

Sveriges Kommunistiska Parti

Communist Party of Sweden

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Dear Comrades,

First off, the Communist Party of Sweden wishes to thank the Communist Party of Greece and the Communist Party of Turkey for organizing this teleconference.

In Sweden a new government has been accepted by the parliament less than two weeks ago. This weak minority government of the Social Democratic Party is a direct continuation of the preceding minority government, comprised of the Social Democrats and the Green Party. Like the preceding government it relies on the support of the Left Party and the aggressively liberal so-called Centre Party, which effectively set the preceding government's agenda with their long list of demands hostile to the working peoples.

Under the previous government the already weak right to strike was further limited to the point of strikes being all but outlawed. The Employment Protection Act is next in line for reforms making the labor market more flexible, in order for Swedish capital being better able to keep up with sharpening international competition. The attacks on workers' rights are sure to continue with the new government.

The Social Democrats need no spurring from the right to come up with new policies hostile to the working peoples. They reveal themselves to be the most important party for the capitalists, bringing about the reforms they require, with the necessary social support guaranteed through the captive labor unions. Organizing and mobilizing the most radical and anti-capitalist workers is a vital task that the Swedish communists must succeed in. The labor struggle must be infused with class-consciousness and solidarity with all the working peoples. The workers require a fighting organization against capitalism, one which stands up to capital's attacks on workers' rights and takes a stance against the imperialist wars that shed the blood of their international comrades.

On the international stage Sweden contributes to the sharpening contradictions of imperialism both through its cooperation with NATO and through its activities as an EU member state. In recent news the Swedish foreign minister has spoken out in favor of an EU proposal for a military training mission to Ukraine, which could come to include Swedish military officers being sent to train Ukrainian troops.

There should be no question that this would primarily be a move for securing the interests of Swedish capital in Ukraine, a country that both the USA and EU view as highly important. During the Swedish involvement in the occupation of Afghanistan the Swedish military command openly pushed for deploying Swedish fighter jets to take on a combat role in the operations. One of the reasons cited, again openly, was that combat experience would be positive for future export deals involving the warplane. This should leave no delusions about the role of the armed forces of the bourgeois state.

At home the Swedish military has entered a phase of expansion. Five new army regiments have been established, or are in the process of being established, along with one Air Force wing. Besides this the garrison on the Baltic island of Gotland has recently been reinstated. This expansion is claimed to be in response to a less secure and stable world situation, but with Sweden's partnership status with NATO, Sweden's expansion of its military cannot but itself contribute to a less secure and stable world situation.

As the Swedish military expenditure increases, savings are made in other areas that further press the situation of the working peoples. On top of the attacks on workers' rights that I have already mentioned, we see further plans on raising the age of retirement and the interests on student loans have already been raised. Even under the ongoing pandemic cutbacks have been made in the healthcare sector.

These attacks on workers' rights and living standards are no temporary trend, but inherent to the economic system that perpetrates them, and they go hand in hand with increasing competition and sharpening imperialist contradictions. Only through the revolutionary destruction of the capitalist system, and the construction of socialism, will we see a world in which the needs of the working peoples are the priority, as opposed to the need of capital for ever greater profits.

As communists we always take the side of the oppressed. Not only in our own countries, but in every country. The Communist Party of Sweden expresses its total solidarity with the Cuban nation in its struggle against imperialism. The sanctions imposed on Cuba are nothing short of economic warfare and must be ended immediately. The achievements of the Cuban Revolution under six decades of a criminal United States blockade shows clearly the possibilities of socialism for human development.

We also stand in solidarity with the brave people of Palestine in their struggle against the Israeli occupation. We fully recognize the Palestinian people's right to their own homeland and we demand an immediate end to the Israeli colonization of Palestine. Furthermore we fully recognize the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation.