

PEOPLE'S VOICE

CANADA'S LEADING SOCIALIST NEWSMEDIA

PRINTED BY UNION LABOUR IN CANADA
CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #4001632

PVONLINE.CA



New threats provide strong basis for mass resistance - Pg 3

OCTOBER 1-15, 2025 | VOL. 33, #16 | \$2.00



PUBLIC SERVICES ON THE LINE!

Echoing the ongoing fights by 34,000 public service workers in BC and 10,000 college support workers in Ontario, 55,000 postal workers are back on strike to save public services. Pg 3, 8.

Photo: Tony Tracy

ARMS BUDGET WON'T BRING US SECURITY

Whose "security" is protected with Carney's military spending hike? Not working people's!
pg.2

US LEFT GROUPS URGED TO STAND FIRM VS. TRUMP

As Trump cracks down on left groups in the wake of the Kirk killing, the best response is mass unity in action
pg.6

SPORTSWASHING FIASCO AT DAVIS CUP

Palestine solidarity groups score big win against genocide apologists at Halifax tennis tournament
pg.7

QUARTET'S FLAWED ROAD MAP TO PEACE IN SUDAN

The recent peace plan for Sudan is doomed to fail, so long as the people aren't steering the process
pg.12

Pages from our past...

Canadian Tribune Vol 9 No 584 ~ October 4, 1948

Not a man, not a gun for Wall St. war!

TIM BUCK

The graves of World War 2 are hardly cold, yet the money kings of Wall Street are provoking World War 3. In Paris, Mackenzie King and General Marshall are wrecking the United Nations. Everything that Roosevelt fought for – the United Nations, American-Soviet friendship – is being destroyed by the warlike Yankee imperialists. Ernest Bevin [Britain's then Labour Foreign Secretary], in the name of "socialism," is doing the dirty work for Wall Street by fanning the Berlin crisis – a cynical, manufactured hoax to panic and paralyze the peoples.

To try and offset the very crisis that their postwar betrayal of the Roosevelt peace policy has brought about and fearful of the coming American crash, the men of Wall Street set their course for imperialist war. They publicly announced to atom-bomb the civilian populations of the Soviet Union and the New Democracies. They do not flinch from turning Europe, Asia and America into a reeking shambles in their war plan to bring the world under the heel of American dollar imperialism! Mackenzie King and St. Laurent are up to their ears in this Wall Street conspiracy against peace. In 1938, the Liberal government opposed the Soviet Union's proposal for united action to stop Hitler fascist aggression, under the pretext that it could not "commit Canada." Today, Lester B. Pearson, without consulting the people or parliament, announces the rejection of the United Nations and the complete commitment of Canada to the US plans for aggressive war against the Soviet Union and the New Democracies.

Henry Wallace [Roosevelt's vice-president and the Progressive Party's 1948 presidential candidate] wages a stubborn fight for the Roosevelt peace policies, for friendship between North America and the Soviet Union. Millions of Americans and Canadians support him. But the Liberal government here has sold out body and soul to Wall St., to the billionaires who hated Roosevelt and financed Hitler.

To their shame, the Coldwell-Lewis-Millard leadership of the CCF join with the Tory and Social Credit heads behind the King-St. Laurent policy of aggressive war against socialism and democracy.

No money for homes! But \$300 million a year for war, 12 times the money spent 10 years ago when Hitler was ravaging Czechoslovakia and Spain.

No wonder the highest praise for these war policies comes from the Tory press and the monopolists who make billions out of the hell of war!

It is a lie when they say the Soviet Union threatens Canada or the peace of the world. The only great power which is talking war and preparing to carry war to lands across the seas is the US. The reckless war preparations which King and St. Laurent pretend are for our "defense" are in fact a part of US aggressive war preparations.

Canadians must speak out, must act now to save the peace, to guard Canada against Wall St. war. ■

Whose "security" is protected with military spending hike? Not working people's!



MANDEN MURPHY

What could ordinary, working-class people do with the money Ottawa is promising to military spending, if government spending were prioritized differently?

This is a simple yet critical question, given the government's announcement that it will commit five percent of Canada's GDP – around \$150 billion based on 2025 figures – to military spending by 2035.

Even Ottawa's prior commitment to meet NATO's two-percent target in the name of "individual and collective security" is utterly nonsensical. Working people are still experiencing a cost-of-living crisis – with the costs of food, fuel, and housing skyrocketing – resulting in a dramatic drop in real wages and take-home pay. All the while education and healthcare continue to be chronically underfunded, and the public is worse for it.

So, we are forced to ask: Just whose "security" is being considered here?

The international situation

Turning on the news or scrolling through social media feeds, we are bombarded with looming threats from beyond our borders. Canadian sovereignty and our way of life – whatever that means exactly is left undisclosed – is in jeopardy, we are told. Specifically, we hear about the "existential" twin threats of Russia and China.

Whatever one's assessment of these countries, it is fundamentally important to reflect on how Canada and its NATO allies contribute to tensions and how they have responded to these "existential threats."

Ottawa and its allies have unleashed an economic war against Russia and China. Rather than diplomacy, elected officials have opted for unilateral sanctions and tariffs, often targeting products that would be beneficial to people in Canada, such as affordable Chinese made EVs. Rather than engaging in diplomacy to find political solutions, we lay down economic penalties like a global police force.

Militarily, NATO's 32 member states have responded by agreeing to set aside 5 percent of their GDPs for new military hardware, ammunition and weapons of mass destruction. GDP estimates for NATO members last year totaled \$54 trillion, so the new 5-percent target would see those 32 countries spend \$2.7 trillion on military expenditures – equal to the entire world's current military spending.

In what universe does this seem like a sensible plan to ensure collective security? On what planet does this sound like a model for peace? And in whose head does this conquer thoughts of prosperity for working people the world over?

This spending is less about our "collective security" and more about economic security, narrowly defined for the few: profits for arms manufacturers and energy corporations, and the protection of trade routes favouring huge monopolies.

Canada's shameful support for the genocide in Gaza can in part be explained in these terms, as the development of Canadian foreign policy toward Israel and Palestine generally corresponds to the significant growth of Canada's economic interests in the Middle East and North African region. Global Affairs Canada identifies the region as an economic priority for Canada, noting that trade with the area is growing at a pace that exceeds Canada's overall global trade growth.

Regional instability and changing zones of influence have created an urgent need for a stable base of operations in the region, and Israel – with a well-developed, Western-oriented economy and

a longstanding political interdependency with the West – fits that role. "Stability" means, of course, protection and expansion of corporate interests in the region.

These imperialist geopolitical games, designed to shore up corporate interests, are also deeply anti-democratic. Canada's military spending is not determined by careful debate in the House of Commons that takes into consideration the genuine needs of working people domestically (and ideally abroad) but rather through NATO's Parliamentary Assembly which acts as a forum to ensure that governments implement policies that reflect its priorities, and since its creation, the policies of the United States.

NATO spending targets, including the recent two percent and new 5 percent of GDP, are not linked to a specific budget plan or strategy. They are simply a commitment to spend.

The domestic situation

So how will we pay for all of this new military spending and who will be fronting the bill? This is a key consideration when trying to find \$150 billion – which for the record represents a 333 percent funding increase from 2024, when military spending was around \$34.6 billion.

The Carney government is promoting its military spending as a way to produce good jobs, but a study just released by Brown University in Rhode Island demonstrates that military spending is inefficient for job creation. The study, an update on a report from 2023, shows that military spending (including both government defense spending and various private military industries) produces an average of five jobs per \$1 million in spending, including both direct jobs and jobs in the supply chain. By contrast, thirteen jobs are created for every \$1 million in education spending – nearly three times as much employment. Healthcare spending creates 84 percent more jobs than military spending, while infrastructure and clean energy create from 24 to 64 percent more.

Ottawa has repeatedly said that making the military spending targets will require a series of "tough decisions," one of which is to slash 15 percent from almost all federal departments by 2029. Two areas not included in these cuts are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canada Border Services Agency.

These massive cuts are the direct result of military spending, and the "tough decisions" will be made by working people: how to pay the rent or mortgage, childcare considerations, whether or not to pay for medications, whether or not to pursue higher education. All while public services continue to see massive cuts.

What we should be doing is making easy decisions.

\$150 billion could build around 430,000 publicly owned and delivered social housing units each year. That's more than 2 million truly affordable units in the space of five years, which is precisely what is needed to confront the housing crisis across the country.

That amount could also be used to build around 3,600 new schools, or 60 new hospitals, each year. Or it could create in the area of 1.7 million full-time jobs paying \$40 per hour.

Instead, NATO and the federal government want to put that money into new military hardware, ammunition and weapons of mass destruction including NATO's nuclear weapons arsenal. The result will be to fuel more aggression, more global insecurity, more war and more destruction.

■ SILVER LINING, PG 11

CANADIAN NETWORK ON CUBA



**TELL TRUMP:
HANDS OFF CANADA,
HANDS OFF CUBA!**

Canada must defend its sovereignty and develop an independent foreign policy. For over 80 years, we've had relations with Cuba—it's time our government stopped playing into US hands and started standing up for Canadian interests.



Join us in demanding our representatives:

✓ Oppose the illegal US blockade of Cuba

✓ Demand Cuba's removal from the State Sponsors of Terrorism List

✓ Call for an end to the US occupation of Guantanamo Bay

✓ Defend Cuba's renowned medical missions from US sanctions

✓ Uphold Canada's Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act

✓ Work to expand Canada-Cuba trade & cultural exchange

WRITE AN EMAIL TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AT
TINYURL.COM/CNCCAMPAIGNS





Global shift to the right brings new environmental threats but also strong basis for mass resistance

CAM SCOTT

Globally and across Canada, the far right is on the rise. This pattern is well-observed, as are the marked similarities and connections between right-wing groups the world over.

But this overall pitch to the right is not limited to typical conservatives, and many of its signature policies – including privatization of state-owned enterprises, wage suppressive and prejudicial immigration controls, and punishing austerity – have been delegated to the centre where it still governs. Here in Canada, Mark Carney’s Liberal Party seems content to fit alongside MAGA’s demagoguery and Europe’s heightened xenophobia.

As the global weather changes, one might ask: what does this widely observed pitch to the right look like from an environmental standpoint?

In Canada’s Parliament, Liberals and Tories align on controversial legislation such as Bill C-5, intended to fast-track resource-intensive projects of “national interest” with little regard for environmental assessment or Indigenous consent. And regardless of how the Liberals choose to market this to their base, Carney’s pet legislation closely follows the timing of Trump’s executive orders to “unleash American energy,” backed by the comprehensive reconsideration of the mandate of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

This drive for “government-by-corporation” is visible throughout resource-abundant regions of the world and particularly those countries where the libertarian right has captured the regulatory offices of the state.

In Argentina, President Javier Milei’s near-total defunding of environmental agencies has opened the country’s forest regions to violent clearcuts, as his attempt to order the “forced disappearance” of more than one thousand glaciers sacrifices a whole bioregion and its water reserves to mining companies.

In Ecuador, the government of President Daniel Noboa – scion of a regional logistics empire – has collapsed the Ministry of Environment into the Ministry of Energy and Mining on direct orders from the International Monetary Fund.

In Brazil, where Workers’ Party leader Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva has reclaimed the presidency from far-right climate nihilist Jair Bolsonaro, an opposition-controlled Congress has nonetheless advanced a controversial omnibus bill meant to gut environmental licensing. Lula has since managed to veto several clauses that would omit Indigenous consultation, but dangerous legal provisions for “strategic” projects in the Amazon remain.

Incentive regimes

However distinct, these regional sequences clearly share both language and intent with recent developments in Canada, where (often scant) environmental protections of the recent past are smoothed over or removed before the interests of transnational monopolies.

In this respect, the deregulation of re-

source development appears to mirror the reversal of progressive gains in nearly every area of society during a reactionary spasm. But legislation tells only half a story, where capital dictates these laissez-faire moves from above.

In Brazil, for example, the state-owned Petrobras company has finally obtained clearance to drill for oil off the coast of Amapá, impacting the Karipuna, Palikur, Galibi Kaliña and Galibi-Marworno peoples, while Exxon Mobil and Chevron have snapped up oil-rich blocks in the Amazon basin at state auction.

Beyond these household names, Canadian corporations are uniquely set to benefit from relaxed licensing and the cutting of green tape. Canada has more mines in Brazil than in any other country, with up to three dozen companies operating consistently including Belo Sun, Jaguar, Aura Minerals and Yamana Gold.

Belo Sun’s Volta Grande Gold Project in Pará State was recently mired in legal controversy, where the corporation sought to circumvent environmental licensing for its project and proceed with subfederal approval. (Belo Sun prevailed in court, and their stocks spiked as a result.) This September, Jaguar mining announced an ambitious plan for the so-called “Iron Quadrangle,” a mineral-rich region of Minas Gerais, only weeks after settling an enormous environmental fine for its activities nearby.

Behind these extractive corporations are the typical financial interests including RBC, a notable financier of Belo Sun, and Scotiabank, the only fully licensed Canadian bank in Brazil. The retail presence of Scotiabank in Brazil closely follows its investment in the mining sector throughout Latin America, and it’s telling that the bank continues to expand in Brazilian debt markets even as it withdraws services from Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and other nearby countries.

Journalist Gabriel Leão has called the Toronto Stock Exchange “the financial heart of the global mining industry,” and Canadian corporations motivate and benefit from government deregulation everywhere they operate, including those markets briefly discussed above.

Canada’s McEwen Mining runs an advanced-stage porphyry copper exploration project in Argentina’s Andes Mountains – a \$2.5 billion operation solicited by the country’s new Incentive Regime for Large Investments.

In Ecuador, the Canadian firm DPM Metals Inc. operates the Loma Larga mine project in spite of more than 80 percent of the Indigenous peoples and affected communities rejecting the proposal in multiple referenda.

Recycling risk

These patterns apply to activity within Canada’s own borders as well. This summer, a Scotiabank Economics team published a telling report on the “generational opportunity” of Bill C-5, framed as carte blanche encouragement of “inherently

Communist leader: Elbows up to stop Ottawa’s drive to privatize Canada Post and break the union!



PV STAFF

“The federal government’s directive to Canada Post to end door-to-door postal delivery is a direct attack on free collective bargaining, on tens of thousands of jobs, and on a vital public service that is important to people across Canada.”

That’s what Communist Party leader Elizabeth Rowley said in response to Transformation, Public Works and Procurement Minister Joël Lightbound’s September 25 announcement, which sparked a new country-wide strike by 55,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW).

Previous governments’ efforts to end door-to-door delivery were fought back by strong public opposition. This time around, Ottawa is imposing the change right in the middle of the current negotiations, and trying to lay the blame on the union.

As Rowley notes, though, the union has been campaigning for years to expand services provided by Canada Post, in a forward-looking effort to help the institution grow. “But, every one of CUPW’s proposals has been rejected by Canada Post. This includes the union’s call to expand public parcel delivery services, which the corporation and government have allowed to remain in private hands and generate massive profits for Amazon and other huge corporations.”

One of those corporations is Purolator, which is 91 percent owned by Canada Post, making it a de facto private subsidiary. Last year, Purolator filed pre-tax profits of \$294 million, which Rowley says exposes the real financial situation for postal delivery services in Canada.

“Sixty-two percent of parcels were shipped by Canada Post in 2019, but that tumbled to just 24 percent in 2024. Clearly, it’s not the union that’s opposed to expanding and modernizing services – it’s the employer, backed by both Liberal and Conservative federal governments. The deficit that Canada Post and the Carney government are feeding to the media and the public is fabricated, with the aim of turning the public against the union and weakening the fight to save this essential public service that the public has demonstrated multiple times it wants and supports.”

On top of this, the Carney government is imposing deep cuts to public services and social programs in the fall budget, in order to pay for its plan to increase military spending to \$150 billion a year. Rowley warns that these cuts are “just the beginning of the wreckage still to come – it puts us all on the road to war, environmental disaster, massive job losses, deep financial cuts to every universal social program and public service, and austerity across the country.”

In a statement issued September 28, the Communist Party said Ottawa “aims to break up and bankrupt this public service in order to privatize it.”

The Party called on the federal government to immediately reverse its order to eliminate door-to-door mail delivery, and to

direct Canada Post to negotiate a fair collective agreement with CUPW. The statement also called on Canada Post to end its union busting campaign and instead to expand its parcel delivery, universal door-to-door mail delivery, and other services that people in Canada want and need from the post office.

Postal workers are courageously fighting this anti-union, anti-people agenda that will eliminate thousands of public sector jobs and a vital public service. CUPW has a history of fighting for both its members and the working class as a whole, as it did in 1981 when it struck for 42 days to win paid maternity leave for its members and force the government’s hand to provide paid maternity leave to all women.

Carney’s “privatization by stealth” campaign is the same thing Brian Mulroney’s Conservatives tried in 1986, when they cut services and 10,000 postal jobs. Stephen Harper continued in this direction with his campaign to end door-to-door delivery, which cost them the 2015 election. Since it was initiated by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher in 1979-80, the neoliberal political program has focused on privatization, deregulation, tax cuts, free trade and attacks on labour and democratic rights. Both the Liberal government and Pierre Poilievre’s Conservative opposition fully support this agenda.

The Communist Party points out that “strong public services and social programs provide essential services and jobs that have wide public support, and these are buttressed by labour rights that protect workers and support delivery of quality goods and services to the public. These public services and union rights were fought for and won by the trade union movement and by the working people across the country over 80 years. It will take the same mobilized forces to protect these rights and services from government and corporate attack today.”

Corporate monopolies and the capitalist state have many tools to use for union busting. These include legislation like Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code, the Constitution’s notwithstanding clause, US tariffs which have already cost thousands of Canadian workers their jobs, and the USMCA trade agreement which threatens even more jobs in Canada.

“We are entering a period of sharp struggle against corporations and right-wing governments that want to strip workers of their social, economic and political rights,” said Rowley. “As it turns out, Carney’s ‘elbows up’ are aimed at working people, unions, jobs and public services in Canada, not Donald Trump and his tariffs which also threaten those same workers, unions, jobs and services.”

“Now is the time for working people across the country to put their own elbows up to stop Ottawa’s drive to privatize Canada Post and break the union. Broad unity, solidarity and mass resistance have defeated this kind of attack before, and we need to do the same again now!” ■

EDITORIAL

WHY WE STILL INSIST, “BAN THE BOMB!” (AND THEN SOME...)

For people who grew up after the Cold War (the first one, anyway) calls to “Ban the Bomb” may seem a bit passé. After all, there have been many terrible conflicts over the past three decades in which conventional weapons have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Consider the US war against Iraq in 1990-91 which resulted in at least 140,000 Iraqi deaths, and the subsequent thirteen years of sanctions which are conservatively estimated to have directly resulted in the deaths of at least two million Iraqi people.

Or think of the US-led proxy war in Syria from 2011 to 2024 which killed an estimated 650,000 people. Or the US war on Afghanistan from 2001 to 2021, in which an estimated 210,000 people perished. Or Israel’s ongoing genocide against Gaza which has killed at least 66,000 Palestinians in two years.

Of course, there are many other examples, but what is notable is that each of these wars and aggressions involves a nuclear-armed state as the main belligerent (yes, we include Israel in that) yet none of the more than three million deaths was the result of nuclear weapons.

But does this mean that the risk of nuclear catastrophe is now a relic of the past? Far from it – in fact, you could argue that the risk is greater today than at any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

In part, this is because the intensified drive to militarism and war includes renewed investment in nuclear weapons development. Under a program that began prior to Donald Trump’s re-election and will continue through the next decade, the United States is currently replacing or modernizing nearly every component of its nuclear arsenal, at an estimated cost of over \$1.5 trillion. This upgrade affects all aspects of the US nuclear force including missiles, bombs, delivery systems and production and maintenance facilities.

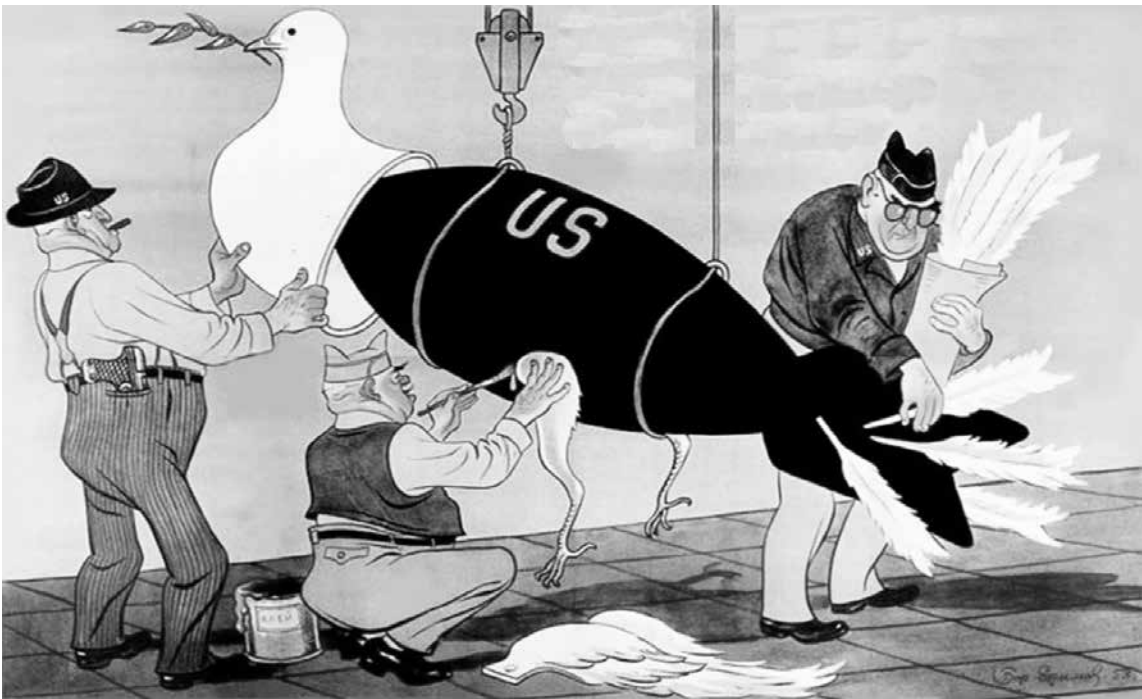
As part of their pledge to hike military spending to 5 percent of GDP, NATO countries will be pressured to increase spending on their own individual nuclear arsenals, if they have them, and on infrastructure to maintain, support and deliver nuclear weapons from other NATO countries. This latter point includes officially non-nuclear weapons states like Canada.

Another aspect of the general staggering escalation in military spending is that it is part of a drive to reconfigure the economies of the US and its NATO allies into a full-fledged, permanent war economy. This qualitative leap in war preparations fuels regional conflicts and proxy wars, drives an overall arms race that includes further development of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and pushes humanity to the brink of a kinetic war between the US and China which could easily spark a nuclear conflagration.

So, while the threat of nuclear war doesn’t occupy the public imagination in the same way it did during the Cold War, it is important that it not be dismissed as fear mongering. There are, after all, clear recent warnings: senior US officials have spoken openly of war with China by 2030, and the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has set its ‘Doomsday Clock’ to 89 seconds to midnight. Preparations for nuclear confrontation are well underway.

Nuclear weapons are the ultimate expression of a system that prioritizes profit and domination over human life and the planet. It is, therefore, urgent for peace, labour and social movements across Canada to unite and mobilize. Canada must sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, it must withdraw from the NATO and NORAD military alliances, and it must redirect its already bloated military spending toward social needs like healthcare, housing, education and a just transition to a green economy.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is not a utopian dream. It is an urgent necessity for human survival, and a necessary first step toward global disarmament and peace. ♦



IN BRIEF

PEOPLE'S VOICE welcomes your contributions. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity, and to refuse to print articles which may be libellous or which contain personal attacks.

Story of CP’s Chinese branch shows Chinese immigrants’ contributions to the socialist movement in Canada

From its very beginnings a century ago, one of the distinguishing features of the Communist Party of Canada has been its understanding that a key element of the class struggle is working together with the multicultural community. From the 1930s to the 1950s, the Party organized a Chinese-speaking branch in Vancouver, actively supporting the working-class movement in Canada as well as the Chinese revolution.

Parts of this story can be discovered in articles from BC Worker’s News, the Pacific Tribune and other newspapers of the time period.

In the early 1930s, 125 Vancouver Chinese labourers the joined Canadian Labour Defence League, which was led by the Communist Party. During that time, the Party’s first Chinese branch was established in Vancouver’s historic Chinatown, with Wong Kwan appointed as secretary.

During the Great Depression, many anti-Chinese government policies were still in place. News reported indicated at least 135 unemployed Chinese labourers starved to death. Only the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Communist Party helped, exposing the tragedy and also providing emergency assistance to hungry Chinese labourers.

The Communist Party’s Chinese branch actively engaged in the labour movement in Canada. In 1935, when relief camp workers prepared to take their protests against the federal government to Ottawa, the Chinese branch stood with them and provided food and financial support. When the British Columbia provincial government enacted laws to exploit farmers, the branch

published an open letter to protest, and organized a united front with English-speaking farmers.

During the fight against fascism in the 1930s and the Second World War, the Chinese branch joined the International Committee for Aid to China, which raised funds for the International Peace Hospital established by Norman Bethune in China’s Eighth Route Army anti-Japanese base. Also in the 1940s, branch member Roy Mah joined the Tim Buck conscription committee, which campaigned in support of a conscription referendum to increase the Canadian military forces fighting in Europe. Later on, Roy became a member of Canada Force 136, fighting against Japanese troops in Southeast Asia.

At the same time, the Chinese branch took part in the anti-racist struggle for civil rights. Roy Mah called for repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act, so that Chinese immigrants could win Canadian citizenship and the right to vote.

Another Communist Party member, Sikh immigrant Darshan Singh, also played a key role in this civil rights movement. Singh and Roy Mah were hired as organizers by the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) during the early 1940s, signing up thousands of South Asian and Chinese lumberworkers into the union. Both were members of the BC and Yukon Provincial Committee of the Labor Progressive Party, as the Communist Party was known in those years – their signatures are among those of all the Committee members on the cover of a book at the Centre for Socialist Education library in Vancouver.

Communists used other creative tactics. In 1943, the Pacific Advocate held the first “United Nations pageant” in Vancouver. Based on the number of tickets sold for the newspaper’s fundraising picnic, the winner was Chinese branch Ann

Lew. She donated her prize money to fund education for Chinese women and to support Chinatown’s women workers.

After the outbreak of China’s Liberation War, the Chinese branch organized Chinatown workers to protest against the federal government’s support to Chiang Kai-shek’s regime. On New Year’s Eve in 1950, the Chinese branch raised the first People’s Republic of China flag at 231 Main Street in Vancouver.

Whether they were a Party leader or a trade union veteran or a poor and unemployed labourer, these Chinese comrades were all heroic. Each undertook a revolutionary task that was vital to the Communist Party, to the working-class fight for meaningful reforms and to the revolutionary advance toward socialism. ■

Mike Wu
Vancouver

Communist Party prepares for 41st convention

The Communist Party of Canada has issued the call to its 41st Central Convention, to be held December 5-7 in Montreal.

Party organizations across the country have begun a three-month discussion of the convention documents which include an analysis of the political situation globally and domestically, an assessment of the labour and progressive movements, and proposals for building the struggle for peace, progress and socialism.

The convention will also adopt a three-year plan of work for the Party and elect a new central leadership.

This is the first time in over twenty years that the convention is being held outside of Toronto – the last time was 2004, also in Montreal. ■

PEOPLE'S VOICE

ISSN # 1198-8657 | PUBLISHED BY NEW LABOUR PRESS LTD.
CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES PRODUCT AGREEMENT #40011632

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to our Toronto office:
290A Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6
416.469.2481

EDITOR: Dave McKee, peoplesvoiceditor@gmail.com

CIRCULATION: newlabourpress1@gmail.com

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:
Ivan Byard, Kimball Cariou, Miguel Figueroa, Drew Garvie, Jeanne McGuire,
Elizabeth Rowley, Adrien Welsh

PVONLINE.CA

CHECK YOUR LABEL! RENEW YOUR PV TODAY!

Please check the address label on the front page to see if it's time to renew.

Subscribers who find "25/10/01" on their label, for example, will have their subscriptions expire with this issue, OCTOBER 1-15, 2025. Send your renewal today!

DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

Please send submissions (articles, interviews, photos, events, announcements) for our Oct 16-31 issue by Oct 6 and for our Nov 1-15 issue by Oct 20 to peoplesvoiceditor@gmail.com

Why we should all oppose Canada's ban on the Kneecap artistic collective



KARL FLURI

The recent reactionary maneuvers by Canada's capitalist state apparatus, masquerading as a defender of values while exposing its true character as a servant of imperialist interests, provide an instructive lesson for the people of this country.

The case of the artistic collective known as Kneecap, which was barred from entering Canadian territory on the spurious and unproven grounds of supporting terrorism, is not an isolated incident of administrative procedure. It is, in essence, a concentrated expression of the class struggle as it manifests in the cultural sphere, a deliberate weaponization of the state's monopoly on violence to silence the revolutionary voice of national liberation and anti-imperialist resistance.

The unwavering solidarity of this Irish collective with the struggling people of Palestine has clearly struck a nerve within the capitalist power structure, compelling it to shed its liberal facade and reveal the iron fist of censorship that maintains the ideological hegemony of the oppressor.

The development of this situation follows a predictable pattern of imperialist aggression.

We are witnessing a sharp escalation in the attacks on cultural figures who align themselves with the just struggles of oppressed nations.

Kneecap first garnered the hostility of Israel and its international backers through their courageous cultural work, which gives voice to the oppressed and unmasks the crimes of the colonizer. Their performance at a major international festival served as a platform to expose the genocidal violence being perpetrated against the Palestinian people, an act of truth-telling that the agents of imperialism cannot tolerate.

In response, the machinery of slander was activated. The corporate media, acting in concert with lobbyists who serve the interests of foreign capital, began a campaign of distortion, seizing upon symbolic acts and stripping them of their context to paint the artists as enemies of peace.

This is a classic tactic of the exploiting classes: to criminalize dissent and to equate any challenge to the world imperialist system with terrorism.

The subsequent legal persecution of one Kneecap member in Britain, on a terrorism charge for the display of a symbol, is a transparent attempt to create a pretext for wider repression. It is the application of a legal superstructure to enforce a political line dictated by imperialists.

The Canadian state's action, announced not through formal diplomatic channels but through the theatrical pronouncements of an individual Member of Parliament, Vince Gasparro, is a telling detail. It demonstrates that this is not a matter of law, but of political theatre designed to intimidate.

The fact that the Kneecap collective received no official communication, while various ministries hide behind the cowardly excuse of "privacy," reveals the arbitrary and unprincipled nature of the decision. There

is no evidence presented and no conviction in any court of law, only the bald assertion of guilt by association – a tactic used by reactionary forces throughout history to crush their opponents.

The Canadian government, by acting as the enforcer for its Zionist allies, proves that the so-called "rules-based international order" is a hollow phrase. The only rule is the rule of capital, and the only order is the order that serves the interests of the United States and its satellites.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is exposed as a worthless document, a scrap of paper to be discarded the moment the cultural vanguard of the working class dares to use it to speak truth to power.

This event cannot be understood in isolation from the broader historical moment. We are witnessing a sharp escalation in the attacks on cultural figures who align themselves with the just struggles of oppressed nations. The cancellation of Kneecap's performances in the United States, under similar politically motivated visa pressures, and their earlier banning in Hungary, illustrates a coordinated international effort to isolate and silence critical art.

This is the cultural front of the imperialist war machine. When the masses are awakened by revolutionary art, the ruling class responds not with debate, but with bans. They fear the power of culture to unite the people across borders, to expose the contradictions of their decaying system, and to inspire revolutionary consciousness.

The support for Kneecap from within Canada itself – from organizations like the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association which correctly identifies the "authoritarian" and "systematic" nature of this targeting – is a hopeful sign. It indicates that even within the belly of the beast, there are forces who recognize this attack for what it is: an attack on the democratic rights of all people who stand for justice.

Therefore, the Kneecap collective's pledge to pursue legal action is a necessary and correct tactic in this struggle. It forces the enemy to defend its position in a forum it claims to respect, exposing its hypocrisy for all the world to see.

However, the courts of the capitalist state are themselves instruments of class rule. An ultimate victory will not be achieved through the legalisms of the oppressor, but through the relentless mobilization of the masses in solidarity. The collective's vow to donate any recovered resources to the child victims of Zionist aggression in Gaza is a profound example of true internationalism, of turning the weapons of the enemy into sustenance for the resistance.

This is the path forward: to unite all progressive forces – artists, intellectuals, workers and all peace-loving people – in a firm front against imperialism, including within the realm of culture. The struggle of Kneecap is the struggle of all those who refuse to be silenced. The bans and the slanders are but temporary obstacles on the road to final victory.

The future belongs not to imperialism and its political lackeys and censors, but to the people and their revolutionary culture, which, like the tide, cannot be held back forever. ■



"Simón, we will drag you from the shadows and return you to freedom and life"

Colombian revolutionary Simón Trinidad turned 75 on July 30, during his 21st year as a prisoner of US imperialism. Once a valuable thinker and peace negotiator for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP), four sham trials based on bogus charges saw a US federal court sentence him to 60 years in a Supermax prison. The following message was issued by the Simon Libertad International Campaign.

While it brings joy to celebrate his life and unbreakable spirit, it also deeply saddens the heart to reflect on the long absence of the son, father, brother, friend and comrade.

For 22 years, he has been deprived of his freedom. Twenty-one of those years have been spent in one of the most impenetrable maximum-security prisons in the United States: the Supermax, or "Alcatraz of the Rockies," in Florence, Colorado.

In the US, Simón has been denied his most basic rights, including access to a trusted lawyer during his trial. Even so, he managed to prove before the jury of conscience that he was innocent of the drug trafficking charge for which he was illegitimately extradited from Colombia on December 31, 2004, ignoring his status as a political prisoner.

When that fabrication collapsed, the authorities charged him anew: "conspiracy to detain three US citizens." These were the three "contractors," Marc Gonsalves, Keith Stansell and Tom Howes, whose aircraft crashed in an area then under the control of the FARC-EP guerrilla movement, while carrying out aerial intelligence operations in Colombian territory.

Although the three contractors were held by the insurgency, Simón Trinidad had no direct or indirect involvement in the incident. Nevertheless, he was sentenced in the United States to 20 years in prison for each of them.

In prison, his conditions are extreme. According to his US lawyer Mark Burton, "since arriving in the United States, Simón Trinidad has been subjected to inhumane treatment." He has been held under an extreme regime called Special Administrative Measures (SAM), which severely restricts his contact with the outside world, allowing only rare, heavily monitored calls and visits from a few relatives and his lawyers.

Simón has been kept for years in solitary confinement, in an underground cell – day and night – under a white light, without knowing whether it was dawn or dusk. Neither he nor his few visitors are allowed to transmit messages from third parties, nor is he permitted to receive correspondence.

Since 2016, he has been allowed to spend two hours at lunch with three other prisoners, to receive some books, and to watch television. His legal case in the United States, Burton notes, "was closed in 2012, and there are very few chances of reopening it, because under the laws here, it is very difficult. There are some legal avenues, but also political ones. That is why we need your support for Simón's release."

Thus, Simón Trinidad is serving a 60-year sentence for crimes he did not commit. He is a war trophy, the result of the hatred of former Colombian president Álvaro

Uribe Vélez and the US empire against the rebel organization FARC-EP, which signed a peace accord in 2016.

Humanitarian repatriation and freedom for Simón Trinidad

The Simón Libertad Campaign expresses gratitude and appreciation for all expressions of solidarity from popular, social, faith-based and humanitarian organizations, and political parties and individuals who have spoken out in support of Simón. It also calls for continued united and coordinated efforts, together with his legal team, to achieve better results, leading to his humanitarian repatriation and freedom.

In this regard, Eduardo Vásquez of the Communist Party of Ecuador stated:

"It is necessary to strengthen solidarity with Simón Trinidad, a tireless fighter for peace. It is vitally important that organizations join the campaign for the liberation of our comrade, who represents a contribution to peace and justice in Colombia."

The Communist Party of Mexico reaffirmed this position, stating:

"The freedom of Simón Trinidad is a fundamental issue, especially now that a peace process has developed in Colombia. We believe that throughout this process it was demonstrated that the accusations against Commander Simón Trinidad are baseless, that he is a revolutionary in the truest sense.

"Therefore, it is an act of injustice that he continues to be imprisoned. Like many organizations from different countries, we believe Simón Trinidad should be returned to Colombia to rejoin, with all his characteristic energy, the people's struggle for a new Colombia."

Solidarity from all corners of the world

Thousands of messages have been sent to Simón Trinidad from different parts of the world. Here are some of them:

"Compañero Simón, from a Buenos Aires that has been battered more than ever lately, I don't know if I should say 'happy birthday,' I don't know if the word happy even applies. I only use it based on the conviction that they have not been able to break you. So, I wish you the best life possible, the least harsh. A huge embrace, a Bolivarian embrace." (Nechi Dorado, Argentina)

"A revolutionary greeting, Simón. In your lifetime of militant struggle, I recognize the tireless and unwavering effort to change this profoundly unjust situation and to someday turn it around. Through these 21 years of prison resistance, you have taught us that it is possible to endure and that it is possible to overcome, that no walls or underground prisons can stop hope when it is firm and revolutionary." (Joseba, Euskal Herria)

We want to embrace Simón with a transcendent love: the revolutionary who had the courage to renounce his class privilege for the cause of an impoverished people; the rebel of iron convictions and deep sensitivity, whom not even the long years of imprisonment in the empire's prisons have managed to break.

To him we say: "We will tear you from the shadows, we will return you to freedom and to life." ■



US communist leader: Trump’s crackdown in the wake of Kirk killing calls for unity and mass action

JOE SIMS

The Charlie Kirk assassination has greatly heightened political tensions in the United States. But has it changed everything? Will the charged situation lead to greater civil discord, separation and a return to the worst periods in our history?

Some are comparing it to a Reichstag-like moment. A more apt comparison might be a “Kristalnacht-like moment,” referring to what occurred after Ernst Vom Roth, a Nazi diplomat in Paris, was killed by a young Jewish man. The Nazis held a state funeral for Roth and claimed Jews had fired the first shot. You know what happened after that.

Whether the Reichstag fire or the Kristalnacht pogrom fits what’s coming may not yet be clear. What is clear is that MAGA is attempting to use it to gain as much political capital as possible.

So far, it seems they are planning an assault against “hate speech,” coupled with an attempt to dismantle and disrupt liberal and left organizations. With regard to the former, US Attorney General Pam Bondi claimed there are only two forms of speech in the US: free speech, which is legal, and hate speech, which is not. It’s worth noting that Bondi’s assertion received widespread condemnation from many quarters, including some in the MAGA right.

Among the organizations targeted for attack are Indivisible, CodePink, George Soros’ Open Society Foundation, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Ford Foundation. Even the Democratic Party as a whole may be under threat. Stephen Miller, Trump’s White House deputy, called the Democrats “a domestic extremist organization.” Adding fuel to the fire, Elon Musk recently characterized the broad left as “a party of murder.”

Of course, they’re using the alleged politics of the shooter, Tyler Robinson, as the catalyst for the offensive. However, his politics are not at all clear, notwithstanding the text messages to his partner declaring his rejection of Kirk’s attacks on trans people. In fact, some are claiming, based on the etchings on the bullets used, that Robinson may have been a follower of Nick Fuentes, a fascist figure even to the right of Kirk.

Growing violence

One thing is sure: There is a growing cycle of political violence and terror in the US, most of which is attributable to the political right. Here, we must take sharp issue with those who promote a false equivalence between the level of violence being carried out by those on the right and those on the left. There’s no comparison: one far outweighs the other.

Even former Republican FBI Director Christopher Wray stated that white supremacy is the “biggest chunk of our domestic terrorism portfolio.” He called it a “national threat priority,” the FBI designation for the highest threat possible – comparable, for example, to ISIS.

Even the right-wing libertarian Cato Institute reported that “recent analysis of politically motivated murders in the United States over the past five decades found that 11 percent were committed by individuals identified with right-wing ideologies.” Murders committed by those on the left were 2

percent. However, the report argued that if September 11, 2001 is removed from the equation, right-wing homicides rose to 63 percent. Those committed by people on the left was 10 percent. Of course, we don’t support political murder by anyone for any reason, but you get the point.

It’s been argued that there’s growing support for violence in the country to address political differences. However, polling on this issue is contradictory. To the extent that there is an increase in support for political violence, evidence suggests that it’s based on misconceptions of support for it on the other side of the political divide. Studies suggest that when those misconceptions are addressed, support drops significantly.

Growing crisis

All of this, of course, is taking place within the context of the country’s ongoing political and economic crisis, as the White House – along with its allies in Congress, the judiciary and on Wall Street – attempt to implement the Project 2025 agenda.

Inflation is rising, as is unemployment. The approval rating for Trump continues to decline, particularly on the economy, equaling former President Joe Biden’s worst numbers. In this regard, it’s likely that MAGA, fearing a blowout in the midterms, is grasping for an issue or issues that they can ride all the way to the election.

While not underestimating the danger, it would be a huge mistake to retreat into ideological, political and emotional bunkers, to hunker down and prepare for the worst. While events are moving quickly, we are nowhere near that stage.

Some are arguing that all of this is a reflection of the weakness of the administration. And it’s true that there have been some setbacks, including resistance to the deployment of the National Guard in L.A. and Chicago, along with the attempt to remove Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook. In addition, Democrats have either overperformed or won a majority of special elections this year, winning 54 of 56 contests, a bad omen for the GOP. Another warning sign for them is that GOP support among Latinos has plummeted – small wonder, given the ICE raids.

It’s pretty clear the Trump regime is very unstable and wracked by sharp battles between rival capitalist factions, as indicated by the infighting between Trump and Musk, along with brawls that have taken place between Scott Bessent, Musk and others.

Status of the resistance

On the other hand, the resistance, while growing in strength, is not meeting the needs of the moment. The labour movement still hasn’t yet come fully into the fight, as evidenced by the meagre responses to Trump’s breaking of collective bargaining rights for 1.3 million government workers.

There’s ongoing capitulation in the corporate world. CBS tops the list, closely followed by ABC. The latter cancelled the Jimmy Kimmel show after its host asserted the

While China calls for global peace, the US celebrates violence and impunity



OWEN SCHALK

On September 3, the People’s Republic of China celebrated the 80th anniversary of its victory over Japanese fascism. The resistance began September 18, 1931 with the Mukden Incident – a false flag operation that Japan organized as a pretext to invade and occupy China’s Manchuria region – and ended fourteen years later with the Chinese people’s victory.

The Chinese resistance, which constituted the eastern theatre of what the government calls the “World Anti-Fascist War,” resulted in massive military and civilian casualties – as much as 35 million by some counts. The Communist Party of China (CPC) played the leading role in the national resistance to Japanese expansionism.

On the 80th anniversary of the triumph over fascism, China hosted a spectacular victory parade, attended by family members and descendants of resistance fighters and twenty world leaders from around the globe, including Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un. The CPC used the anniversary to look backward, honouring the immense sacrifices of the Chinese people in defeating fascism, but also to look forward, toward a global vision of peace and development that contrasts sharply with the United States’ ongoing descent into violence, lawlessness and impunity.

During the victory parade, Xi Jinping proclaimed that China sacrificed tens of millions of its people “for the salvation of human civilization and the defense of world peace.” China’s leader asserted that his country would continue to work toward “peaceful development” and the construction of “a community with a shared future for humanity.”

The Tianjin Declaration

Two days prior to the victory parade, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) gathered in Tianjin for its largest-ever summit. With a cumulative economic output of \$30 trillion, the SCO is the world’s largest regional organization consisting of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus. It is thus highly significant that the SCO’s Tianjin Declaration stresses the need for a peaceful, multipolar, UN-centric world order that sheds the blunt unilateralism that increasingly characterizes US and Western foreign policy.

The document reads: “Member States advocate respect for the right of peoples to independently and democratically choose their own paths of political and socio-economic development, and emphasize that the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of states, equality, mutual benefit, non-interference in internal affairs and non-use of force or threat of force are the basis for the sustainable development of international relations.”

China’s current vision of international

development, one characterized by peace and non-exclusion, evidently appeals to the global majority. For decades on end, the world has been forced to watch or directly suffer violent interventions by US-led imperialism, undertaken at the behest of a codependent knot of Western corporate interests and narrow-minded political elites. These interventions have killed tens of millions.

According to the Watson School for International and Public Affairs, the US-led “Global War on Terror” killed over 4.5 million people and displaced millions more. Meanwhile, research conducted by Lancet medical journal found that US and European Union sanctions have killed 38 million people since 1970.

Given the tremendous devastation caused by Western warmongering and weaponization of financial institutions, it is hardly surprising that alternative forms of international cooperation championed by China, including the SCO and BRICS, are gaining influence each year.

The Tianjin Declaration of September 1, 2025 paid homage to those who fought against global fascism during the Second World War. “The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in World War II and the creation of the United Nations (UN),” the declaration states. “The Great Victory, which was made possible by the unity of the peoples of all peace-loving countries in their opposition to Nazism, fascism and militarism, determined the further course of world history.”

During China’s victory parade two days later, Xi Jinping warned that “humanity is again faced with a choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, and win-win outcomes or zero-sum games.” Any reasoned analysis of global affairs bares the essential fact that the powers stoking war, confrontation and zero-sum games are not China and the global majority, but US imperialism and its allies including Canada.

US wars of hegemony

Washington’s efforts to maintain its waning hegemony have been marked by appalling bloodshed and destabilization. The Israeli genocide in Gaza, backed by the US and Western governments, aims to secure one of Washington’s most valued imperial outposts. Destroying the Palestinian resistance to Zionist colonialism, and weakening Iran and its regional allies, will permit the US to reorient its military resources toward a coming war with China. US author Thomas Friedman described this regional agenda as “the Biden doctrine.” It is also the Trump doctrine.

The US has affirmed – through the mass slaughter of Palestinians and the bombing of Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Iran – that it is more than willing to deploy enormous violence in order to subjugate the region to US-Israeli hegemony.

Meanwhile, the US government has intensified its attacks on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The latest phase rep-

When sportswashing fails — the Davis Cup debacle in Halifax

JUDY HAIVEN

It's not often those of us on the left in this country who oppose Israel's genocide of the Palestinians win a significant victory. But that is what happened on September 9 in Halifax.

Tennis Canada (TC) had sponsored the qualifiers' tournament for the Davis Cup: Team Canada vs Team Israel. What was meant to be a great celebration and love-in for Israel crumbled as the Halifax-Dartmouth activist community pressure and campaign, "No Love for Genocide" pressured Tennis Canada to back down.

Item: On September 9, tennis officials barred the public — all spectators and fans — from watching the games in person. No media would be allowed in either.

Item: Tennis Canada promises to fully refund all 2,000 ticketholders. Apparently, less than half of the 5,500 tickets on sale had been sold. Ticket prices were in the range of \$200 US apiece.

Item: Tennis Canada claimed it was on the advice of security that TC cancelled the games scheduled for the premier downtown Halifax sports venue, the Scotiabank Centre. Instead, the two matches would be played at an undisclosed, secret location. The local media outlets agreed to embargo details of where they will be held.

This all began in earnest a few weeks prior, when an ad hoc citizens' action committee, composed of many left-wing groups and activists including my organization Independent Jewish Voices, first argued that Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) should not roll out the red carpet for the Davis Cup as Team Israel would play Team Canada. By a vote of 10 to 6, HRM council voted to support the event and fork over \$50,000 to Tennis Canada to help boost tourism.

However, progressive people, churches, trade unions and NGOs everywhere are refusing to "normalize Israel." They refuse to ignore Israel's genocide in Gaza. We call it "sportswashing." If readers think back to the South Africa in the late 1970s and '80s, they will recall that boycotting Paarl wine, petitioning universities to bar (white) South African scholars, and turning South African sports teams away from competition was the norm. It was taboo to "normalize South Africa." It was banned from sporting, cultural, educational and even political events.

Davis Cup: a boondoggle

The recent Davis Cup appearance in Halifax was a boondoggle endorsed by Halifax council that voted to give TC \$50,000. The province ponied up \$100,000, and of course the feds will be picking up the tab for locations, transportation, refunding tickets purchased by those now excluded from watch-



ing the games live and security. The Halifax police announced that TC had spurned using them for security. Instead, TC and/or the feds seem to be relying on (and paying for) federal agents such as CSIS and the RCMP — or even private security.

Halifax mayor Andy Fillmore, a former three-term Liberal MP, and his buddies decided to host this sporting event to make the most of the waning tourist season — hotels, bars, restaurants, stores, heritage sites and more could benefit from an influx of tennis-loving fans. Fillmore insisted the Davis Cup could bring more than \$2.5 million to Halifax's downtown during the weekend.

But that is not all, Fillmore and his friends have been beating the drum for Halifax to pay up to \$120 million for an 8,600-seat downtown soccer stadium. There is a huge fight brewing among some local residents who want to preserve the Halifax Common, and the powerful who favour a "home" for the HFX Wanderers FC, a private revenue-generating sports club favoured by developers, the construction industry owners and mostly male fans. Fillmore must have believed hosting the Davis Cup would shore up his case for a stadium.

No spectators or media allowed

Despite the fact that Davis Cup is no longer a public event, and the new location of the tournament played remains hidden from fans and foes alike — the situation has not dampened Mayor Fillmore's desire to manage the climb-down.

Two weeks ago, Fillmore shut down a community meeting after 20 minutes when

local residents started to ask why he supported Israel's genocide, and demand the Davis Cup be cancelled. More than 75 residents saw the mayor refuse to discuss it and, when pressed, literally "cut and run" from the crowd at Cole Harbour Place. As local activist El Jones has said, if running away were a sport, Fillmore would win hands down.

Undaunted by the disaster he helped create, Mayor Fillmore still urged tennis fans to come to Halifax, though they will have to watch on TV monitors rather than in person.

"We want to make sure everyone who booked a hotel room, who booked a flight, or restaurant reservations — we want to invite them to still cheer on Team Canada from their hotel room or wherever they might be."

For the final word, we go to the Atlantic Jewish Council whose "parent" organization, the Centre for Israel Jewish Affairs (CIJA) sent out a press release which says in part, "extremists are threatening our Canadian way of life." Those extremists are anti-genocide activists who do not want sportswashing of Israeli apartheid.

CIJA is hiding Team Israel under a bushel

CIJA excoriates us for not being "patriotic" enough to support Team Canada. Whom does CIJA take great pains NOT to mention? Why Team Israel! CIJA never mentions Team Israel, most of whose players are and have been in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and likely did service in Gaza or the West Bank.

As El Jones reports, in a 2021 interview with Team Israel player Daniel Cukierman, he seems to understand that sport does mix

with politics.

"When asked how being from Israel influenced his tennis career, he said: 'I think Israel is a special place for someone to grow up an athlete because we have the Army. The three-year Army requirement for Israeli citizens is something that's really important in our professional careers...being Israeli means serving in the Army and we take pride in that.' Cukierman appears to have stayed publicly silent on the IDF's actions since October 2023."

Now CIJA is hiding Team Israel "under a bushel" in Halifax — because there is no good press when it comes to Israel's participation in much of anything except slaughter. The next three paragraphs are hilarious:

"Israel's ambassador to Canada Iddo Moed shared a social media post on September 9 thanking Halifax Mayor Andy Fillmore and Tennis Canada CEO Gavin Ziv for their "steadfast commitment to ensuring that the Davis Cup matches between Israel and Canada proceed as scheduled."

"However, it is deeply troubling that extreme protestors have created an unsafe and hostile environment that threatens the safety of fans, players, and staff attending these matches."

"International sports should transcend political agendas — an arena where we celebrate excellence, unity and the shared spirit of humanity. It must remain free of hate, violence, and incitement. As a prominent liberal democracy, Canada bears a responsibility to ensure the safety of all people, and to reject attempts by any form of extremism to control the public domain."

Israel has deliberately killed more than 800 Palestinian athletes in the last two years — 400 were adult footballers, the rest were children. Israel has destroyed at least 288 sports facilities in Gaza. One month ago, Gaza-born footballer Suleiman al-Obaid, forty-one years old and father of five, nicknamed "Palestinian Pele" was killed by an Israeli missile when he was waiting for food aid.

At a Halifax press conference on September 10, activist and university professor El Jones said that the situation Israel is in vis-à-vis the Davis Cup is totally appropriate. Playing tennis with no audience, no fans, no media present, shows Israel is isolated and spurned by most decent people. Team Israel will play to none but themselves — citizens of the "country that wouldn't grow up" and the major terrorist state in the world today. ■

Judy Haiven is a Halifax member of Independent Jewish Voices Canada

This article is slightly shortened from her blog at judyhaiven.substack.com

Transnational project to roll back meagre environmental protections

■ FROM PG 3

high-risk, high-reward ventures that demand early government investment to clear the path for private capital."

The key to this opportunity, according to Scotiabank's experts, is for Canada to "play offence with public infrastructure assets" through a practice known as asset recycling. This practice, where a government borrows against its tangible assets in order to invest in new development, is a polite way of broaching privatization — and a standard framework for World Bank directives in so-called "emerging markets and developing economies" or EMDEs.

This financing arrangement opens up public infrastructure to private investment as it evades widespread suspicion of such practices and permits even further penetration of debt-strapped economies by foreign monopoly capital.

In the Canadian instance, the Scotiabank brief more or less duplicates a longstanding Liberal plan to hasten privatization of public infrastructure through public pension funds. Notably, for example, the highly financial-



ized Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan invests extensively in Latin American infrastructure, assuming full ownership of six power lines across ten Brazilian states.

Canadian model

For all the differences between any two countries, it's alarming to see how similarly imperialism proceeds. As *The Mining Observatory* founder Mauricio Angelo notes, "it's important to say here that the Brazilian mining business sees Canada as a role model. The way mining works in Canada from the point of view of investments, markets, and even mining on Indigenous lands in

Canada is seen as a model for Brazilian mining — for how mining would work on Brazilian Indigenous lands, which is not permitted today. However, several bills and political maneuvers have been introduced to change this, and Canada is an example."

On September 10, Carney announced the first five "nation building" projects for referral to his Major Projects Office, with a focus on liquefied natural gas expansion, gold and copper mining, increased logistics capacity on the St. Lawrence River, and small modular nuclear power.

In addition to this unsurprising statement of priorities, the PM nominated an elev-

en-person Indigenous Advisory Council, evidently meant to rubber stamp the financial offensive ahead. Grand Chief Kyra Wilson of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs spoke unsparingly of the selection process: "While Canada speaks of equity ownership and resource management, the exclusion of Manitoba First Nations from this Council demonstrates a continuing pattern of disregard for Treaty rights and First Nations jurisdiction."

As global mining companies look to Canada for legal precedent, it's not difficult to see Bill C-5 for what it is: a document of continental imperialism, and part of a transnational project to reverse the few environmental protections that progressive movements were able to win from the outgoing liberal order.

Within this context, there is a broad basis of unity for resisting such a sweeping attack. But the quality of our resistance depends upon the degree that we can build and sustain mass, active solidarity across communities and sectors that the ruling class would sooner disregard.

From an investor's point of view, it seems we have an example to set. ■

LABOUR

BCGEU strike continues as govt fails to bring decent offer

The BC public service strike continues to escalate, with 15,000 BCGEU members now out. The BCGEU said talks on the first day of resumed bargaining fell apart when the BC government failed to deliver a meaningful wage offer.

“We came to the table ready to negotiate but the government presented an offer that was barely different from their last one,” said BCGEU President Paul Finch. “Our members are facing a real affordability crisis, and the government’s response continues to fall far short. Until the government is prepared to engage in real negotiations, job action will escalate.”

The government tabled a wage increase of just 2 percent per year over two years, totaling only 4 percent, half of what the union offered.

The average wage in BC has increased by 40 percent since 2016, while public service wages have risen by just 27 percent during the same period.

Vancouver Symphony musicians on strike for better wages

For the first time in its 107-year history, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra has been hit with a strike as its musicians struggle for better wages.

The musicians, represented by the Vancouver Musicians' Association (VMA), are demanding a 23 percent pay rise over three years, to bring them closer to their counterparts in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, who earn roughly 30 percent more.

VMA president Audrey Patterson said union members are “disappointed that we couldn’t come to an agreement, at least in principle, in order to hold off the strike action, but they’re determined to see this through and they’re very united in their willingness.”

In July, 97 percent of union members voted in favour of job action.

Striking ECE workers get parental support in Sydney Mines, NS

Early Childhood Educators at Munro Academy Early Learning Centre in Sydney Mines, NS are getting support from parents in their strike for a fair contract. The 23 workers, represented by Unifor Local 4600, have been on strike since September 8.

“It’s shameful that the employer has withheld child care from parents for two weeks in their effort to break the union, but so heartwarming that parents are standing by the ECEs and understand the fairness in their position,” said Unifor National President Lana Payne.

The strike began after the employer refused to bargain 40-hour workweeks, in line with other Unifor-represented day care centres in Cape Breton.

Rio Tinto uses strikebreakers in Quebec

Rio Tinto Fer et Titane has been caught using replacement workers during a strike at the Poudres Métalliques metallurgical complex in Sorel-Tracy, which is prohibited under Quebec labour law.

The 181 striking workers, members of USW Local 7493, have been on the picket line since July 10. Years of lost ground on wages is the key issue. There have been no negotiations over the last two months.

“The employer has been acting in bad faith since the beginning of the negotiations, and our previous collective agreement expired more than 15 months ago,” said Local 7493 President Patrick Sarrazin. “The use of scabs is illegal and must stop immediately. This plant will start operating again when the employer shows that it respects its workers and negotiates a good agreement.”

As union struggles are steadily drawn to the political arena, how can labour fight most effectively?

DAVE MCKEE

Working people in Canada find themselves caught between two pretty big economic challenges these days. On the one hand, several years of declining real wages – combined with the skyrocketing post-COVID cost of living – mean that huge numbers of working people now face a financial crisis. Do they pay the rent on time, or do they buy groceries this week? Can they afford to pay for medication this month, or do they use the money to buy back-to-school clothes for their kids? For increasing numbers, the choice is even more stark –do I need to move to an encampment just to survive?

Alongside this pressure, working people also face widespread job losses in the wake of Donald Trump’s tariff war. Entire industries are at risk of being lost in this country – from auto to steel to lumber to pharmaceuticals and beyond – and the half million or more workers who depend on them are currently finding little solace in Ottawa’s pro-corporate responses to that situation.

Small wonder, then, that we have seen an uptick in labour militancy and a corresponding surge in strike activity.

At the same time, though, we’ve seen a rapid increase in government-boss collusion to shut down that militancy, even to the point of denying basic labour rights. A big part of this is the fact that corporations are feeling many economic pressures of their own. Some of these, like the tariff war, are the same factors which directly confront working people; others, like the decline in their rates of profit and the increased concentration of capital in huge monopolies, are not. Faced with such an existential crisis, capitalist governments like Canada’s are becoming increasingly aggressive about protecting and trying to help expand “their” corporations’ interests.

Within this context, it’s logical to expect union struggles to be steadily – albeit unevenly – drawn to the political arena. And that’s exactly what we’ve been seeing.

CUPE and Air Canada

When flight attendants at Air Canada entered contract negotiations in the spring, they identified their key issues as a decent wage increase and an end to unpaid “ground” work, which averaged a shocking 35 hours each month. These are clear collective agreement issues, around which the 10,000 CUPE members struck.

But the nature of the strike changed almost immediately, when the federal government used Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code to override the workers’ right to strike and negotiate, ordering them to both return to work and take the dispute to binding arbitration. In response to this government interference – which wasn’t entirely unexpected or without precedent – flight attendants announced their refusal to obey back-to-work orders, and union leaders signalled they were prepared to go to jail in order to defend workers’ rights.

CUPE’s now political fight quickly drew support from the broader labour movement. The Canadian Labour Congress convened an emergency meeting of union heads who voted unanimously to call on Ottawa to immediately withdraw the order to end the strike, to cease its use of Section 107 to end or prevent a legal strike, and to amend the Canada Labour Code to remove Section 107 as the first order of business when Parliament resumes. Through the CLC, unions across the country also committed to coordinating a comprehensive fightback campaign in support of these demands.

On the basis of this unity and militancy, CUPE defeated Ottawa’s threat and forced the employer to return to the table for serious bargaining – which resulted in a tentative agreement within just one day of defying the back-to-work order.



While the flight attendants have continued their struggle at the workplace level, by voting against the tentative deal, labour unity won the political fight.

CUPW fighting Ottawa and Canada Post

When the Canadian Union of Postal Workers began bargaining in 2024, they knew they were up against an intransigent employer. Canada Post refused to negotiate and instead chose to endlessly parrot its line about fiscal crisis, unviable operations and the need for deep concessions from the workers.

Each time the union presented well-prepared proposals for safeguarding the postal service by expanding its operations, the employer was dismissive and made sure that the government echoed its position. So, when CUPW struck in November 2024, it was already clear that the dispute had a political character.

But that aspect has only deepened as the struggle progressed – from the federal back-to-work order in December 2024, to the government’s forced vote on Canada Post’s “final offer” in the spring of 2025, to Transformation, Public Works and Procurement Minister Joël Lightbound’s September 25 directive – in the midst of contract negotiations – that Canada Post end door-to-door postal delivery.

Without question, this is a coordinated government-corporation attack on free collective bargaining, on tens of thousands of jobs, and on a vital public service.

Here again, the union has not cowered in the face of a political fight. CUPW responded to Lightbound’s directive by resuming its Canada-wide strike and shining the light squarely on Ottawa’s privatization agenda. Interestingly, while the CLC has issued a number of strong condemnations of the federal government’s political interference, we have not yet seen the same public expression of broad labour unity and militancy as during the fight at Air Canada.

Quebec Common Front

The public sector struggle in Quebec in 2023 provides another important example of union struggles moving to the political level. Four different unions, three of which were labour centrals, formed the Quebec Common Front in order to coordinate negotiations and actions. Notably, these unions were not organizationally bound to one another through a common labour

central. Through the struggle, they were joined by unions representing teachers and nurses.

Their key issue was wages, with the right-wing Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) government insisting on limiting increases to 9 percent over 5 years, combined with cuts to pensions.

While the dispute was mainly over collective agreement issues – wages and pensions – the struggle quickly developed a political component. Partly, this was due to the incredible scale of the fight – ultimately, 520,000 workers representing 12 percent of Quebec’s labour force went on strike against the government.

But the political nature of the strike also reflected strong public support for the Common Front. The unions were also fighting for public services – improvements to classrooms, for example – and they built strong connections with a public that was increasingly frustrated with the CAQ austerity and privatization policies.

Partly in response to the Common Front’s spectacular mobilization, the CAQ government recently introduced Bill 89, legislation that mirrors the federal Section 107 and gives the Quebec government the power to declare strikes illegal and order workers back to work. This anti-union legislation has mobilized the labour movement in Quebec, in much the same way that unions across the country united against Ontario government’s use of the notwithstanding clause against striking education workers in 2022. So far, however, the opposition to Bill 89 does not seem to have engaged the labour movement beyond Quebec.

In addition to these examples, there are many others across the country. These include the strikes by public service workers in BC and college support workers in Ontario, as well as the Alberta Common Front campaign and the struggles of teachers and education workers in that province.

The CLC’s key role

Whether or not they step up for the political fight – and many do not – union struggles are increasingly drawn in that direction. This means that the labour movement needs to consider how it can most effectively fight in that arena.

Here, there is a key role for the CLC, provincial labour federations and local labour councils. These are the bodies which bring together workers and unions from across sectors and jurisdictions, to fight for the rights and conditions of all working people. They also maintain alliances with a broad range of social movements. As such, these bodies are uniquely situated to forge active solidarity in an increasingly escalating political fight. This needs to include engaging unions currently outside the CLC, starting with Unifor, and the unions in Quebec.

There are around 4 million union members in Canada. Most have never been on strike, because they have never had to – if they are able secure decent collective agreements, then strikes and lockouts are seldom an issue.

But the politics of the class struggle are always present in their lives, even if they don’t always realize it. Government legislation that limits or prohibits union organizing, picketing or bargaining affects the entire labour movement, as does anti-scab legislation and government interference in contract negotiations. These are weapons used by employers and governments to minimize labour militancy and, in the process, tame working people.

But how effective would those weapons be if all 4 million members of the labour movement were organized and mobilized against them? Unity and struggle are the keys to victory in the big struggles ahead, but it is up to the labour movement itself to use them. ■

Strike intensifies on Quebec's Matane—Godbout ferry route



ALEX COURTOIS

Workers at the Matane–Baie-Comeau–Godbout ferry route in Quebec, represented by the CSN union, are intensifying their fight against management intransigence and government silence.

Deprived of a collective agreement for over a year, the workers held a series of strikes from July 18 to 29 for the crew at sea, then from July 30 to August 3 for the workers on shore. Now, they are preparing more job actions: Matane-Côte-Nord ferry will be on strike on October 2 and 9, while the Québec-Lévis ferry will walk out on October 16.

"The employer and the government must do what is necessary to move the negotiations forward. It's ridiculous to keep presenting us with the same offers while demanding excessive flexibility. Once again, we are being offered a 12.7 percent wage increase over five years in exchange for exaggerated concessions. Let's hope that the pressure exerted will finally lead to a good agreement," said union president Patrick St-Laurent.

For months, the Société des traversiers du Québec (STQ, the ferry operator) and Québec's CAQ government have turned a deaf ear to the workers' fair demands. What logic dictates that they accept a meager 12.7 percent increase over five years while inflation eats away at every dollar of their paychecks, and in exchange for what? Unlimited flexibility. In other words, the company wants low wages and docile submission to the whims of management.

But those days are over.

Union vice-president Stéphanie Gratton had harsh words for the calculated slowness. "Why are the government and the STQ con-

tinuing to drag their feet? They are hindering negotiations so much that they are forcing workers to go on strike to finally get things moving. After months of negotiations, it's time to for a settlement at the table."

The CAQ, which prides itself on being "the government of the regions," is betraying workers who provide a vital link between the Lower St. Lawrence and the North Shore, in all weather conditions. Liette Ross, president of the CSN central council in Bas-Saint-Laurent, puts it bluntly: "The CAQ is abandoning the workers at the ferry, which is an important service for the Bas-Saint-Laurent and North Shore regions. With the high season underway, a settlement is needed as soon as possible."

Sophie Falardeau, who has worked on the Québec-Lévis ferry for 33 years, has seen her salary rise by a measly nine dollars in three decades. Carl Guillemette, who works on the same ferry, has seen hunger spread among his colleagues: "Our people are ending up at food banks." This is the stark reality that management does not want to hear.

The STQ is stubbornly repeating the same offer it made last summer. "They are abandoning our workers in the name of so-called budgetary discipline," stated Liette Ross. "Yet the government has signed a 17.4 percent increase for its civil servants. Why not here?"

The battle is on. In every port, on every dock and on every ferry, solidarity must resonate like an unstoppable force. Workers are standing up, aware of their collective strength. They are countering the government's inflexibility with their organized will: negotiations must move forward.

Otherwise, it's strike action, again and again, until victory is achieved. ■

Hundreds of mental health workers in York Region defy management pressure and vote to join union

BRIAN W. MAJOR

More than 300 workers at the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) York Region and South Simcoe branch are celebrating a unionization victory after a majority voted to join the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). This vote was the culmination of over two years of very hard work by a committed group of workers.

The CMHA is the predominant community-based mental health and addiction agency in Canada. It has been in existence since 1918 and currently all of Canada is supported by a branch of the agency. The York Region and South Simcoe branch, which serves several communities north of Toronto, is made up of social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, family workers, court support workers and peer support staff.

The CMHA is generally a progressive agency. Various branches are dedicated to a meaningful commitment towards Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada. Branches also typically also march in Pride parades in the communities they represent, and the York Region and South Simcoe branch operates a Gender Affirming Health Clinic.

Despite this progressive aspect, many CMHA staff have had a number of concerns which directly led to the success of the union campaign. One key issue has been ongoing cutbacks to our benefit packages. A couple years ago, for example, staff had \$3000 per year available for mental health care, but this was taken away and we were given a small raise. You would think that mental health care should be provided to those who provide such care for others. Furthermore, while it's good to get a raise, ours was smaller than the amount we lost in the cut to our benefits.

A second main concern was the recent termination of many workers, particularly older women working as peer support staff. These workers (including this writer) have lived experience of mental health and addictions. We work with clients who are struggling, by sharing our experience and hope in a profound way.

Several such workers were terminated

"without cause." While they were given severance packages, they were let go without even an accusation of wrongdoing. The whole process remains a mystery, and we may never know why it happened. With a union representing us, there will be no more of these ridiculous without cause terminations.

Leading up to the certification vote, many workers were put off by the fact that management engaged in an egregious program of pressure on staff to vote against the union. We were phoned when we were off work and urged to vote "no". Management held meetings with staff, to "educate" us about the negative aspects of unions. Staff also had mandatory meetings with management to hear about these negative aspects of unionism.

Many workers were put off by management's pressure on staff to vote against the union

Management clearly overstepped the bounds of what is considered lawful during a lead-up to a union vote. Pro-union staff were advised by many workers that they were going to vote against certification but instead voted in favour, out of disdain from management's negative anti-union campaign. This campaign also resulted in an unfair labour practice complaint, which is still before the labour board.

The workers at CMHA support some of the most marginalized people in our community. We do hard work to support people who are unhoused, facing addictions, and dealing with serious mental illness. We do this job because we love people and wish to offer them some real hope and justice.

We also just happen to feel that having a union will make our job more equitable, just and effective, as we support those whose lives will be helped by our services.

We will soon elect our executive and bargaining committee, and will start the process of bargaining our first collective agreement. In the meantime, we are proud to be new OPSEU members and look forward to being a part of the House of Labour. ■

Ontario college strike is a fight for both a decent contract and to protect public colleges

PV ONTARIO BUREAU

The current strike by 10,000 college support staff, members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), is a struggle that brings together the workplace-based fight for wages with the political fight for stronger public services and institutions.

Years of government underfunding, compounded by the Ford Conservatives' deliberate diversion of funding from public system to private institutions, have brought the college system in Ontario to the brink of collapse. Since 2013-14 provincial funding for Ontario colleges has dropped 30 percent. These policies – continued by successive Liberal and Conservative governments – have led to the loss of 600 college programs and estimated 10,000 layoffs of vital support staff.

Throughout the post-secondary education sector, deliberate and ongoing government underfunding has reduced per-student funding in Ontario colleges to the lowest in the country, and facilitated the increased privatization of funding. This privatization has taken several forms, but has overwhelmingly been manifested in the form of higher tuition fees. As with universities, this underfunding policy has driven colleges to increasingly rely on shockingly high tuition fees for international students.



It is a funding model which is both inadequate and racist, and which has brought us to the current situation, in which Ontario's public colleges are on the brink of total failure.

But rather than addressing this problem through adequate funding based on student and college need, the Ontario government of Doug Ford has exacerbated the crisis by shifting public funding even further away from college campuses, towards subsidizing duplicate programs offered by private companies.

Since 2020 alone, funding for these private companies – who are not compelled to publicly report on spending or other aspects of their operations – has soared by 800 percent through the Ontario Skills Development Fund. The provincial government has committed another \$1 billion in funding for the education profiteers, over the next three years.

As OPSEU has stated, "This isn't even mismanagement – this is a blatant attempt

to gut our public education system."

The college support staff are taking a principled and courageous stance in the face of this sustained attack – they are fighting for both a good contract that recognizes their work and for government policies that support the maintenance and growth of Ontario's colleges as a vital public service.

Their struggle demands maximum solidarity and engagement from all labour, progressive and community organizations. A strong mobilization is needed to force the provincial government to immediately change its funding policies to support public colleges with sufficient funding that programs are maintained and tuition fees can be reduced and eliminated. In addition, there must be a full public inquiry into the government's misuse of the Ontario Skills Development Fund to deliberately gut funding for public colleges and funnel public money into private providers. ■

BCFED declares boycott over Coast Hotel Victoria lockdown

The BC Federation of Labour's Executive Officers voted unanimously on September 25 to declare a boycott of the Coast Hotel Victoria & Marina over the hotel's lockdown of its frontline staff, members of UNITE HERE Local 40.

"We reserve boycotts for the worst of employer behaviours, and this is certainly a case in point," said BCFED President Sussanne Skidmore. "There's no excuse for locking out workers who are just fighting for safe workloads, proper staffing levels and wages high enough to let them live in the city they serve."

"We thank the BC Federation of Labour for standing with Coast Victoria Hotel workers who've been locked out for demanding what no one should have to beg for: a living wage," said UNITE HERE Local 40 President Zailda Chan.

"Let's call this what it is: corporate retaliation. This hotel would rather throw its workers out than treat them fairly. They forget that Victoria is a union town. When workers stand together, no amount of greed or intimidation will defeat us."

"We're calling on union members and the general public to refuse to do business with the Coast Hotel Victoria & Marina until this dispute is settled," said BCFED Secretary-Treasurer Hermender Singh Kailley. "The employer needs to end the lockdown and work with the union to reach a fair agreement. They can't treat workers this way and get away with it." ■



Building united front is the only sensible path forward

■ FROM PG 6

MAGA right is doing everything possible to prevent the public from knowing that Kirk’s killer is one of their own.

It is within this context that Trump, in the best tradition of Roy Cohn, is ramping up anti-communist attacks and is now threatening RICO [Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act] prosecutions of protestors. And here there’s growing fear and trepidation, including within the ranks of the left, about the risk of challenging the Oval Office.

Attorneys have said folks cannot be charged for exercising free speech rights, though there have been attempts to broaden the interpretation of the statutes. Of course, anything is possible these days, given MAGA’s studied ignoring of the law. And then there’s the Supreme Court that’s given Trump carte blanche so far.

But it’s also the case that the anti-left, anti-communist broadsides continue to fall on deaf ears among the broad public. The primary victories of the democratic socialist mayoral candidates in New York and Minneapolis are cases in point.

Civil war imminent?

A cautionary note before concluding. There’s some feeling in the country and among our ranks that a civil war is imminent. Some are making public statements urging preparations for such an eventuality. Their concern and the growing fear and pessimism are understandable. But it would be a mistake to give in to our worst angels.

The Communist Party’s position has always been that war is not inevitable, and that includes domestically. It all depends on what we do. While not underestimating the danger, it would be a huge mistake to retreat into ideological, political and emotional bunkers, to hunker down and prepare for the worst.

While events are moving quickly, we are nowhere near that stage. The times call for militant, mass public resistance and pressure. Our role is to build the united front, to fight back on the basis of the issues without ideological preconditions, including those influenced by MAGA. It’s the only sensible path forward – all others lead to isolation and with it, defeat. ■

People’s World

Joe Sims is co-chairperson of the Communist Party USA

MARXIST THEORY & DISCUSSION!
THESPARKJOURNAL.TUMBLR.COM

US global policy combines two logics of war

■ FROM PG 6

resents a perilous convergence of two devastating logics of war: the “War on Drugs” and the “War on Terror.” The Trump administration’s designation of drug cartels as “terrorist organizations,” and its baseless assertion that the Venezuelan government heads a transnational cartel, seems designed to justify forthcoming strikes against the South American country.

The drug trafficking accusations are, of course, groundless – one would do better to look at Ecuador’s President Daniel Noboa, who has been directly accused of involvement in cocaine trafficking to Europe through his family’s globe-spanning banana business. Noboa, however, is a staunch ally of US imperialism, so his suspect business conduct gets a pass.

A US intervention against Venezuela would be a criminal war of aggression designed to reassert US hegemony over the Western hemisphere. As Nick Corbishley writes:

“How many countries in the Middle East and North Africa have been ruined by the US and Israel’s Global War on Terror? How many lives destroyed? How many more “terrorists” created? The Empire of Chaos ripped asunder an entire region, using it as a laboratory for its robot planes of death. It now intends to do much the same to its own ‘backyard’ by melding together the failed War on Drugs with the failed Global War on Terror. By designating drug selling businesses as “terrorist” organizations, the US president can draw up arbitrary kill lists and visit death and destruction from the skies. The war drums are beating loud and clear.”

Celebrating violence and impunity

The Trump administration openly celebrates its violence and impunity. On September 3, Washington ordered the illegal bombing of a small speedboat in international waters, which it accused of trafficking drugs from Venezuela. The strike, which killed 11 people, was conducted without the slightest legal justification. When an X poster told Vice-President J.D. Vance that the bombing was an obvious war crime, Vance responded, “I don’t give a shit what you call it.”

Three days later, the Trump administration officially rebranded the Department of Defense to the Department of War. Materially, this makes little difference – regard-

less of its official title, the US military has long been an unaccountable war machine. Even so, the name change marks a clear shift in US rhetoric, away from any semblance of legalism toward the open lionization of murderous aggression.

Compare this to China’s endorsement of peaceful global development, or the SCO’s assertion that non-interference and non-use of force are “the basis for the sustainable development of international relations.”

As the global majority increasingly looks toward integration and cooperation, albeit in varied forms and with various socio-economic contradictions, the US government has clearly committed itself to a policy of unmasked aggression aimed at drowning in blood any systemic alternatives to US-led Western imperialism.

Canada’s support for US imperialism

Shamefully, Mark Carney’s Liberal government has enlisted Canada on the side of the aggressor.

Shortly after becoming prime minister, Carney bowed to Trump’s demand for massively increased military spending. He also continued to support the Israeli genocide in Gaza and vocally backed the US-Israeli war of aggression on Iran.

On September 6, three days after China used the occasion of the anti-fascist victory parade to call for global peace and cooperation, the Canadian government dispatched a warship to the Chinese coast alongside an Australian naval vessel. China condemned the Canadian military maneuver as a “provocation” – and undoubtedly it was – designed to demonstrate that despite superficial disagreements between Trump and Carney, the Liberal government remains devoted to the US and its global aims.

The world is left with a stark choice: stubborn alignment with a declining and combative US imperialism, or an embrace of the development possibilities afforded by deepened cooperation with China and the global majority. Unfortunately, Canada’s capitalist class – including the governments that represent it – has unambiguously chosen the former.

Faced with the dangers inherent in this situation, it is critical that working people in Canada redouble the fight for an independent foreign policy based on peace, disarmament and international cooperation. ■

Organized student power can help reshape society

■ FROM PG 12

eventually alienated the broader public.

The violence between rival factions and harsh government crackdowns throughout the 1970s further marginalized the movement. While small Zengakuren-affiliated groups still exist today, they are largely symbolic and have limited political influence.

Zengakuren was more than just a student group. It was the driving force of Japan’s postwar radicalism. It fought for democratic accountability, against imperialism, and in defense of civil liberties at a time when these were far from guaranteed.

Its early campaigns shaped Japanese political consciousness, exposed the contradictions of US-Japan relations and helped launch movements that still reso-



nate, especially Japan’s anti-nuclear and peace activism.

While later years saw the movement fracture, Zengakuren’s legacy remains a powerful reminder of how organized student power can help reshape society, even in the shadow of global superpowers. ■

WHAT’S LEFT

VANCOUVER

SUNDAYS | GAZA SOLIDARITY RALLY

2 PM at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Join Palestine solidarity groups every Sunday to protest Israel’s siege of Gaza.

VANCOUVER

OCT 18 | ANTI-POVERTY FORUM

7 PM at the Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Dr. Mark International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at the Vancouver Peace Council’s public forum. For details, email van_peacecouncil@mail.com.

VANCOUVER

OCT 26 | PUENTES DE AMOR RALLY

1 PM at the corner of Commercial and Broadway. Cuba solidarity rally with CCFA Vancouver.

EDMONTON

OCT 9 | PRE-CONVENTION DISCUSSION

Pre-convention discussion live and Zoom meeting, Oct 9 and 23. Contact communistparty-alberta@shaw.ca for documents and Zoom link.

EDMONTON

OCT 18 | FUNDRAISING BANQUET

5 PM at the Ukrainian Centre, 11018 97 Street. Communist Party fundraising banquet and silent auction. Tickets \$40/20, RSVP to communistparty-alberta@shaw.ca.

WINNIPEG

OCT 26 | END THE BLOCKADE

1-2 PM at the corner of River and Osborne. Join the Manitoba Cuba Solidarity Committee for monthly action calling for an end to the US blockade of Cuba.

TORONTO

OCT 4 | PALESTINE SOLIDARITY RALLY

2 PM at Sankofa Square, Yonge and Dundas. Protest two years of Israel’s genocide against Palestine. Organized by Palestine Youth Movement.

TORONTO

OCT 26 | END THE BLOCKADE

1 PM at the US Consulate, 360 University Ave. Join CCFA Toronto and other solidarity activists for a monthly picket against the US blockade.

OTTAWA

OCT 17 | CUBA SOLIDARITY PICKET

1:30 PM at the US Embassy, 490 Sussex Drive. Join Ottawa Cuba Connections for monthly action to call for an end to the blockade and the return of the Guantanamo base to Cuba.

MONTREAL

OCT 4 | MANIF POUR LA PALESTINE

14h, Place des Arts. Deux ans depuis le Génocide : manifestation de solidarité avec la Palestine. Organisé par le Mouvement de la jeunesse palestinienne .

MONTREAL

OCT 19 | MANIF POUR LA PAIX

14h. Place du Canada. Manifestation pour la paix et le désarmement, organisé par le Mouvement québécois pour la paix.

**SolidNet.org**

News, documents and calls for action from Communist and Workers Parties around the world

PEOPLE'S VOICE *Subscription form*

Please make cheques payable to People's Voice and mail to 290A Danforth Ave, Toronto, ON, M4K 1N6. For digital payments, please see instructions below.

\$40 one year: ☐ \$20 one year low-income: ☐ \$80 for one year (print) outside CAN: ☐

Please specify type of subscription: ☐ print ☐ digital (email)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Prefer to pay electronically? E-transfer to pvoicepayment@gmail.com or use our PayPal link at PVonline.ca

Silver lining is the broad basis for opposition

FROM PG 2

This spending increase is simply unconscionable given what working people are facing here on the domestic front, and also in the context of increasing international tensions and the drive to war, to which this spending directly contributes.

Plainly, it is not possible to commit \$150 billion of deeply antisocial spending without having a profoundly negative impact on desperately needed social spending that we all rely on. These things are inextricably linked.

That link is the silver lining to an otherwise horrendous political decision. There is a basis of unity here that can bring together a huge range of labour, housing, social justice and community organizations, to say a resounding “NO” to \$150 billion to ratchet up the drive to war and “YES” to social spend-

ing for people’s needs.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of international and domestic issues, such a united movement can also fight for an independent Canadian foreign policy based on peace, disarmament and solidarity instead of war and aggression, a foreign policy based on mutual respect that rejects unjust unilateral economic warfare.

This is the way to protect security for working people – in Canada and around the world. ■

Manden Murphy is co-chair of the Toronto Association for Peace and Solidarity

This article is based on remarks delivered to the Toronto People’s Hearings on Military Spending on September 21

“The solution lies within Sudan itself, in the people and in their organizations”

FROM PG 12

cial formations of our people – that remains the decisive force in halting the war, reclaiming the revolutionary path, and achieving its aspirations.

Second, the external powers that helped ignite this war – and that conspired earlier by endorsing the flawed Constitutional Document, integrating the military into governance, dispersing the sit-in, and repressing and killing revolutionaries – have consistently worked to extinguish the December Revolution and deny our people their aspirations for freedom, peace and justice.

It must therefore be made clear: peace, democracy and stability in Sudan can only be achieved by returning to the course of the December Revolution and fulfilling its objectives. Any other path will merely reproduce the crisis and deepen foreign domination.

The solution lies within Sudan itself. It lies in the people themselves, in their organizations – resistance committees and beyond – who are the true stakeholders in improving living conditions, delivering humanitarian aid to those genuinely affected, creating conditions for the return of the displaced and refugees to their towns, villages, lands and homelands; ensuring security, education, environmental health, rehabilitating hospitals and health centres, providing medicine and clean water for both humans and animals,

restoring electricity, and compensating those who lost their livelihoods and property.

The decisive factor, therefore, is internal. Only by empowering the Sudanese people can a comprehensive and just solution be achieved, and a truly democratic and civilian system of governance established, free from the interference of military and security institutions in politics and the economy.

Security arrangements must include the dissolution of the Rapid Support Forces, the militias of armed movements and all other paramilitary groups, alongside the creation of a unified, professional national army under civilian authority.

Justice must be served: accountability is essential for the crimes of the sit-in massacre, the atrocities of the current war, and all violations against the revolutionaries. The findings of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission must be implemented. At the same time, the remnants of the former regime must be dismantled, and Sudan’s civil and military institutions rebuilt on national, democratic and professional foundations.

We call upon our people to persist in their resilience, unity and steadfastness, to defeat both internal and external conspiracies, to transform what is set forth in the Quartet’s statement into tangible reality, and to complete it through the reclamation of the December Revolution and the struggle for the realization of its goals. ■

Book fails to live up to its all-encompassing title

Fascist Yoga: Grifters. Occultists. White Supremacists and the New Order in Wellness

Stewart Home

Pluto Press (2025)

REVIEW BY STÉPHANE DOUCET

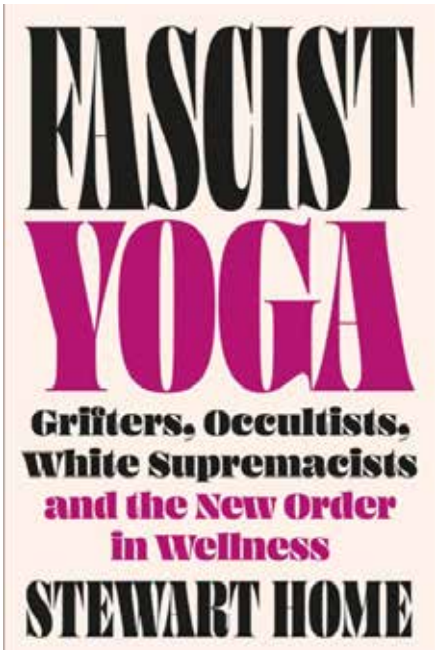
I’ll admit to approaching this book with more than a little schadenfreude, after years of being annoyed (and surrounded) by outrageous seeming claims about yoga and other alternative health practices. The cavalier anti-scientism and idealism of some of these claims have always felt so weird, and it has become even weirder with the COVID pandemic and the anti-vaxx/trucker convoy/far-right/QAnon nexus taking shape as a political and cultural force.

So, I was happy and somewhat surprised to see Stewart Home, described by the publisher as “a legend of counterculture” and whose work I have long been familiar with, take a stab at these hucksters. While it’s been decades since I’ve read his work, I remember the rawness of his energy and hoped he’d bring it to his takedown of the rotten milieu described in the title.

The book is short, and mostly a series of brief biographies of some of the important figures in the history of yoga in the English-speaking world. As such, the scope is actually not as wide as the rather all-encompassing title lets on, and I felt more than a little disappointed when these histories ended in the 1970’s.

Readers with more interest in the ideological side of the question, and rather none in the yoga and exercise aspect, will be left wanting.

Home does provide some interesting research into the really bizarre iconoclastic characters – and some of the early founders of Western yoga were indeed pretty wild. After a while though, it gets repetitive. I was left hoping for a more comprehensive assessment of these alternative health



movements, rather than forensic analysis of what kinds of poses Richard Hittleman was promoting in his mail-order courses.

It seems to me that while Home chose an interesting and pertinent subject, he spent all his time stretching out an introduction without getting to the meat: what makes anti-scientific pseudo-health trends so popular today, and what is the link with the far-right? What is the connection between the development of medical technology, access to care, and the reaction of primitivism or mysticism? What is the relationship between exercise as preventative medicine and the profit motive which privileges high-cost medication? What is the political economy of artisanal medical fraud, and how has this industry grown and expanded?

So many questions left unanswered, and I’ve already forgotten the names of the fraudsters who founded modern Western yoga.

Fascist Yoga feels like a book that still needs to be written. ■

YARD SIGNS FOR GAZA

Our durable plastic and metal U-frame lawn signs (20x24") spark awareness and action—linking people to trusted reporting, educational resources, statements, events, and ways to act.

STOP ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE IN GAZA!

endgenocidebc.ca

Grab a sign for your yard, as well as for friends and family, and/or help us distribute at local events and in your community!

Inquire and order at endgenocidebc@gmail.com

Suggested \$5 (+ shipping) donation to cover production costs or PWYC

CANADA CHINA FRIENDSHIP FORUM

China's Actions for the Climate and the Environment

Ms. Tamara Lorincz
PhD candidate in Global Governance at the Balatins School for International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University

Dr. Zhang Xian
Associate professor at School of Politics and International Studies, Central China Normal University

China's Leadership for the Climate

Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in the New Era

Meeting ID: 828 8143 2793 Password: 271314

Organized by China Solidarity Committee in Partnership with Canadian Peace Congress, Edmonton Peace Council, Canada China Friendship Promotion Association, Young Communist League of Canada - Alberta, & The Canada Files

JOIN THE FIGHT! BUILD THE STRUGGLE!

COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA

The Communist Party of Canada, formed in 1921, has a proud history of fighting for jobs, equality, peace, Canadian independence and socialism. To find out more, contact our central CPC office.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE CPC

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

416.469.2446 | info@cpc-pcc.ca | communist-party.ca

Ed Bil

March 9, 1933 – September 9, 2025

Long-time People’s Voice volunteer and Communist Party of Canada member Ed Bil died at home on September 9, at the age of 92.

Born in St. Catharines, Ontario, Ed spent nearly his entire life in South Etobicoke, now part of the City of Toronto. Over the years, he worked as a credit manager with Westeel-Rosco, a taxi driver with Arrow Taxi, and as a Security Guard at Sherway Gardens mall.

Through his experience as a working person and his love of philosophy, Ed became interested in and joined the Communist Party and remained a Party stalwart for more than three decades. In that time, he was elected to the Communist Party’s Toronto leadership, helped organize many local Party events, and stood as an election candidate.

He was also a dedicated member and supporter of many social movements, especially the peace, labour and Cuba solidarity movements. An avid reader and lifelong student, he held a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto.

Ed made an enormous contribution to People’s Voice over the years. Shortly after the paper was launched in 1993, he offered to become volunteer photographer. He took photography courses, purchased equipment and made his way to an impressive range of strikes, demonstrations, conferences and other events throughout Ontario and beyond, ensuring that there was a strong photographic record of the class struggle.

Later, he helped implement a mail pre-sorting process which allowed the PV to get reduced postage rates. He did this for many years, including through the entire COVID pandemic, and helped to achieve many thousands of dollars in reduced costs for the publication.

Ed is survived by his devoted daughter Laura, his niece Sharon, and his younger brother Zenon. His family, friends and comrades remember him for his quick wit, great sense of humor, warm, light-hearted nature and passion for politics, the labour movement and justice for humanity.

A celebration of life will be organized at a future date, with details to follow.

Zengakuren: the student movement that shook and shaped postwar Japan



RON ANICICH

Zengakuren, short for Zen Nihon Gakusei Jichikai Sorengo (All-Japan Federation of Student Self-Government Associations), was one of the most influential and militant student movements in post-war history. At its height, it mobilized nearly 300,000 students and played a central role in shaping Japan’s political life during the 1950s and 60s.

Born in the ashes of war and occupation, Zengakuren gave a powerful voice to a new generation of politically conscious students. Initially aligned with the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), it soon evolved into a major independent force capable of confronting both the Japanese state and US military presence in the country.

Zengakuren was founded in 1948, a time when Japan was still under Allied (primarily US) occupation and undergoing major social and political restructuring. Universities were being reorganized, tuition was rising, and student rights were increasingly curtailed. Amidst growing unrest, students began to organize autonomous associations across campuses.

With the help of the JCP, these groups unified into a national federation, Zengakuren. The first chairperson, Teruo Takei, was a student at Tokyo University and a committed JCP member. The group quickly gained momentum, and by the end of 1948 it was active in over 60 percent of Japan’s universities.

At first, Zengakuren focused on defending student rights, opposing tuition hikes, and resisting the depoliticization of education. But very quickly, it became a leading force in national politics.

Zengakuren’s early campaigns weren’t isolated student protests; they were responses to the reassertion of state authority, US military dominance, and the limitations of Japan’s new democracy. Here are some of its most important early struggles:

Bloody May Day, 1952

Zengakuren joined workers and left groups in defying a ban on public demonstrations in central Tokyo. Protesters tried to enter the Imperial Palace grounds and were met with extreme police violence.

This protest occurred just weeks after the end of the US occupation. The treaty that restored Japanese sovereignty, the San Francisco Peace Treaty, also allowed the US to retain military bases in Japan. Many saw this as a betrayal of independence.

The crackdown revealed that, despite formal sovereignty, the state would not tolerate dissent. The day left over 1,000 injured and radicalized many young activists.

Anti-Subversive Activities Law protests, 1952–53

Zengakuren mobilized against proposed laws that would give police greater powers to crack down on "subversive" elements, a clear attempt to suppress left-wing activism. The proposed laws were modeled on Cold War anti-communist legislation in the US.

The protests helped defeat the legislation and marked a rare victory for civil liberties in a time of growing state surveillance.

Anti-nuclear protests after the Lucky Dragon Incident, 1954

A Japanese fishing boat called Lucky Dragon No. 5 was exposed to fallout from a US hydrogen bomb test in the Pacific. One crew member died, and many others became ill. The incident shocked the Japanese public, and Zengakuren helped organize mass protests against nuclear weapons and US military testing.

This laid the groundwork for Japan’s anti-nuclear movement which remains a powerful force today.

Sunagawa struggle, 1955–57

Local residents and Zengakuren activists joined forces to oppose the expansion of the US Tachikawa Air Base in the town of Sunagawa, west of Tokyo [see photo above]. Zengakuren adopted a unique tactic, appearing unarmed and dressed in white shirts to create stark images of police violence.

The strategy worked. Photographs of students being clubbed and carried off by police were widely circulated, creating public sympathy. The base expansion was eventually cancelled, a major win for the movement.

Anpo protests, 1959–1960

Zengakuren helped lead mass protests against the renewal of the US-Japan Security Treaty (commonly known as “Anpo”) which ensured a continued American military presence in Japan. This was the high point of the movement. Protesters saw the treaty as undermining Japanese democracy and sovereignty.

At its peak, Zengakuren had mobilized up to 290,000 students in coordinated nationwide protests. On June 15, 1960 a 22-year-old activist named Michiko Kanba was killed in a police clash at the National Diet Building, turning her into a martyr.

Although the treaty was eventually passed, the scale of the protests forced the resignation of Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, demonstrating that mass protest could challenge state power.

Zengakuren’s early growth was heavily supported by the JCP, which provided ideological training and organizational support. However, tensions developed when the JCP began promoting a more moderate, legalistic strategy in the late 1950s, partly to avoid state repression.

Many student activists felt the party was becoming too cautious, especially after confrontations like the Sunagawa struggle. They began to question the JCP’s authority and increasingly looked elsewhere for inspiration.

After the Anpo protests, the student movement splintered. Some activists broke with the JCP entirely and embraced Trotskyist or Maoist ideas, leading to internal divisions. New factions emerged, like the Communist League (Bund) and Revolutionary Communist League (Kakukyōdō), each with their own ideological lines.

In the late 1960s, Zengakuren played a role in massive university occupations and further anti-war protests (particularly against the Vietnam War and US bases in Japan), but its increasing militancy and internal rivalry

■ ORGANIZED STUDENT POWER, PG 10



Quartet Group’s roadmap to peace in Sudan is flawed: SCP

In mid-September, the Quartet Group of countries – United States, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates – released a proposal for peace in Sudan. The document outlined the four countries’ roadmap for achieving a ceasefire, ensuring delivery of humanitarian aid, and addressing the political situation with a view to establishing civilian authority and a transitional period within specified timelines.

The Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) is one of the key organizations in the struggle for peace and progress. It examined the Quartet’s proposal and on September 21 issued the following message to the Sudanese people.

At the outset, we affirm our welcome for any genuine effort to end this devastating war, which has laid waste to our country and displaced millions of our people. We also support every initiative that facilitates the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those affected by the war across Sudan.

The Quartet’s statement included a number of principles upon which there is broad agreement, such as:

- The conflict in Sudan has generated the world’s worst humanitarian crisis and poses grave risks to regional peace and security.
- The sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Sudan.
- There is no military solution; the status quo only perpetuates unacceptable suffering and endangers peace and security.
- All parties to the conflict must allow for the swift and safe delivery of humanitarian aid, without obstruction, to all parts of Sudan and through all available channels.
- The protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law and their obligations under the Jeddah Declaration, refraining from indiscriminate aerial and ground assaults on civilian infrastructure.
- The future of governance in Sudan can only be decided by the Sudanese people themselves, through a genuinely inclusive and transparent transitional process, free from the domination or

- interference of any warring faction.
- A call for an initial three-month humanitarian truce to allow urgent humanitarian access, leading immediately to a permanent ceasefire.
- Sudan’s future cannot be shaped by violent extremist groups that are part of, or clearly affiliated with, the Muslim Brotherhood, whose destabilizing influence has fueled violence and insecurity across the region.
- The cessation of external military support is essential to ending the conflict.
- Pressure on all parties to the conflict to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Yet at this critical juncture, it is necessary to clarify the following realities to our people:

First, certain members of the Quartet, along with other regional and international actors, bear responsibility for sustaining this war by financing both sides. They had the capacity to halt the conflict at its outset yet chose not to, placing their economic and strategic interests above the suffering of the Sudanese people. By prolonging the war, they ensured that Sudan remained a source of raw materials, a market for their goods, and a weakened state whose people might be forced to accept imposed settlements.

Now, having witnessed the widening influence of the Islamists and their dominance over the de facto government, as well as the opening of Sudan’s borders to extremist groups such as Daesh and other jihadists – alongside the threat posed by Iranian and Houthi presence to international navigation and trade in the Red Sea, which gravely endangers their interests in Sudan and the wider region – the Quartet was prompted to issue this statement, in defense of its own interests.

Since April 2023, numerous initiatives have been proposed by regional and international actors to stop the war in Sudan. None have succeeded, as they lacked enforcement mechanisms and genuine political will. Unless this changes, the Quartet’s proposals risk sharing the same fate.

It is, therefore, the mass struggle – through the political organizations and so-

■ THE SOLUTION, PG 11

