

Extraordinary teleconference of the International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties  
**"The international economic, political, and military developments.  
The experience from the struggle of the Communist and Workers' Parties  
and the peoples. Solidarity with Cuba, the Palestinian people, and all the peoples  
struggling against sanctions, machinations, and imperialist aggression."**

Contribution of the Communist Party of Poland

Dear comrades,

Imperialism remains a rising threat to global peace. Imperialism, as Lenin has said, is the highest stage of capitalism. This stage is being reached during times of crisis. Strive for domination, and expansionism are inherent features of the capitalism. Huge military companies gain more and more profits from tensions generated by NATO and its allies. Recent AUKUS agreement between the United States, the UK and Australia is a base for the multi-million contracts for the big capital.

International arms transfers remain close to the highest level since the end of the 1980's. According to data of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute the US military exports rise significantly over recent years. US companies generated majority of the 531 billion dollars of the global arms trade in 2020. The main purchasers of arms are the Middle Eastern states, with Saudi Arabia on the lead. This trade is a result of the imperialist war of a Saudis against the Yemeni people. We also witness rise of the arms race in Turkey, one of the states involved in Syrian civil war and support for the Islamic terrorists. Turkey's president Erdogan conducts aggressive foreign policy destabilising the Middle East and contributing to migrant crisis.

Imperialism and wars force growing number of people to abandon their homes and become refugees. The US forces failed to provide any stabilization in Iraq and recently withdrew from Afghanistan after pillaging this country. So called war on terror caused over a million deaths, ruined economies of these countries, ignited sectarian violence and destroyed local infrastructure. Afghan government imposed by the United States and promoted as a democratic solution for the state collapsed as a result of corruption, incompetence and internal conflicts. After decades of fighting the problem of Islamic terrorism was not solved. In result the country is under rule of the reactionary Taliban – descendants of the former US anti-communist allies armed and supported by Pakistan.

Central and Eastern Europe is also a region with growing tensions and arms race. NATO progresses eastwards attempting to gain presence in Ukraine. It ignites conflict by supporting militarily Ukrainian authorities. This rivalry between capitalist centres is threatening mostly the working class of the region.

The other point of confrontation appears on Polish-Belarusian border. Poland, together with other Central European states supported and participated in imperialist wars on Afghanistan and Iraq. For decades Polish authorities were executing the will of the US administration. For some time Poland was responsible for occupation zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. These imperialist wars costed country's budget huge amount of money. Now Poland faces migrant crisis being a result of the aggressive foreign policy. Closing borders, increasing military presence and plans to build a border wall, result with deaths of migrants. 19 deaths were already confirmed, but the actual death toll is surely much higher.

It is an element of hostile Polish policy towards the Belarusian authorities expressed by financial support for the Belarusian opposition and interfering with domestic affairs of the country. Polish authorities introduced a martial law in border regions and now passed legislation limiting civilian movement and access for the journalists as well as medical and humanitarian help in the region. This conflict is an element of the capital's plans to increase profits and distract social attention from the issue of the capitalist crisis.

Poland experiences effects of Covid crisis combined with the global economic collapse. Lack of decent salaries, access to housing and unemployment become more and more threatening. However authorities increase arms expenditures. In 2018 the value of arms imports from the United States amounted for 18 mln dollars. In 2019 several big contracts increased it to 149 million, and in 2020 it neared 79 mln. Year 2020 was a time of crisis for most of the industry. However arms companies continued to grow. Some budget funds on research were even diverted from the civilian research and development programmes into military ones. It must be also stressed that Polish authorities each year agree on rise of the military budget that already exceeds 2,2% of the GDP. In 2020 and 2021 additional funds were given to the Armed Forces under pretext of fighting pandemics. However army was not on the first line of this combat. The main burden was taken by medics. We may say that arms race not only kills people in conflict zones and refugees on the borders, but also in under-funded and under-manned hospitals.

Next year's military expenditures of Poland are to be much higher than in 2021. The authorities plan to increase a number of soldiers and negotiate new contracts with the US arms companies. This will lead to expansion of the armed forces and further rise of the militarism. Such aggressive policy is being justified by the state propaganda. Society is to be accustomed to presence of the military and paramilitary forces. Territorial Defence Forces established by the current government are of key importance for this militaristic education. They are currently used on the borders as the police force. Doctrine of use of these troops involves also policing actions in case of domestic disturbances. They are trained to face not the enemy army in conventional warfare but rather an opposition and protests of the various social strata.

Rising militarism and imperialism is closely associated with crackdown on opposition. Polish authorities base their internal policy inter alia on decades of anti-communism and attack on any revolutionary ideas. They promote ahistorical equation of communism with nazism and destroy memory of workers' movement's gains from the socialist times.

This also involves state persecution of communists and attempts to illegalise the Communist Party of Poland. In October 2020, after nearly five years, the trial of the CPP and Brzask newspaper editorial board members accused of "promoting totalitarian ideas", has ended with conditional dropping of charges but at the same times giving fines to the accused. Just after that, a year ago the minister of justice and prosecutor general ordered the constitutional tribunal to investigate if aims and policy of the CPP do not violate the constitution. The tribunal is currently under total control of the ruling party and exercises its political orders.

The Communist Party of Poland continues its struggle. We denounce anti-democratic, nationalist and militarist policy of the authorities that are subordinated to the great capital and monopolies. Capitalism breeds wars and misery for the working class. Our task is to oppose and educate the population. The educated and conscious working class can overthrow the system using international solidarity of the oppressed, conscious that the main enemy is the capitalist class and its servants.