten-year jail sentences for those who claim too much state benefit. The latest statistics from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) show that 1.3 billion pounds was fraudulently claimed in 2012/13. Tax Justice Network figures estimating tax fraud by the super-rich at 60 billion pounds, which is around 50 times greater, seem to have "evaded" Grayling; as has the estimated eight times greater figure of 10 billion pounds in unclaimed benefits.

The sad fact is simply that tyrants are running the show and rather than pay their fair share they intend to squeeze the poor until the pips squeak.

Most government legal aid has also been cut off this year while destitute squatters who manage to find a derelict or empty home to spend the night have also been turned into criminals for the first time in British history. Rather than the wealthy owner of the empty property having to pick up the eviction tab, now it's a job for the taxpayers and police.

So who benefits from the unspeakable cruelty of

criminalising poverty and homelessness?

At 15 percent Britain has more private prisons than anywhere else in Europe. This particular US policy of containment, where 2.4 million, one quarter of the world's "criminals" are incarcerated, means the more people go to jail the bigger the bags of cash for cold-blooded private interests.

This was illustrated in the US in 2009 when Pennsylvania Judges Mark Ciavarella and Michael Conahan were discovered taking US\$2.6 million from private prison firms and convicted of racketeering. The only surprise about that case was that they were caught and convicted. Those who gain from such backroom handshaking deals are more careful now.

In Victorian times the poor were sent to the workhouse: a state institution which was supposed to provide gainful employment and a roof over the head of the destitute. Charles Dickens portrayed the regime brilliantly in his 1839 classic *Oliver Twist*, but his lessons are being forgotten. If the present government gets their way the backbreaking days of the workhouse will be back.

In 1900, during the Boer War, Britain had the dubious honour of creating the world's first

concentration camps where 30,000 political prisoners, mostly families of the Afrikaans enemy, were killed.

In the 1950s Kenya too, during the freedom struggles of the native Land and Freedom Army, 20,000 are estimated to have been killed. Nicknamed Mau-Mau by the dying British Empire, torture and labour camps were set up with summary capital punishment to eliminate political prisoners.

Back home there were a couple of decades of respite after the bloodletting of World War Two before 1980s Thatcherism created a permanent pool of millions of unemployed in Britain and deunionisation began.

After 2000, economic migrants from an eastward expanding EU were used to force wages down even further. Mass mesmerism by the London media branded anyone who questioned the wisdom of driving down hard fought pay and conditions, as a racist.

As if it were not enough for our "owners", unencumbered by the interests of the majority, to force pay below survival level, bills are now increasing way above inflation while pay remains static, forcing millions into poverty whether in or out of work. It's miserable social engineering on a massive scale.

So, like the loan shark firms, Britain's Prison Industrial Complex gawps longingly at the new underclass of desperate Untermenschen and licks its collective lips. The shameless generals in charge of this business battle group will have those contracts come hell or high water.

Around 15 percent of Britain's prison population is presently behind private bars. According to the Howard League for Penal Reform, G4S and Serco jails are the worst.

The world's biggest private security firm G4S, famous for the Olympics fiasco when the British Army had to be drafted in less than a month before the games, are suffering criminal investigation with Serco over their joint 50 million pounds government fraud.

Serco's contract for managing Britain's nuclear weapons establishment at Aldermaston, amazingly, has carried on unperturbed. Are bored civil servants deliberately courting disaster to add a little excitement to their lives?

Britain's National Association of Probation Officers, NAPO, who manage murderers, sex offenders, paedophiles, the country's most dangerous criminals, began opposition to their service being sold off this week. Likely bidders being known fraudsters G4S and Serco, the directors of which should, themselves, be behind bars.

The privatisation of the criminal justice system is a strategy of malice. It is about dehumanising the people who most need society's help. The greedy simply scapegoating the weak. They're turning our cities into "people farms" where only the fit deserve to survive, justice is ditched, and money is the only law in the human jungle.

Back in the 1940s Nazi Germany perpetrators of "crimes against the party" were worked to death in labour camps. Under the

Claims Conference scheme companies that still existed after the war such as Volkswagen, whose slave labourers manufactured the V1 flying bomb, Porsche and Mercedes put their hands in their pockets, compensating the families of the concentration camp victims.

One company though was peculiarly reluctant to contribute. The Quandt family employed 50,000 slave labourers during the war. They owned the Mauser gun firm and AFA which manufactured essential batteries for submarines, tanks, aircraft of the Nazi war machine.

At the end of the war, with marital ties to the Goebbels family and a tidy fortune, they sold up to buy a controlling share in the private car manufacturer Bayerische Motoren Werke or BMW. The family felt the money had been made elsewhere so exonerated them from paying reparations to the Claims Conference.

Not all Germans agreed and on October 2007 an award winning documentary *The Silence of The Quandts* appeared one night to a shocked nation. The surprise film was kept off TV schedules so as to avoid the billionaire Quandts getting an injunction to halt the broadcast. In most of the rest of the world, sadly, where the documentary has not been shown, the BMW brand has survived intact.

Several months ago I stopped to give some change to a rough-shaven Bristol beggar in his late twenties who, it turned out, was a skilled electrical worker, just released from prison. "It can seem worse on the outside," he said. "I left with nothing but the clothes I went in with and nowhere to go". He went on to tell me about the prison labour he'd been doing for pennies an hour over his 12-month stretch: wiring up thousands of indicator stalks for BMW. ●

Venezulan Communist youth hold congress

Tamara Pearson, venezuelanalysis.com

The recent congress of the Communist Youth of Venezuela (JCV) declared the need for more "revolutionary measures" to combat the "economic sabotage" that Venezuela is facing.

The congress, held September 19-22 in Caracas, coincided with the 66th anniversary of the JCV. Its slogan was "With rebelliousness and organisation we deepen the revolution" and 200 delegates attended. Each delegate represented one youth collective.

The last communist youth congress was held in Guarico in 2009.

The congress discussed and approved two key projects, *Platform of Struggle* and *Internal Life*, which will guide the work of the JCV in the coming period. It also elected a new central committee with 21 members and re-elected Hector Rodriguez as general secretary.

On the new central committee, seven members are students, ten are workers, fourteen are professionals, and five are women. The average age of the CC is 24.9.

The main tasks the organisation set itself for the coming period are: developing a unique national organisation of Venezuelan revolutionary youth, developing fronts in each sector, deepening their relationships with the working youth, promoting the fight against economic sabotage, and promoting revolutionary economic measures.

Rodriguez said that since the last congress the youth had "worked hard in recovering communist identity, strengthening the Leninist character of organisation, fighting for a new work law and the transformation of the education model".

In the opening speech of the

congress, Rodriguez argued that "Venezuela needs to apply revolutionary measures to defeat the economic sabotage of the bourgeoisie... who are aiming to recover all the power they had in the past".

"We should trust in the organisational force of the workers and the people...[and] to confront the problem of speculation with the dollar we should say, 'Not one more dollar for the parasitic bourgeoisie' and develop a state monopoly on imports," said the communist youth leader.

Further, Rodriguez argued that, "We should impose a general price control on all goods, which united with the import measures, would mean we could fix prices according to real current values".

Rodriguez also said the Added Value Tax (IVA) should be eliminated, the Tax on Profits (ISLR) should be increased, and all banks nationalised.

Jairo Calderon, a delegate from Merida state, told *Venezuelanalysis.com* that the congress was historically significant due to the impact of the recent death of Hugo Chavez, as well as the 66th anniversary and the upcoming 18th World Festival of Youth and

Students, to be held soon in Ecuador.

"The communist youth were able to have a deep discussion of the capitalist crisis, which needs wars, hunger and colonisation to maintain its dominance... the congress itself was very well organised, we had a range of international guests including the ambassadors from Syria and Vietnam, communist youth from various countries, comrades from Ecuador, and we cemented a strategy to apply and develop over the next three to four years," Calderon said.

President Nicolas Maduro sent greetings to the congress, stating that, "We know that we count on you all to carry out the titanic task that [Hugo Chavez] entrusted us with: protecting and deepening the socialist revolution".

The JCV is affiliated to the World Federation of Democratic Youth. It was formed on September 16, 1947. It held its second congress in 1953 underground and there decided on the urgency of uniting youth organisations against the dictatorship of Marcos Perez Jimenez. From there, the First National Festival of Venezuelan Youth was held, involving 30,000 people. ●



JCV leaders speak to media at their recent Congress.

One in eight people face chronic hunger

One in eight people around the world is chronically undernourished, according to the United Nations' food agencies. In their latest report on food insecurity, the agencies estimate that 842 million people were suffering chronic hunger in 2011-13, 12 per cent of the world's population.

The figure was down 17 per cent from 1990-92, and lower than the last estimate of 868 million in 2010-12. But many countries are unlikely to meet the UN's Millennium Development Goal to halve hunger by 2015, warn the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"Those countries that have experienced conflict during the past two decades are more likely to have seen significant setbacks in reducing hunger," the groups' report said.

"Landlocked countries face persistent challenges in accessing world markets, while countries with poor infrastructure and weak institutions face additional constraints."

FAO, WFP and IFAD define undernourishment in the *State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013* report as "not having enough food for an active and healthy life" and an inability to "meet dietary energy requirements."

Policies aimed at boosting agriculture and food availability were crucial in reducing hunger even where poverty was widespread, the agencies say, pointing out that "When they are combined with social protection and other measures that increase the incomes of poor families to buy food, they can have an even more positive effect and spur rural development."

The vast majority of people suffering hunger - around 827 million - live in developing countries, where undernourishment is estimated at 14.3 per cent. In Africa, more than one in five people are undernourished. ●

Winnipeg event marks 40th anniversary of Chilean coup

Winnipeg's Chilean community had a panel discussion on Sept. 25 about Canada's response to the fascist coup against Chile's Popular Unity government in 1973. On the panel were former Manitoba Premier Howard Pawley, former NDP MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Paul Graham and leader of the Communist Party of Canada in Manitoba, Darrell Rankin. Excerpts from Rankin's comments are printed here.

I want to thank the Chile 40 Committee for inviting us to discuss one of the most important turning points in your lives. It is hard to imagine the ordeal you endured to be here forty years later.

I would like to talk about the early months of Canada's solidarity movement for a democratic Chile. The Trudeau Liberal government accepted thousands of refugees to Canada. Yet Trudeau rejected the demands of the solidarity movement not to recognize Augusto Pinochet's fascist junta and to ban the import of Chilean products.

We will never know how many more lives could have been saved if the Chilean junta was more isolated and shut off from the world. Certainly, the parties of big business in Canada and around the world were guilty of handing Pinochet a big economic lifeline. It was help that failed to reach the Chilean people but propped up the oligarchy.

The strengths and lessons of the solidarity movement are important today. I want to look beyond the facts and figures to understand the eruption of feelings of solidarity that took place across Canada...

Percy Bysshe Shelley, one of the finest poets in the English language, wrote that "poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world." Chile has made a major contribution to humanity's socialist future through its music, poetry and art, and you have brought that authentic humanity to Canada, all of you here. We are very thankful.

Chile's fascist coup forty years ago shook the world. Defending the interests of the Chilean oligarchy and U.S. imperialism, Augusto Pinochet's military junta crushed Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government with the aim of eradicating socialist

and Marxist thoughts from the people.

In South America especially, the balance of forces shifted against democracy, socialism and the workers' movements, despite many kinds of resistance. For example, Venezuela nationalized its oil industry in 1976. In other continents, the coup provided a sharp warning to strengthen the struggle against imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism.

Asia and Africa were emerging from colonial rule; the Vietnamese people were near victory. The socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, pushed for dialogue and détente with the U.S. and other members of the NATO military alliance.

Globally, the balance of forces favoured détente, disarmament, and anti-colonialism. It favoured the broad socialist and reformist movements. The Soviet Union's prestige from fighting hardest to defeat Hitler in World War Two was in the living memory of all anti-fascists.

The global economy grew at a far faster pace than today. Working people knew if they united and

"Salvador Allende's Socialist Party was the leading force in the Popular Unity government, a full member of the Socialist International. His government showed what socialist and communist parties together can achieve."

struggled, they could achieve advances.

In Canada, working people were able to win stronger public medicare and pensions. In 1972, the Canadian Labour Congress readmitted several communist-led unions expelled in the 1950s. This had a positive effect on the militancy and direction of the CLC for the next twenty years.

When the coup happened in Chile, the labour movement and a broad array of progressive forces were united, conducting big strikes and making political demands against monopoly-inspired rising prices. Canada had its first and only general strike in 1976, against wage controls. The strike movement was far larger than it is today.

The labour movement was becoming more political and moving in the direction of détente, disarmament and the peaceful co-existence of socialist and

imperialist countries. And because they were already in a fighting spirit, unions were ready to act swiftly and build a strong and powerful solidarity movement for a democratic Chile.

The response was just as tremendous around the world. Salvador Allende's Socialist Party was the leading force in the Popular Unity government, a full member of the Socialist International. The election of his government showed what socialist and communist parties together can achieve.

The Popular Unity government's programme stated that it was three million workers, together with the whole people, who, by "unified combative action," would be able to "break the present structures and advance in the task of their liberation."

The program was not to reform capitalism, but to make decisive inroads against the power of the capitalist and landed oligarchy and its political structures.

Unity in Chile developed into global unity for solidarity with Chile's democratic forces. The Socialist International, which includes Canada's NDP,

condemned the military coup and called upon its member parties to assist Chilean democrats. It urged governments to refrain from taking diplomatic steps in support of the junta and to stop any kind of aid, credits or loans to the regime.

In March 1974, the Socialist International formed a committee that was instrumental in launching large-scale solidarity campaigns in many capitalist countries.

The socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, also acted firmly in support of Chile's democratic forces, as did the international peace and trade union movements. The international conference "Chile is not alone," attended by 57 countries and 17 international organizations on September 29-30, 1973 in Helsinki, is just one example.

The Soviet Union successfully negotiated with the junta in 1976 to free Luis Corvalan, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Chile. General Pinochet



Trade unions rally for Popular Unity during the 1970 election.

received a report every morning about the letters read by Radio Moscow sent to it by loyal listeners in Chile. The Soviet Union and communist parties, including in Canada, directly helped the resistance against the Chilean junta.

It was the resistance and courage of the Chilean people themselves that played the main role in removing the dictatorship in 1989.

In the end, Pinochet's junta accomplished nothing except the destruction of Chile's economy and undermining the country's sovereignty. It carried out a big, failed neo-liberal experiment. It dealt a severe and sad, yet temporary setback to the people's movements and to socialism in Chile. For me, capitalism's inhumanity will never make me stop being a socialist. I agree with Frederick Engels' ideas that humanity's true history will begin only with socialism and that we are confronted with the choice of either socialism or barbarism.

I want to end by asking "Why Chile?" When the world was moving in the direction of détente, mutual and balanced disarmament and the peaceful co-existence of socialist and capitalist countries, why did U.S. imperialism target Chile, of all places?

Quite simply, it was losing and wanted desperately to find a way to stop the transition of humanity from capitalism to socialism. It wanted to freeze history, to declare with bullets and torture that history had ended. It ran out of arguments in Chile, so it used bullets.

Chile meant more to U.S. imperialism as a possession than other parts of the world. It was only one continent away from the U.S. It had a lot of U.S. investments. In 1975, Latin

America's dependence on foreign investment was much higher per person compared to Asia and Africa - \$132 compared to \$16 and \$29, respectively. The U.S. imperialist oligarchy was protecting its back yard.

Détente did not go as planned for capitalist imperialism, since even its coup in Chile did not stop Portugal's Revolution and the liberation of Vietnam two years later. It did not stop the Afghan revolution in 1978.

By the end of the decade, imperialism ended up restarting the arms race recklessly by placing Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe, effectively ending détente. It has since become an increasingly reactionary and militaristic social system that endangers all of humanity more than ever, including through the heedless, anti-scientific destruction of our environment.

Humanity's setbacks on the road to a better society always give a lesson. Chile's lessons confirm the idea that socialism needs the support of the overwhelming majority of the working class and that the alliance policy with the small capitalists can be decisive at critical moments of the revolutionary process.

There are no rules that say revolutions need to be violent. Both Marx and Lenin stated this. And, if we consider that we are in the epoch of humanity's transition from capitalism to socialism, violence cannot stand in the way - violence is not a decisive force for either of the big contending classes. As socialists, our main problem, especially since the setbacks to socialism twenty years ago, is that imperialism has most of the weapons and newspapers at its disposal at this time. ●

Right-wing loses out in Portugal local elections

Portuguese voters gave the conservative Social Democrat Party a spanking in local elections on Sept. 29 over its draconian cuts programme.

Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho admitted a "national defeat" in the municipal polls as voters vented their anger at austerity.

"We had the goal of retaining the majority of town halls but that just didn't happen," Passos Coelho said, congratulating the opposition Socialist Party for their "significant victory."

But the right-wing PM flatly refused to change course.

"I will continue along the path we are on, which is essential in

order to overcome the economic crisis and restore confidence and growth for Portugal," he insisted, clinging to his programme of tax rises, pay and pension cuts and reductions in public services.

He admitted the SDP had suffered its "worst ever" local election results but said that was the "price to pay" for austerity policies.

The conservative share of the vote slid more than 12% to 26.5%. They lost 39 mayoralties, leaving them with 100 municipalities, including some areas where the SDP ran on a joint ticket.


The socialists also saw a slight downturn in their vote but were up four mayors to 137.

The Democratic Unitarian Coalition alliance of the Communist and Green parties saw its vote go up to 11.1%, giving them five new mayors to make a tally of 30 across the country.

Portugal agreed to enact austerity measures in return for a 78 billion euro bailout two years ago. But a third straight year of recession and a jobless rate of 17.7 per cent have turned working people against the bailout.

The ruling party lost control of the major cities of Porto, Sintra and Vila Nova de Gaia. The Socialists retained power in Lisbon with an increased share of the vote.

(With files from the Morning Star.) ●



La Trova Nuestra

Friday, October 25, 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."

An inspiring episode of working class resistance

The UK Morning Star posted this report by Peter Frost, a correspondent who recently "crossed the pond" on holiday and found inspiration in the New England rebel town of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

On holiday in and around Boston, New England, I visited the spot where the famous Tea Party took place. It was the first skirmish of what would become the American revolution.

Sadly it was the same day that the lunatics of the US right in the Republican party - who have taken the Tea Party name - had once again voted down funding for Obama Care. Their petty and vindictive action had the result in shutting down the entire federal government structure.

The news was pretty depressing so my wife Ann and I decided to cheer ourselves up with a visit to a place that, just 101 years ago, saw one of the most inspiring episodes in US labour history.

The town of Lawrence is only an hour from Boston. It was a drive that took us through pretty woodlands with the many trees already turning to their flame-like fall colours.

Lawrence wasn't so pretty - huge red-brick textile mills dominate the town. Today most of the mills are derelict. Just a few have found other industrial uses or have been split up into smaller units.

I was going to write about dark satanic mills, but this is the US and they have socialist poets every bit as good as our William Blake. How about "a thousand mill lofts gray" from James Oppenheim.

One or two mills have been gentrified, a conference centre, a block of up-market lofts. The one we were seeking has become a fine museum, commemorating the famous 1912 Bread and Roses strike.

The Lawrence textile strike was a strike of mostly unskilled immigrant workers - 20,000 of them - from every mill in Lawrence. The majority were women or children.

The strike united workers from over 50 different nationalities and lasted more than two months. It was known as the "Singing Strike." The strikers had more than two dozen different languages but they could all communicate and protest through strike ballads.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) - the famous Wobblies - supported the strike and one of their organisers, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn masterminded a brilliant strategy.

The strikers sent their hungry children to stay with sympathetic union families in New York, New Jersey, and Vermont. The move drew widespread public sympathy, especially after police stopped a further exodus, by beating and arresting children and mothers at the station. The resulting outcry prompted Congressional hearings that publicised the shocking conditions in the Lawrence mills.

After two months of strike action the mill owners decided to settle giving workers in Lawrence and throughout New England

raises of up to 20 percent.

The Lawrence strike is often referred to as the Bread and Roses strike, the slogan taken from an Oppenheim poem written a year or so before, became a theme, featuring on banners and in speeches and strike songs: "As we go marching, marching, we battle too for men, / For they are women's children, and we mother them again. / Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes; / Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses."

Gurley Flynn was a remarkable woman. Later in her life she became national chair of the Communist Party of the USA.

Born in 1890, her parents had a long tradition of Irish

republicanism and socialism. By the time she was 22 she was an IWW organiser and was sent to Lawrence.

Joe Hill, a socialist troubadour and another IWW organiser, wrote a song about her. He called it *Rebel Girl*.

Hill would become a martyr for the cause when copper bosses in Salt Lake City framed him on a murder charge. He was shot and his famous last words still echo down to us today, "Don't mourn, organise!"

Gurley Flynn took him at his word, she organised and the workers of Lawrence still remember and celebrate her and the Bread and Roses strike more than a century later. ●

www.morningstaronline.co.uk



Sudan Communists arrested in repression

The situation in Sudan continues to arouse international anger at the ongoing repression by the al-Bashir government.

The popular uprising of the Sudanese working people, which began as opposition to sharp increases in fuel, food and essential goods and services, is now nationwide in scale. The regime has resorted to brute force to regain control through terror and repression. Trade union leaders, leaders of opposition forces and political opponents have been arrested. Trying to force the opposition to back down and to intimidate ordinary people from

joining the struggle, the regime has embarked on the tried and tested tactics of spreading chaos and initiating a breakdown in social order. According to news from Sudan, the supporters of the government have burned and looted public buildings in order to spread fear and friction within the ranks of protesters.

Mass protests have swept the country, as demonstrators call for the overthrow of the regime which has unleashed a reign of terror and repression for nearly a quarter of a century.

For more information on the struggle in Sudan, visit the website

REDS ON THE WEB

www.comunist-party.ca

www.peoplesvoice.ca

www.ycl-ljc.ca

rebelyouth-magazine.blogspot.com

<http://solidnet.org>

What's Left

Vancouver, BC

La Trova Nuestra, evening of Latin American music and socialising, admission \$10, 8 pm, Friday, Oct. 25, Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Drive.

Left Film Night, 7 pm, Sunday, Oct. 20, at 706 Clark Drive, call 604-255-2041 for details.

Annual Revolution Dinner, guest speaker Michael Parenti, Sat., Nov. 16, 6 pm, Peretz Centre, 6184 Ash St., tickets & info from 604-254-9836, sponsored by Centre for Socialist Education.

Winnipeg, MB

6th annual Winnipeg Radical Bookfair, Nov. 8-10, in the A-Zone Building at 91 Albert. For more info, check this website: wpgbookfairdiyfest.wordpress.com.

Toronto, ON

Cuban Trans Biopic, "In the Wrong Body/En El Cuerpo Equivocado" (2010, 52 min., director Marilyn Solaya), Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 pm, 519 Church St. Community Centre, Rm 201. Sponsored by Trans

& Allies Rainbow Sea of Red Open Collective with Cuba, endorsed by faith communities, CUPE and UNIFOR. All welcome, TTC tokens available, free or PWYC, light refreshments. For info, email [<seafredopencollective@gmail.com>](mailto:seafredopencollective@gmail.com).

Ottawa, ON

Marvin Glass Memorial Solidarity Fund Benefit Concert, featuring David Rovics, 6 pm, Sat., Oct. 12, Melkite Catholic Church 1161 North River Road (Vanier). Proceeds to assist students to participate in Ernesto Che Guevara Work Brigade, tickets \$20. Sponsored by: Ottawa-Cuba Connections, Solidarity Syria, CUPE 4600, Independent Jewish Voices, Communist Party of Canada (Rosa Luxemburg Club). Info: www.ottawacuba.org.

Montreal, QC

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

People's Voice deadlines

November 1-15 issue: Thursday, Oct. 17

November 16-30 issue: Thursday, Nov. 7

Send submissions to PV Editorial Office,
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, V5L 3J1
[<pvoice@telus.net>](mailto:pvoice@telus.net)



Police attack protesters during a 2012 demonstration in Sudan.

of the Communist and Workers' parties, <http://solidnet.org>.

The following is an appeal circulated by the Bureau of International Relations of the Sudanese Communist Party.

The security forces have arrested yesterday night Tuesday the 1st of October Comrade Alkinain, the Organisational Secretary, member of the PB and the Secretariat of the CC of the Sudanese Communist Party. He was arrested while shouldering his responsibility towards the people and the party. Comrade Alkinain who is in his early seventies, is diabetic and has high blood pressure. He needs continuous medical care and supply of medicine. Despite attempts made by the party, his family and friends to make sure that he receives the right medical treatment, no response was made by the authorities. Those responsible have turned deaf ears to request by lawyers to meet the

comrade.

The arrest of comrade Alkinain comes at time when our people are strengthening their resistance and mass actions against the regime. The forces of the opposition are finalising their preparations to further increase the pressure on the regime and bring its downfall. It is in the process of discussing and agreeing upon the shape and governance of future democratic Sudan. No repression will deter our people from reaching their final goal.

In addition to Comrade Alkinain, the detainees whose numbers are increasing by the day, who include outstanding leaders of different political parties and trade unionists are languishing either in detention centres of the security or government prisons. Among them are Comrades Sidig Yousif, Mirghani Atta Almanan, Abd Alfatah Rufaie as well as leaders and active members of our party. ●

The terrible cost of U.S. "realism"

By John Pilger, from the *New Statesman*

The most important anniversary of the year took place last month - the 40th anniversary of September 11, 1973. The crushing of the democratic government of Chile by General Augusto Pinochet and US secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

The National Security Archive in Washington has posted new documents that reveal much about Kissinger's role in an atrocity that cost thousands of lives. In declassified tapes, Kissinger is heard planning the overthrow of president Salvador Allende with Richard Nixon. They sound like mafiosi thugs.

Kissinger warns that the "model effect" of Allende's reformist democracy "can be insidious." He tells CIA director Richard Helms: "We will not let Chile go down the drain," to which Helms replies: "I am with you."

With the slaughter under way Kissinger dismisses a warning by his senior officials of the scale of the repression. Secretly, he tells Pinochet: "You did a great service to the West in overthrowing Allende."

I have known many of Pinochet's and Kissinger's victims. Sara De Witt, a student at the time, showed me the place where she was beaten, assaulted and electrocuted. On a wintry day in the suburbs of Santiago, we walked through a former torture centre known as Villa Grimaldi, where hundreds like her suffered terribly and were murdered or "disappeared."

Understanding Kissinger's criminality is vital when trying to fathom what the US calls its "foreign policy." Kissinger remains an influential voice in Washington, admired and consulted by Barack Obama.

When Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain commit crimes with US collusion and weapons, their impunity and Obama's hypocrisy are pure Kissinger. Syria must not have chemical weapons, but Israel can have and use them. Iran must not have a nuclear programme, but Israel can have

more nuclear weapons than Britain.

This is known as "realism" or realpolitik by Anglo-American academics and think tanks that claim expertise in "counter-terrorism" and "national security," which are Orwellian terms meaning the opposite.

In recent weeks the *New*



Protesters carrying pictures of the victims of the 1973 coup marched through the streets of Santiago, Chile.

Statesman has published articles by John Bew, an academic in the war studies department of King's College London which the cold warrior Lawrence Freedman made famous.

Bew laments the parliamentary

Foreign Relations.

At the great universities students were taught to regard people in terms of their usefulness or their expendability, in other words, their threat to "us."

This narcissism served to justify the cold war, its moralising myths and cataclysmic risks, and, when that was over, the "war on terror."

Such a "transatlantic consensus" often found its clearest echo in Britain with the British elite's enduring nostalgia for empire. Tony Blair used it to commit and justify his war crimes until his lies got the better of him.

The violent deaths of more than a thousand people every month in Iraq are his legacy.

Yet his views are still courted and his chief collaborator Alastair Campbell is a jolly after-dinner speaker and the subject of obsequious interviews. All the blood, it seems, has been washed away.

Syria is the current project. Outflanked by Russia and public opinion, Obama has now embraced the "path of diplomacy."

Has he? As Russian and US negotiators arrived in Geneva on September 12, the US increased its support for the al-Qaida affiliated militias with weapons sent clandestinely through Turkey, eastern Europe and the Gulf.

The Godfather has no intention of deserting his proxies. Al-Qaida was all but created by the CIA's Operation Cyclone, which armed the mujahedin in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.

Since then jihadists have been

used to divide Arab societies and in eliminating the threat of pan-Arab nationalism to western "interests" and Israel's lawless colonial expansion. This is Kissinger-style "realism."

In 2006 I interviewed Duane "Dewey" Clarridge, who ran the CIA in Latin America in the 1980s. Here was a true "realist."

Like Kissinger and Nixon on the tapes, he spoke his mind. He referred to Salvador Allende as "what his name in Chile" and said "he had to go because it was in our national interests."

When I asked him what gave him the right to overthrow governments, he said: "Like it or lump it, we'll do what we like. So just get used to it, world."

The world is no longer getting used to it. In a continent ravaged

by those whom Nixon called "our bastards," Latin American governments have defied the likes of Clarridge and implemented much of Allende's dream of social democracy - which was Kissinger's fear.

Today most of Latin America is independent of US foreign policy and free from its vigilantism. Poverty has been cut almost by half. Children live beyond the age of five. The elderly learn to read and write.

These remarkable advances are invariably reported in bad faith in the West and ignored by the "realists." That must never lessen their value as a source of optimism and inspiration for all of us.

John Pilger's new film *Utopia* premiered at the National Film Theatre in London on Oct. 3. ●

Venezuela expels U.S. embassy officials

With files from www.venezuelanalysis.com

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has ordered the expulsion of three U.S. embassy officials for alleged conspiracy with the opposition.

"Get out of Venezuela. Yankee go home. Enough of abuses against the dignity of a homeland that wants peace," said Maduro during a televised political event on Sept. 30.

Chargé d'affaires Kelly Keiderling, and two other embassy employees, Elizabeth Hunderland and David Mutt, were given 48 hours to leave the country.

Maduro accused them of "meeting with the extreme Venezuela right to finance actions to sabotage the electricity system and the Venezuelan economy."

"We've been monitoring some officials of the American embassy in Caracas... I have the proof [of conspiracy] in my hands," he added.

Maduro has repeatedly referred to blackouts and relative shortages of some food products this year as an opposition attempt to sabotage the Venezuelan economy and destabilise the country. He added that he does not care what the response from Barack Obama's administration would be, declaring, "We're not going to allow an imperial government to come and bring money to stop companies operating, [and] to take out the electricity to shut Venezuela down."

"Senores gringos, imperialists, you have before you men and women of dignity that... will never kneel before your interests and we're not afraid of you. We'll confront you on all levels, the political, the diplomatic," Maduro added.

The U.S. State Department said it "completely rejects" the Venezuelan government's accusation. Venezuela-U.S. relations have remained cold since the administration of late President Hugo Chavez, who accused the U.S. of supporting a short-lived coup attempt against his government in 2002. The two countries have not had an exchange of ambassadors since 2010.

On Sept. 27, Venezuelan foreign minister Elias Jaua addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where he criticised the U.S. and its allies as "hawks of war" who had "hijacked" the UN Security Council.

Jaua said that when UN member states stand against interventionist actions of the U.S. and its followers, these states "simply bang on the table and do whatever they want, which is exactly what will happen when they later declare bombings on Syria".

"We're here to report a kidnapping" added the Venezuelan official, claiming that the U.S. had "kidnapped" the UN. He went on to repeat arguments made by Bolivian president Evo Morales, that the UN headquarters should be moved to a location where "all nations would be respected".

Foreign Minister Jaua referred specifically to accusations that the U.S. tried to impede members of the Venezuelan delegation from attending the General Assembly by not granting them U.S. entry visas.

He added that President Maduro had been unable to attend the gathering due to "a whole range of delays, obstacles and lack of guarantees imposed by the government of the United States" in "flagrant violation" of diplomatic obligations.

The U.S. and Venezuela had already fallen out on Sept. 19 when Washington allegedly prohibited Maduro's presidential plane from passing over Puerto Rico en route to a state visit in China. The incident provoked hurried diplomatic talks to allow the presidential flight to continue its planned route.

Coupled with Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff's anger over U.S. spying of her government and the refusal of permission for Bolivian president Evo Morales' presidential flight to pass through European air space in July, recent U.S. actions have caused some concern in Latin American diplomatic circles over respect for the region's governments from Washington and its allies. ●

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