Sudan needs solidarity
The mass uprising of the Sudanese people has scored important victories against the al-Bashir dictatorship, but the country’s military generals are still clinging to power.

Quebec’s Bill 21
The Legault government’s Bill 21 claims to be “an act in defence of state secularism”. But behind these fine words, this legislation is a form of discrimination and oppression.

Failing BC students?
Supporters of public education were delighted when the anti-teacher BC Liberals went down to defeat two years ago. But special needs students deserve better from the new NDP government.

Why was Julian Assange arrested?
Comment on p. 6

No Helms-Burton!
The Helms-Burton Act against Cuba was rejected by the international community many years ago. Washington keeps trying to force the island of freedom to yield to US aggression, but Cuba remains defiant.
Ontario unions and health care critics slam Doug Ford’s policies

Special to PV

With Ontario’s population growing and aging, the Ford government’s April 18 announcement that it would cut hospital beds over ten years means patients can expect halfway measures to continue. The PCs have come up way short on the bed investment needed to deal with aging boomers, says Michael Hurley, president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions. The unions point out that Ontario’s population is growing at about 1 per cent a year. It is also aging and will add another 1 per cent to hospital care demand. 3000 beds is less than 10 per cent growth over 10 years, or less than 1 per cent per year. Just to maintain the current hospital bed capacity (over the next decade) 6000-7000 beds need to be built.

This is a loser announcement for patients, because what the PCs has actually told Ontarians is that they will cut our hospitals’ real bed capacity over the next ten years, taking into account the impacts of an aging and growing population,” says Hurley. Instead of ending halfway health care, this announcement confirms that they are going to make the crisis worse. Doug Ford’s one per cent solution falls far short of what is needed.

Some of these beds will be built through public-private partnership (P3) arrangements which syphon off patient care money into corporate profits. Ontario’s Auditor General has reported that P3 projects have claimed $2 billion of the province could have used to invest in public services.

“P3 hospitals are much more expensive to operate than hospitals that are publicly owned and operated. P3 hospitals have 1/3 less bed capacity than a publicly owned and operated hospital as a result of that inefficiency,” says Hurley. “This government needs to learn from the failing and extremely expensive P3s in North Bay and Brampton and commit that new construction will be publicly owned. Given the demographic challenges we face over the next 20 years in Ontario we need every hospital dollar to be spent on care.”

Meanwhile the Ontario Health Coalition has issued a list of 10 Ford government health care cuts to date:

* Cut OHIP+ so families with sick children will have to seek private coverage first and pay for travel and co-payments (June 2018)
* Cut planned mental health funding by more than $330 million. (July 2018)
* Cancelled all new planned overdoses prevention sites (autumn 2018)
* Cut funding for the dementia strategy. Let surge funding run out for home care. Surge beds are now closed without replacement, despite the devastating impacts of cuts. (Winter 2018/19)
* Cut and restructured autism funding. (Winter 2018/19)
* Cut provincial funding for public health by almost 1/3 (27%) and cut public health units from 35 to 10. (2019 Budget)
* Introduced Bill 74 which gives sweeping new powers to the minister and Super Agency to remove funding from the entire health system. (February/March 2019)
* In municipalities revealed Ford government plan to cut and restructure local health and community services from 59 to 10. (April 2019)
* Leaked document reveals plans to charge a billion dollars for OHIP services. On the chopping block are sedation services for colonoscopies, chronic pain management programs, and other critical services. Plans will be made this spring/summer. (April 2019)

The paid value of May Day contributions received over the past decade has reached $23,086, which represents 46.2% of our $50,000 target. This week we need a big push over the next month to get closer to where we need to be. The usual some of our quotas are raised through events held in July and August. Percentage-wise, Quebec is now in the running with $380 (76%) of their $500 target raised. Great work! Nova Scotia is currently in third place, with $550 towards their target of $700, or 71.4%. Nipping at their heels are Ontario, which has now reached $15,411 of their quota, or 68.5% of the $22,500 target.

The main place we need to pick up the pace is British Columbia. Donations from our west coast supporters have now reached $5,515, or 26.7% of their $21,000 target.

After the April 16 election campaign in Alberta (see commentary on this page), union supporters in that province have now sent $620, just over 20% of their $3000 target. Our editor Kimball Carus will speak at A People’s Voice Banquet in Edmonton on Saturday, June 1, with doors opening at 6 pm at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 11018-97 Street. (Edmonton, of course, is where Kimball began his early involvement in radical journalism, as a volunteer for University of Alberta campus newspapers. His first submission to the Canadian Tribune was printed in September 1972, a commentary on the federal election taking place at the time.)

Our Saskatchewan friends have donated $110 to date, or 18.3% of their $600 target. We have received our first donation of $50 from supporters in Newfoundland and Labrador, and another $200 from readers in the United States. Thanks for your international solidarity! The paid value of May Day greetings in this issue will count towards the provincial quotas; our next report will reflect this important source of revenue.

This year’s PV Victory Banquet in Vancouver will include a tribute to the centenary of the Winnipeg General Strike, on Saturday, June 15, 5:30 pm, at the Victoria Drive Community Hall, 2026 E. 43rd Ave. More details will be announced soon, but tickets are available now; ph. 604-254-9836. Please send in your cheques now. If you prefer, E-transfers can be sent directly to pvoicepayment@gmail.com, or you can make a donation using PayPal, by visiting http://peoplesvoice.ca/donate.

Contribute online at peoplesvoice.ca/donate

Here's my contribution to the PV Fund Drive!

Enclosed please find my donation of $ to the 2019 People’s Voice Press Fund Drive.

Name ______________________________
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Prov. __________________________
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Send your contribution to: People’s Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

After Kenney’s victory, the struggle in Alberta continues

(The April 16 election in Alberta saw the defeat of Rachel Notley’s NDP government, by Jason Kenney’s United Conservative Party (UCP), which elected 64 MLAs to 23 for the NDP, almost all in Edmonton. Fourteen Communists were on the ballot in Edmonton and Calgary, the largest number since the 1980s. The following commentary was posted by the Communist Party-Alberta on its Facebook page.)

The election is over – so now we will do what we do the day after every election - immediately go on with our plans to work with our allies and like-minded people in progressive movements to build the biggest and broadest possible militant defense of existing workers’ rights - put forward our ideas for the biggest and broadest possible unity among a program to extend workers’ rights and human rights - to extend the discussion beyond workers’ rights to workers’ power.

The election of Jason Kenney and the UCP is bad news for Indigenous communities, bad news for women, bad news for LGBTQ, bad news for the environment and bad news for workers - including the insecure and angry energy sector workers whose votes were courted by both NDP and UCP with promises of pipeline construction.

Both major parties worked to keep the election debate inside the bounds of the fantasy world where customers will continue to want to buy expensive and dirty tar sands bitumen, despite the economic attraction and the environmental imperative of renewable energy.

The NDP campaign, emphasizing social services and exposing Kenney’s profoundly reactionary record on social issues, was supplemented by an Alberta Federation of Labor campaign, emphasizing the negative effects on future employment if the UCP tax-cut and anti-labour promises were carried out. It wasn’t sufficient to win over enough additional voters to offset the newly reunited right-wing United Conservative Party.

The 2015 NDP victory arose not just from support for the NDP but from the fact that the right was fairly evenly divided between the old Tory party and the Wild Rose, allowing the NDP to take 62% of the seats with 41% of the popular vote. This time round the NDP won only 28% of the seats with 33% of the popular vote. However, the NDP post-election message is about their long term hopes for an electoral rebound, with no talk of engaging with mass movements in extra-parliamentary struggle.

Despite Kenney’s election night gloating, including promises to institute official government persecution of environmentalists, there has been no major shift in public opinion on social issues, and LGBTQ activists and their allies are planning mass actions to defend the safety of high schoolers in GSA clubs and trans-gendered people climate change activists are continuing their Friday student strike events, anti-fascists are becoming more united and effective. If the union movement and its allies can move quickly to provide leadership to disappointed energy sector workers, as their hopes of secure employment are dashed, we could see an upsurge in struggle in Alberta in the coming year.

Unite Against War and Imperialism
CanadianPeaceCongress.ca
The Young Communist League and the Communist Party of Quebec condemn Bill 21, «on the secularism of the State», introduced by the Legault Government on March 28. The law is secular only in name. In fact, behind the wording chosen to mislead Quebecers - even the most progressive - hides the true nature of the fundamentally reactionary, right-wing, and nationalist Legault government.

Under the pretext of wanting to establish rules governing the secularism of the Quebec state, Legault and Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness Simon Jolin-Barrette, prohibit the wearing of any religious sign by officials «in a position of authority», which, according to them, includes teachers, police officers, judges, etc. Although all religious signs are in theory banned, in a context of ambient Islamophobia, there is no doubt that veiled Muslim women are the first targets, which is also evidenced by the measure that anyone who wishes to receive a service from the State will have to uncover their face «for purposes of identification».

In fact, the real objective of this law is not only to divide, but to trivialise, illegalise and instrumentalisie the oppression and marginalisation of which the Muslim people are already victims, but also all those who decide to wear a religious sign (except perhaps a Catholic Cross, for which there will be no strip search, promised Jolin-Barrette). Moreover, we must not fall for the removal of the crucifix from the National Assembly which is only a maneuver to make us believe a service from the State will deliver these services is in a secular context. It only prescribes the neutrality of the state and its institutions towards religions, which means that laws cannot be based on religious considerations, that justice cannot be done in the name of God, and that public services must be provided to all without regard to their religious beliefs. Whether or not the person delivering these services is in a position of authority, wearing an apparent religious sign does not give any indication as to his or her competence and ability to provide the service impartially. Whatever their clothing, all the people who are employed within public institutions are carrying their identity, cultural and religious baggage. Nevertheless, they are able to distinguish between their functions and their religions in a secular context.

In fact, Quebec has been a secular state since 1960. It has been a long time since the influence of religious congregations has been allowed to be cited in public affairs. Secularism therefore poses no problem: it is accepted by the vast majority of the population and applied de facto. With Bill 21, the Legault Government does not make the state more secular than it already is. On the contrary, this law forces individuals and the so-called minority religions to adjust to the will of the majority, whose religious practices do not imply the wearing of visible particular signs. In doing so, it creates a flagrant injustice that runs counter to the very principle of state secularism, which requires that all religions be treated equally. Contrary to the Government’s contention, the law will not end the debate on secularism or strengthen the unity of Quebecers’ around «living together».

On the contrary, the law reopens the gaping wound created 10 years ago at the time of the Bouchard-Taylor Commission on reasonable accommodation, and maintained by the various political forces who use it as a diversion when imposing neo-liberal measures, austerity policies, or simply for purely populist and electoralist reasons. Meanwhile, identitarians, nationalists, white supremacists, fascists like La Meute, are organizing themselves and trying to make us believe that immigration, and especially Muslim immigration, would threaten the survival of the nation. With their speeches advocating the defence of the Christian West against Islamic influence, they, not veils, are the ones who, at the end of the day, present the greatest danger against secularism.

With this revised and/or augmented version of the PQ Values Charter and the Parti Libre du Québec Act 62, the Legault Government does not make a difference. While this debate monopolizes attention, the criticisms of the 2019 budget go unnoticed - a budget which, despite historical surpluses, keeps Quebeckers under the austerity imposed by the Liberals in 2014. Making the debate on secularism a fundamental societal issue not only helps to legitimize the most reactionary, identitarian speech, but also instrumentalizes the feeling of Quebeckers who institutions are struggling against oppression, to support for this Bill that it presents to them as a necessity for Quebec’s assertion before the rest of Canada. The national oppression suffered by Quebec in the Canadian federation is very real, and that is the real reason for the support of a significant part of the Quebec population to Bill 21, not, as the English-speaking press says, an alleged natural propensity to racism and Islamophobia. In fact, racism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia have the wind in their sails in all the advanced capitalist societies around the world. English-speaking Canada does not escape this trend.

However, there is a difference in the way the reactionary ideologists are articulated in Quebec, where the situation of national oppression can be exploited to facilitate their penetration into society and to foment divisions within the popular masses; without these divisions, this situation of national oppression could easily become a catalyst for social struggles.

Thus, we welcome the decision of the education unions (FNEEQ-CSN, FAE, CSQ), the CSN and the Conseil des femmes de Montréal (CSN) as well as the Federation of Women of Quebec who have not hesitated to denounced Bill 21, reaching out to all persons affected by this law and prioritizing unity of the working class in Quebec without regard to its ethnic origin or religion.

For this is what it is all about: uniting the working class and the popular masses of Quebec against their common enemy. As long as this common enemy is not clearly identified, and as long as it is not able to unite the Quebec working class is both Muslim, white, racialized, «pure-laine» or immigrant, this unity will be illusory.

In the end, we Communists will never forget that the question of class must be a factor of togetherness, and not of division.

Celebrate May Day 2019 in Toronto

98th Anniversary of the Communist Party of Canada

The Otto Rene Castillo Club invites you to join us to celebrate our 98th Anniversary.

Centre for Socialist Education 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver BC

Saturday, May 25, 2019, at 6:00 pm
We will have a speaker, poems, music, food and refreshments.

Entrance by donation
Organized by Otto Rene Castillo Club

Statement by the Communist Party of Quebec and la Ligue de la jeunesse Communiste du Québec

We will have a speaker, poems, music, food, and refreshments.
The dangerous world of work

Amid the corporate media’s narrow focus on certain types of tragic deaths – police officers or high-paid celebrities, for example – a far bigger story is about the dangerous work of the world. The International Labor Organization’s (ILO) annual report states that some 85 million people around the world succumb to work-related accidents or diseases every year – over 6000 deaths every single day. Worldwide, there are a shocking 651,279 deaths from work-related accidents and 160 million victims of work-related illnesses annually. Some occupations are more hazardous than others, and a few countries provide better workplace protections than others. But the message is clear: it’s risky to be a worker today, even after hundreds of years of struggles for improved safety on the job. Thus encouraged by the ILO are worthy. The turn back to capitalism in the CIS countries of the former Soviet Union allowed a handful of exploiters to seize enormous wealth, but the estimated annual number of older persons working and need special consideration, warns the ILO. While many die on the job, the gap between workers and the wealthy capitalist class gets wider all the time. Tech change was supposed to cut working time and make our lives easier; instead, the rising pace and intensity of both our physical and mental labour take a deadly toll. Profits for the bosses never tumbled to earn. Only under socialism will we be able to use new technology to improve our lives and protect the planet.

Yes, the working class is changing the world

Ever since the English trade union movement went through a lengthy period of relative “labour peace” during Karl Marx’s lifetime, so-called “experts” have proclaimed the death of the revolutionary working class. It’s a very beguiling, if obvious, notion. It’s absolutely true that the tactics and strategies of working class struggles adapt to changing times, ups and downs in the level of organizing and militancy. But life itself is the best answer to the accusation that workers have given up the fight for social change.

Look at the past year, to take just one narrow slice of time. Trade unions in Sudan are playing a magnificent role in the current uprising against that country’s exploiters and repressive military rulers. Algeria has also seen huge working class involvement in a similar battle for democracy and social justice. Some of the biggest mass worker and peasant strikes in history have been monitored against India’s fundamentalist regime of Narendra Modi. The “gilets jaunes” movement in France (unlike in Canada and other countries where they were, for the most part, worked by, among others, the US and European corporate-controlled media) has brought the workers, and the anger of the exploited, to the streets, pushing back in huge numbers. Even in the heartland of imperialism, US teachers and fast food workers are striking and protesting from one end of the country to the other. Nobody can predict the outcome of any of these clashes, or whether any of them will flower into a genuine fight for workers’ power. But these and other examples prove that the spirit of working class resistance is very much alive. 170 years after the Communist Manifesto changed the world forever.

Emile Schepers, People’s World

The Venezuela situation remains dangerous and volatile, but opposition to the Trump administration’s bullying “regime change” policy may be growing in the United States.

Since March 11, there has been a series of elections in Venezuela. The government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro blames the nation’s economic and political terrorism carried out by the so-called “opposition.” In the U.S., the Trump administration supports the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela against its government, while the U.S. government supports the opposition. The Venezuela government claims that the opposition is receiving funding from the United States, and some experts believe that the opposition has some support within the Venezuelan military. The U.S. government and its allies have been trying to overthrow the government of Nicolás Maduro, who was elected to a second term in the 2018 presidential election.

Meanwhile, the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization of American States have called for the ouster of Maduro. The U.S. government has imposed sanctions on Venezuela, including the blocking of its financial assets. The Maduro government has also come under pressure from the international community to address the economic crisis and human rights abuses in the country.

United States President Donald Trump and his administration have been trying to pressure Maduro to resign and create a new government. The U.S. government has supported Venezuela’s opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who declared himself interim president in January 2019. The opposition has also received support from a number of other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Spain.

Despite the challenges faced by the Maduro government, the opposition has been unable to gain significant support among the Venezuelan people. The opposition has been unable to provide the necessary economic support to the people, and its efforts to oust the Maduro government have been met with strong resistance from the military and the people. The situation in Venezuela remains tense, and the prospects for a peaceful resolution to the crisis are uncertain.
The strategy by Canada Post Corporation (CPC) and the federal government to weaken public mail delivery continues, according to the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. After its Corporate Plan was tabled in Parliament on April 16.

"The CPC has a history of projecting losses and then overperforming their projections, while using those projections to cry poor to the public and at the bargaining table," said Mike Palecek, CUPW National President. "This plan underscores the Liberal government's lack of understanding of the public system.

One of the most controversial moves by the federal government is the BC Teachers' Federation call for a "misguided proposal to change the way services for students with special needs are funded. The proposal, called the prevalence model, would move funding away from the actual needs of students to an impersonal statistical model that will put services to kids at risk.

Former Vancouver School Board chair Patti Bacchus wrote this in a Georgia Straight commentary last November: "In its 2017 election platform, the B.C. NDP promised to review how schools are funded. Shortly after the election, Premier John Horgan tasked his education minister, Rob Fleming, with developing a stable and sustainable way to fund the kindergarten-to-Grade 12 education system. Good idea, and to the government's credit, it's working on it. That's the good news.

"Here's the other kind of news. From the outset, unfortunately, the review process has appeared to have serious flaws. For starters, Fleming appointed a review panel that was senior-heavy to conduct a funding-formula review but didn't include any representation from the public. The BC Teachers' Federation, School Trustees Association, or parent groups on the panel. Although education bureaucrats have vast knowledge and experience, they tend to get to where they are by not rocking any boats or telling the government what they actually need.

Fleming's government instead of waving a red flag, is looking at the sustainability measure that CPC calls "the so-called "prevalence model" to fund special needs education. CPC wants to cut services, putting more services at postal counters. Instead, the union says Canada Post wants to cut services, putting senior check-ins, broadband, and more services at postal counters. Instead, the union says Canada Post wants to cut services, putting an extra strain on an already overburdened workforce. Where serious injuries have increased by 39 percent over the last two years.

The Corporate Plan language suggests that Canada Post sees pension payments and pay equity as the biggest parts of its perceived financial woes. "For decades, Canada Post has not been complying with pension law and exploiting women workers," said Palecek. "Finally, these women have just realized Canada Post is in no position to complain about following pension law."

While CPC depicts the pay equity settlement as a financial burden, the union says "for decades they were... exploiting a female-predominant group of workers."

"The prevalence model will also force parents to cut their child's services, reduce services to students. Fraser Institute, it predicts losses for Canada Post. We have long experience of our pay equity process and the hard work of our pay equity committee, they're not giving away with it anymore. RSMs have a right to pay equity, and CPC must pay them. They're in no position to cut that."

The Corporate Plan suggests that Canada Post will have to deal with significant changes to the pension fund based on the solvency deficit. In 2014, CPC got a new CEO, and a renewed board of directors on the CPC board, including a female-predominant group of workers. In 2013, the union said the government had to step in and make special payments to become solvent. "But, although Canada Post may sound like a lofty goal, but the cost will be significant. Parents have more time and resources to deliver services to students."

"The prevalence model will lead to fewer special needs assessments and diagnoses," responded Hansman. "Without that information, teachers will lose valuable insights at the start of each year when they begin working with a new class. If there is no record of diagnosis and support from parents on the nature of a student's disability or learning challenges, teachers will not be able to properly address that child's needs as they move through different grades. This disconnection in the name of accounting efficiencies will hamstring teachers' efforts to support all students."

"Moving to a prevalence model will also force parents to fight even harder for specialized supports and services. Families who can afford it will turn to private service providers, and higher airline and hotel rates. Whether children can't afford it, or they have a parent pushing hard in the principal's office, will be left behind." At their recent AGM in Victoria, BCTF delegates almost unanimously adopted

"The prevalence model would increase inequities between students and strip services away from the most vulnerable children.

Fleming put it this way. A number of districts suggested moving to a prevalence model based on the incidence of students in the population as an alternative to the current assessment and reporting-driven funding model... all agreed that this approach would reduce the administrative burden and provide districts more time and resources to deliver services to students."

"The prevalence model will lead to fewer special needs assessments and diagnoses," responded Hansman. "Without that information, teachers will lose valuable insights at the start of each year when they begin working with a new class. If there is no record of diagnosis and support from parents on the nature of a student's disability or learning challenges, teachers will not be able to properly address that child's needs as they move through different grades. This disconnection in the name of accounting efficiencies will hamstring teachers' efforts to support all students."

"Moving to a prevalence model will also force parents to fight even harder for specialized supports and services. Families who can afford it will turn to private service providers, and higher airline and hotel rates. Whether children can't afford it, or they have a parent pushing hard in the principal’s office, will be left behind."

At their recent AGM in Victoria, BCTF delegates almost unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the provincial government to terminate consideration of a prevalence model for special education funding; reform the provincial funding formula for operating grants to one based on the identified needs of school districts, an equitable distribution of resources, as well as the full mandate of the public education system; align special education funding with special education needs; and closing the current gap between what school districts receive in special education funding and the much greater amount spent; dedicate funding for early identification and designations of students with special needs and for in-service for teachers; and move ahead with significant enhancements to operational funding for K-12 beyond the funding increases associated with enrolment growth."

As the Communist Party of BC says, after the provincial Liberal government in the summer of 2017, the key roadblock to carrying out the CBC's policy was the NDP's platform that would be the refusal to even consider reversing the massive tax breaks granted in 2002 by Gordon Campbell. Since then, these gifts to upper-income earners and corporations have totalled an estimated $50 billion, depriving the BC treasury of about $3 billion annually.

The longer the NDP adheres to the neoliberal model imposed by the former government, the worse is the cumulative impact of this enormous revenue shortfall. Teachers, non-equitized school staff, students and their families will pay an ever more onerous cost, while Education Minister Fleming sticks to this reactionary approach.●
The real reason for the arrest of Julian Assange

“In war, truth is the first casualty.” - Aeschylus (425/4–456/5 BCE)

Last Thursday (April 11) London police dragged Australian journalist Julian Assange, dishevelled, sick and prematurely aged, out of the Ecuadorian embassy where he had been granted asylum for almost seven years. He was taken to court and immediately convicted of having previously failed to surrender to the court regarding an extradition order.

But the real reason for his arrest is that he revealed the truth about the ruthless pursuit by the US of its imperial ambitions, and in particular its war crimes in the Middle East.

In the 1990s Assange argued that the international struggle for peace and justice would be assisted by the total revelation of every government’s secret military and diplomatic communications. He decided to establish a firm which would become “the people’s security service”.

He found a very willing ally in Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning, a US military computer programmer who was disgusted with US military and foreign policy.

In 2010, Assange's newly-formed organisation, WikiLeaks, used secretly-obtained US military footage to make a chilling short documentary “Collateral Murder”, which showed the US Army’s brutal attack on a van in Iraq. The military had claimed the van was carrying terrorists, but the passengers were actually children and the attack also resulted in the deaths of two Reuters journalists standing nearby.

The short story was then released and it was covered in major press publications in the US. WikiLeaks then released a huge amount of classified material which revealed other abuses of human rights violations during US espionage and secret military operations.

Not surprisingly the US sought Assange’s extradition from Britain.

However, the help of Australian barrister Geoffrey Robertson, Assange avoided arrest. Activities, including a visit to Sweden he was charged, on the basis of dubious evidence, with sexual abuse and rape. He denied the charges, convinced they were an attempt to facilitate his extradition to the US.

He escaped to Britain. However, the British government then placed him under house arrest pending his extradition to Sweden.

He was offered refuge in the tiny Ecuadorian embassy in London, here he remained for almost seven years. But the confinement took a heavy toll on his mental and physical health. A battle for human rights

Because of international agreements Assange can’t be extradited on an overtly political charge, for example having endangered US state security. However, last Thursday the US lodged an application for his extradition, claiming he conspired with Manning and helped him hack into US government communications. The conspiracy charge carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment but the US could add other charges once Assange was within US borders.

He won’t be released on bail, and he faces a year’s imprisonment in Britain for having failed to appear in court in 2012. Appeals against extradition could take months to resolve.

He will face court on May 2 regarding extradition to the US. His barrister has sought assurance from the British government that he won’t be extradited. Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn opposes extradition but 70 British MPs have demanded his extradition to Sweden. However, because the US has already made an application for his extradition and Sweden hasn’t done so yet, the US extradition application would normally take precedence over that of Sweden.

According to Robertson, if Assange is extradited to the US and then charged with crimes against the state, he faces 45 years in prison – effectively a death sentence.

The fate of Assange is of concern to the media and would be whistle blowers. After all, it was Manning, not Assange, who leaked the US military information and it was the US media, not Assange, who published it. The conviction of Assange for having passed on the information would set a precedent for the prosecution of whistle blowers with conscientious objections concerning secret government activity which the citizens of that country have a right to know about, and of media organisations that publish information about that activity.

Manning and Assange fall into the former category. Neither was a revolutionary. Indeed, when Assange set up WikiLeaks his stated purpose was to expose misdeeds by Russia, China and countries in Central Eurasia. However, he added that he would also target abuses of human rights by western nations, including the US. His experiences provide a spectacular and tragic example of what happens to people who choose to do so.

The Morrison government, which shares the Trump administration’s bitter hatred of Assange, has made it clear it will do nothing to defend him other than providing minimal consular support during his trial. However, one option open to the British government is to extradite him to Australia, and if that happened our government could reject a US extradition application.

The new Australian government that’s elected in May must do everything in its power to ensure that Assange is released and returned to safety in Australia.

The Communist Party of Australia condemns in the strongest possible terms the arrest of Julian Assange. The arrest is on trumped up charges based on politically-motivated judicial processes. This is an attack not just on freedom of journalists but on the full disclosure of information that is rightful for citizens to know.

Assange’s WikiLeaks has been instrumental in exposing war crimes and other criminal actions of imperialism throughout the world.

We say free Julian Assange! Statement by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Australia, April 12, 2019
Without the Left, what will happen in India?

By Dipanjana Dasgupta

Asia’s most expensive and biggest election is going on in seven phases in India from April 11 to May 18. Across 29 states and 7 union territories, around 900 million voting population will participate. There will be approximately 10 lakhs (one million) polling stations, and of the total electorate, 15 million will be the age group of 18 to 19 years. People want a government which will bring peace in the country and simultaneously generate jobs and boost the economy. Considering the scenario before 2019 election is crucial for India. Why crucial?

In the last five years, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was in power. Narendra Modi as the prime minister of India made numerous commitments and fulfilled nothing. His communal and corrupted government has taken the country to a disastrous point.

Why Left?

In Indian politics, the Left Front parties are the biggest enemy of the BJP, and the only truly secular force in the country. In this election, they have nominated about 70 candidates in the 543 ridings of the Lok Sabha (lower house of India’s bicameral parliament).

The Left party’s main instrument for the election is to expose the BJP’s “communal and anti-people” policies and the masses. In the election campaigning, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said that “The BJP government has created a situation of undeclared emergency in the country and freedom of democratic institutions such as judiciary and election commission was under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. Those who do not support BJP were declared under danger. 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PEOPLE'S VOICE

MAY DAY 2019: Build a united resistance against the corporate attack!

Statement of the Central Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada

Around the world, May Day 2019 will be celebrated as a day of struggle for labour rights, peace, democracy, solidarity and environmental sustainability. May First will also honour the 100th anniversary of the historic Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. But at the same time, the enemies of the working class are dragging the world towards war, fascism and climate catastrophe, and a critical federal election is just months away in Canada.

On the international scene, workers are putting up a valiant resistance against neoliberalism and austerity. Over the last year, huge strikes and protests for higher wages and labour rights have been held from India to Australia and France and Portugal, and even in US states where teachers are leading the way. The people of Iran, Venezuela, and its allies Nicaragua and socialist Cuba are still in the crosshairs of the White House and the Pentagon. Despite its different reasons, China, Russia and Iran remain key targets of imperialism, encircled by US and NATO bases, and hit by sanctions and other threats. In the Middle East, apartheid Israel has escalated its war crimes against the people of Palestine, especially in Gaza where hundreds have been slaughtered in repeated attacks by IDF forces.

Despite Donald Trump’s claims to support peace in the Korean Peninsula, his administration imposes sanctions against the DPRK, and regularly threatens military aggression unless the country accepts his demand to re-impose capitalism.

Four years ago, the Trudeau Liberals promised to move away from the Harper government’s agenda of austerity, attacks on labour rights, and militarization. But in office, the Liberals have kept up the assault on Postal Workers and the right to strike, and accepted Trump’s demands to boost contributions to US and NATO aggression. Canadian troops have been deployed in Ukraine, Iraq, Latvia, and Mali, and Canadian military spending is up to 5% of GDP, adding manufacturing, including a billion dollar spent on unneeded light aircraft to build affordable social housing across Canada, invest in value-added manufacturing, including a made-in-Canada energy-efficient electric car, and urban and inter-urban mass rapid transit.

The capitalist economic crisis has brought the world to the brink of economic and climate catastrophe, and the dirty “regime change” campaign of sanctions and other threats. The richest people in the world are making an insurmountable offer of $20 billion up to the $35 billion worth of military aggression unless the forces that threaten our planet. Labour and its allies must unite and fight for a people’s agenda for Canada, around demands that can rollback corporate power and the drive to war.

The Communist Party of Canada is fighting for:

- Fair trade, not NAFTA 2.0
- Multi-lateral and mutually beneficial trade with all countries, including long term credits for developing and socialist countries;
- A foreign policy of peace and disarmament; get out of NATO and NORAD, cut military spending by 75%, bring home Canadian troops involved in foreign wars;
- Climate Justice public ownership of natural and energy resources; close the tar sands and transition to job creation by public development of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and thermal;
- Launch an emergency program to build affordable social housing across Canada; invest in value-added manufacturing, including a made-in-Canada energy-efficient electric car, and urban and inter-urban mass rapid transit.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA

BANQUET

CASA DA MADEIRA HALL

DELICIOUS DINNER
CASH BAR
LIVE MUSIC

UNITE AGAINST WAR & REACTION

- Expand universal social programs and Medicare
- Accepting Trump’s demands for a full pension and OAS to 60; introduce a guaranteed annual income at a living wage; increase EI to 90% of former earnings and expand to cover all job seekers including part-time and first-time job seekers. Enact universal pay and employment equity; repel the Temporary Foreign Workers Act;
- Expand immigration and refugee acceptance and re-settlement; scrap the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement;
- Eliminate tuition fees and make post-secondary education free and accessible to all;
- Protect and expand civil, social, labour, democratic and reproductive rights. Enact a Bill of Rights for labour, including the rights to strike, organize and picket. Enforce and enact anti-hate laws. Ban organizations which violate anti-racist speech laws, like Soldiers of Odin, La Meute, Your Ward News, and the KKK;
- On May Day, 2019, workers of the world unite! Build the fightback in the spirit of the general strikes of 1919, which advanced the struggles to overthrow the capitalist system, to end exploitation and oppression, and emancipate human nature. Working people will take control of their own destiny and establish working class political power. It is possible to save the planet and win a better world, and this May Day our struggle to win a socialist future continues.!

COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA

39TH CENTRAL CONVENTION

BANQUET

CASA DA MADEIRA HALL

DELICIOUS DINNER
CASH BAR
LIVE MUSIC

TICKETS $70

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY GREETINGS
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA, CENTRAL COMMITTEE

REDS ON THE WEB
PEOPLEVOICES.CA
COMMUNIST-PARTY.CA
THESPARKJOURNAL.TUMBLR.COM
COMMUNIST-PARTY.CA
YCL-LJC.CA
PEOPLESVOICE.CA
REBELYOUTH-MAGAZINE.BLOGSPOT.COM
SOLIDNET.OR

8 | PEOPLE'S VOICE | MAY 1-15, 2019
On May 1, 1919, the Winnipeg Strike broke out. The great post-war upsurge of labor had begun in western Canada. It swept the west like a prairie fire...

On Thursday morning, May 1, a convention was held by the Building Trades Council at the Industrial Bureau in Winnipeg. There were over 1200 workers in the trade gathered there that day. The situation was fully reviewed at that time as the reason why the council was asking for an increased wage of 20 cents per hour. Since 1914 the cost of living had been increased 75 to 80 percent. In the same period the increase in wages in the building trades amounted to only 18 per cent. The average work period in the industry was 32 weeks which, with a 44-hour week and a 65-cent-an-hour rate, gave the worker an income of about $915 in the year. A family budget, accepted.

...The bankers refuse to...
Philippines: harassment of education unionists

The Executive Board of Educatius, the global umbrella group of teachers' unions, has condemned the Philippines government’s violation of its affiliate the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), including death threats against its leaders.

ACT leader Raymond D. Basilio gave notice to the EI Board about the constant harassment and threats faced by ACT members and leaders, some directed at him personally. Besides receiving death threats on his personal mobile phone, one call coming during an ACT press conference on 11 January 2019, Basilio explained that the same call came to me and told me: “you are next.”

He went on to say: “I cannot sleep in my own bed anymore, I cannot see my family nor go to the union office where I am probably awaited by public forces. I have to change my email and contacts every two weeks at the latest.”

Basilio pointed out that “I could go to another country, but I will not abandon my members. I want to be with them. That’s where I belong. Public support and international pressure, such as that of Education International, is extremely important for us. I’ll bring them the support of teacher’s unions to help them apply pressure on the government.”

The union office where I am probably awaited by public forces.

Electrolux workers strike in Romania

The management of the Electrolux oven plant in Satu-Mare, northwestern Romania, announced on April 17 that the trade unions rejected their second proposal for ending the strike. The company blames the union for not agreeing to a “solution” favourable to the owners, claiming that the strike jeopardizes the factory’s future.

Some 400 of the plant’s employees, most of them earning around €2,000 a month, have been on strike for more than six weeks asking for a flat EUR 360 per month, have refused to do additional overtime, and have halted machinery production. The management has yet to install the necessary communication system at railway crossings.

As striking workers begin putting pressure to help them apply pressure on the company by taking their business elsewhere.

“We are officially out on strike,” Tyler Bickford, an associate professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said. “We'll bring them the support of teacher’s unions to help them apply pressure on the government.”

The state Supreme Court upheld the state government’s decision. Stop & Shop workers across New England walked off the job.

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The strike stretched out past one week, its wider effect on the economy was being felt, and striking workers themselves waited to hear if they have a chance to collect unemployment benefits.

As striking workers begin putting pressure to help them apply pressure on the company by taking their business elsewhere.

We think the fight against the big business and its parties is a year-round job! Our members are always

JOIN THE FIGHT! BUILD THE STRUGGLE! partyofcanada.ca

U.S. grocery workers on strike vs. Stop & Shop

On April 11, more than 31,000 Stop & Shop workers across New England walked off the job.

“We are officially out on strike,” Tyler Bickford, an associate professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said. “We’ll bring them the support of teacher’s unions to help them apply pressure on the company by taking their business elsewhere.”

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Mackenzie-Papineau Memorial Fund

The first Canadians (who volunteered) to fight against the fascists and nazis of World War II

S. Slup (‘Friends of the Mac-Pap Battalion’)
56 Riverwood Terr., Bolton, ON L7E 1S4
905.951.8499 ccfatoronto@sympatico.ca

Join the 2019 Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade to Cuba!

Experience Cuba through volunteer work, workshops, meetings, culture, travel, and friendship.

The 2019 Brigade is going to:
- Matanzas, a center of Afro-Cuban culture
- Viñales Valley, a natural wonder
- Havana, celebrating its 500th anniversary!

Dates: May 23 - June 6, 2019
Price: $1,100 (includes airfare to and from Cuba)
Includes all as Cuba travel, accommodation, meals.

Accommodation is in double rooms in central Matanzas.

Have questions? Need help fundraising?
Contact coordinator Sales Waizuddin
289 990 7683 chevolbrigade@gmail.com

May Day Greetings: The Good Fight Continues

Mackenzie-Papineau Memorial Fund

International Brigades in Spain 1936-1939 defending the democratically-elected Spanish government from the forces of Franco, Hitler and Mussolini

May Day: A Celebration of people’s victories for basic human rights!
Fostering friendship between Canadians and Cubans since 1977
Friendship is built by reaching out.

Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto

Greetings all workers on MAY DAY, and ratifies its solidarity with the Cuban workers in their struggle against the US blockade.

2368 Upland Drive
Vancouver, BC, V5S 2B5
Ph. (604)940-0420

May Day: Shoot and Lie: the IDF targetting of Palestinian civilians

Maire Clare Murphy, The Electronic Intifada

Last month Israeli occupation forces killed a 17-year-old volunteer medic while he was on duty in Dheisheh refugee camp, near the West Bank city of Bethlehem. Soon after, Israeli army spokesperson Avichay Adraee published a video on Facebook purporting to show the Palestinian youth, Sajid Mizher, in the video is wearing a white shirt under his vest, as is shown in the video. Mizher was wearing a black shirt under his high-visibility vest. The video shows how medics can turn into “rioters” in seconds,” Adraee claims in his post.

The Israeli outlet 0404 News picked up the video, describing Mizher as a “heinous terrorist” who was only killed after “endangering our forces.” The video is an apparent attempt to suggest that Mizher forfeited special protection afforded to medics under international law by taking off his vest and throwing a stone at a soldier.

But like most of Israel’s attempts to justify its use of lethal force against Palestinians, it doesn’t hold water. It is based on a lie, intended to cover up the intentional killing of a medic. An investigation by the human rights group Al-Haq found that Mizher had not been on the rooftop before he was killed.

Additionally, the figure seen in the video is wearing a white shirt under his high-visibility vest. Adraee was wearing a black shirt under his vest, as is shown in a group photo of the volunteer medic taken hours before a bullet to the stomach took his life, published as an appendix in Al-Haq’s report.

The video, which includes no time stamps, shows a rooftop in al-Walijah neighbourhood, according to Al-Haq. Mizher was shot on Dheisheh’s main street, 300 metres away from the rooftop shown in the video. Rather than throwing a stone – which would hardly justify the use of lethal force by heavily armed armoured soldiers, even if it were true – Mizher was “fatally shot while attempting to tend to an injured youth, as part of his duties as a first responder,” according to Al-Haq’s investigation.

“In this context, the targeting of Sajid Mizher amounts to an extrajudicial killing and an arbitrary deprivation of life,” Al-Haq states. Mizher is the fourth Palestinian medic to be killed by Israeli soldiers while on duty over the past year.

Israeli officials made a similar attempt to smear medic Razan al-Najjar after she was killed during Great March of Return protests along Gaza’s eastern boundary last June. The Israeli military published a video on social media showing a woman medic throwing a tear gas canister fired by Israeli soldiers.

The suggestion is that the medic, who is not clearly identifiable, was participating in a “riot” – the term used by the military to describe the context in which Mizher was killed – though she was more likely throwing the canister toward an open area to avoid tear gas injury to those standing nearby.

Avichay Adraee tweeted that the video proved that al-Najjar was “no angel,” while Ofir Gendelman, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office, stated on Twitter that “Hamas used her as a human shield for its terrorists who stormed our border.”

Like in Mizher’s case, Israeli military and government spokespersons made claims on social media to strip al-Najjar’s protected status as a medic and deflect responsibility for her death.

A United Nations commission of inquiry has found that Israeli sharpshooters intentionally shot medics knowing they were medics during Great March of Return protests.

In a recent submission to the UN, Defence for Children International Palestine states that public statements by Israeli officials, particularly on social media, illustrate the intent to persecute a group of people. The rights group adds: The Israeli Defence Forces Twitter account as well as the public statements made by high ranking government officials consistently describe the civilian population of Gaza as terrorists deserving of their punishment. Such speech “aims to create the narrative that the protesters are all terrorists and thus it is justified to kill them.”

Five years ago, Israeli lawmaker Ayat Shaked, currently the outgoing justice minister, published a Facebook post calling for the killing of Palestinian women and the destruction of Palestinian homes in which “little snakes” are raised. Shaked’s post, now deleted, stated: “They are all enemy combatants, and their blood shall be on all their heads. Now this also includes the mothers of the martyrs, who send them to hell with flowers and kisses. They should follow their sons, nothing would be more just. They should all go, as the physical homes in which they raised the snakes.”

Otherwise, more little snakes will be raised there.”

A day after Shaked published her genocidal call on her Facebook page, the Palestinian boy Muhammad Abu Khudair was kidnapped and burned alive by Israeli assailants.

And that same week, Israel launched a 51-day military offensive on Gaza in which more than 550 Palestinian children were killed. More than 18,000 homes in Gaza were destroyed or badly damaged during the assault, leaving more than 100,000 Palestinians displaced.

Israel tried to distort international law to justify this use of force, which killed entire families in their homes. As stated by the human rights group B’Tselem: “Israel insisted that the policy was lawful. This claim...is entirely unfounded, as it is based on an unreasonable interpretation of what can be considered a ‘legitimate target’, a complete subversion of the principle of proportionality, and instrumental application of the requirement for precautions.”

May 1-15, 2019 | 11
People’s Choice’ is echoed around all corners of the country. It has become the morning greeting of the Sudanese people. Therefore, under the continued mass action, the new military junta was forced to declare the removal and detention of Al-bashir, as well as some of his close deputies, such as the first vice-president and the notorious head of the National Information and Security Service, Salah Gosh. But the opposition forces continue to demand the immediate transfer of power to the representatives of the people grouped in the organization ‘Forces for Freedom and Change’. In their last statement they stressed the importance of the continuation of the mass action, especially considering that the Military Council which staged the palace coup is part of the old regime.

The slogan “Freedom, Peace and Revolution is the People’s Choice” is echoed around all corners of the country. It has become the morning greeting of the Sudanese people.

By Jimmy Doran, Irish Socialist Voice

The recent formation of Trade Unions for a New and United Ireland should be considered a positive development, providing an opportunity for a debate among those committed to ending the imperialist domination of our people and on what that new Ireland should be like.

We must reclaim the vision for a new and united Ireland, the vision as laid out in the Proclamation of the Irish Republic (1916) and the Democratic Programme of Dáil Éireann (1919). This is entirely different from the “republic” that was set up by the counter-revolutionaries from 1922.

If this is a genuine initiative to bring into existence together “the forces for providing the opportunity for the working class, north and south, to shape the vision for a new Ireland. The debate cannot be allowed to become a narrow nationalist one: Irish, republican or socialist. A genuine initiative, however, must be for providing the opportunity for the working class, north and south, to shape the vision for a new Ireland. The debate cannot be allowed to become a narrow nationalist one: Irish, republican or socialist. A genuine initiative, however, must be for providing the opportunity for the working class, north and south, to shape the vision for a new Ireland.

So it is imperative that the labour movement lead the debate. The trade union movement is the only union that is capable of bringing together all the working people of the country. Labour (as distinct from the Labour Party) has waited long enough to assert itself on ending partition and on a future all-Ireland democracy, and those are the interests whose interests it must serve.

These initiatives all start off small; but they have to start somewhere. This one can unite the class and have tens or hundreds of thousands of rank-and-file trade union members sign up to the proposal, forcing the leaders of unions to align themselves with their members instead of their “social partners.”

This debate must be bottom-up. And we must be prepared and ready for the challenge.

To be successful it will need to open up a national conversation for workers who have never been introduced to class politics or what the new Ireland could look like: the Ireland of Tone and Connolly.

It is an opportune time to clearly outline how the two political entities in this country have failed our people, both politically and economically, and for the new Ireland to look like: an Ireland of Tone and Connolly.

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If this is a genuine initiative to bring into existence together “the forces for providing the opportunity for the working class, north and south, to shape the vision for a new Ireland. The debate cannot be allowed to become a narrow nationalist one: Irish, republican or socialist. A genuine initiative, however, must be for providing the opportunity for the working class, north and south, to shape the vision for a new Ireland.

So it is imperative that the labour movement lead the debate. The trade union movement is the only union that is capable of bringing together all the working people of the country. Labour (as distinct from the Labour Party) has waited long enough to assert itself on ending partition and on a future all-Ireland democracy, and those are the interests whose interests it must serve.

These initiatives all start off small; but they have to start somewhere. This one can unite the class and have tens or hundreds of thousands of rank-and-file trade union members sign up to the proposal, forcing the leaders of unions to align themselves with their members instead of their “social partners.”

This debate must be bottom-up. And we must be prepared and ready for the challenge.

To be successful it will need to open up a national conversation for workers who have never been introduced to class politics or what the new Ireland could look like: the Ireland of Tone and Connolly.

It is an opportune time to clearly outline how the two political entities in this country have failed our people, both politically and economically, and for the new Ireland to look like: an Ireland of Tone and Connolly.

By Jimmy Doran, Irish Socialist Voice

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British teachers chained day and night to work emails

From the UK Morning Star

Teachers in Britain are being made to feel guilty if they do not reply to “how dare you” messages from parents, a union has warned. A survey of over 1,500 teachers, published by teachers’ union NASUWT, found that only 5 per cent of teachers did not receive work-related emails outside of school hours.

Teachers told the union they often receive work-related emails, including from parents and school management, when off sick or on maternity leave. Nearly two thirds (63 per cent) said they got emails in the evening, and 55 per cent before the school day began. Fifty-eight per cent received work-related messages at the weekend, and 45 per cent during school holidays.

Fourteen per cent of teachers reported receiving emails at midnight and 8 per cent at 1am. Twelve per cent said they receive emails at 5am and 40 per cent at 7am.

Nearly six in ten teachers said they are expected to respond in their own time, with 55 per cent saying they are made to feel guilty if they do not. NASUWT general secretary Chris Keates said parental communication apps such as Class Dojo were encouraging parents to think they could expect immediate responses from teachers. This was becoming a problem when kids arrive home and tell their mums and dads they have got into trouble.

“What a lot of our members are telling us now is that [parents] don’t ask the question ‘what did you do?’” Keates told journalists at the union’s annual conference.

“Immediately there is an email fired off or there’s something put on the app saying: ‘How dare you do this to my child!’”

“What teachers have told us is that there does seem to be a lot more parents not just examining what children are doing, but taking at face value what they are saying. And that there is a trend to getting an aggressive email when actually there is another side to the story.”

At the union’s conference on April 20, delegates endorsed a motion pledging to “challenge unreasonable workload demands on teachers”. They resolved to take “all appropriate action including industrial action” to achieve this if necessary.

Keates called for schools to introduce policies making it clear that staff are not expected to reply to work emails out of hours.

“Teachers are just finding the intrusion of those who manage them into their private lives but there is now an unreasonable expectation that they are available at the convenience of parents,” she said.

“What you will often find is the tone of a lot of communications is often far more aggressive than if you are speaking or writing a normal sort of letter.”

The boss will be watching you...

PV Vancouver Bureau

A recent news report on CNBC says, “The emergence of sensor and other technologies that let businesses track, listen to and even watch employees while on company time is raising concern about corporate levels of surveillance. Earlier this year, Amazon received a patent for an ultrasonic bracelet that can detect a warehouse worker’s location and monitor their interaction with inventory bins by using ultrasonic sound pulses. The system can track when and where workers are greeting guests. Walmart spokesman Kory Lundberg said the company ‘doesn’t have any immediate plans to implement the system. However, we are using the data responsibly.”

The article also cites a recent survey by Accenture in which 62% of executives “said their companies are using new technologies to collect data on people - from the quality of work to safety and wellbeing” - even though “fewer than a third said they feel confident they are using the data responsibly.” Yet the leader of Accenture’s talent and organization practice argues that workforce data “could boost revenue by 6.4%. This has encouraged workers to be open to responsible use of data, but they want to know that they will get benefits and return on their time.”

Euro Parliament votes billions for war corporations

The European Parliament has voted to support a massive budget for EU arms. On April 17, 328 MEPs voted in favour of a partial deal with EU ministers, with 231 against and 19 abstaining. The proposal was for €13 billion ($19.6 billion Can.) to be allocated for the European Defence Fund from 2021-27. Around €4 billion will be allocated to research and roughly €9 billion to the development of military technology.

“The establishment of the fund sets a major precedent for the EU, which has not funded such projects in the past. The concept of the fund was announced in 2016 by unelected European Parliament President Jean-Claude Juncker, a former prime minister of Luxembourg. Through this fund, a total of €500 million has been allocated to the military industry in initial pilot projects for the 2017-20 period.”

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London police arrest “Extinction Rebellion” activists

From the Morning Star (UK)

Over 120 environmental activists were arrested on April 16 as thousands of protesters resisted police efforts to end their occupation of key central London sites. Traffic jams and road closures continued for a second day as members of Extinction Rebellion (XR) stood their ground at Parliament Square, Oxford Circus, Marble Arch and Waterloo Bridge as part of an international action demanding that a climate and ecological emergency be declared.

Four activists chained and glued themselves to the underside of a lorry parked on Waterloo Bridge, where they slept overnight. The campaigners, equipped with blankets and sleeping bags, plan to continue with their action “for as long as possible.”

Out of the 122 total arrests made by midday, five were for alleged criminal damage at oil giant Shell’s headquarters. Further demonstrators were dragged away from Waterloo Bridge by police officers after continuing with roadblocks.

Officers were met with chants of “we are peaceful, what about you?” and cheers of support for those being removed. One protester was taken away in an ambulance after he hit his head on a police van and fell to the floor while being arrested.

Activists remained in high spirits on the second day of the action, waving colourful banners and playing music. More arrests are to be expected as the campaigners say protests will continue “throughout the coming weeks.”

One, who gave her name only as Hannah, said she would continue protesting until taken into custody as she does not want to see children of today suffer in the future.

“I am aware that people are suffering as a result of climate collapse much more than I will suffer getting arrested,” she said.

Scientist and XR co-founder Dr Gail Bradbrook apologised for the inconvenience caused to the public, saying that the activists “don’t want to wind people up. We’re here to get people to have a conversation about climate change. I have two boys, 10 and 15, and they won’t have enough food to eat in a few years’ time.”

Labour’s shadow chancellor John McDonnell tweeted his support for the activists. He said the disruptions “will be worth it” if “it moves us all a step further in tackling climate change.”

In the Netherlands, some 25 XR members also occupied the International Criminal Court in The Hague, calling for “ecocide” to be recognised as an international crime. They added that the “ongoing violence against the ecosystems that sustain all living things has been left unpunished.”

MAY DAY 2019
Burnaby Club, CPC

May Day greetings and firm solidarity to all working people in struggle for a better future in a peaceful world!

Defend the rights of migrant workers!
Lawyer Fraser Club, Communist Party of Canada

Power of the Many: Take Back Ontario Campaign!

• PSAC-NCR is part of the Ford fight back
• POW is a deep organizing program
• Building partnership with community
• In solidarity with labour
• Join the actions: oflevents.ca

POW is organized by the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL). The campaign is aimed at stopping cuts and to leverage our collective power prior to the next provincial election.

Join the resistance against Ford!
The Winnipeg General Strike and the formation of the Communist Party of Canada


When the First World War broke out Marxism was already a national force in Canada. The support of class-conscious workers was competed for by organizations representing three main trends, typified by the Socialist Party of Canada the Social Democratic Party of Canada and the Socialist Party of North America. The numerous local independent labor parties, the Canadian locals of the Socialist Labor Party, each corresponded politically with one or another of these three currents of socialist activity.

During 1918 there was a rapid growth of trade union organizations, and a rapid class-political activity. The majority of Canadian workers sympathized with the workers of the Allied powers and with the Red Army. It telegraphed the Canadian government demanding the withdrawal of Canadian forces and an end to imperialist intervention in Soviet Russia.

In May, 1919, the great Winnipeg Strike started, first as a strike of the metal trades workers, extending rapidly to a general sympathetic strike of all the workers in the city. The Winnipeg General Strike was a strike of craft unions, but it was trade union solidarity at a very high level. The Strike Committee became in a large measure responsible for the welfare of the community. Bread was baked, milk was delivered to hospitals, the city power plants and waterworks were operated for a while even the municipal police did duty—solely by the decision of the Strike Committee. In spite of the fact that the organizers of the strike were not prepared for the responsibilities that they were called upon to meet, elements of workers’ power developed. Public order was complete until the capitalists resorted to violence with their so-called “Committee of One Thousand.”

When the capitalists and their dupes resorted to violence, they should not have succeeded alone. To break that strike, Canadian capitalism through its coalition Tory-Liberal government resorted to state violence in defiance Of its own laws. When the minister of labor, Gideon Robertson, vice-president of an international union, telegraphed the prime minister that there were no legal grounds upon which the strike leaders could be arrested, Arthur Meighen replied, in effect: arrest them anyway, I will write a law afterwards to legalize your action. The leaders of the strike were taken from their homes, broken. Meighen “legalized” the outrage by an order-in-council which, later, was elaborated to become the infamous Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

Working-class pride in the solidarity of the workers of Winnipeg could not blind Canadian Marxists to the fact that the ideas represented by its leaders were wrong. As more and more of Lenin’s writings were translated, it became obvious to most of us that the line of policy fought for by the S.P.N.A. was more in accord with the teachings of Lenin than were either the dogmatic assertion of orthodoxy which screened the sectarian passivity of the Socialist Party of Canada or the syndicalist confusion and political sterility of the I.W.W. and the O.B.U. Simultaneously, the left-wing activists of the Social Democratic Party recognized through Lenin’s teachings the necessity for unification of all revolutionary workers in one party. By the summer of 1920 we secured our first copies of the Theses and Statutes from Washington. The U.S. government had them translated and printed in a handy pamphlet, as part of its anti-Soviet campaign.

There was already a widespread recognition of the necessity for the unification of the left in a party of a new type, the Communist Party. It was out of that working-class unity of purpose—not out of the fantastic schemes conjured up in the distorted imaginations of the Colonel Drees, the Maurice Duplessis’, and the servile hacks of the capitalist press, that the Communist Party of Canada was born.●

WHATEVER’S LEFT

Vancouver, BC

May Day March, Wed., May 1, gather 5:30 pm at Canada Post (Richards & W. Georgia), march to rally at Victory Square, organized by Vancouver & District Labour Council May Day Ctee. Followed by May Day social at Russian Hall, 600 Campbell Ave., until 9 pm.


People’s Voice Victory Banquet, celebrate the PV Press Fund Drive and mark the 100th anniversary of Winnipeg General Strike, Sat., June 15, doors 5:30 pm, Victoria Drive Community Hall, 2005 E. 43 Ave, for tickets call 604-254-0936.

Edmonton, AB
From Gaza and Syria to Venezuela, “voices excluded by the corporate media”, with independent journalist Eva Bartlett, Saturday, May 4, 7:30 pm, Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 11018-97 St. St. Organized by Edmonton Peace Council.

People’s Voice Banquet, with editor Kimball Cariou, Sat., June 1, doors 6 pm, Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 11018-97 St. Tickets $25/$15, call 780-934-7893.

Winnipeg, MB

Toronto, ON
Protect and improve public health care! NO to cuts & privatization. Rally at Queen’s Park, Tuesday, April 30, Noon-1 pm. Organized by Ontario Health Coalition.

NGHTSHFTS, events from May 1 to 24, hosted by Mayworks to feature artists whose work offers critical insight into the rise of the far right and the impacts of cuts & privatization. Rally at Queen’s Park, Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 pm, Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St. class solidarity, food & culture, speaker Mike Palecek (CUPW Nat’l President), info 416-576-1244.

CPC Convention Banquet, Sat., May 18, 6:30 pm, Casa Madeira Hall, 1621 Dupont (at Dundas St. W). CPC Convention Banquet, Sat., May 18, 6:30 pm, Casa Madeira Hall, 1621 Dupont (at Dundas St. W), dinner, cash bar, live music, tickets $30.

PEOPLE’S VOICE

DEADLINES

FOR THE ISSUE DATED MAY 16-31: THURSDAY, MAY 2
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO PV EDITORIAL OFFICE,
706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1
pvvoice@telus.net

For the Issue dated June 11-15, Thursday, May 23

Happy May Day 2019
Keep up the Fight for Jobs, Peace, and Socialism!

Love and Solidarity from the Sally and Chuck Davis Club,
CPC, St. John’s, NL

From G&O to Venezuela: “voices excluded by the corporate media” with independent journalist Eva Bartlett

EDMONTON
Saturday, May 4, 7:30 pm
Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 11018 - 97 Street
Organized by Edmonton Peace Council

VANCOUVER
Sunday, May 5, 7 pm
Mt Pleasant Neighborhood House, 800 E. Broadway
Organized by Vancouver Peace Council, endorsed by Venezuela Peace & Solidarity Committee.

Read Eva’s work at https://ingaza.wordpress.com and https://twitter.com/EvakBartlett
Cuba Refuses Activation of Title III of Helms-Burton Act

Declaration of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba

Today, the 17th of April, we recall another anniversary of the start of the military aggression at the Bay of Pigs (Playa Girón) in 1961. The decisive response of the Cuban people in defense of the Revolution and socialism resulted in the first military defeat of imperialism in the Americas, in just 72 hours.

Oddly enough, it is the date chosen by the current government of the United States to announce the adoption of new aggressive measures against Cuba and to reinforce the application of the Monroe Doctrine.

The Revolutionary Government rejects in the most energetic of terms the decision to permit hereinafter any action to be taken in US courts against Cuban and foreign entities inside or outside the jurisdiction of the United States, and that of intensifying the impediments for entry into the United States of the executives of companies (and their relatives) that legally invest in Cuba in the United States of the executives of companies (and their relatives) that legally invest in Cuba in the United States of the executives of companies (and their relatives) that legally invest in Cuba in the United States of the executives of companies (and their relatives) that legally invest in Cuba in the United States of the executives of companies (and their relatives) that legally invest in Cuba in the United States of the executives of companies (and their relatives) that legally invest in Cuba in the United States of the executives of companies (and their relatives) that legally invest in Cuba in 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