Alabama’s hounding of Marshae Jones and The Handmaid’s Tale: the face of US fascism today:
“The investigation showed that the only true victim in this was the unborn baby, it was the mother of the child who initiated and continued the fight which resulted in the death of her own unborn baby.” (p. 13)
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Revolutionary socialism
1. We stand with Karl Marx: ‘The emancipation of the working classes must be conquered by the working classes themselves. The struggle for the emancipation of the working class means not a struggle for class privileges and monopolies but for equal rights and duties and the abolition of all class rule’ (The International Workingmen’s Association 1864, General Rules).
2. In the class struggle we shall fight to develop every struggle of the working class and oppressed in the direction of democratic workers’ councils as the instruments of participatory democracy which must be the basis of the successful struggle for workers’ power.

Revolutionary strategy and tactics
3. We recognise the necessity for serious ideological and political struggle as direct participants in the trade unions (always) and in the mass reformist social democratic bourgeoisie workers’ parties despite their pro-capitalist leaderships when conditions are favourable. In fighting

the attacks of this Tory government it is now necessary to work within the Labour Party as well as within other proto-parties such as Left Unity and RESPECT that seek to present socialist and anti-imperialist politics in opposition to the neo-liberalism that is now deeply embedded within the Labour Party. We support all genuine left developments within Labour, such as the Corbyn for leader campaign.
4. We strongly support campaigns to democratise the trade unions’ traditional link to the Labour Party. We are for funding only those MPs who agree to and have a record of fighting for union policies.
5. We fight for rank-and-file organisation in the trade unions within which we will fight for consciously revolutionary socialist leadership in line with Trotsky’s Transitional Programme statement: “Therefore, the sections of the Fourth International should always strive not only to renew the top leadership of the trade unions, boldly and resolutely in critical moments advancing new militant leaders in place of routine functionaries and careerists, but also to create in all possible instances independent militant organisations corresponding more closely to the tasks of mass struggle against bourgeois society; and, if necessary, not flinching even in the face of a direct break with the conservative apparatus of the trade unions. If it be criminal to turn one’s back on mass organisations for the sake of foster sectarian factions, it is no less passive to tolerate subordination of the revolutionary mass movement to the control of openly reactionary or disguised conservative ("progressive") bureaucratic cliques. Trade unions are not ends in themselves; they are but means along the road to proletarian revolution.”
6. We totally oppose all economic nationalist campaigns like for ‘British jobs for British workers’ that means capitulation to national chauvinism and so to the political and economic interests of the ruling class itself. We are therefore unreservedly for a Socialist United States of Europe.
7. We are completely opposed to man-made climate change and the degradation of the biosphere which is caused by the anarchy of capitalist production for profits of transnational corporations. Ecological catastrophe is not ‘as crucial as imperialism’ but caused by imperialism so to combat this threat we must redouble our efforts to forward the world revolution.

Special Oppression and Racism
10. We recognise that class society, and capitalism as the last form of class society, is by its nature patriarchal. In that sense the oppression of women is different from all other forms of oppression and discrimination. Sexism and the oppression of women is inextricably tied to the ownership and the inheritance of private property. To achieve sexual and individual freedom women need to fight in the class struggle in general to overthrow class society itself. We cannot leave the struggle against women’s oppression until the revolution but must recognise it as one of the most fundamental aspects of the revolutionary struggle itself or we will never make that revolution.

We therefore reject the reactionary “intersectional” theory as hostile to Marxism, to the class struggle and to revolutionary socialism.
11. We also support the fight of all other specially oppressed including lesbians and gay men, bisexuals and transgender people and the disabled against discrimination in all its forms and their right to organise separately in that fight in society as a whole.
12. We fight sexism and fascism. We support the right of people to fight back against racist and fascist attacks by any means necessary. Self-defence is no offence, we support it. Two people might make racist/far right comments but on challenging them one might turn out to be a hardened racist/fascist and the other might be mindlessly repeating the Sun editorial. It is necessary to distinguish. It is a legitimate act of self-defence for the working class to ‘No Platform’ fascists but we never call on the capitalist state to ban fascist marches or parties; these laws would inevitably primarily be used against workers’ organisations, as history has shown.
13. We oppose all immigration controls. International finance capital roams the planet in search of profit and imperialist governments disrupts the lives of workers and cause the collapse of whole nations with their direct intervention in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan and their proxy wars in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, etc. Workers have the right to sell their labour internationally wherever they get the best price.

Revolutionary internationalism
16. We were and are for the immediate withdrawal and/or defeat of imperialist armies in wars like Iraq, Afghani- stan, Libya, Syria and Ukraine. Whilst giving no political support to the Taliban in Afghanistan, the Sunni and Shia militias in Iraq, Hamas or Fatah in Palestine, Gaddifi (as was) in Libya, Assad in Syria, the ‘Islamic State’ in Syria and Iraq, the theocratic regime in Iran or the Duvbush leadership in Eastern Ukraine we recognise US-led world imperialism as the main enemy of humanity and so advocate critical support and tactical military assistance from the working class to all those fighting for the defeat of imperialism as part of the perspective of Permanent Revolution.
18. We are for the overthrow of the Zionist state of Israel and for a Multi-Ethnic workers’ state of Palestine as part of the Socialist Federation of the Middle East.
19. As socialists living in Britain we take our responsibilities to support the struggle against British imperialism’s occupation of the six north-eastern counties of Ireland very seriously. For this reason we have assisted in founding the Irish Republican Prisoners Support Group and we will campaign for political status these Irish prisoners of war and for a 32-county united Socialist Ireland.
20. We fight against all forms of imperialism and so advocate critical support and tactical military assistance from the working class to all those fighting for the defeat of imperialism as part of the perspective of Permanent Revolution.
21. We are for the re-creation of a World Party of Socialist Revolution, a revolutionary internationalism, based on the best traditions of the previous revolutionary internationals, specifically understood, particularly the Third and Fourth Internationals, with their determination to combat and overcome both reformism and centrist.
Editorial: Chris Williamson in, out with Watson and Lansman

The re-suspension of Chris Williamson after the two-day lifting of his suspension in late June is an index of the supine and treacherous nature of the mainstream ‘left’, and the complete lack of backbone of Corbyn, McDonnell and Abbott themselves. With the reimposition of his suspension, the likelihood is that Williamson’s case will be forwarded by the NEC to the National Constitutional Committee, a body so corrupt and dominated by witchhunters, both of the overt pro-Zionist right and their Lansmanite agents that Williamson is likely to have the kind of rubber-stamp expulsion previously dealt out to the likes of Jackie Walker and Tony Greenstein.

This is an incredible provocation against the left and those who joined the Labour Party to support Corbyn and to reassert working class politics and political representation against the neo-liberalism and neocon war making of the Kinnoch/Blair/Brown period. The aims are clear: Williamson is regarded by many of the left as the rightful Deputy Leader to Corbyn, rather than Tom Watson who is just as crooked a liar as Boris Johnson, having gained election in 2015 by promising to loyally serve under the obvious winner, Jeremy Corbyn; he has become Corbyn’s most entrenched enemy and organiser of provocations, smears and hate campaigns against the left.

Momentum’s Jon Lansman revealed himself once again to be an outright enemy of the left and an ally of Tom Watson in seeking to overthrow Corbyn; his denunciation of Williamson’s brief readmission on Twitter illuminated his reactionary nature very clearly.

Likewise the joining in with this of middle-class fake left celebrities like Owen Jones, Ash Sarkar and Matt Zarb-Cousins; these petty bourgeois poseurs are epitomised by Sarkar who shot her mouth off to Piers Morgan last year: “I’m literally a communist, you idiot!” she postured. Well in backing the racist-Zionist campaign against Chris Williamson, she is now “literally” a scab!

This has finally dug Momentum’s grave, as there has been news of widespread cancellations of membership of this miserable abortion of a left movement since Lansman’s position became known. The bulk of Labour members are opposed to Chris’s purge, as shown embarrassingly when the very Blairite Labour List attempted a survey of membership sentiment around it: 61% voted in favour of Williamson’s reinstatement: only 31% supported his suspension.

If Williamson is expelled we say he should stand in his own seat, Derby North, in the General Election as an Independent Anti-Zionist Labour candidate. No one on the left should oppose him, and anyone who does stand against him for Labour will be marked in advance as a Zionist stooge and should be excommunicated by the genuine left. He should force his way back into Labour the way Ken Livingstone did after 2000. This could be an inspirational tactic if such an outrageous expulsion were to go ahead.

However, the purge could be headed off by a determined campaign by a reinvigorated left within the party. Williamson’s decision to go public and fight back is indicated by his speaking at the SWP’s Marxism on 5 July and in Liverpool on 22 July at a public meeting demanding “Defend and Build the Labour Left. For a socialist Labour government”… Reinstate Chris Williamson and all wrongly accused!

A victory by Chris could lay the basis to reverse all the fraudulent expulsions of leftists as the behest of the anti-Arab Zionist racist thugs who are currently gaslighting Labour’s anti-racist, pro-Palestinian membership.

We cautiously welcome the initiative by Labour Against the Witchhunt (LAW) and the Labour Representation Committee (LRC) to call for a properly democratic, inclusive organisation of the Labour Left, even though LAW itself does not have clean hands. LAW, like Momentum to a degree, has a record of falsely accusing some of its own supporters of ‘anti-Semitism’ and purging them, including supporters of Socialist Fight and LAZIR (Labour Against Zionist Islamophobic Racism). Likewise we support the call by prominent London Labour left figure Graham Durham for a new, inclusive left-wing organisation. But we are opposed to it being a mere network of local groups.

Any such body has to be democratically organised and have a central, elected body, accountable to conferences etc. to decide policies, otherwise it is danger of being subjected to the tyranny of structurelessness. The whole left must insist on full implementation of working-class democracy, which means no ideological bans and proscriptions against left-wing tendencies and full freedom of political debate. Working class democracy should be the principle which organises the left and the Labour Party itself if we are to go forward.

One purpose of Williamson’s suspension is a blatant piece of ballot-rigging by Watson and the Blairites/Zionists. By engineering the expulsion of Williamson, his most likely challenger for the Deputy’s job – particularly now that such challenges are now easier to make if not to win! – they secure Watson’s hated tenure in his job even though he has no mandate for his attacks on the left. The other purpose is to demoralise the left and hopefully cause large-scale leakage away of Corbyn-supporting members. Which is why no one on the left should resign from Labour. It is exactly what the reactionaries want.

Corbyn’s lack of backbone and opportunism over this is characteristic, and behind it is the traditional lack of ideological coherence of the Labour left. Trotsky wrote about this most perceptively in the lead-up to the General Strike of 1926:

“The left muddleheads are incapable of power; but if through the turn of events it fell into their hands they would hasten to pass it over to their elder brothers on the right. They would do the same with the state as they are now doing in the party.” (Leon Trotsky, “Problems of the British Labour Movement” (6 January 1926).

The danger of power being handed over to the right, of a new coup, is palpable today. The Zionists and the right-wing have joined in their attack on Corbyn just as the Tories are in a catastrophic crisis of their own, in the middle of a leadership election that looks certain to put in power the reactionary Trump-like adventurer and fraudster Boris Johnson, whose demands for a hard and likely no-deal Brexit are likely to tear the Tories apart and lead to a General Election sooner rather than later.

It does appear likely that the mechanism for a new coup in the Labour Party could be the investigation being conducted by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission into supposed ‘anti-Semitism’, which was the result of complaints from various racist Zionist MP’s and the Zionist fake-charity, the “Campaign Against Anti-Semitism”, which is in fact a particularly virulent arm of the Israel lobby, highly political, and aimed at destroying the democratic rights of critics of Israel’s persecution and slow genocide of the Palestinian people.

There are British precedents; the sequestration of the NUM’s assets during the 1984-5 miners’ strike, when a state lawyer declared before a court: “I am the NUM”. That was under Thatcher. But under the Blair/Brown government, we saw similar phenomena. In the late 2000s after Israeli attacks on the Palestinians in Gaza, George Galloway set up ‘Viva Palestina’, with the aim of delivering aid to Palestinian victims of Israeli terrorism in Gaza.

The corrupt Charity Commission, the same one that allows the so-called “Campaign Against Anti-Semitism” to wage flagrantly political campaigns in support of Israeli crimes under cover of charitable status, imposed its ‘regulation’ on Viva Palestina even though it did not claim or seek charitable status. It was then punished for engag...
Brian Higgins is dead but his struggle for a public inquiry into collusion by union officials in blacklisting militant construction workers goes on

We note with great sadness the passing of Brian Higgins at the start of June. He was a bricklayer from Glasgow, Shop Steward and Safety Rep for the construction union UCATT on many sites in Scotland and England. His file by The Consulting Association (CA) blacklisting firm ran to 49 pages which made him the most blacklisted worker in Britain. Brian had been secretary of Northampton UCATT and leader of the rank and file Building Worker Group for many years.

He was one of the major figures in the fight against the blacklisting of trade unionists by construction companies. Blacklist Support Group spokesman Dave Smith said: “It is undeniable that Brian was one of the leading rank-and-file industrial militants of his generation, who had a significant impact on trade unionism in the construction industry.”

A motion in the Scottish Parliament tabled by Labour MSP Neil Findlay called Mr Higgins a “working-class hero,” but said that he had been “denied justice” due to delays in various inquiries and investigations into blacklisting. In an article in The Guardian during the Unite General Secretary election campaign in 2017 Rob Evans on 4 Apr 2017 states: “According to signed statements by managers involved in running the blacklist, trade union officials helped to get some of their own members excluded from jobs as they wanted to prevent disruption on industrial sites. Files from the blacklist show that trade union officials described individual workers as “militant”, a “troublemaker”, or with a warning to be “careful”.

“Evidence of the apparent collusion between trade union officials and managers has led a group of 41 blacklisted workers to call on Unite to commission an independent inquiry into the claims. They said officials working for Unite, and another union that has merged with Unite (UCATT), have been implicated in what amounts to a “running sore” for the trade union movement. “We are not looking for a witch hunt, we simply want answers into possible union collusion in order to avoid repeating mistakes of the past,” they added. “Len McCluskey said that if he was re-elected, he would “set up an independent union inquiry to investigate all evidence made available” to him about any officer collusion. “I will not allow any officer who has colluded in blacklisting to work for Unite;” he said.

“Unite’s acting general secretary, Gail Cartmail, said: “Only a full public inquiry with judicial authority will fully explain the depth to which the state and employers colluded to deny construction workers employment. Unite has campaigned legally, industrially and politically to win justice for blacklisted workers and to ensure the disgusting practice of blacklisting is ended once and for all. Blacklisting is an industrial crime, the blame for which lays squarely at the door of the construction companies.”

“Daniel O’Sullivan, who was once chairman of the secret agency that operated the blacklist, worked for more than 30 years until 2008 as a manager in the construction industry. He said that as part of his job, he had meetings with senior union officials. These included representatives from Unite and the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT), which has merged with Unite.

“O’Sullivan said his discussions “made clear to me that the union officials were also concerned to prevent unnecessary disruption on site. Occasionally, union officials would give me information concerning a particular individual”. He gave as an example a worker who was described on his file in 2005 as a “troublemaker” by a union official.” [1]

QUOTE ENDS

We therefore demand that, in memory of this heroic class fighter, this “independent or full public enquiry” as promised by Len McCluskey and Gail Cartmail over two years ago, be initiated by Unite as soon as possible in order to expunge this “running sore” from the trade union movement.

Gerry Downing Chair LE RM002 North London Retired Members

Notes

officials face allegations of collusion over blacklisted workers, Files revealed during high court action show some employees were labelled ‘troublesome’ by union staff and were denied work by companies, https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/apr/04/unite-officials-face-allegations-of-collusion-with-firms-that-are-blacklisting-activists

Gerry Downing It was my great privilege to have know Brian and stood on picket lines with him on a few occasions. His words and actions were often controversial but I supported all of them, particularly the south London direct labour pickets and the ongoing fight to drive out of the unions all those officials who participated in the Blacklist. And we know who they are. Why are they still in post, still blacklisting? It is up to us to fight that battle in memory of Brian’s heroic struggles.

Leon Trotsky: I am confident of the victory of the Fourth International; Go Forward!
DEAR COMRADES OF THE LABOUR LEFT,

The suspension of Peter Willsman, for saying something that is provenly true and on film (In Al Jazeera’s documentary The Lobby), that the Israeli Embassy is actively sponsoring activities within the Labour Party aiming at undermining and destroying the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, is so brazen that there has to be a response from the left. If this is allowed to pass without some kind of serious resistance, then anything can be done to Corbyn and his supporters with impunity by the Zionist witchhunters.

Proof is no defence. Even if you can prove that your accusers are corrupt liars, you will still be suspended and marked for later expulsion from Labour if you speak the truth in any way. The attacks on Lisa Forbes, the victorious Labour candidate in the Peterborough by-election, are of the same brazen ilk. She was denounced as an anti-Semite by corrupt racists like Margaret Hodge and Jess Phillips simply for ‘liking’ a FB item expressing outrage at the massacre of Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Even more brazenly and outrageously, the Jewish Labour Movement called for Lisa Forbes to be suspended and the whip withdrawn for having signed a statement opposing the adoption of the IHRA definition of ‘anti-Semitism’, whose movers aim to ban anti-racist criticism of Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people as ‘anti-Semitic’. So not only is the IHRA to be used to ban such criticism as ‘anti-Semitic’, but opposition to the adoption of the fake definition itself is also to be deemed ‘anti-Semitic’ also.

The JLM is a totalitarian, racist organisation

This is a perfect totalitarian formula, which brooks no opposition or criticism whatsoever. In our view the response of the Labour left to this should be to state openly that the Jewish Labour Movement is a totalitarian racist organisation that needs to be smashed.

But more needs to be said, and done, than mere pronouncement. The expulsions and purges of long time leftists put capable people into prolonged limbo, a kind of purgatory, indefinitely. We need to counter this and force the reactionary role of Labour’s Zionist Fifth Column to the attention of the whole labour movement, and indeed the public as a whole. The expulsions are meant to immobilise our people semi-permanently.

We need a new left body to deal with this. We propose that expelled members of Labour should organise themselves in a Labour Anti-Zionist External Tendency, whose purpose is not to build a separate party from Labour, but to fight to get the party on the straight and narrow through the purging of Zionist racists, the supporters of the JLM, the Labour Friends of Israel, and Progress, and the reinstatement and re-integration of those anti-Zionists expelled, suspended and driven out.

Until this is done, the expelled members in particular, who have nothing to lose, should target Labour’s Zionist traitors, the likes of Watson, Hodge, Ellman, Phillipps, Smeeth, the Eagles, Creasey etc for prominent public attacks. One way of amplifying that would be for the putative Labour Anti-Zionist External Tendency (LAZET?) to stand Independent Anti-Zionist Labour candidates against the traitorous Zionists.

So would it not be good if Tony Greenstein were able to stand against Louise Ellman? Tony was expelled and smeared as ‘anti-Semitic’ for denouncing her defence of Israeli abuse of Palestinian children.

Would it not be good if Marc Wadsworth were to stand against Ruth Smeeth, the racist whose allegations of ‘anti-Semitism’ can be seen to be lies by anyone with an ounce of integrity who watched the video of his challenging her collaboration with the racist Tory Daily Telegraph at the Chakrabarti report press conference in 2016.

Would it not be great if Ken Livingstone were to challenge Hodge over her disgusting attack on Corbyn as a ‘fucking racist anti-Semite’ which ought to have not only led to her expulsion from the party but also a party-funded libel suit against her on Corbyn’s behalf? Or for Jackie Walker to challenge Stella Creasy? Or Gerry Downing of Socialist Fight to challenge Tom Watson? These are all possibilities.

The point is that the purged left needs to stand up and fight back against the creeping purge of Corbyn supporters, critical and less so, that is underway. These challenges should be carefully targeted to cause the maximum public challenge to these political figures not least because if Labour does win the General Election, they will be plotting with the likes of Pompeo and the Israeli Embassy to destroy Corbyn in office and replace him with a Blairite/Zionist.

At the same time these very few candidates, no more than say half-a-dozen, must be very clear in our call for a Labour vote in every other constituency, and for a Labour victory in the general election.

We cannot go quietly in this attempt to sabotage what was originally the most promising left-wing development in the Labour Party for a century. The left needs to show some aggression back to the Zionists to prepare for the battles to come.

Fraternally,

Socialist Fight. ▲

Open letter to the left regarding the ‘anti-Semitism’ smear in Labour

DEAR COMRADES OF THE LABOUR LEFT,

The suspension of Peter Willsman, for saying something that is provenly true and on film (In Al Jazeera’s documentary The Lobby), that the Israeli Embassy is actively sponsoring activities within the Labour Party aiming at undermining and destroying the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, is so brazen that there has to be a response from the left. If this is allowed to pass without some kind of serious resistance, then anything can be done to Corbyn and his supporters with impunity by the Zionist witchhunters.

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Fraternally,

Socialist Fight. ▲
Political Status for all Irish Republican prisoners! Free Brendan McConville and John Paul Wotton, no extradition to Lithuania for Liam Campbell!

Lyra McKee, From page 7 ▶

And in that letter lies the essence of the Good Friday Agreement. If you accept the occupation of the six north eastern counties of the Irish nation and the Loyalist veto on Irish reunification you may have limited rights and aspiration to equality — if you are middle class and can afford it. If you are working class and nationalist like Derry’s youth you get nothing, even less than Loyalist workers, who are in the main the defenders of the status quo which oppresses themselves.

In a document published by the Saville Inquiry dated 7 January 1972, General Sir Robert Ford Commander Land Forces, Northern Ireland (now dead), declared himself ‘disturbed’ by the attitude of army and police chiefs in Derry and added:

“I am coming to the conclusion that the minimum force necessary to achieve a restoration of law and order is to shoot selected ringleaders amongst the DYH (Derry Young Hooligans).”

He claimed not to remember this memo at the hearing, and he wasn’t pressed on it, but he did just that three weeks later. Seven of the murdered were indeed Derry teenagers, but not hooligans, peaceful demonstrators demanding their civil rights like the Derry teenagers who confronted the PSNI on March 18th.

As the Ballad of Joe McDonnell says:
And you dare to call me a terrorist
While you looked down your gun
When I think of all the deeds that you had done
You had plundered many nations divided many lands
You had terrorised their peoples you ruled with an iron hand
And you brought this reign of terror to my land

Signed John Carty, Chair
Gerry Downing, Secretary
Irish Republican Prisoners Support Group.

24-4-2019 ▲

Irish Republican Prisoners News POWs 2019

Castlerega Prison
Harristown
Castlerega
Roscommon
Eugene Kelly
Darren Gleeson
Eddie O’Brien
Dean Evans
Portlaoise Gaol
Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co Laois
Ireland
C2
Colin Casey
Daniel Hegarty
E1 Portlaoise
Dónall Billings
Sharif Kelly
Vincent Banks
Jonathan Hawthorn
Frank Murphy
Michael McDermott
E2
Charles Anthony Deery
Garret Mulley
Ryan Glennon
Joe Cassidy
E3 & E4
Philip Barney McKevitt
Patrick Brennan
Stephen Hendrick
Dean Byrne
Dónal Ó Coisdealbha
Edward McGrath
Connor Hughes
Darren Fox
Conan Murphy
James Smithers
Joe Walsh
Seán Walsh
Mick Gilmartin
Martin McHale
David Murray
Dylan Cahill
Jim Smyth
Colm Mannion
Brian Mannion
Kevin Braney
Ciara Maguire
Robert Day
Julian Flohr
Kevin Hannaway
Seán Hannaway
David Nooney
Conor Metcalfe
Damián Metcalfe
John Brock
Martin Manning
John Roche
Deelan McDermott
John O’Brien
Dóchas Centre
Mountjoy Prison
North Circular Road
Dublin 7, Ireland.
Ursula Ni Shionnáin
Maghaberry Prison,
Old Road, Ballinderry
Upper, Lisburn,
BT28 2PT, Ireland
Roe 3
Conor Hughes
Ciára McLaughlin
Kevin McLaughlin
Roe 4
Luke O’Neill
Brendan McConville
Darren Poleen
Seán McVeigh
Gavin Coyle
Patrick O’Neill
Matt Johnston
Geraldur Burleigh
Quoile House
Brian Walsh
Mark McGann
Seamus McLaughlin
Barry Petticrew
Erne House
John Paul Wotton
Lagan House
Sean McGaw
Stephen McCullagh
Limerick Prison, Mulgrave Street, Limerick
Rose Lynch
(not on IRPN list)
The Irish Republican Support Group expresses our deepest sympathies for the family and friends of Lyra McKee tragically accidentally killed when she was standing behind a police vehicle on the Creggan estate on April 18.

A Saoradh Statement on April 19 also said, “This outcome is heart-breaking, and we extend our sincerest sympathy to the family, friends and loved ones of the deceased”.

But it put the accident in its proper context, as the NIRA did: “Last night, in the latest in a series of attacks, heavily armed Crown Forces were sent into Creggan to attack Republicans in advance of upcoming Easter Rising Commemorations. The purpose of this incursion has been confirmed this morning by PSNI/RUC Commander Mark Hamilton. As per usual, nothing was found, and this incursion was utterly futile and pointless.”

“The Crown Forces have waged a campaign of oppression in Republican Derry and the community has endured ongoing State Violence in the area, with deafening silence from the political establishment representatives in the area. Saoradh has not shied away from highlighting this, including attacks on our members. In doing so we have continually given our analysis that this oppression would inevitably be met with resistance, as has historically been the case.”

“The inevitable reaction to such an incursion was resistance from the youth of Creggan. The blame for last night lies squarely at the feet of the British Crown Forces, who sought to grab headlines and engineered confrontation with the community.”

During this attack on the community, a Republican Volunteer attempted to defend people from the PSNI/RUC. Tragically a young journalist covering the events, Lyra McKee, was killed accidentally while standing behind armed Crown Force personnel and armoured vehicles.”

The IRPSG expresses our full solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggles in Ireland and make a sharp differentiation between Republican fighters against British occupation of the six north eastern counties of Ireland, the British Army, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and Loyalist defenders of that occupation. We support the Republican anti-imperialist struggles waged by all “dissident” groups whilst disagreeing with some of their methods and fighting for socialist working class leadership of those struggles. Unconditional but critical support from socialists is the great principle for those waging anti-imperialist struggles, and in these circumstances of hypocritical witchhunting by former Republicans and others who defend British occupation and the Loyalist veto the emphasis will be on the “unconditional” and the “critical” we will state but leave to better days.

The Loyalist veto is a concession to Orange Order supremacist ideology and the traditional ‘croppy lie down’. That cry of the Orange marching season voices the old fear of the French Revolution of the Church of Ireland Protestant Ascendancy bigots in 1798. That cry recognises the revolutionary potential of the struggle against British imperialism in Ireland but seeks to defeat it. To seek to unite Protestant and Catholic workers in a syndicalist manner regardless of their allegiance or opposition to British imperialism has never worked in the past and will not work now.

The IRPSG fights for political status for all Irish Republican prisoners in jails in the north of Ireland and the Irish Republic, principally Maghaberry and Portlaoise. Political status is denied in Maghaberry in an outrageous way, that belies the promises of the Good Friday Agreement. Before that 1998 Agreement Republican prisoners could learn the Irish language, play Gaelic games of hurling, football, camogie, handball and wear the Ester Lilly to commemorate the 1916 uprising in order to persuade them that they would be equal citizens after the Agreement was signed. But in 2016 the IRPWA reports discrimination against all aspects of Irish cultural identity in Maghaberry. On 05/10/2016 a prison governor responded to a solicitor’s letter stating: “The Northern Ireland Prison Service has over recent months been required to remove such (sic) inflammatory items such as Irish tricolours and signs erected by prisoners in Irish.” This is a response to a challenge regarding a printed issue the ‘Scairt Amach’ magazine which was refused although it was composed in the jail to begin with. It is clear, however, that the Irish language and national flag are ‘inflammatory’.

In response to a challenge regarding CD’s being denied entry on 07/07/2016 the security governor wrote: “Several songs included in the CD your client has requested are inextricably linked to the 1916 Ris-
A delegation of 15 comrades from Grand Bretagne (Britain) (from Socialist Fight [8 Comrades] and Workers Fight, the LO British section) wended their way over to the LO festival 40 km north of Paris in the secluded wood near the village of Presles in the Val d’Oise, to the grounds of a chateau donated to the LO group in 1981. Ever since then a festival of labour socialists debate and festivities for the whole family has been held. The whole of the French left is invited and there are no restrictions on attendance the entrance is 12 Euros for the 3 days cheap as chips. The figures went from about 5000 on the Friday as we set up camp to 20 to 30,000 as members of the public strolled in on both Saturday and Sunday. They ferried people to the site on continuous shuttle of 5 coaches leaving every half hour from Saint-Denis - Université the nearest metro station. Those with cars parked in a field nearby. This was filling up as we arrived. There were tents, marquees, in fact every available space full of debates discussions and attentive listening people. All of them involved, giving vigorous interventions, but without rancour or hostility. The whole experience was conducive to resolving issues, the speaking and elaborating of current questions, in a practical open and honest way. Very healthy indeed. We have something to learn thought I. As I aimlessly wandered the site from the big stage or the place du grand podium where bands acts and speeches were made, throngs of people enjoyed the entertainment which was mostly upbeat stomping music that seemed to go down well. Groups came from all the world over. Comedy acts for children was great stuff. All of this provided despite the intermittent rain. Right across from here was a long walk to the hub of it all the chateau which held a library of several thousand socialist books and literature. But for me crucial as it was also were, we queued for our breakfast. A curious method of grilling double egg, bacon on bread tea coffee or juice, costing 4 Euros. Closest thing to a full English. We had left Leytonstone London on Friday morning and arrived across the sea on the ferry with storm warnings predicted. We duly set up tents in our allocated space and as night came with rain, we got ready for storm. The alarm bells went as code red hurricane warnings was declared in Paris, 70 mph gales everything was on standby. The eye of the storm was passing directly over us. We were evacuated to a stall area to sleep. Safely under a structure more robust than our flimsy tents. Others slept in the chateau. Even more slept cramped in the vans they arrived in. Our contingent was manning a stall allocated to us on the citius politique. Two large auditorium areas were set up for debates; two semi-circular open-air amphitheater spaces, as the arguments raged translations across the divide from each group echoed in the air. It all seemed strange. But we got used to it. It seemed both comic and dramatic at the same time my rusty O Level school French could not keep up with the fast and furious discussion. There were two giant 60-foot inflatable screens showing the great film, three billboards afterwards discussion and debate morning noon and into midnight hour, you required your fill of cinema. As I wondered I saw archaeological exhibitions fossil bones from dinosaurs excavated locally, nature trails for children, science experiments village, a medieval village blacksmith and forgers and a suit of amour-clad re-enactments group. All the stalls were allowing kids to play too, you could even make your own sword or other vicious clobbering devices. There was hogs on the roast spit, there were artistic galleries open music classes much more than I could absorb. Circus performers, theatre groups, giant skittles where humans were the pins (children of course), and all the while the place felt safe for children to run around in anxious parents still looked on, but the mood was pleasant, relaxed and full festival mode. I’d expected dull dry doctrinaire, po-faced kids not wild joyous happy folk meandering the entire place. We held our debates on the gilets jaunes movement or yellow jackets protest movement with a speaker from the group. Roberto spoke English and French; he was explaining very well the social significance of the group and why it needed to be supported. Then our turn next discussion on the Brexit issue and the call for a second referendum. A number of British Labour party members wearing red T-shirts, were there and one of their friends spoke against the 2nd referendum, as a solution. She began declaring we had to respect the will of the people and the outcome of the vote. The recent candidate for Peterborough union activist Lisa Forbes Labour victory, election result were nationalist politics were defeated and class politics prevailed, showed depth of feeling for a future socialist labour government was still on the cards. Some however disagreed. In fact all the wise labour government was still on the cards. But for me crucial as it was also were, we queued for our breakfast. A curious method of grilling double egg, bacon on bread tea coffee or juice, costing 4 Euros. Closest thing to a full English. We had left Leytonstone London on Friday morning and arrived across the sea on the ferry with storm warnings predicted. We duly set up tents in our allocated space and as night came with rain, we got ready for storm. The alarm bells went as code red hurricane warnings was declared in Paris, 70 mph gales everything was on standby. The eye of the storm was passing directly over us. We were evacuated to a stall area to sleep. Safely under a structure more robust than our flimsy tents. Others slept in the chateau. Even more slept cramped in the vans they arrived in. Yet despite the sceptics drawing negative conclusions from the Euro election results, Labour’s appeal to the working class voters was strong, no matter what witch-hunt tactic or bogus red herring anti-Semitism campaign kicked up by the right in the Labour party and aided and abetted by the Tory press. The truth got through to voters. The whole camp should be described give you a Monet style impressionistic picture of this socialist village. It was gloriously decked out in red flags and banners from beginning to end thousands of them in all the languages of the world. These were emblazoned with workers of the world unite. Such a great sight to see in the sunshine as tens of thousands of people attended. Something we urgently needed to consider organising here in Britain to help rally the cause and inspire hope in the people for change. If lessons can be learnt at all for the British labour movement it is that the cause of labour is international. No boundaries borders, blocks on free movement, on people getting in or out yes there are national differences, be it culture language and other nuances, but socialism is a world outlook for the solution to the world’s problems and needs, it is international to the very core. We have to clasp hands with our brothers and sisters on the continent, struggle for the world revolution not confine ourselves to narrow national petty squabbles and English peculiarities. These limitations are fatal to the spirit and essence of labour movement, there cause is our cause. Long live the world socialist revolution. Vive la France Vive la Grande Bretagne solidarity with the gilets jaunes movement. We can best support the movement to give solidarity to the yellow vest protest by building up our own activities and to get something going here on a similar scale. Like amongst Deliveroo riders’ couriers union rights for all and Non to zero hours’ campaigns. Solidarity forever.
The protests organised by Extinction Rebellion have highlighted the threat to civilisation that capitalism itself poses, and has always posed. Today’s capitalism has created a situation where over 50% of the world’s wealth is owned by just 2% of the population, and that super-rich minority live mainly in the advanced capitalist countries. Meanwhile the bottom 50% of the world’s population own only around 1% of the world’s wealth.

You might ask; what has this to do with climate change? The answer is: everything! Because the private ownership of wealth is power, and the power to determine social priorities depends upon a tiny, super-rich minority of capitalists — who are also the imperialists who dominate the world and wage bloody, destructive and genocidal wars against poor people around the world whenever their interests are threatened. It is they who prosper above all from an economy built on fossil fuels, which are enormously profitable to extract and which drive the capitalist engine of production. It is production for profit and competitive-monopolisation — the drive to out-profit your competitors while dividing up the spoils between modern capitalism’s corporate giants, owned by that tiny minority, that drives the capitalist economy.

The entire engine of capitalist growth is built into the economic system itself. The driving force of the system is the need, on pain of bankruptcy and collapse, to accumulate more profitable, productive capital, to re-invest profits in more productive machinery and other tools and instruments of producing more products, cheaper and more profitably than the competition, again on pain of bankruptcy. There is no way to escape from this vicious cycle of accumulation and more accumulation, and the compulsion to squeeze every possible morsel of profit out of anything that could conceivably have a potential for profit-making, as long as capitalism is the mode of production that our society is organised around.

Ecological vandalism

Fundamental to capitalism’s development has been its power to shift the cost of its ecological and social vandalism onto society as a whole, by using the biosphere as a giant ‘toilet’ down which it can flush its toxic wastes. Many more profits can accrue if the capitalists don’t have to bother with the elimination, neutralisation or recycling of industrial wastes. It’s much cheaper to pour industrial waste into the air or the nearest river. Rather than pay for the real costs of production, society as a whole subsidises profit-making by cleaning up some of the mess or suffering the environmental and health costs — or exporting these to poorer third world countries. Many in the environmental movement have argued that this could be solved under capitalism with the right mixture of taxes, incentives and regulations. Big business would have cheaper and more efficient production, and consumers more environmentally-friendly products and energy sources. In a rational society, such innovations would lower the overall environmental impact, when substituted for more harmful technology. But we don’t live in a rational society.

One feature of capitalism that flows from its ‘growth at all costs’ nature is known as the Jevons Paradox, after a 19th Century Economist. This refers to capitalist industry’s tendency to use up even more of a natural resource as it finds more efficient ways to use it. As William Jevons wrote in his 1865 book The Coal Question:

“It is the very economy of its use that leads to its excessive consumption … if the quantity of coal used in a blast furnace, for instance, be diminished in comparison with the yield, the profits of the trade will increase, new capital will be attracted, the price of pig-iron will fall, but the demand for it will increase, and eventually the number of furnaces will more than make up for the diminished consumption of each”

This in a microcosm is why market mechanisms, schemes such as carbon-trading that were instituted by the 1997 Kyoto protocol, or the increased use of carbon taxes and ‘cap and trade’ as decided by the 2015 Paris Conference of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change, as a mechanism to supposedly promote the transition to non-fossil fuel technologies, will not work. They all rely on peripheral means to try to nudge the capitalist market to abandon its most lucrative sources of profit, incrementally.

Trump and Bolsonaro personify capital

But the root of the problem is profit itself; this is why the fossil fuel lobby, which is far more powerful than for instance, the tobacco lobby, has fought back, in alliance with other reactionary lobbies such as the arms lobby and the Israel lobby, using its economic power for political ends in financing huge amounts of disinformation about climate change that has brought to power climate-denying, pro-oil and pro-pollution far right politicians like Trump, who ride roughshod over even the tinkering with the market agreed at Paris and Kyoto.

It is not possible to solve the problem of climate change as long as capitalism and capitalist interests continue to dominate the world. Nor can it be solved in one country. National reformism confronted with the problems of climate change will prove utterly powerless. Any serious measures in one country aimed infringing on the ‘right’ to pollute of the capitalist corporations will bring economic and political warfare from the powerful friends of these corporations around the world.

Look at what has happened in Brazil, where Lula, the leader of the mild reformist Workers Party, is now in jail on fraudulent corruption charges while eye-watering amounts of money has been spent by the US, the energy monopolies, the domestic capitalist gangsters and military to install Bolsonaro. This neo-fascist president has been put in place to support the loggers and destroyers tearing down the Amazon Rainforest for the benefit of big agribusiness and waging genocidal war against its indigenous people, notwithstanding the Amazon basin’s crucial global importance for the environment. This is capitalist imperialism in action.

This alone indicates the utterly implacable nature of capital as a system. Trump and Bolsonaro represent the real face of capitalism. Much more than all the Obamas, Blairs and Camerons, who have talked ‘Green’ but done less than nothing to challenge the real source of the problem.

It also indicates that the core of the ruling classes are quite aware of what they are doing, but are also utterly unable to stop their system destroying the environment as their sources of wealth and power depend on this. We will never be able to get rid of them peacefully and legally. The huge majority of the working class and the poor around them all are going to have to throw them out, by compulsion and in an organised way.

In order to deal with Climate Change we need a world revolution and international economic planning on a massive scale, to abolish the fossil fuel industries and replace them with renewable sources of energy, from wind, waves and the Sun, as well as seems highly likely to mass-extract carbon dioxide and other ‘greenhouse’ gases from the at-
mosphere, and the systematic replanting of forests, to clean up oceans etc. The old mot-
to of the environmental movement was ‘think globally, act locally’, but that has proved to be inadequate.

Nor will the various promises of the La-
bour Party to reform capitalism really deal with the problem, though today’s climate change activists need to work with the many working class people who do support La-
bour to mobilise mass activity and deepen the class consciousness of its supporters.

We need now a global revolutionary move-
ment to accomplish that, a new mass revolu-
tionary international party of Communists, a new World Party of Socialist Revolution, as the Communist Third International and then later the Fourth International, guided by the politics and leadership Lenin and/or Trot-
sky, the leaders of the Russian workers revolu-
tion of 1917, tried to build in the early 20th Century. That opportunity to abolish capi-
talism was lost due to defeats at the hands of reaction, which led to the barbarism of World War II, which with the development of nuclear weapons gave birth to what seemed to be the ultimate threat of annihila-
tion. Today, to deal with the capitalist threat to the very foundation of life on earth, the biosphere itself, there is no other tradition that that of Communism that is adequate to the task.

Recommended reading: “Change the System, not the Climate”, Pamphlet by Terry Townsend, republished by Social-
list Fight. ▲

KUWG Model Resolution: The PCS must stop cruel Sanctioning!
Passed with none against but one abstention by Brent Trades Union Council on 26-6-19

THERE IS NOW A MASSIVE VOLUM-
E of evidence of the cruel and inhu-
mane treatment, damaging to health and causing death, that social security sanc-
tions are causing.

Sanctions have no place in a civilised society, and it is a reasonable expectation that DWP workers who are members of DWP trade unions, i.e. the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) should not bring harm upon us by im-
plementing sanctions.

We also know that significant numbers of DWP workers have left their jobs or retired early because of their distress at being instructed to carry out sanctioning actions. It is indisputable that the mental health of such workers will be seriously put at risk when they sanction claimants, especially when the outcome is personal injury or death.

We call on PCS members to refuse to serve the DWP in harming us. We don’t want individuals to put themselves at risk of disciplinary action. What is required is collective action to be taken by a trade union.

We therefore resolve to invite and to urge, all union branches, Labour party bodies and others to join us in issuing, as a matter of urgency, an open letter to the General Secretary and DWP Group President of the PCS union.

We ask them to campaign amongst their DWP members and ballot them to collectively refuse to carry out any duties connected with sanctioning of social security claimants. We ask for this to be implemented without delay. ▲

UN Report  ▶  seized #UniversalCreditUncovered hashtag to launch its own nine-week cam-
paign of “facts”. The charity tweeted: “Instead of spending time on spin, they should tackle the reasons why so many people waiting for #UniversalCredit are forced to #foodbanks.

The PCS union, which represents workers on Universal Credit, said claimants have “suffered terribly as a result of this policy”. General Secretary Mark Serwotka said: “Ministers should hang their heads in shame for wasting money on a propaganda campaign trying to breathe life into failed project which needs to be scrapped.” ▲

The United Nations: ‘Great Honour’ to get KUWG support
On Mon, May 27, 2019 at 9:13 PM

Kilburn Unemployed <kilburnuwg@gmail.com>

wrote:

Dear Rebecca

Thank you for forwarding the Final Report to KUWG. We discussed it, and the disgraceful responses from Amber Rudd and the media, at our last weekly meeting, and it was agreed for me to send a message of support to your offices. We have been helping unemployed people for about 10 years now, engaged with other organisations who also put in submissions, and so concur with your findings. We have experience of the DWP intimidating claimants, and now see they are trying to intimidate the United Nations! One of our mottos is “We are more Angry than Frightened”, and so overcome our fears by still protesting, and like yourselves, exposing the TRUTH. Please keep up the Good Work!

In Solidarity
CJ Kilburn Unemployed Workers Group

From: Rebecca Riddell <rebecca.riddell@nyu.edu>
(Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights)

Date: Tue, 28 May 2019 at 16:11
Subject: Re: Stupid attacks on UN by British DWP & Media

To: Kilburn Unemployed <kilburnuwg@gmail.com>

Greetings,

Many thanks for your kind email. This message of support is much appreciated and well-received. I will share it with our team and the Special Rapporteur. It’s a great honour for us if our work resonates with and can be useful to those who, like KUWG, have been working tirelessly on these issues for years.

If it’s not too much trouble to share with your office how much your words have meant to our small team, it would be greatly appreciated.

Sending warm wishes.

Very best, Rebecca

(Rebecca Riddell, Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights ) ▲

Leon Trotsky: I am confident of the victory of the Fourth International; Go Forward!
UN report compares Tory welfare policies to creation of workhouses

A LEADING UNITED NATIONS poverty expert has compared Conservative welfare policies to the creation of 19th-century workhouses and warned that unless austerity is ended, the UK’s poorest people face lives that are “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short”.

In his final report on the impact of austerity on human rights in the UK, Philip Alston, the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty, accused ministers of being in a state of denial about the impact of policies, including the rollout of universal credit, since 2010. He accused them of the “systematic immiseration of a significant part of the British population” and warned that worse could be yet to come for the most vulnerable, who face “a major adverse impact” if Brexit proceeds. He said leaving the EU was “a tragic distraction from the social and economic policies shaping a Britain that it’s hard to believe any political parties really want”.

The “endlessly repeated” mantra about rising employment overlooks that “close to 40% of children are predicted to be living in poverty two years from now, 16% of people over 65 live in relative poverty and millions of those who are in work are dependent upon various forms of charity to cope”, he said.

Amber Rudd, the work and pensions secretary, said in November she was “disappointed to say the least by the extraordinary political nature” of Alston’s language after his tour of places including Newcastle, Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff, Jaywick (seaside village in Essex), and London. Alston replied in his 21-page final report that there was an “almost complete disconnect” between what ministers and the public saw. The impact of austerity was obvious to anyone who opened their eyes, he said.

In his most barbed swipe at Rudd and her predecessors in charge of welfare, he said: “It might seem to some observers that the department of work and pensions has been tasked with designing a digital and sanitised version of the 19th-century workhouse, made infamous by Charles Dickens.”

He said he had met people who had sold sex for money and wards selling sex to get as little as £5 for an electric bill.

Alston quoted the 17th-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes to warn that unless austerity was ended and welfare cuts were reversed, millions of poorer Britons faced lives that would be “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short”.

“Thomas Hobbes observed long ago, such an approach condemns the least well-off to lives that are ‘solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short’,” he said. “As the British social contract slowly evaporates, Hobbes’ prediction risks becoming the new reality.”

Charities, MPs and benefits staff slam Tory ministers for blowing public cash on a “spin” campaign for their scandal-hit benefit system.

The nine-week PR campaign in Metro launched on the same day as DWP policies were compared to Victorian workhouse culture in a searing report by a UN Rapporteur. Hours after it launched, MPs heard Universal Credit is pushing women to towards selling sex to get as little as £5 for an electric bill.

Figures released last week show 14% of all new UC claims are still not paid on time and in full. Campaigners say the way it is paid can worsen domestic abuse. DWP Secretary Amber Rudd herself admitted in February that UC had, in the past, driven some people to food banks. The advertising campaign states: “A lot has been written about Universal Credit recently - not all of it correct, sadly”.

One says it’s a “myth” that “you have to wait 5 weeks to get any money on Universal Credit”, when in fact, Jobcentres can “urgently pay you an advance.” However, the advert fails to spell out that these advances are taken out of future benefits and have to be paid back over several months.

In another case, the advert says it’s a “myth” that “Jobcentre staff want to stop your benefit payments”. It says in fact, “they’ll support you all the way. Fewer than 3 in every 100 UC claimants are having payments reduced by sanctions”.

The advert fails to mention what this ‘3 in 100’ stat amounts to - more than 400,000 sanctions have been dished out to people on Universal Credit, 20,000 lasting longer than six months. Sanctions over six months are now set to be banned. Foodbank charity the Trussell Trust

Rudd will argue that Alston is politically biased and did not do enough research. The minister is seeking guidance from the Foreign Office on the best way to respond after Alston compared her department’s welfare policies to the creation of Victorian workhouses.

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Amber Rudd loges a formal complaint with the UN … for telling the truth!

The work and pensions secretary, Amber Rudd, plans to lodge a formal complaint with the UN about the damning report on austerity in Britain by its special rapporteur on extreme poverty, Philip Alston.

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The advert fails to mention what this ‘3 in 100’ stat amounts to - more than 400,000 sanctions have been dished out to people on Universal Credit, 20,000 lasting longer than six months. Sanctions over six months are now set to be banned. Foodbank charity the Trussell Trust
Labour Against the Witchhunt farcically witch hunts Peter Gregson
06/05/2019 by Socialist Fight

Labour Against the Witchhunt have again farcically witch hunted another group, having expelled Socialist Fight, Gerry Downing and Ian Donovan on 6 January 2018 they expelled Peter Gregson on Saturday 4 May on even more spurious grounds.

The expulsion was a disgrace. It is a frame up and totally contrary to labour movement democracy and the basic principle of class politics that an injury to one is an injury to all. There is no fundamental difference between the purge of Peter Gregson that is being proposed here and the purge of Jackie Walker from Momentum by Jon Lansman. Both are driven by opportunism and demagogic distortion of comrades’ views on sensitive issues involving Zionism and the Jewish Question.

The facts are very simple. Peter Gregson is not being accused of denying the Nazi Holocaust himself. What we have is guilt by association not at one remove, but two. One more than in the latest smear of Jeremy Corbyn; the Labour leader wrote a foreword for JA Hobson; another whose books on imperialism apparently has some racialised remarks about Jews. If he had only written a foreword for a book about Hobson which contained at least one (neutral) reference to his remarks he would have been in the same position as Peter Gregson. This smear is even worse than the one against Corbyn over Hobson!

In one of the updates to the petition Peter initiated advocating mass defiance by Labour Party members of the racist IHRA pseudo-definition of anti-Semitism, he linked to an article by Ian Fantom, which contained a long analysis of some writings by the founder of Zionism, Theodore Herzl, as well as a link to an article by someone else entirely who questioned the truth of the Nazi Holocaust.

There is no suggestion that the views of the third writer in the chain of association, Nick Kollerstrom, have anything in common with those of Peter Gregson, who clearly stated that they were ‘toxic’. And he never cited Kollerstrom, so the demand in the motion that he ‘dissociate’ himself from him is absurd as he was never associated with him in the first place. The fact that someone cites a third party who also cited this Kollerstrom person for a different reason altogether does not constitute an ‘association’ with Kollerstrom. It is guilt by involuntary non-association.

The statements by LAW, Tony Greenstein, the CPGB et al that they do not support Pete’s suspension or expulsion from the GMB, and the Labour party are simply hypocritical. In pointing the finger at him and saying he is guilty of anti-Semitism in some way, they are speaking with forked tongue in this regard and in the real world saying he is fair game for everything that the bureaucracy wants to do with him. This was also true of the purge of Socialist Fight from Labour Against the Witchhunt (sic!) in January 2018.

The allegations of ‘anti-Semitism’ against such long-term socialists in this context, where the ruling class, the right-wing and even the far right are on the warpath against ‘anti-Semitism’, are not about opposing some dominant racism in society, but capitulating to it. Jews are not a target of the ruling class, unless they are opposed to Zionism and defend the Palestinians in which case they are targeted as … supporters of the Palestinians, not for being Jewish.

In that context, accusing long time left-wing people, on the far left wing of Labour who refuse to bow down before the ‘anti-Semitism’ witchhunt, of ‘anti-Semitism’ can only mean one of two things. Either echoing the propaganda of Stalinism against the ‘far left’, that equates Trotskyism with Nazism. Or anti-communism, which is behind the whole idea of ‘left-wing anti-Semitism’, the idea that too much anti-racism, too much working class politics somehow leads to anti-Semitism. And that is actually the essential thrust of the whole gamut of the witchhunt against the left in the first place. We need a consistently Marxist left that has no truck with any of this, and LAW and its component parts currently show that, like Lansman and Momentum, they are not up to the job.

His petition update on 22 March contained the following paragraph deemed vilely anti-Semitic because he supposedly supported a Holocaust denier:

“Also see the article “UK’s Labour Antisemitism Split” by Ian Fantom here. Ian organised the Keep Talking group that filmed my talk in the last but one update. (But I must say I think the Kollerstrom article he mentions is quite toxic).”

Because he mentions “the Kollerstrom article” although he says it is “quite toxic” he was expelled by 20 for, 9 against and 8 abstentions. Of course, the vote on such spurious grounds was really about the petition which asked Labour party members to endorse the proposition that Israel is a racist endeavour, approaching 2,500 LP members have already done so, to Tony Greenstein’s outrage. And despite his backsliding Jeremy Corbyn attempted to get that clause inserted into the IHRA statement at the NEC on 4 September but was balked by John Lansman and the TU bureaucracy, including the “left” Unite members. cause for his expulsion too, surely?
This was too much for the libertarian CPGB/Weekly Worker and Jack Conrad, who are for free speech for fascists but not for free speech for their left opponents who they admit are not “personally” antisemitic, just “politically”. Of course, right wingers and Zionists will ignore this subtle distinction, which cannot exist for politically conscious people.

The Zionists have made another attack on Jeremy over a Morning Star article he wrote on 28 January 2009. He referred to “the high level of influence the Israeli government appears to have in the upper echelons of parts of the mass media”. According to Iggy Ostanin this means that he supports the old antisemitic trope that the Jews control the mass media, although that is clearly not the case.

Bur Tony Greenstein really has to get onto the next antisemitic trope Dave Rich picks up on in that Corbyn article: “How far an Obama administration is prepared to stand up to Israel and limit its control of US foreign policy is unclear.” He must organise to have Jeremy Corbyn expelled from the Labour party because that is what he, Jack Conrad and Jackie Walker expelled Socialist Fight from LAW on 6 January 2018. Mustn’t have hypocritical double standards, Tony! At the 2016 Communist University Tony Greenstein tried to howl down Norman Finkelstein for defending Socialist Fight for saying the same thing as Finkelstein said explicitly himself later and as Jeremy Corbyn said in that Morning Star article in 2009.

So pointing out direct evidence of Zionist influence is now antisemitism. Jeremy Corbyn was as bad as Socialist Fight, Gerry Downing and Ian Donovan in his youth, apparently! Tony Greenstein to have him expelled like Peter Gregson? This all started in earnest with Gerry Downing’s expulsion in 9 March 2016. We said then where it was going but Tony Greenstein were having none of it.

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Dave Rich (head of the Zionist ‘charity’ Community Security Trust, retweeted Iggy Ostanin, “Further on in the article Corbyn claims that Israel has “control of US foreign policy.” Two conspiracy theories for the price of one.”

This all started in earnest with Gerry Downing’s expulsion in 9 March 2016. We said then where it was all going but Tony Greenstein were having none of it!

Alabama’s hounding of Marshae Jones and The Handmaid’s Tale: the face of US fascism today

By Gerry Downing

“The investigation showed that the only true victim in this was the unborn baby, it was the mother of the child who initiated and continued the fight which resulted in the death of her own unborn baby.”

Police Lt Danny Reid of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, December 2018

On 18 December 2018 a fight began between two young working class black women, Marshae Jones and Ebony Jemison, over a man, in Pleasant Grove, Alabama, outside a store where the three worked. The police allege that Marshae, then 27, who was five months pregnant, began the conflict and was winning until Ebony pulled a gun and shot her in the stomach five times, killing the foetus but not Marshae. Mark White, a lawyer who defended Marshae, said that investigators working with his law firm had found a cellphone video of the fight, which showed Marshae backing away at the time Jemison fired the gun. On the spot judgement was delivered by the policeman Lt Danny Reid in the above quote.

On 26 June Marshae was indicted by a Jefferson County grand jury for manslaughter and imprisoned in Jefferson County jail on a $50,000 bail bond, which was quickly raised due to the outcry over the case. The grand jury was convened by District Attorney Lynneice Washington (Democrat!), the first black female District Attorney in Alabama’s history. They allowed the shooter to walk free, saying she had acted in self-defence but indicted Marshae for manslaughter for “initiating a fight knowing she was five months pregnant.”

Zoe Williams, writing in The Guardian on 2 July commented: “A confluence of Alabama’s bizarre ‘stand your ground’ gun laws and the ideological push to grant the foetus legal personhood has resulted in an indictment that looks – to outside eyes – like something directly from Gilead [1]. Its implications for the criminalisation of pregnancy are amplified by the precariousness of Roe v Wade under Trump’s conservative supreme court.”

We have condemned elsewhere the dick-waving “right to bear arms” gun laws in the USA, which sees more massacres of innocents than any other advanced nation. Last May Alabama passed a bill banning abortion in almost every circumstance – including rape and incest, the worst of all such laws passed by nine states and counting. Alabama is also one of 38 states which have now passed foetal homicide laws that recognize a foetus as a person, with all the rights and more of a citizen and therefore a potential victim. Alabama has prosecuted hundreds of women for using controlled substances while they are pregnant, under a 2006 “chemical endangerment” law. Obviously, such prosecutions discourage pregnant addicts from seeking medical treatment, endangering the life of the woman and the foetus.

This highlights the real purpose behind these misogynistic patriarchal laws; to deepen women’s oppression, so dealing a severe blow to the struggle of the whole working class for socialism. “The US right’s concern for the foetus doesn’t survive the trip down the birth canal” as Emer O’Toole wrote in The Guardian on 1 July in reference to the same bigoted right-wingers’ enthusiasm for the appalling treatment of caged immigrant Latino children on the Mexican border. The black, female District Attorney said she was deeply wounded by the charges that
a working-class black woman was being treated in a way that no wealthy white woman would have been. “There was a barrage of insults — degradation of my integrity, my character, my name, I am a black woman in black skin. So, don’t tell me how I don’t appreciate the sensitivity of a woman and the rights of women.”

On 3 July Washington, who had signed the indictment, said: “I have determined that it is not in the best interest of justice to pursue prosecution of Ms. Jones on the manslaughter charge for which she was indicted by the grand jury, no further legal action will be taken against Ms. Jones in this matter.”

Several pastors from Alabama churches stood with Washington as she announced dropping the charges, obviously to defend her against enraged racist bigots.

What political lessons and conclusions?

So, what are we to make of all this? Is this a matter for concern for the working class and revolutionary socialists? It does not involve a strike or an occupation of a workplace or even a struggle against the misleadership of the trade unions or any reformist workers’ social democratic party.

Fascism can only triumph when the organised strength of the working class is broken and all their organisations, trade unions, reformist social democratic parties, right, centre, left and centrist-revolutionary are smashed. Surely this does not affect these organisations?

Back in 1902 Lenin dismissed such narrow definitions of the class struggle:

“In a word, every trade union secretary conducts and helps to conduct “the economic struggle against the employers and the government”. It cannot be too strongly maintained that this is still not Social-Democracy, that the Social-Democrat’s ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people, who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it appears, no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects.”

And in 1940 Trotsky discussed the situation in the USA and the huge gap between the backwardness of the working class and their objective tasks there:

“The objective situation of the country is in every respect and even more than in Europe ripe for socialist revolution and socialism, riper than any other country in the world. The political backwardness of the American working class is very great. This signifies that the danger of a fascist catastrophe is very great. This is the point of departure for all our activity. The program must express the objective tasks of the working class rather than the backwardness of the workers. It must reflect society as it is and not the backwardness of the working class. It is an instrument to overcome and vanquish the backwardness.”

Aside from the shocking racist backwardness of Lt Danny Reid and that Jefferson grand jury and the obvious comparison between Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom* and Lynneice Washington, what about the reference made by Zoe Williams to Gilead, the 1985 nightmare land of *The Handmaid’s Tale*? This has fascinated and horrified so many northern liberals as they look southwards to the redneck lands of Jim Crow, led by Alabama, the nearest we have come to Gilead. The ideological echoes of the Civil War are heard again.

Let us remind ourselves of the nightmare scenario looming into view now in Alabama. Margaret Atwood projected a totalitarian state called the Republic of Gilead, whose leaders had overthrown the US government and abolished its constitution. A right-wing coup against Donald Trump! Women were reduced to the status of men’s property, the chattels of mediaeval law and custom. The name of the female hero is Offred, because women can only use the name of their master, the man Fred, like the slaves in the US and Caribbean in the 18th and 19th century—I worked with West Indian Lynches and Murphys, the names of their ancestors’ Irish slave masters (who were transported there as slaves themselves by Cromwell in the 17th century).

In Gilead newspapers are censored, a theonomic [2] military dictatorship rules and all pre-existing religions, including all Christian denominations, are banned. The Old Testament is the model for this social and religious fascism. That bit does not look a lot like Nazi Germany, does it? But the next bit does; poor people, i.e. those not administering and running the top level of the system, have almost no rights, particularly women, who cannot own any property, earn money, or even learn to read or write.

How far down the road are we?

How far down the road are we in Alabama, with many other Jim Crow redneck states not far behind, to Margaret Atwood’s Gilead now? The counter-revolution is now advancing on these social questions; abortion rights, misogyny, race (police murders), sexual orientation and transgender in lockstep with the defeats imposed on the organised working class from the liquidation of US Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) by Ronald Regan in August 1981 and the defeat of the miners’ strike in Britain in 1985, via the Malvinas war in 1982 and the fall of the Berlin Wall and the USSR (1989–91). The right wing neo-liberal agenda, consolidated by these defeats, is now under attack from the right.

Nine US states have passed almost total bans on abortions this year, challenging the constitutional judgement of Roe v. Wade in 1973. Alabama passed the almost total ban on abortions early in May, as we have seen. Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi and Ohio passed so-called heartbeat bills that effectively prohibit abortions after six to eight weeks of pregnancy, when doctors can usually start detecting a foetal heartbeat. The vast majority of women will be unaware they are pregnant before then, so these too are effectively total bans. Utah and Arkansas voted to limit the procedure to the middle of the second trimester. Previous attempts by the far right have failed, a 2006 bill in South Dakota was repealed in a referendum, and a 2016 Oklahoma bill was vetoed by the governor. On these social issues vile reaction is accelerating in the USA; we are confident that the whip of this counterrevolution will drive the revolutionary left in the US and everywhere else to seek the path to revolution via Trotsky’s Traditional Programme.

Notes:

[1] Wikipedia, *The Handmaid’s Tale* was well received by critics, helping to cement Atwood’s status as a prominent writer of the 20th century. Atwood maintains that the Republic of Gilead is only an extrapolation of trends already seen in the United States at the time of her writing, a view supported by other scholars studying *The Handmaid’s Tale*. Indeed, many have placed *The Handmaid’s Tale* in the same category of dystopian fiction as *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Brave New World*, with the added feature of confronting patriarchy, a categorization that Atwood has accepted and reiterated in many articles and interviews. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Handmaid%27s_Tale

T
he defeat of the Poroshenko regime in the elections was the logical outcome of a government based on neoliberal reforms and excessive nationalist propaganda. The people of Ukraine expressed their distrust of corrupt officials hiding behind patriotic rhetoric. President Poroshenko’s campaign was trying to establish a confessional state, with a language full of militaristic rhetoric and nationalist slogans.

The electoral slogan “Army, language, faith” won the support of only 25% of voters. It should be noted that the result was the most crushing defeat of a president in the history of Ukraine. Even this modest result was only achieved through the creation of an atmosphere of fear in society, in the context of the prohibition of leftist political organizations and control over the media and the use of dirty political technologies. This defeat gives the people of Ukraine optimism and faith in the future.

Unfortunately, despite some improvements in the public atmosphere, Ukraine will still have difficult times ahead. For most ordinary people, Vladimir Zelensky is just a comedian and an actor. In fact, he is the owner of a multimillion-dollar business owner, one of the richest of the offshore oligarchs. He is a close friend and business partner of the oligarch Igor Kolomoisky, who is now in disgrace.

Zelensky is a compromise figure between some of the largest Ukrainian capitalists. The oligarchs have long dreamed of a presidency which is “technical” only, which will have limited powers in the context of strengthening the role of parliament. The oligarchs, fearing strengthening the role of one of them, want to forge a parliamentary republic which is a kind of “club for the elect”, which will establish a balance of interests.

There is a danger that, depending on the massive popular support and the expectation of change, President Zelensky will start to pursue the most unpopular and neoliberal reforms, such as the sale of agricultural land, the privatisation of the gas transmission system and the privatisation of state companies. In this situation, there is no political forces or any party in the country that can withstand this neoliberal course. The Communist Party and Borotba are, in fact, illegal.

In the atmosphere of renewal, many expect President Zelensky to democratise the political situation in the country, in particular:

- Disarmament nationalist gangs and private armies;
- The release of all political prisoners;
- Denazification of power and military departments;
- Legalization of organizations and opposition parties, banned by the former leadership of the country.

Time will tell if the new President will meet the expectations of millions. However, despite a ban on the Borotba Union, despite the intimidation of special services and the threats of the neo-Nazis, we will continue to fight for a free and socialist Ukraine!

We ask all honest people not to keep quiet! We ask all who want to change to unite in autonomous groups and get in touch with each other!

We call on all those who are tired of nationalist propaganda to take to the streets on 1 May under red flags!

\[\text{Editorial, from p. 3}\]

Leon Trotsky: I am confident of the victory of the Fourth International; Go Forward!

\[\text{UKRAINE - POLITICAL DECLARATION THE UNION COUNCIL OF BOROTBA 04/23/2019}\]

\[\text{We publish below, under the authorization of Borotba, a policy statement of the group about the political situation in Ukraine after the presidential elections of the country where the opposition candidate Vladimir Zelensky was victorious. Borotba is a communist organization being hounded after far-right parties and groups seized power through the EuroMaidan movement, supported by the EU and the US. The Ukrainian coup occurred in 2014 and was one of the first successful hybrid war movements of imperialism supported by neo-Nazi milities. The political lessons of the Borotba comrades are of great importance to us workers and Brazilian communists.\]
On 15th June 2019 George Galloway held a filmed event for his TV show Kalima Horra on Al Mayadeen TV in London, which was launched in 2012 in Beirut, with George Galloway joining shortly afterwards as a presenter.

The topics for debate in this show were ‘Sudan: a regime change’ and ‘Trump’s Israel-Palestine Deal of the Century: or, the Slap of the Century’?

The format of the show takes the form of George Galloway outlining a basic introduction to the topic followed by participation from the audience, which consists of guests with direct experience, or political commentators who may have an interest. On this show some members of Socialist Fight were invited to attend and participate.

Trump’s Israel-Palestine “Deal of the Century” or, the “Slap of the Century”?

This was the first part of the show and some of the points discussed were:

- What is Trump aiming to achieve in the so-called deal?
- Does anyone know what this deal is exactly about?
- Would this plan, discussed in Bahrain this month, have any chance?
- What would be the effect of Iran vs. US-Saudi-Israel tension over this plan?

A range of participation from the audience held a common consensus, which was that this is nothing new on offer but further exploitation of the Palestinians who have suffered immeasurably since the 1948 Nakba.

The US administration’s push by Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner, to solve the Israel-Palestinian conflict is nothing more than an attempt to bribe the Palestinians to fully surrender and kill the ‘two-state’ solution with $50 billion, not Israeli or US money, but Arab money.….. the Arabs themselves having to pay for a peace that Israel will profit from.

The two-state solution is already dead, this would just legitimise it. The Palestinians have already boycotted the June workshops, with the Palestine Authority arguing for a political settlement first followed by a financial settlement, and not the money-first carrot that Kushner is dangling. This is just another cynical attempt by the US and their proxy in the Middle East, Israel, to circumnavigate a lasting political settlement, justice for the Palestinians and the right of return of all Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Kushner stated, “If we want to find a pathway forward, it means that both sides need to find a place where they both feel that they can gain more than they give and move forward and have the opportunities to live better lives”.

The trouble with this approach is that the Palestinians have been the ones doing all the compromising, the Israelis have not conceded anything, zero in fact, and have no intention to do so.

The annexing of East Jerusalem, the declaration of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and its recognition by the US, Netanyahu’s declaration that the illegal settlements in the West Bank are to be annexed and recognised as Israeli sovereignty (along with the Golan Heights), and now his cynical distortion of history by claiming that Palestinian DNA is European in an attempt to delegitimise the Palestinians claim for a right to their homeland. This is nothing more than race science and is similar to what the Nazis used in their attempts at justifying supremacy and territorial expansion.

The only positive sign that can be taken away from this is that it will be another attempt at ‘peace’, which will fail and that will bury the two-state solution, which will in turn change thinking towards a one state solution. One where it will be more acceptable in the eyes of people to argue for equal rights for all, equal rights for the Palestinians side by side with Jews. This position will be far easier to argue for and work towards and far harder for people to deny, which after all is a fundamental human right.

Sudan: a regime change

Some of the discussion points in this show were:

- Who is in charge of Sudan at the moment?
- Are the supporters of Israel, Saudi and UAE backed by Egypt and the US now standing in front of Qatar-Turkish Alliance?
- Where do Russia and China stand in this situation?
- Has the military council achieved what the military expected?
- Many of the people in the audience, who had direct or indirect experience of the situation in Sudan, described the events that unfolded and argued for a new government formed by the people and reorganised from the bottom up. How this was to come about was what was open for debate, with several calling for support from the ‘international community’.

It is the international community that are reacting against these protests, which have been taking place since December 2018. These protests initially started due to the rising costs of living and the deterioration in economy, and then turned into the demand for Omar al-Bashir to step down. This TV debate was against the background of the strikes, the deposing of al-Bashir on the 11th April (who had a grip on power for 30 years) and the Khartoum massacre just days previously on the 3rd June, where 118 people were killed, 70 raped and many injured.

Numerous bodies were dumped into the Nile, and there were reports of violence and rapes against both the medical professionals and injured civilians that were being treated. According to the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors (CCSD) at least five major hospitals were closed by the militias with the internet being shut down to prevent news reaching the outside world.

The large protests and strikes are clearly having an enormous effect, the reaction from the generals and the RSF (Rapid Support Forces), who are formed from the Janjaweed militias, have become more reactionary and violent. The same Janjaweed who were responsible for the massacres in Darfur over a decade ago and are now being funded by the EU.

Since the massacre President Al-Burhan, Hemiedi and the members of the Transitional Military Council have opened dialogue with the protesters resulting in a draft agreement for a ‘sovereign council’, which are set to see civilians take up to six out of eleven seats in a transitional government, but this seems to be a sticking point.

While the ceasing of violence is welcome, it seems that this is an attempt by the TMC to reorganise and undermine the revolution and demands from the people for democracy by just buying time. They are very reluctant to cede power and the protesters need to very careful that the huge momentum that was built is not lost.

To simply enter into a power sharing agreement with the same individuals and generals in place will achieve very little, the protesters need to understand that the whole system needs to be rebuilt from the bottom up. As Marx wrote in his letter to Kugelmann; “If you look at the last chapter of my Eighteenth Brumaire you will find that I say that the next attempt of the French revolution will be no longer, as before, to transfer the bureaucratic-military machine from one hand to another, but to smash it.”

For this Revolution to work it mustn’t fall into the trap of being absorbed into the state to break it but rather to break the existing state machinery and sweep it clean with a new broom.