Joint statement by the Palestinian People’s Party and the Communist Party of Israel, 5 June 2020 signed by 80 Communist and Workers parties across the world including the CP Britain

The PPP is the successor party of the Palestine Communist Party and a member of the PLO. The CP Israel is a member of the Hadash/Joint List alliance, the fourth biggest party in the Knesset.

Occupation is Terror, Annexation is Apartheid

On June 5th 2020 it is the 53rd anniversary of the 1967 aggressive war when Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza strip, the Syrian Golan and Sinai peninsula.

This anniversary comes in the shadow of the Israeli government’s declared intention to annex the Occupied Palestinian Lands supported by the American administration, as part of the disastrous “Deal of the Century”. The means perpetuating the occupation, deepening the settlements and creating an official Apartheid regime while clearing the Palestinian people’s right of self-determination and preventing the end of occupation, the settlements and the establishment of a Palestinian independent state on the borders of June 4th 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return for refugees according to international resolutions.

Netanyahu’s government and Trump’s administration are pulling the region to the edge of catastrophe. They are both perpetuating conflict in the service of projects to fasten their joint hegemony over the Middle East. They are betting on the silence of the international community in face of these crimes – war crimes – as the world is preoccupied with COVID-19.

We, the undersigned workers’ and communist parties of the world, call upon the progressive anti-imperialist forces around the world to continue the struggle against this criminal Israeli policy and its callous and uncompromised support for imperialism in liquidating the rights of the Palestinian People and exterminating any chance to exercise international law and attain security and stability in the region.

Down with the Occupation!
Forward with the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination!

World-wide Covid deaths expose capitalism as a social system

Since our April Bulletin the tragic world-wide death toll from covid19 has starkly illustrated the contrast between societally planned economies and those driven by the imperatives of capitalist profit.

China’s death rate from Covid has remained at 0.3 per 100,000 – with no more than 8,400 deaths in a population of 1,400 million. Cuba’s death rate is 0.7 per 100,000 – just 88 in total. Vietnam’s remains at 0. All three countries have supplied massive amounts of medical aid to other countries and all have sent medical teams throughout the world. All three have also more than double the number of hospital beds compared to Britain. China has acted immediately and publicly to contain a new area of infection in a neighbourhood of Wuhan.

The EU could, in combination with the United Nations and the League of Arab States, mount a strong protest now to try to stop Israel’s plan.

The majority of EU members oppose annexation but there is weakness and division on what to do about it. There has been no serious attempt to confront Israel’s unlawful actions over time or to recognise a Palestinian State, effectively abandoning the Palestinians to Israeli controlled ‘bantustans’.

Annexation would challenge the EU’s stated position for a two-state solution by Israel’s contempt for International Law and the prohibition of acquisition of territory by force, resulting in a one-state reality for Palestinians. Some member states will push for sanctions.

The fallout from annexation threatens bilateral trade relations as the EU presently suffers from the ‘liberal establishment’ and the media in their continuing attempts to bring him to trial on charges of corruption.

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The European Union fails to act

CAROL STAVRIS REPORTS

The European Union has now been 119,000 deaths with a death rate of 26 per 100,000 in April. Italy’s is now less than Britain at 53.9 per 100,000. In India, with 12,900 deaths, the death rate is rapidly increasing – with the highest concentration in Mumbai – and stands at 0.9 per 100,000.

This is in stark contrast to the state of Kerala, under a Communist-led government for the past two decades and with a strong welfare state. There the death rate is 0.03 per 100,000 in a total population of 34 million. In Brazil, where the extreme right-wing government has opposed any systematic lockdown there have been 47,000 deaths – a death rate of 23 per 100,000. In Iran over 9,000 people have died with a death rate of 11.8 per hundred thousand.

The surprising outcome to long-serving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s seemingly endless manoeuvring has been the conclusion of a power sharing deal between him and his apparent nemesis Benny Gantz. The coalition was described by The Times of Israel as a ‘resurgent Netanyahu’ who ‘can advance annexation and has a guarantee of elections if High Court disqualifies him’ as a result of ‘his indictment on corruption charges’.

Netanyahu accused the Supreme Court as being part of a ‘judicial deep state’ along with what he sees as the ‘liberal establishment’ and the media in their continuing attempts to bring him to trial on charges of corruption.

The Times of Israel article concluded that ‘Gantz has merely handed Netanyahu at least another six-month stint as prime minister, during which the incumbent will further boost his current much improved popularity by quashing the pandemic, healing its economic consequences, and pushing ahead with annexation’.

Expectations that the most recent election had enabled Benny Gantz of the Kahol Lavan (Blue and White) bloc to oust Netanyahu had been dashed by Gantz’s reluctance to form a government that relied for its majority upon support from the centre and Left parties. Benny Gantz and his Kahol Lavan coalition had received the support of many voters (especially from the Druze ethnic minority) in the expectation that he would effect changes in the recently adopted ethnically exclusionary ‘Nation State Law’.

Gartner’s acceptance of the post of Prime Minister in waiting (set to take office in 18 months’ time) and Netanyahu’s policy of the unilateral annexation of the Jewish settlements in the Palestinian Occupied Territories on the West Bank, resulted in many of his former supporters denouncing him as weak in the face of Netanyahu’s mishandling of the Covid19 crisis and “moral rottenness”.

The Communist Party of Israel said in a statement that the ‘formation of the new far-right annexation government means an end to the two-state solution and the dismantling of the rights of the Palestinian people as established under international law and resolutions and more neoliberal economic and social capitalist policies’.

The ‘liberal’ newspaper Haaretz in an editorial warned that Israel was ‘Heading for a Shin Bet Polis State’ as emergency regulations had been enacted to control the spread of the coronavirus. The Shin Bet (Security Service) and the police had been given extensive surveillance powers to monitor the population. It argued that ‘Shin Bet’s recklessness in the occupied territories, the methods put at its disposal and its almost unlimited powers, with no real judicial and public supervision, are the foundation on which the state now leans in seeking to move these methods into Israel proper’.

It certainly appeared that chickens were coming home to roost.

The new right-wing coalition government is headed by what the Israeli media described as a ‘blasted’ cabinet whose membership has been enlarged by apostates from the Kahol Lavan bloc without too many of Netanyahu’s Likud Party being disadvantaged. They have even considered implementing a ‘Norwegian Law’ so that government Ministers would resign their seats in the Knesset being replaced by the next candidate on the Party Lists with which Israeli elections are fought out.

No matter how many times the Israeli political establishment shuffles the pack, they are playing with a marked deck of cards. Hopes for a just peace with the Palestinians will never come whilst the Joker remains in the White House. Even the normally compliant King Abdullah of Jordan has denounced the annexation plan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas threatened to withdraw from the security agreements that had been agreed in the Oslo
The new Iraq government headed by Mustafa al-Kadhimi was finally endorsed by the Apartheid Committee of the United Nations and during his time in London he worked closely with Britain’s Communist Party and YCL forming close links and building on the hierarchy of the LCS’s London Recruits in previous decades. He returned to South Africa in 2002 and was appointed Special Political Advisor to Nobel Laureate and former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, until 2004. He worked subsequently on plans for community development in Cape Town. These will be continued in his honour.

An ANC London Recruits issued a statement on his death. His integrity and strength, generosity and kindness - qualities critical in the fight against injustice - had not diminished with the years but had, rather, been enhanced. He was a man of principle and a man of stature. A man also of humour and good will.”

John Hunter, General Secretary of the YCL

In Iraq the struggle for progressive change reaches a crucial juncture

Front Line Solidarity

Iraqi Communist Party: early elections is people’s urgent demand

From Salam Ali

The new Iraqi government headed by Mustafa al-Kadhimi was finally endorsed by the Apartheid Committee of the United Nations in mid-May after several weeks of manoeuvres by the ruling bloc and a change of heart by Iran.

This important development came about more than five months after the previous Prime Minister, Adel Abdul-Mahdi was forced to announce his resignation after a massacre of tens of young protesters committed by security forces in the city of Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

Among the principal demands of the Popular Uprising, that erupted on 1 October 2019, was the setting up of a transitional government that would prepare for early elections and also bring in the class responsible for killing more than 700 peaceful protesters.

The obstinate refusal of the ruling blocs to comply with the demands of popular protests demonstrated the bankruptcies. An already deep political crisis was further aggravated by the coronavirus pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis caused by the sharp fall in the prices of oil. Worst hit by these two recent crises were the poor and low-income strata. Popular resentment therefore intensified, threatening to ignite a new wave of protests with far-reaching consequences for the country.

According to the Iraqi Communist party, meanwhile, there has been a recent upsurge in terrorist attacks by remnants of Daesh targeting security forces in some areas in three provinces north of Baghdad.

The formation of Al-Kadhimi’s government came about as a result of the current balance of forces, the dicing of ruling blocs to the sectarian-ethnic quota system and external interference in Iraq’s internal affairs. But it also reflects the new facts that have been created in the political scene by the courageous October Popular Uprising.

The new PM declared in the programme which he presented to the Parliament that his government is transitional. He mentioned a number of important issues that are among the main demands of the people and the Uprising.

The Iraqi Communist Party had elucidated these urgent demands soon after the eruption of the popular uprising last October. They started with the following 11-point programme:

1. Combating the coronavirus pandemic, tackling its consequences.
2. Protecting the suffering of the people, especially the poor and low-income strata.
3. Confronting Daesh and terrorist groups.
4. Conducting early elections and a.serviceful UN supervision and on the basis of a just electoral system.
5. Bringing to account those responsible for killing the peaceful protesters.
6. Taking firm measures against corruption.
7. Resolving the issues of internally-displaced people, re-establishing the fate of the forcibly displaced and rebuilding the areas that were destroyed from Daesh.
8. Dissarding the Deep State and putting an end to the role of militias and outlawed armed groups.
9. Adopting a new economic policy that leads to sustainable development, tackling the rentier state of the economy, diversifying it and creating new productive sectors.
10. Protecting Iraq’s sovereignty and preventing external interference in its internal affairs.

It is also quite clear that none of the promises made by the new PM, Al-Kadhimi, and his government will be achieved without popular pressure. His government will therefore be judged on the basis of what it actually achieves, in deeds not words, regarding these priorities and concrete measures.

Iraqi Communists, meanwhile, remain fully committed to the demands of the people and the peaceful protest movement, and to continuing the popular pressure, until their goal of abolishing the sectarian-ethnic quota system, and its attendant negative consequences, is achieved.

Salam Ali is International Secretary of the Iraqi Communist Party.

Africa

Affordable Tribute to Denis Goldberg 1933-2020 hero of the anti-apartheid struggle

Dennis Goldberg died on 29 April 2020. As a co-founder with Nelson Mandela at the 1963 Rivonia Trial he was sentenced to four life sentences of imprisonment for 23 years. He was the youngest of the defendants.

Born in Cape Town in 1933 and taking an engineering degree at its university, Goldberg was politicised as a child reading about the struggles against fascism in Europe. He became active in student life while attending as a student and was recruited into the Communist Party by Bram Fischer. During the State of Emergency of 1960-68 he was arrested and imprisoned for four months. When released he took part in the formation of the African National Congress’s armed wing, MK. He joined MK in 1961 and, as a trained engineer, acted as its technical officer. He was arrested at the SACP’s headquarters at Lilikese Farm in July 1963 along with Mandela.

On his release he worked in the ANC’s London office from 1963-93. He acted as spokesman for the ANC’s International Affairs Committee of the United Nations and during his time in London he worked closely with Britain’s Communist Party and YCL forming close links and building on the hierarchy of the LCS’s London Recruits in previous decades. He returned to South Africa in 2002 and was appointed Special Political Advisor to Nobel Laureate and former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, until 2004. He worked subsequently on plans for community development in Cape Town. These will be continued in his honour.

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John Hunter, General Secretary of the YCL

Access to clean water, for drinking and sanitation, is denied to a growing number of people in many countries. According to the World Health Organisation half the population of the world – an estimated 2.2 billion people – do not have safe water by 2025. Parts of Africa are already experiencing the effects of severe water scarcity – caused by a combination of climate change, the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, continued and unabated pollution of water sources, and urbanisation

Europe

Porto Alegre

Government of water

Liz Payne Reports

In Porto Alegre, Brazil, the 2nd World Water Forum took place from 10-15 April 2002. The Forum was a platform for emanating a new thinking about the necessity for a new paradigm for the management of water for the sake of the planet. A consensus was reached that the Forum might be the World’s Water Summit. It was agreed that the Forum’s final document should be submitted to governments for approval and implementation. The Forum was also marked by a series of protests against the Forum’s commodification of water. This took place at the March4Water demonstration.
Uruguay: the right-wing takes over
FRASCHER EMPIRE

Between 2005 and 2020, and following years of right-wing governments and dictatorships, a left coalition, the Broad Front, ruled Uruguay. The political orientation of the Front ranges from democratic socialism to Marxism-Leninism, and the Communist Party of Uruguay (PCU) is a core member. It has a strong following in the country, with a presence in all social classes and all generations.

Over the past fifteen years the Front has led the nation through significant growth in the economy, as well as a reduction of unemployment rates and the levels of poverty and extreme poverty. Under that government the country proved to be a successful model to alleviate poverty reducing poverty to 8.1 percent from 40 percent since 2004 and increasing the educational budget to “more than US$ 1 billion.” The leftist government was led by Pepe Mujica, a former leading member of the Marea Socialista and the Broad Front, the support of the media, and the implementation of labour rights as well as social rights including same-sex marriage, the legalization of abortion under certain circumstances and the expansion of transgender people’s rights.

However, in the elections of 2019 the Broad Front narrowly lost the election due to all the right-wing parties giving their support to the National Party, the support of the media, and interference by the US. There is a history of cooperation between the US government and the Trump administration whereas the Broad National Party, the support of the media, and the issuance of new immigration policies will allow for a new round of migration to start in the country, and the blockade on Cuba.

In a short period of time the government has demonstrated elements of neoliberalism to access study materials and bibliographies to stock up on cleaning supplies, medicines and food. Those in the military, security, health service, fire service, meteorological service, ATC, as well as most diplomatic personnel and international services can be exempted in appropriate circumstances.

Several districts of Buenos Aires have been working with the Frente De Todos (coalition of socialist parties: ‘Everybody’s Front’) during lockdown to supply canteens and picnic areas to the most vulnerable groups of people, particularly in the districts of Tres de Febrero and Vicente Lopez. In the city of Bahia Blanca, a bi-weekly meeting has been initiated with commissions focusing on human rights, gender, and discrimination. The communities are active participants.

At the universities of Avellaneda and Lanús, students have allocated resources to access study materials and bibliographies online and free of charge. A series of podcasts on the discussion of healthcare as a human right were also recorded and distributed. Activist political education and training continues during quarantine with a 90th anniversary of the death of Peruvian revolutionary José Carlos Mariategui, with readings of his essays on Marxism-Leninism, indigenismo, and the history of communism in Latin America. In the Barrancas neighbourhood, the Tejada Gomez Cultural House is maintaining support classes for primary children while schools are closed.

**Argentina – Left solidarity work under a centre-left government**

**ABBE RÜCKES REPORTS**

The government have been late in adopting the necessary lockdown measures, only implementing them in metropolitan areas recently despite having months of warning from experts. President Piñera ignored clear advice based on scientific consensus that the World Medical College on 16th March at a meeting called by its president. State funds are primarily destined for large companies: of the $3 billion from FoGAPE that is intended to guarantee banks the loans that they grant, a large majority has been tendered for loans to medium and large companies. The small ‘Pyme’ entrepreneurs and persons dedicated to various enterprises – the generators of almost half the country’s employment – are still waiting for government assistance and finance from those same banks.

The Chilean Communist Party (PCCh) have reported that lockdown measures have been left without income, or have seen their income drastically cut, so people are left without support and struggle to receive no help. Likewise, the COVID-19 voucher and the Emergency Family Income, which represent a very minor part of the government expenses but nothing significant.

Política

Cold War 1.5

FRANCIS KEVLIN

The May edition of the New European published an article about Lord Andrew Adonis interviewing Kevin Rudd, the former Labour Prime Minister of Australia on western responses to Russia.

‘Are we on the verge of a new Cold War with China’ asked the Atlanticist Peer. Rudd, a prolific commentator on Chinese affairs replies cautiously ‘Cold War 1.5’ citing China’s nuclear capability, ideological conflict, the evolution of the Belt and Road Initiative and simmering trade tension.

Australia’s ruling coalition has long been competent with the US war drive against China. John Pilger graphs ‘A Countercoup’ on 3 June stated that Australia is a ‘vassal state bar none: its politics, intelligence agencies, military and much of its critical infrastructure are integrated into Washington’s sphere of dominance and war plans’ and noted that in Trump’s current provocations of China the US should give Rudd’s reticence to endorse outright the intelligence that Trump was matched by NATO Secretary General and US Secretary of Defence. Rudd concedes that NATO does not see China as the new enemy but we must face up to ‘the country’s growing might. They are growing closer to us in cyberspace, we see that Africa, we see them investing in our critical infrastructure. And they’re working more closely with Russia. All of this has security consequences for NATO allies.

The smooth diplomacy of Washington’s Brussels-based stock puppet belies the rising threat. Conflict between the US and China is likely.

China is a threat to NATO and the US, argued Rudd. China is the US’s ‘tip of the spear’.

The 5 June statement of the Stop the War Coalition was very timely. The US has pledged to spend $1.5 trillion on its military, due to technology and to refocus the Marines from combatting insurgents in the Middle East to fighting China.

The moves by the British Government and some to the Labour leadership to endorse Trump’s anti-China policy do not need to be condemned: http://www.stopwar.org.uk/index.php/news-comment/3705-statement-on-the-growing-danger-of-confrontation-between-the-us-and-china

**Nicaragua – facing US sanctions**

**BELL LYNCH REPORTS**

The health ministry of Nicaragua has reported a rise in the number of cases and support the economy, most of which is for Covid-19 with 759 cases being the most recent reported number and a total of 43 deaths (0.7 per 100,000 against 34.2 per 100,000 in the US). The Pan-African Health Organisation (PAHO) have stated they expect to see an increase of Covid-19 cases within the central American nation. This has led to accusations of a government ‘denial’ of the severity of the pandemic or simple inaction from Ortega. The government has attempted to remove from the Chilean people a political orientation of the Front ranges from democratic socialism to Marxism-Leninism, and the Communist Party of the US and Cuba, facing the ire of the US – being referred to as a ‘Troika of Tyranny.’ ALBA-TCP have attempted to remove from the People’s Alliance for Progress (ALBA-TCP). All of this has security consequences for NATO allies, due to technology and to refocus the Marines from combating insurgents in the Middle East to fighting China.

The Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of our America (ALBA-TCP) has slammed the US for recent inhumanely crimes on the small nation. This sees Nicaragua, alongside Venezuela, Cuba and the US, being referred to as a ‘Troika of Tyranny.’ ALBA-TCP have attempted to remove from the People’s Alliance for Progress (ALBA-TCP). All of this has security consequences for NATO allies, due to technology and to refocus the Marines from combating insurgents in the Middle East to fighting China. This is not particularly well-covered in the German media. The big worry of the German monopoly capitalists was large-scale funding but, at the same time, the ruling of the German constitutional court. Looking at the German monopoly capitalists was large-scale funding but, at the same time, the ruling of the German monopoly capitalists was large-scale funding but, at the same time, the ruling of the German constitutional court.
Beyond the Blockade Education in Cuba

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