

# Vengeful, intolerant and brutal

**Not in our name! We must resist these injustices**

**Fred M'membe**  
Socialist Party President

THE DECISIONS and actions that Mr Hakainde Hichilema and his regime take are taken in our names as citizens of this country. The brutality, intolerance and vengeful actions of Mr Hichilema and his regime are being carried out in our name. There's more than enough evidence

to show that it is Mr Hichilema and his regime are behind the destruction of the PF. There's also clear evidence of vengeful actions by Mr Hichilema and his regime against Mr Edgar Lungu and the PF. The Zambian people abhor brutality, intolerance and vengeance. We believe that as citizens of this country, and in whose names Mr Hichilema and his regime are acting, it is our responsibility to resist the injustices done in our name.

- Not in our name should he be allowed to destroy the PF.
- Not in our name should he be allowed to brutalise our fellow citizens while we stand aside and watch.
- Not in our name should he be allowed to erode the very freedoms our forefathers struggled and died for.
- Not by our mouths will we let fear silence us.
- Not by our will and not in our name. We pledge resistance. We pledge alliance with those who

have come under attack for voicing opposition to this tyranny or for their political affiliation or ethnicity. We pledge to make common cause with all who seek a more just, fair and humane Zambia and to defend our multiparty political dispensation and peace in our homeland. A better Zambia that is good for all of us is possible and we pledge to make it a reality.

- Destroying PF and the country – P3

## Solidarity with Sean E. Tembo

MY BROTHER Citizens First President Harry Kalaba and I took time to visit opposition Patriots for Economic Progress (PeP) President Sean E. Tembo, while he was detained at Chilenje Police Station. We have condemned the inhuman and barbaric manner in which Mr Hakainde Hichilema and his UPND government is treating Mr Tembo. We oppose his injustices and remind him that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Mr Hichilema shouldn't think he's smarter than all of us. Batila ubuchenjeshi bwa Nkoko, pungwa tasakamana. Fikabipa ifintu.



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# We cannot stay neutral in DRC's December presidential election

## SP supports Moise Chapwe Katumbi and Ensemble Pour La Republique

THE Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will hold its presidential and parliamentary elections in December this year, with incumbent President Felix Tshisekedi seeking re-election after being in power for four years.

Socialist Party President says, "This is yet another election that we cannot afford to be neutral. And the reason is simple, the DRC is not only the territory of our origin and where many of our relatives still live but it is also a strategic neighbour to Zambia hence our concern and interest in the future and leadership of that country.

"It is worth mentioning that despite the peaceful handover of power from Mr Joseph Kabila to Mr Tshisekedi, the DRC has seen very little or no progress at all in terms of political and economic growth and stability.

"The hope of reconstruction and general improvement in the livelihoods of the people, which the citizens of the DRC had when Mr Tshisekedi took over office has not materialised.

"As grand corruption, tribalism and misgovernance have become more prevalent and increasingly widespread under Mr Tshisekedi's regime and this has completely shuttered the people's desire for positive development and changes in the affairs of the country.

"With such a record, an endorsement or support for Mr Tshisekedi can only come from another equally corrupt, divisive and inept regime.

"Without a doubt, Mr Tshisekedi has presided over a highly corrupt and inefficient regime which has made the political and socio-economic situation for the people worse than before. Poverty and squalor, especially in the countryside, is also rampant and has reached alarming levels.

### Resources

"Clearly, this is a very corrupt regime that should not be allowed to continue mismanaging the wealth and mineral resources of the DRC. There is nothing Mr Tshisekedi will do in his second term that will bring positive results in the material conditions of the people.

"We therefore, put our total support and solidarity with Mr Moise Chapwe Katumbi and Ensemble Pour La Republique (Together for the Republic) in the coming December elections.

Dr M'membe said that to have peaceful, free, and fair elections, certain conditions had "to prevail in the country and the hearts of the Congolese people".

"There ought to be a conducive atmosphere. The concerns of all key players must be adequately addressed," he said.

"We therefore call upon SADC to take a keen interest in the unfortunate occurrences in DRC ahead of the December parliamentary and presidential elections and help the key players resolve their differences and disagreements.

"The judicial criminality and electoral fraud, which is currently brewing in the DRC, shouldn't be allowed to continue. It's the responsibility of SADC through

the organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (Troika), which is presently chaired by Mr Hakainde Hichilema, to help the Congolese have peaceful, free, and fair elections.

"The Troika's mandate is to steer member states and provide them with guidance regarding matters that threaten peace, security, and stability in the region. And the current situation obtaining in the DRC qualifies for immediate SADC action or intervention before it's too late.

"As current chairperson of the organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Mr Hichilema

must draw a commitment from Mr Felix Tshisekedi for free and fair elections in the DRC. The current attempts by Mr Tshisekedi to use the court system to stay in power at all costs must be condemned and halted forthwith.

"We are aware that Mr Tshisekedi is trying to use the courts to remove strong opponents he fears, such as Mr Moise Chapwe Katumbi, from the December elections ballot paper.

"This brazen attempt was exposed in recent events where Mr Katumbi's candidature was challenged in the Constitutional Court. Equally, Mr Tshisekedi's candi-

ature was challenged in the same court, and the petitioners in both matters lodged their petitions on the same day, October 23, 2023. This was after the deadline for filing petitions had lapsed.

"However, in Mr Tshisekedi's matter, the DRC Constitutional Court decided not hear the matter on account of the petition being filed out of time. But surprisingly, the same court ruled it would go ahead and hear Mr Katumbi's matter. This is in the face of both petitions being filed on the same day and past the deadline.

"How can one matter be admissible and the other be inadmissible in

the same court? What type of electoral fraud is this? What type of judicial criminality is this? Why is Mr Tshisekedi scared of the will of the people? And why is Mr Hichilema, who is the incumbent chairperson of the SADC organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, conveniently silent? Is it because he is now friends with Mr Tshisekedi?

"We would caution Mr Hichilema to look into these matters neutrally because, as it stands now, the DRC is on the verge of a major electoral crisis, which might plunge the country into chaos. Mr Hichilema must be concerned with Mr Tshisekedi's irresponsible attempts

to eliminate a strong candidate – Mr Katumbi – because once the DRC implodes, it is SADC, and Zambia in particular, that will bear the consequences of the humanitarian crisis that will unfold.

"Therefore, it is in the best interest of SADC, and Mr Hichilema in particular, to proactively address the electoral process ahead of the December parliamentary and presidential elections before the situation degenerates into chaos.

"Allowing the current judicial criminality and electoral fraud in the DRC to continue without any intervention from SADC is postponing trouble for the region."



### Investing in the future with our rural women

**OCTOBER 15 was International Day of Rural Women under this year's theme: "Rural women confront the global cost-of-living crisis". "Our rural women today have to endure spiralling costs of food, fuel and fertiliser," Socialist Party President Fred M'membe said. "Average rural poverty has risen to 78.8 per cent from 76.6 per cent. Rural women are the backbone of agriculture, the heart of their communities and the unsung heroes of our world. Empowering rural women is not just a matter of gender equality; it is an investment in our future."**

## Thieving regime's back-door privatisation

THE SYSTEMATIC dismantling and disposal of parastatal assets by this corrupt UPND puppet regime amounts to "back-door privatisation", Socialist Party President Fred M'membe says.

"The relentless push to dispose of some parastatal assets and dismantle the entities to pave way for private companies linked to State House or associated with UPND politicians is a well-calculated evil scheme," he said in a Facebook post.

"We are aware of how some parastatals are being reconfigured to allow both old and newly registered private companies with links to State House to begin running operations of specific departments in these parastatals at a huge cost to the taxpayers.

"For instance, we know that some parastatals

have deliberately shut down operations in some departments citing costs only to subcontract or outsource services from certain identifiable private companies linked to State House at a prohibitive rate.

"We are also aware of the ongoing scheme to dispose of numerous assets belonging to these parastatals in order for individuals and private companies linked to State House to be the ultimate beneficiaries.

"There are many examples that we could cite that expose this systematic, corrupt collusion and asset stripping by this regime together with its allies in the business community and parastatal organisations.

"We have said it before and we'll say it again; the people who presided over this country's

worst "economic holocaust" – the privatisation programme – are back to finish us off.

"These shameless, greedy elements have done nothing major to talk about since they came into power, yet they're quick to sell our country's assets to themselves for nothing. Baisa mukuwina, mukwiba. Ni ba pompwe munshibila nsala! And quite clearly they don't care about the future of the country anymore.

"Let the Zambian people not be under any illusion that what is currently happening to the parastatals is normal. There is "back-door" privatisation of parastatal assets taking place, and the culprits are known for their corruption and abuse of power. This is a thieving regime that will stop at nothing to achieve their goal of enriching themselves," he said.

## We join call for the arrest of Israel's leaders for genocide

**WE JOIN South Africa's Minister of International Relations, Comrade Naledi Pandor, in calling on the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for the "leaders of apartheid Israel" for the genocide against the Palestinian people, Socialist Party President Fred M'membe says.**

**"We also demand that the current Zambian government of Mr Hakainde Hichilema continues our traditional solidarity with the oppressed and colonised Palestinian**

**people and join the call for the ICC to arrest apartheid Israeli leaders for genocide. What is going on now in Gaza is genocide.**

**"Apartheid Israel's brutal bombardment of Gaza is deepening, Homes are being bombed, flattened by apartheid Israel. Israel has said that Gazans must leave.**

**"This is exactly what the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had to say two days ago. But they all can't go anywhere because the border was bombed. "Rafah is the**

**only exit to the external world, between Gaza and Egypt. And it was bombed. The other six crossings are controlled by apartheid Israel. People have no food, no electricity, no water and hospitals are bombed.**

**"And then the international community is standing idle, supporting apartheid Israel, and blaming the victim. What is going on right now is genocide. The international law defines genocide, and it is exactly what is happening to the people in Gaza right now."**

## This is a day to express gratitude for forefathers' sacrifices

INDEPENDENCE Day on October 24 was not only about celebrating our freedom, but also expressing gratitude to those who made it possible. The journey to independence was marked by sacrifices and determination, Socialist Party President Fred M'membe says.

"We have the responsibility to honour those sacrifices by making the most of the opportunities we have," he said.

"Today, as we celebrate Independence Day, let's remember the sacrifices made by our forefathers who fought tirelessly for our freedom.

"On this remarkable day, let's honour the spirit of our nation's independence. Today, let's remember the leaders who guided us through our struggle for freedom.

"As we enjoy the rights and privileges they secured for us, let's also remember the responsibilities that come with them.

"Our country's progress depends on our actions. Let's be responsible citizens who contribute positively to society. Whether it's protecting the environment, promoting equality, or pursuing education, each of you can make a difference. The future of our nation is in your hands.

"Independence Day reminds us that despite our diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, we are all united as one nation.

"Let's remember that our actions today will shape the Zambia of tomorrow. Our unity is our strength. Let's celebrate our diversity and use it to create a harmonious society.

"This Independence Day, let's pledge to stand together, supporting each other's dreams and aspirations.

"Let's strive for knowledge, for it is knowledge that empowers us to make informed decisions for our nation's growth.

"Independence is not just about being free from external control; it's also about unity and working together as a nation. Let's cherish the diversity that makes our country rich and unique.

"So, let's take this day as an opportunity to reflect on our responsibilities towards our country and work towards making it even better," he said.



The time  
for tin-pot  
dictators  
is over

WE WARNED before that Mr Hakainde Hichilema's reign is engulfed in a rapidly shrinking civic and political space, criminalising dissent and with all manner of human rights violations.

Recent events at the PF secretariat where gunshots were fired by the police with some people injured and their motor vehicles damaged, reinforces our long-held belief that Mr Hichilema's talk of human rights, good governance and respect for the rule of law, like many of his other promises, has been nothing but a false display, a façade, and outright posturing.

Going by the impunity and senseless brutality we are witnessing in the country today, Mr Hichilema has shown that he is not going to de-escalate any tensions and abuses of state systems and processes involving the police, courts and other institutions. We warned about this on several fronts and it is now clear that history is about to repeat itself, and that under Mr Hichilema, Zambia is back on the destructive path towards a full-blown dictatorship and an outpost of senseless tyranny and puppetry.

But we ask the following questions: Why this unreasonable and extreme paranoia? Why has Mr Hichilema suddenly become so desperate to abuse power? Why is he so afraid of his own shadow? Why this brazen abuse of the court system, the police, and other institutions of governance? What else has Mr Hichilema smelt in the atmosphere besides the untold hunger, high cost of living and despair on the streets, which his regime has brought? Why this elevated appetite for chaos and violence?

The answer to the questions above is simple: Mr Hichilema and his corrupt puppet regime are desperate and panicking to find a way out of this mess and hoping to maintain their hold on power because they know that their 2021 election victory was a fluke, a product of a dishonest and dirty job – mingalato.

They're getting increasingly desperate and tyrannical because they know what they did to get to where they are today. They also know that we know what they did and are wiser now and more prepared for them than ever before.

Further, they're desperate because they know that armed with the knowledge that we currently have about their fluke election victory, they are in trouble, and that if an election was called today, they would not even garner a quarter or half of the total votes they received last time. The cat is out of the bag and they now stand exposed and embarrassed. Nafibipal!

As a result, they have resorted to playing dangerous games, which are just as good as digging their own graves.

However, we would like to warn Mr Hichilema that the path he is on is too risky and dangerous, and that the time for tin-pot dictators has long gone, and he will not be able to remain on top the way he got there, by using force, crookedness, and brutality.

# Hichilema is destroying the country, not just PF

## We will cooperate to end this destruction, tyranny, dictatorship

**Fred M'membe**  
Socialist Party President

WHAT'S going on is very, very embarrassing, sad, and annoying to all who harbour in their hearts even the smallest sense of justice.

There's nothing lawful or morally defensible in the way Mr Hakainde Hichilema is using a group of PF renegades to circumvent everything and destroy that political party.

It's not only PF they are destroying; they are destroying the whole country. They are destroying vital state institutions and systems upon which decent societies and countries are built around to protect, defend, and maintain their dignity and sovereignty.

What Mr Hichilema is doing is dangerous and ethically indefensible, whatever the political factors

behind it. This wanton destruction of the court system, the police and other state institutions is one he will live to regret because once citizens start feeling defenceless and vulnerable to a point of losing confidence and trust in state systems and processes like the courts, that's the beginning of lawlessness and trouble in the country.

What Mr Hichilema is doing is an enormous error, a huge injustice and a great crime for which in some countries, like the United States, Mr Hichilema would be in very serious trouble like Richard Nixon was with the Watergate scandal.

In the last few days, the foundations, the conception, the true aims, the spirit, and the conditions for such destruction have been hastily put into place. No one could state that it was not thought out well in advance, something that was just waiting for an opportunity.

They knew very well what they were doing and why they were doing it.

Their destructive capacity is enormous, while on the other hand their habits of equanimity, serenity, thoughtfulness and restraint, are minimal.

The combination of factors – not excluding complicity and the prevailing opportunism, confusion – makes it almost impossible to avoid a messy and unpredictable outcome.

### Tensions

I am avoiding the use of adjectives, qualifiers, or offensive words towards these people. These are absolutely unnecessary and inopportune when the tensions and seriousness of the moment advise thoughtfulness and equanimity.

I ask our compatriots to reflect deeply and calmly on what is going on in our country today.

We speak with the moral power of people who have suffered

many injustices; ones who do not shake with fear of anything because there is no threat or power in the world that can intimidate us. And with this moral power we proclaim that we are opposed to lawlessness, injustice, tyranny, and dictatorship.

Although the possibilities are now remote, we reiterate the need for Mr Hichilema to mull over things and stop this destruction.

Likewise, we reiterate our willingness to cooperate with everyone to end this destruction, tyranny, and dictatorship.

Some objective and calm friend should advise Mr Hichilema against this very dangerous path he is on.

We will never declare ourselves enemies of those in the UPND – as leaders of the UPND are openly declaring us – people who today are subjected to an unprecedented campaign to sow hatred and a spirit of vengeance.

Today, we are expressing our solidarity with the legitimate, authentic leaders and members of the PF, while appealing for calmness and peace. One day they will admit we were right.

We will defend our principles with honour to the last drop of blood, if pushed to do so.

We know they declared us their enemies and we are next in their scheme of annihilation, but it will not be easy to fabricate pretexts to do it.

We are followers, descendants of the brave Ngoni warrior Nsingu, with a patriotic and revolutionary consciousness that is higher than ever. It is time for serenity and courage.

This is the precise time to proclaim more loudly and resolutely than ever:

To hell with tin-pot dictators, tribalists, and corrupt imperialist puppets!  
Aluta Continua! Victoria certa!

## I would do the same if I was Lungu

IF I WAS in Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu's position I would have done exactly what he has done today – jump into the ring and fight.

No decent person can allow a political party that made him President be annihilated in such a crooked, mendacious way.

No sensible person can sit on his or her laurels and watch the country that gave him or her everything – the highest honour of being President – being destroyed by the most intolerant, corrupt, unpatriotic and tribalistic puppets.

A person who abides by unjust laws and practices, and permits another person to trample, divide, and mistreat the people and the country in which he or she was born, is not an honourable person.

It is understandable that honest



est people should be constantly in police cells or prisons in a republic where the President is an intolerant, cruel, vengeful, and corrupt puppet.

In this case, there's no sensible alternative for Mr Lungu but to abandon the benefits and privileges of a retired President and join the struggle for a more just, fair,

and more humane homeland.

The intolerance, cruelty, tribalism, vengefulness, and other repugnant tendencies of this corrupt puppet regime cannot be allowed to continue in this country.

It's time to put a stop to this infantile excitement and approach to national leadership.

As the late Micheal Chilufya Sata (MHSRIP) used to say, "Lesaleleka, ukupanga ifyalo", and so we only have one country, which we must all defend and protect against reckless attempts to destroy our hard-earned democracy and reduce us to a dustbin case.

Mr Lungu is right!

## UPND is brazen about its attempt to kill the PF

THERE IS no doubt; it is the UPND leadership working determinedly to destroy the PF. And the UPND have not hidden this; they have been brazen about it.

Of course, we also know that while in government, the PF also did wrong and bad things to the UPND.

But this doesn't give the UPND the legal or moral right to destroy the PF. If the UPND are true democrats as they claim, they should

ask themselves if killing the PF is good for our multiparty democracy? The answer is a categorical No.

The competition in a multiparty political dispensation should be a contest to serve the masses and not annihilation like on a battlefield.

All who cherish our multiparty democracy should not allow the UPND's annihilation of the PF or any other political party in this coun-

try. And it doesn't matter whether they hate the PF or like it. The fact is, whether good or bad, it's not in the place of the UPND to kill the PF.

And the UPND must realise that killing the PF will further dent its democratic credentials and reinforce the rising perception about the UPND, and Mr Hakainde Hichilema in particular's, intolerance and expanding authoritarianism.

Let the PF live.

## SP govt will prioritise agriculture to create employment

WITHOUT decisive action to remove obstacles to the collection of fair taxes from the mines and reduce the government's need to borrow . . .

Without decisive action to explore Zambia's great potential in the agricultural sector by paying particular attention to agriculture and agro processing and linking it to the health and education sector . . .

We will not succeed as a country, Socialist Party President Fred M'membe says.

"Agriculture is one sector that we will prioritise as the Socialist Party in government to create employment," he said in a Facebook post.

"There's an urgent need to transform the way peasant agriculture is carried out.

"We cannot increase agricultural production with a hoe, that's for planting flowers around the house and a few beds of vegetables to feed a small family.

"Our plans are much bigger than that, and

will involve many jobs being created in the agricultural sector because of the transformations we will make.

"Transformative agriculture under the Socialist Party government will need new equipment; that is, appropriate ploughs, planters, harvesters and other necessities.

"To produce these, we will need to set up factories all over the country employing engineers and their technicians, human resources experts, accountants, IT experts,

marketing and sales staff, drivers, mechanics, nurses and clinical officers to run staff clinics, catering people to manage the staff cafeterias, and so on.

"We will rely on Zambians to drive this process. But also mindful of our reality that we may not have all the engineering expertise required to set up and run these factories, we may have to rely on expatriate skills while we train our people in our schools, colleges and universities," he said.

The biggest problem with this corrupt puppet regime is that they think they are more intelligent, more important, and more capable than they really are.

Actually, they are petty, tactless, vindictive, arrogant, and ignorant of reality.



# DILEMMAS OF HUMANITY CONFERENCE



Socialist Party President Fred M'membe with South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, and left, at the conference opening ceremony



## Dialogues toward socialism

### Proposals to overcome capitalism and guarantee a better future for all

SOCIALIST Party President Fred M'membe attended the third international Dilemmas of Humanity conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, from October 14 to 18. The conference posed the following questions:

- What are the central problems facing humanity today?
- What are the major crises of capitalism?
- What role does US imperialism play in social, political, economic, and cultural conflicts across the world?

These are the key questions that activists, organisations and intellectuals of the left across the globe have faced over the past couple of centuries, and have sought to decipher, explain, and critique the ever-developing system of capitalism.

However, merely exposing and denouncing capitalism and imperialism is not enough. We must ask, and answer, other questions, such as:

- How do we overcome capitalism?
- What does a post-capitalist future look like?

Dilemmas of Humanity is a space to address these questions, a space for debates and the elaboration of real proposals for the construction of socialism – the only possible and feasible way to guarantee a future for the peoples of the world.

The following statement was issued at the conclusion of this year's conference:

DILEMMAS of Humanity conference is a major international gathering of left movements and parties initiated by the International People's Assembly. The theme of this year's summit was "dialogues toward socialism".

Between October 14 and 18 this year, 500 members and leaders of social movements, political parties, and trade unions from more than 130 organisations and 75 countries gathered in Johannesburg (South Africa) to chart an exit from the catastrophes of capitalism.

The Dilemmas of Humanity International Conference is part of a broad process that has included re-

gional conferences and 260 participating organisations from 51 countries. From this space we proclaim the urgent need to overcome the distress of our present to build socialism now.

Capitalism is in a state of crisis because it is a social system that both creates immense wealth and immense inequality. It expands the social power of labour and decreases the ability of the mass of people to enjoy the fruits of their work. At the same time, capitalism extracts wealth from nature with no concern for the destruction wrought against the planet.

The massive social inequality and the environmental catastrophe have possible solutions. Yet the imperialist forces – unwilling to recognise their declining control – use military power to forcefully sustain their positions of power. They would prefer to destroy the world to maintain their profits and authority rather than save it for humanity.

Rapid changes are occurring in the world. US-led imperialism finds itself challenged across the world by people who are no longer willing to submit to the austerity-debt model of economic destruction and to capitulate to the economic and military war imposed by the United States on what it sees as its "rivals".

The Western military states spend trillions of dollars on weapons, build military bases on our land and use their deadly arms to intimidate the world's peoples and to destroy state processes that seek to win over and maintain their sovereignty. They want war and they are preparing it, using NATO and similar alliances to bring violent conflict to every corner of the world.

We want peace and development. We pledge to be sharp in our battle of ideas against the relentlessness of imperialist lies and half-truths; we pledge to build people's struggles to overwhelm imperialism's hunger for profit and war.

#### Foundations

Building socialism is neither a linear process nor one that can be copied and reproduced. Instead, it is a long and historic process that necessarily faces regressions and advances. Experiences in socialist construction demonstrate that socialism is a reality in our present moment in history and not some distant point of arrival.

Our struggle for socialism must be rooted in a concrete analysis of each particular reality and the creativity of each process. The foundations of socialism are built in daily actions and efforts that find solutions for the issues created by capitalism, while also creating a

new consciousness and building organisations of the working class. Struggles that address basic and concrete needs are essential to advancing towards socialism. In the face of the challenges posed by the present crisis of capitalism, genuine solutions are emerging within the working class all over the world. The message is clear: the working class, the backbone of society, is the only group capable of shaping a vision for a future world that is worthy of humanity, based on the values of solidarity, justice, respect and love for others, and care for the environment.

Democracy, national sovereignty, and self-determination, are necessary pathways to socialism and can only be fully achieved under the conditions of socialism. One of the most wretched barriers to socialism is the existence of the unipolar order led by US imperialism, so its removal is a fact of our struggles. The shifting geopolitical landscape and emerging multipolar order offers an opportunity for us to advance a progressive agenda. This, however, depends on the masses being politically engaged in building democratic and socialist processes in our own countries.

#### Alliances

Confronting imperialism requires a comprehensive strategy connected to the reality of each continent and rooted in a revolutionary project. Regional integration projects, solidarity efforts, progressive resolutions in multilateral institutions, and mass mobilisation are all elements of an anti-imperialist strategy. Tactical alliances that serve to further weaken imperialism, while also constructing a way towards socialist transformation, should be pursued. Progressive movements everywhere must adopt an unwavering commitment to solidarity with the struggles of the people against intervention and occupation, observing the right to resistance and self-determination of all peoples of the world.

Capitalism must be overcome, and we must dare to engage in the construction of socialism today. This construction will require the unity of the working class and the peasantry, and all oppressed people, a unity built through the increased clarity and confidence of the people through their organisations in their own countries and regions.

Young people and women must not only participate, but lead efforts and struggles in all sectors and at every level. We acknowledge the challenges faced by the working class and the peasantry, as well as all oppressed people, to build their organisations in a

time of greater precariousness in the workplace and atomisation and alienation in society. We believe that the movements that are part of the Dilemmas of Humanity process have shown the way to build this unity through at least four pillars of socialist construction:

● **Relief.** In a time of austerity, our organisations are committed to fight to transcend the barriers faced by our people to live lives of dignity, barriers such as hunger and illiteracy. We are committed to build processes of relief rooted in the working class and peasantry, as well as all oppressed people.

● **Recompose the working class.** As savage capitalism attacks unions in the factories and the fields, creating a working order rooted in precariousness, we will fight to recompose the class by building strength through agitation, education, and mobilisation in unions and peasant organisations and other people's organisations. Building of cooperatives and communes that bring people together to build our own capacity to start the journey to socialism now are also key initiatives.

● **Rescue the Collective Life.** Fascist and fundamentalist forces are rooting themselves in the lives of the working class and peasantry, building social processes that build a collective life for the people against the atomisation and alienation of savage capitalism. Our movements fight to rescue the collective life not only from the alienation of capitalism but also from the attempts of toxic collectivity produced by the fascist and fundamentalist forces.

● **Rebuild the Culture of Struggle.** The precarity in the economy, the immense household debt imposed on the people, the attack on worker and peasant organisations, and other factors, have led to a weakness in our capacity to struggle. We are in a process to rebuild the culture of struggle, including internationalist struggles of material and ideological solidarity.

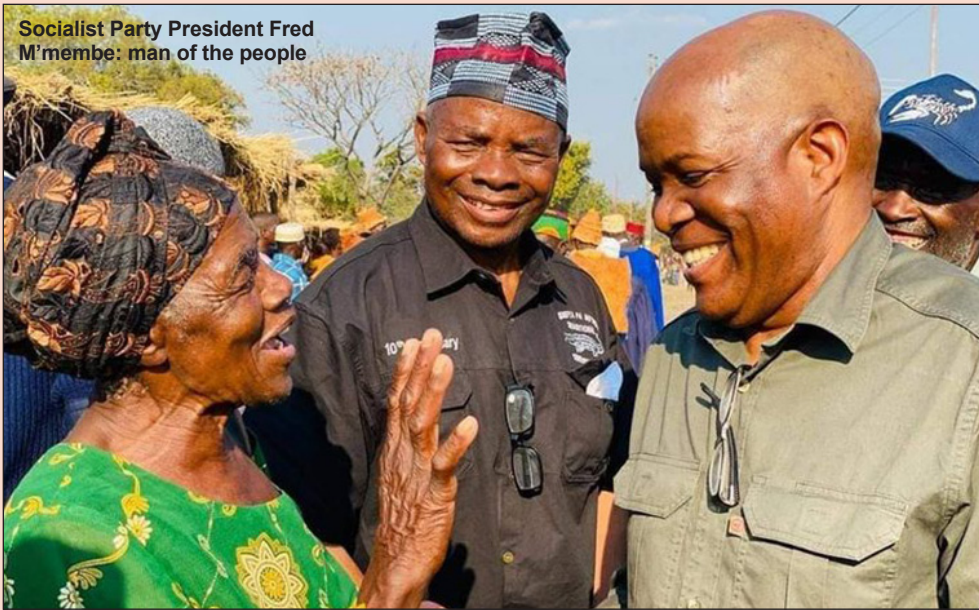
The Dilemmas of Humanity conference represents a significant stride forward in the revolutionary struggle of the working class and the peasantry. This process provoked critical debates and kindled hope and commitment toward building a better world.

The seeds of socialism have been planted by the progressive forces that have gathered in our process. We commit to nurture these seeds and to continue strengthening organisations and instruments of the working class by continuing the work that has taken place here inside our organisations and in each and every country that is represented here.

*Liberation*



Socialist Party President Fred M'membe: man of the people



## Hypocrisy and tribalism of the naked emperor

I LISTENED attentively to historian Dr Sishuwa Si-shuwa's recent interview on Hot FM. Some of the things he said I had pointed out before – especially the issue of tribally inclined appointments under Mr Hakainde Hichilema's government.

Following Dr Sishuwa's interview there was a phone call to Hot FM from Mr Hichilema's media aide complaining about the programme.

This was followed by a letter from the so-called Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) that has never been independent from its inception.

Like in the story of the naked emperor, it seems the nakedness, iniquities of what Mr Hichilema says or does should never be exposed, pointed out, and criticised.

We have no doubt that an independent audit of Mr Hichilema's appointments will certainly confirm tribalism in his imperial majesty's appointments.

It seems the tribalism that could be pointed out, criticised, and was unacceptable in the previous regime shouldn't be exposed, pointed out, and criticised under this imperial majesty's reign.

Tribal-inclined appointments have certainly incomparably increased under Mr Hichilema and he will have serious difficulties dismissing changes of tribalism. Everywhere one turns and looks, tribalism is glaring. But no one should call it out, point it out, because it will offend his imperial majesty.

What type of hypocrisy, double standards is this?

It reminds us of Lord Acton's letter to Bishop Creighton arguing that the same moral standards should be applied to all men, political and religious leaders included, especially since, "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely". (1887)

Lord Acton wrote to Bishop Creighton a series of letters concerning the moral problem of writing history about the Inquisition. Acton believed that the same moral standards should be applied to all men, political and religious leaders included, especially since, in his famous phrase, "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely".

"I cannot accept your canon that we are to judge Pope and King unlike other men, with a favourable presumption that they did no wrong. If there is any presumption it is the other way against holders of power, increasing as the power increases. Historic responsibility has to make up for the want of legal responsibility. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority: still more when you add the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority. There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it. That is the point at which the negation of Catholicism and the negation of Liberalism meet and keep high festival, and the end learns to justify the means.

You would hang a man of no position, like Rav-aillac; but if what one hears is true, then Elizabeth asked the gaoler to murder Mary, and William III ordered his Scots minister to extirpate a clan. Here are the greater names coupled with the greater crimes. You would spare these criminals, for some mysterious reason. I would hang them, higher than Haman, for reasons of quite obvious justice; still more, still higher, for the sake of historical science."

There is much more to these letters than just the occurrence of Acton's most famous phrase that "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

The context is the question of how religious historians should handle the corrupt and even criminal behaviour of many Popes, and the appalling treatment of dissidents and heretics during the Inquisition. This leads Acton to talk about the universal nature of moral principles, the requirement for historians to use such principles in the assessment of historical figures, the tendency of these powerful historical figures to be "bad men", and that it was the function of historians to "hang them" (whether he meant this literally of metaphorically is not clear).

In the third letter to Creighton, Acton quotes with some approval a conversation he had with

John Bright, one of the leaders of the Anti-Corn Law League, who said to him that "if the people knew what sort of men statesmen were, they would rise and hang the whole lot of them".

It's very clear to us that the exercise of power must be a constant practice of self-limitation and modesty.

## Hichilema's state abuses

EMERITUS Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu issued a press statement in which he said, "We write this in light of the emerging authoritarian tendencies by the New Dawn government in which state institutions are now being abused despite the assurances from the executive arm of government."

He is right: Mr Hakainde Hichilema is abusing state powers and has the tendencies of a tin-pot dictator.

Mr Hichilema came into office two years ago on a promise to strengthen democratic governance and institutions.

But what we see is repeated abuse of executive power, unethical conduct, and politicisation of government functions.

A simple definition of the abuse of power is the misuse of a position of power to take unjust advantage of individuals, organisations, or governments.

And Mr Hichilema's abuses of power have seriously eroded public trust in government institutions, officers and officials. A core tenet of our multiparty political dispensation – that no one is above the law – must be restored.

Most urgently, Mr Hichilema needs to take additional action to restore the integrity of the rule of law.

With trust in government near a historic low, now is the time for Mr Hichilema to leave a lasting mark on the presidency and institute structural change to ensure that the government serves the public interest for generations to come.

And further, Mr Hichilema should follow through on the commitments he made as a candidate to adhere to the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

## Stop mocking Zambians

RECENTLY, on Prime Television's Oxygen for Democracy, Mr Cornelius Mweetwa, UPND spokesperson, preached to the nation that they want to see a strong opposition, that it's good for democracy. In one breath they say they want a strong opposition, in another, they are busy threatening "Imingalato", "Tizamukama Pamukosi", denying opposition access to hold rallies.

Hello ba UPND, the time to fool people, to fool Zambians is long gone! Focus on fulfilling the promises that you made to the Zambian people.

Hunger is looming in the country. Things are bad. What has happened to your 10-point plan?

## Don't cheat yourself

THINGS are really bad. But Mr Hakainde Hichilema doesn't seem to realise just how bad things are.

And he shouldn't cheat himself or allow himself to be cheated by the fake, manipulated, and bought ward by-election results, that the people are happy with him and his regime.

He is probably not being told the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth about where things stand.

A weakness of any system of intelligence, in any country in the world, is that its operatives, anxious for promotion, tend to feed their superiors with information they think their leaders want to hear.

## Nothing lasts forever

TODAY those in power are able to do whatever they want, whenever they want and in whichever way they want it. They have demonstrated to the nation and the world that they are above the law. That they can abuse power as and when they want.

But again we would like to remind those who are in power that the exercise of power must be a constant practice of self-limitation and modesty. Time will tell. Nothing lasts forever! Fikapwa!

# 'Infantile' reply to opposition's serious worries

## Zambia crisis needs mature leaders

ZAMBIA'S opposition leaders, with the great love and patriotism they have for the country, met and addressed key issues the it is faced with and proposed a way forward, Socialist Party President Fred M'membe reports.

"But what did Mr Hakainde Hichilema through his newly installed mouthpiece, vuvuzela, Mr Cornelius Mweetwa do? They handled a serious national matter with infantile disorder and without regard to the issues raised.

"Mr Hichilema, through Mr Mweetwa, reduced all the sensible and pressing concerns, plus the hard effort put together by the opposition, with a response characteristic of or befitting an infant," Dr M'membe said.

"And going by the regular standards of ignorant, poorly researched and often contradictory press emanating from the Ministry of Information lately, it seems this is the adopted style of governance by Mr Hichilema and his corrupt puppet regime.

## Delusional

"But this, too, shall fail. It will backfire and become a huge political and administrative disaster. To think that Mr Mweetwa's regular infantile tantrums and delusional views will make a difference or make this regime acceptable in the eyes of the citizens is another sign of how much of a failure this untried and untested regime led by Mr Hichilema is.

"In case they don't know, Zambians are already aware that it's the responsibility of politicians – especially those in government – to run the country, manage foreign affairs, provide security, as well as a credible legal system. So these



Opposition leaders discuss 'pressing concerns' about the country

constant blame games and rants about the opposition as if they're the ones in the driving seat are just annoying people and raising the temperature even more.

"What this country faces today is a crisis. And the attitude of the political leadership – especially those in government – should be based on empathy, compassion, respect and a general realisation that there is no future for them aside practical solutions to the poverty and squalor facing people today.

"Mr Hichilema and his minions must realise and acknowledge the deep divisions between themselves and the people. Their arrogance, pomposity and reckless bravado are all breeding nothing but paranoia, uncertainty and fear in the masses.

"This country is in a cash crunch. The politics of the ruling elite are also in total collision with the suffering majority of our people, and the best response this government can give to these hair-raising concerns is a defiant and combative response. What type of recklessness is this?

"Why does Mr Hichilema always miss moments? Why is it

that every time wrongs about his regime are highlighted, he quickly retreats into a cell or cocoon of insecurity? Why doesn't he seize the opportunity and make significant changes to calm the situation?

"We would like to strongly advise Mr Hichilema that Zambia's unique economic and political problems will not be solved by people who don't understand nor care about the future of our country and it's people.

"What we need now is a unified and increased citizen and opposition political party participation in the affairs of the country before we drift into deep poverty and desperation.

"Let them not cheat or comfort themselves, the reality on the ground is that the current hunger or economic hardship in general, is slowly becoming a national security issue.

"There is tension in the country, the ground is boiling, and an infantile, arrogant and combative attitude towards the people is not the best way to deal with the situation.

"It is time for a sober, rational, honest and mature leadership."

# Time to own up and tell the truth about the mealie meal situation

THERE is a need for Mr Hakainde Hichilema and his corrupt puppet regime to be honest and transparent about the mealie meal crisis in the country, Socialist Party President Fred M'membe says.

"It is very important that this regime, and Mr Hichilema in particular, take full responsibility for this unprecedented leadership failure and admit that we have a serious mealie meal crisis. Let them swallow their pride and tell the nation the truth by revealing the extent of the crisis," he said in a Facebook post.

"Mr Hichilema must know that keeping quiet, denying, or concealing the truth about the current mealie meal crisis has damaging consequences. Evidently, the mealie meal situation in the country today has reached desperate levels and this regime can no longer mask or pretend that this problem doesn't exist.

"And we want to repeat the counsel we have consistently offered to Mr Hichilema; that he must be extremely cautious with the manner the government is handling the mealie meal situation in the country.

"History has shown that the poor have never been friendly in their response to unprecedented high food prices and shortages. When their lives and wellbeing are threatened due to unaffordable food prices and shortages, the poor have always sought solutions differently and in their own way. But there is no need to tempt people to reach such desperate levels."

Dr M'membe said Mr Hichilema needed to acknowledge that the government's failure to manage the mealie meal supply and prices posed a serious national security risk, both in the short- and long-term.

"However, we are aware that there are plans by this regime to import mealie meal from South Africa for the next eight to 12 months. We request them to be honest and transparent over this transaction and let the people know way in advance that the mealie meal that will be coming through from South Africa is genetically modified (GMO), and it should be clearly labelled as such so that citizens can have a choice and decide whether to eat GMO mealie meal or not.

"Further, it is high time this regime, and Mr Hichilema specifically, humbled themselves for once and listened to other stakeholders. This regime was told by many, including ourselves, that their senseless exports of maize would lead to mealie meal shortages, but they ignored this wise counsel.

"We told them that their claim that Zambia had more than enough maize stocks was flawed and failed to consider the role of government in driving maize production through input subsidies. Now they have depleted the reserves and are resorting to desperate measures. If the nation had enough reserves as they claimed, why are they importing GMO mealie meal? Will this leadership ever be serious enough to take care of the numerous problems facing our people?

"The mealie meal situation in the country is unbearable and the citizens have been inconvenienced and wrestled with prohibitive prices for a while. This is unacceptable and this situation can't continue.

"Mr Hichilema and his corrupt puppet regime have failed," Dr M'membe said.

"One bad term, doesn't deserve another, aleya!"



# Imperialist powers s

Palestinian People's Party member **Arwa Abu Hashhash** told the Dilemmas of Humanity conference in Johannesburg last month how imperialist powers led by the US unite to try to establish a narrative legitimising the killings and crimes committed by Israel, seeking to blind the world to the truth behind the conflict, and continuing to ignore and evade the reality that the Palestinian cause is a matter of national liberation. Introduced by **Vijay Prashad**

THE DILEMMAS of Humanity conference, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from October 14 to 18, brought together political leaders, activists, and organic intellectuals from around the world to discuss the central problems facing humanity today and strengthen proposals to address them.

Participants watched in horror as Israel escalated its genocidal war against the Palestinian people. On October 17, the eleventh consecutive day of its bombardment, Israel stunned the world by bombing the al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza City, where thousands of civilians were receiving medical treatment and were seeking shelter from the attacks.

According to the initial estimate of Gaza's health ministry, more than 500 people were killed, although that number was certain to rise. One day before the massacre, the UN Security Council had the opportunity to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, which may have averted the hospital bombing. The United States, United Kingdom, France, and Japan, however, blocked the resolution.

## Assault

During the opening session of the conference, in the midst of what many have referred to as a second Nakba, Palestinian People's Party member Arwa Abu Hashhash gave an impassioned speech about the assault on her country. This article (Tricontinental newsletter) reports her speech, which was updated on October 18 to reflect figures and sources as they stood at that time:

"Allow me to speak on behalf of the Palestinian delegation that was supposed to be among us now but was unable to attend because of the difficult circumstances and the suffocating blockade that the Palestinian people are currently enduring," she told conference delegates.

"At this moment, as I address you, the besieged people of Gaza and Palestine are facing a genocidal operation by the fascist Zionist occupation forces. For the 12th consecutive day, the Israeli war



Most of the art that accompanies this article is by the Palestinian artist Malak Mattar, who began painting at age 14 after a quarter of her neighbourhood was destroyed in an air

machine continues to massacre Palestinians, resulting in the killing of children, women, youth, and the elderly.

"Since October 7, more than 3,400 Palestinians, many of them children, have been martyred. Dozens of families have been completely wiped from the civil register after multiple generations were martyred, and there has been a horrific destruction of infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, government buildings, and media houses. This has led to the displacement of over one million people in Gaza from their homes, along with a suffocating siege and an attempt to starve the more than two million inhabitants of the region by cutting off all food, medicine, fuel supplies, water, and electricity.

"The genocide of the Palestinian people today has the unequivocal support of the imperialist powers of the world, primarily the United

**Gaza has been turned into an open-air prison for two million Palestinians. Hundreds of homes, schools, universities, places of worship, and health centres have been shelled and destroyed, leading to a persistent crisis of displacement for Palestinians, most of whom were already refugees driven from their lands during the Nakba of 1948**

States and some allied Western countries. These countries are making a terrible yet futile attempt to re-define the essence of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as an issue of terrorism, likening the Palestinian

people and their resistance to ISIS and placing Hamas and the Palestinian people as a whole within what they call the 'War on Terror'.

"In their deliberate effort to establish this narrative, these powers first aim to legitimise the killings and daily crimes committed by Israel. They seek to blind the world to the truth behind the ongoing conflict and continue to ignore and evade the reality that the Palestinian cause is a matter of national liberation.

"As we gather today from all over the world to discuss the crisis of the capitalist system – so that we can propose alternatives to overcome this system and formulate a socialist alternative – we are faced with one of the most fundamental tasks, which requires us to accurately identify the tools of this system. In order to understand the nature of the ongoing conflict in Palestine today, it is crucial to understand the Israeli occupation in

the Arab and Maghreb region as a fundamental tool and an advanced military base that serves imperialists' interests in the region and ensures their control and hegemony. This is part of the battle of ideas that we have repeatedly emphasised in our ongoing work through Dilemmas of Humanity.

"Israel, which did not exist 75 years ago, was established through one of the most violent acts of ethnic cleansing in modern history with the unwavering support of British imperialism at the time and later US imperialism alongside French and other European imperialist forces.

## Resources

"As these imperialist powers sought to seize our region's resources and exploit its wealth, their interests converged with those of the Zionist movement, which proposed to address the issues of Jews

in Europe by establishing the state of Israel and colonising Palestinian land, displacing its people.

"These imperialist forces, with the United States at the fore, have continued to support and justify the state of Israel's daily brutal aggression against Palestinians. This aggression includes stealing land, demolishing homes, building illegal settlements, and arresting, detaining, humiliating, and killing innocent young people, women, and the elderly in Palestine every day.

"Israel, after seizing the majority of Palestine in 1948 and displacing nearly 800,000 Palestinians – the vast majority of the population at the time – [in an act of ethnic cleansing known as the Nakba] re-occupied what remained of historical Palestine by capturing the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. Since then, Israel has persistently violated all international agreements by building over 200 illegal settlements, each containing thousands





# Support this genocide



strike during Israel's 2014 war on Gaza. The last painting (bottom right) is by the Palestinian artist Heba Zagout, who, along with her two children, was killed on October 13 by Israeli airstrikes on Gaza

of housing units where more than 700,000 settlers now reside.

"The construction of these settlements involves not only the seizure of thousands of acres of Palestinian land, depriving many Palestinians of their land and basic livelihoods, but also the separation of Palestinian cities and towns from each other, hindering the movement and mobility of Palestinians and undermining the possibility of establishing a contiguous state, even in the areas that the entire world recognises as Palestinian territory.

"Moreover, Israel continues to detain more than 5,000 Palestinians, including 1,264 'administrative detainees' held without charge or trial – a practice prohibited by international law – as well as 170 children under the age of 16 and 30 women. More than 1,000 of these prisoners suffer from various health conditions, including 200 with chronic diseases, and face deliberate medical neglect by

the Israeli prison authorities. This includes failing to provide necessary medications, denying essential surgical procedures, and keeping ill detainees in confinement rather than providing them with medical care in clinics or hospitals.

"Gaza, which Israel is subjecting to the most brutal genocide today using massive amounts of heavy explosives and internationally prohibited weapons, has been under a suffocating siege for over 16 years.

"During this siege and blockade, Israel has launched more than six bloody wars, resulting in thousands of deaths, tens of thousands of wounded individuals, many of whom have permanent disabilities, and the displacement of so many families.

"Gaza has been turned into an open-air prison for two million Palestinians. Hundreds of homes, schools, universities, places of worship, and health centres have been shelled and destroyed, leading to a

persistent crisis of displacement for Palestinians, most of whom were already refugees driven from their lands during the Nakba of 1948. Today, there is an explicit attempt by Israel to forcibly displace the residents of Gaza, which they do not conceal but express openly in various television broadcasts.

"Faced with the consequences of the brutal colonisation that the Palestinian people have endured for over 75 years, Western imperialist and Zionist powers have propagated a multitude of falsehoods in order to justify their unwavering support [for Israel]. These range from portraying Palestinian land as 'a land without a people', attempting to depict the conflict between Palestinians and Israeli settlers as a religious struggle, and, most recently, framing the conflict as a war on terrorism.

"Today, we have the fundamental task of dismantling this Western imperialist narrative and replacing

it with the true story of the Palestinian people, their legitimate struggle, and their resistance for their liberation and rights.

"Today, we are also engaged in another battle, the battle of emotions, which we have always emphasised in our work in the International Peoples' Assembly (IPA). In this battle, imperialist forces seek to strip humanity, including the Palestinian people, of its belief in the feasibility and potential of resistance and instead spread a discourse based on frustration and defeat.

## Cover-up

"What happened on October 7 is an integral part of the Palestinian people's struggle over the past 75 years. Resistance against colonialism and occupation is a just human right that is protected by all international laws. Any attempt to portray what happened as an 'attack'

or 'terrorism' is a cover-up for the terrorism of the occupying state and an attempt to legitimise it.

"The Palestinian people today are in dire need of the widest possible solidarity from all free peoples. This call for solidarity is not made from a position of humanitarian or symbolic solidarity but is an integral part of our shared struggle. What is happening in Palestine today is not isolated from what is happening in India, Iraq, Haiti, Venezuela, Cuba, or elsewhere. The defeat of imperialist assaults in one region is a victory for all of us.

"Allow me to thank all the social movements that are acting in solidarity with the Palestinian people and extend my thanks to the IPA, which has always embraced the cause of Palestine. It is true that the Israeli killing machine continues to take Palestinian lives, but we believe that this will only strengthen our determination to continue resisting.

"Allow me to conclude with a quote from the Palestinian communist poet Muin Bseiso: 'Yes, we may die, but we will uproot death from our land'. Victory to the resistance! Liberty and freedom to Palestine!"

We hope that this message from Arwa is both informative and inspirational. Much of the art that accompanies this article is by the Palestinian artist Malak Mattar, who began painting at age 14 after a quarter of her neighbourhood was destroyed in an airstrike during Israel's 2014 war on Gaza.

The last painting is by the Palestinian artist Heba Zagout, who, along with her two children, was killed on October 13 by Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. The terrible violence against the Palestinian people must stop now. Palestinians will be a free people. In fact, they are already free.

<https://thetricontinental.org/news-letterissue/palestine-2/>





# Imperialist govts ban Gaza war protests

## Right to free speech a victim of Mideast clash

IN THE immediate aftermath of Hamas's attacks on Israel on October 7, a Palestinian flag was painted on a monument near Sonnenallee, commonly known as Berlin's Arab street, in the southwestern district of Neukölln. Authorities painted over it on the same night. In contrast, the city's Brandenburg Gate was lit up the next day in the blue and white colours of the Israeli flag.

The disparate visual examples have come to represent the fault lines existing in Germany during the latest escalation of violence in the Middle East. Hamas fighters killed more than 1,400 people in Israel. A relentless bombing campaign by Israel on the Gaza Strip since then has killed more than 7,000 Palestinians and flattened entire neighbourhoods.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz has committed German support to Israel and promised to prohibit all Hamas activities in the country and target suspected Hamas sympathisers.

Samidoun, known as the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, was banned shortly after the group posted photos online of people allegedly celebrating Hamas's attacks.

Pro-Palestinian protests in many parts the country as well as Palestinian flags, pro-Palestinian speech and the Palestinian keffiyeh head-dress have been banned with schools in Berlin given official permission to do so.

Police violence against protesters has been reported in major German cities such as Frankfurt, Munich, and Berlin, where riot police were stationed for days in a row on Sonnenallee as anger against Israel's bombardment of Gaza spilled out on the streets.

Berlin is home to one of the largest Palestinian diaspora communities in Europe, estimated at 300,000.

Cultural institutions, meanwhile, have reported pressure to cancel events featuring groups critical of the Israeli state while the Frankfurt Book Fair postponed an event set to honour Palestinian writer Adania Shibli for her book *A Minor Detail*.

Authorities say measures are being taken to protect against public disorder and anti-Semitism. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior told Al Jazeera that while in Germany freedom of opinion and freedom of assembly is allowed, there are clear limits.

"All instruments of assembly law must be used to prevent solidarity

demonstrations with the terror of Hamas as early as possible," the spokesperson said.

Yet pro-Palestinian supporters say this position has led to the crackdown and criminalisation of Palestinians as well as an attack on the rights of whole communities and people across Germany who want to speak out against Israel's attacks.

"Nobody expected our protest last week to be cancelled as we have been holding them peacefully with police cooperation for years," Amir Ali, a Palestinian who has been involved in organising protests in Munich, told said. "I was even forbidden to walk inside the city for 24 hours because I was wearing a keffiyeh."

"There's a crackdown on all pro-Palestinian voices across Germany, and in my opinion, they don't want anybody to speak up about the crimes against humanity being committed by the Israeli state."

Majed Abusalama is a Palestinian political activist based in Berlin with Palestine Speaks, a Palestinian rights group that's active across Germany. Abusalama has been sharing on social media the losses of his family and friends in Gaza. He said Palestinians are being subjected to racial profiling and being prevented from openly mourning.

"At our demos, we have experienced police racially profiling and the targeting, arrests and detainment of non-white and Palestinian-looking men specifically. That tells a lot about the racist infrastructure that the German police are a part of."

While the latest measures are particularly stringent, Palestinian supporters have faced restrictions even before October 7. This year, Berlin authorities banned demonstrations to mark 75 years since the Nakba, or "catastrophe", when most Palestinians were driven from their homes before and after the declaration of the state of Israel.

### Humanity

Sa'ed Atshan, associate professor of peace and conflict studies and anthropology at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, said there were a number of reasons why Germany is currently doubling down on this position.

"Part of it is an underlying racism where there's a hierarchy of humanity whereby Palestinian life is not seen as equal," Atshan said.

"There's also an environment of anxiety, fear and xenophobia around refugees from the Middle East that are highly stigmatised within the German landscape," he added.

German-Israeli art historian and



Above: a march goes ahead in London despite a heavy police presence. Below: Solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, in Baghdad, Iraq



archaeologist Katharina Galor, who with Atshan co-authored *The Moral Triangle*, a 2020 book that explores the asymmetric relationships between Israelis, Palestinians and Germans in Berlin, said none of this is new.

"It's very much in line with the German attitude since the 1970s, which is standing with Israel politically in the Middle East and providing support for its military," said Galor, a professor at Brown University, also in the United States. "Israel's security and existence is Germany's 'Staatsraison', or 'reason of state'."

That has had consequences for Germany's Palestinian community and its sympathisers.

"What this has meant is a complete censorship of Palestinian voices. There is a large Palestinian community in Berlin who understand the history and the context of violence who cannot speak because it not only has social consequences, it can also have consequences for their lives and survival, including job losses," she added.

Commentators say the current position is also in line with Germany's decades-long commitment to atone for the Holocaust. Galor said that while these efforts have been appreciated by Jewish people such as herself, who lost family in Nazi concentration camps, there

**(There) is a complete censorship of Palestinian voices. There is a large Palestinian community in Berlin who understand the history and the context of violence who cannot speak because it not only has social consequences, it can also have consequences for their lives and survival, including job losses**

has been little attention in German society to address the Holocaust in relation to the Nakba. "One of the shocking discoveries we found was that even among educated Germans, there was no knowledge or school education about the Nakba and how these two events are connected," she said. "Germans for the most part are so concerned with taking responsibility for the Holocaust that what is happening in the Middle East only touches and concerns them if it regards the wellbeing of Jewish citizens."

What's also missing, Atshan said, is the recognition that Germany is supporting a behaviour remi-

niscent of what the country has tried to move on from.

"Unfortunately, while many think that they've moved past the ultranationalism, violence, and racism of the Nazi regime, they've now put themselves in a position in which they are reproducing those patterns with regards to the Israeli state," Atshan said.

"So it's incredibly ironic. And for Germany to say that this discussion is not allowed, it's profoundly anti-democratic."

And the bias against Palestinians is prevalent in other parts of Europe and the US too.

### Warning

In France, the Interior Ministry banned protests in solidarity with Gaza called in Paris, Lyon and Marseille, citing "the risks of disturbing public order" they supposedly pose. Moreover, the French government had decreed that making of statements in favour of the uprising in Gaza a crime, allowing for the prosecution of political parties making such statements.

Justice Minister Eric Dupont-Moretti issued a three-page brief warning that the Israeli-Gaza war could lead not only to terrorist attacks on individual Jews in France, but also to "statements hailing the attacks, presenting them as legitimate resistance to Israel". Such

statements, he asserted, constitute "anti-Semitic crimes" such as "apologetics for terrorism or direct provocation to acts of terrorism." Such actions must face, he added, "systematic and firm criminal prosecution, primarily via summary judgment."

Among the parties and associations that could be prosecuted, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin confirmed, is the New Anti-capitalist Party – a party the presidential candidates of which have in the past received millions of votes.

In Britain, a protest in London was met by a heavily armed police deployment. Home Secretary Suel- la Braverman called on police to use the full force of the law against "displays of support for Hamas".

In Australia, the New South Wales state Labor government banned a march opposing Israeli aggression this weekend in Sydney.

In the United States, student groups at Harvard that issued a statement denouncing Israeli crimes and calling attention to the historical background to the uprising in Gaza have faced demands that they be disaffiliated.

The president of New York University's Student Bar Association has been the subject of relentless denunciations in the media and has had a job offer revoked for denouncing Israeli atrocities.

Al Jazeera/wws.org



# Africa has everything it needs to become a successful continent

Nkrumah: we have all the resources for powerful, modern, industrialisation

Vijay Prashad

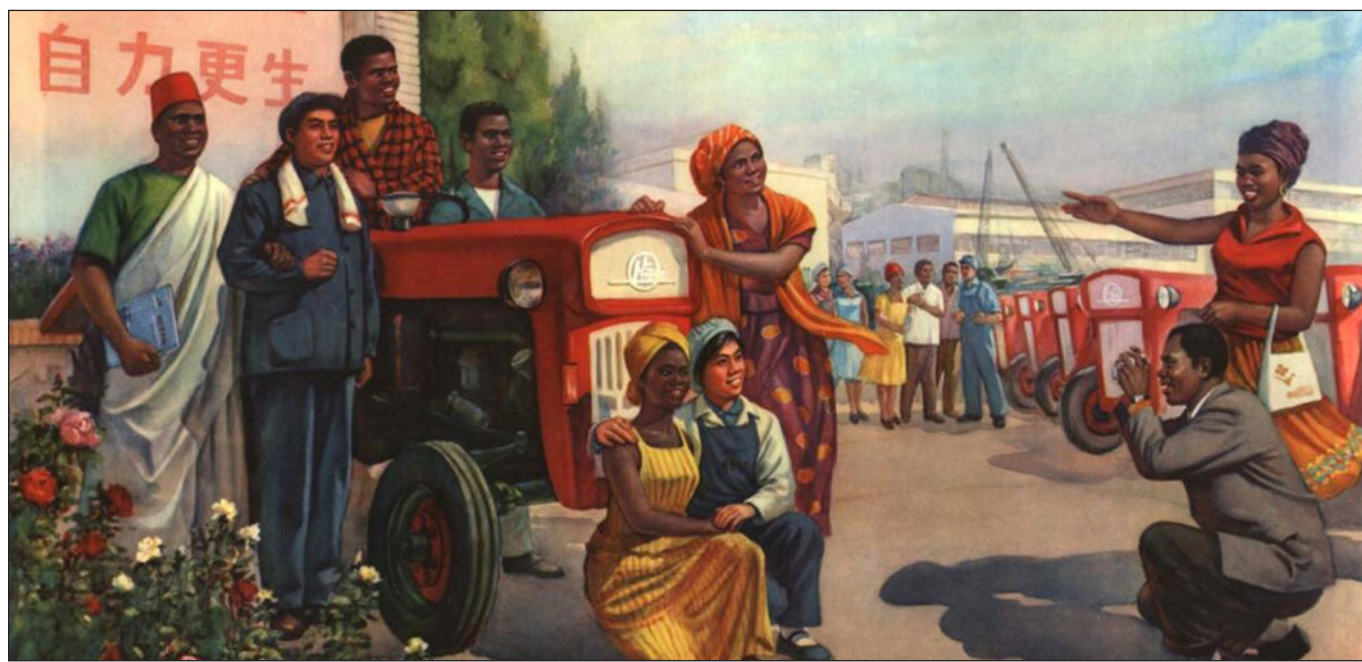
IN HIS 1963 book, *Africa Must Unite*, Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first president, wrote, "We have here, in Africa, everything necessary to become a powerful, modern, industrialised continent. United Nations investigators have recently shown that Africa, far from having inadequate resources, is probably better equipped for industrialisation than almost any other region in the world".

Nkrumah was referring to the Special Study on Economic Conditions and Development, Non-Self-Governing Territories (United Nations, 1958), which detailed the continent's immense natural resources. "The true explanation for the slowness of industrial development in Africa," Nkrumah wrote, "Lies in the policies of the colonial period. Practically all our natural resources, not to mention trade, shipping, banking, building, and so on, fell into, and have remained in, the hands of foreigners seeking to enrich alien investors, and to hold back local economic initiative." Nkrumah further expanded upon this view in his remarkable book, *Neo-Colonialism: the Last Stage of Imperialism* (1965).

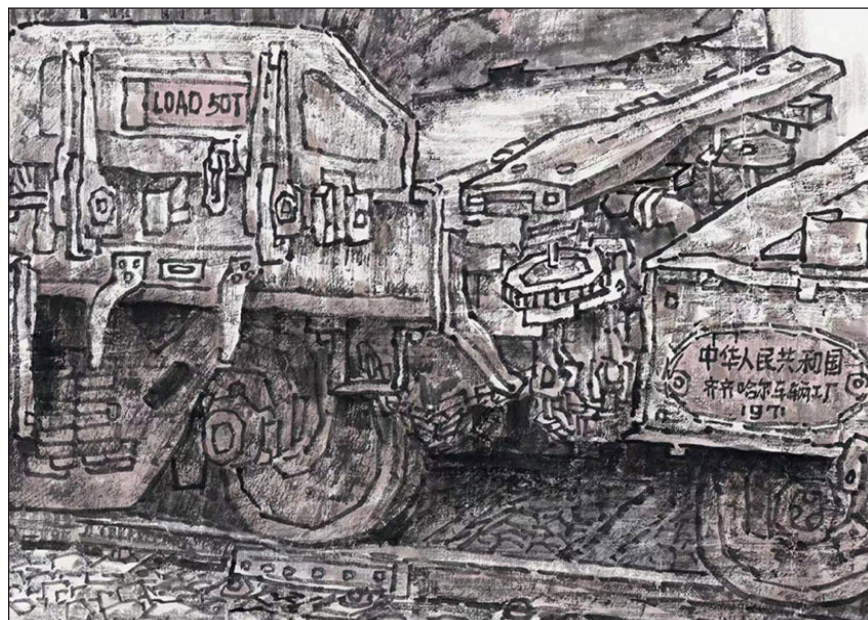
As the leader of Ghana's government, Nkrumah devised a policy to reverse this trend by promoting public education (with an emphasis on science and technology), building a robust public sector to provide his country with infrastructure (including electricity, roads, and railways), and developing an industrial sector that would add value to the raw materials that had previously been exported at meagre prices. However, such a project would fail if it were only tried in one country. That is why Nkrumah was a great champion of African unity, articulated at length in his book *Africa Must Unite* (1963). It was because of his determination that African countries formed the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) the same year as his book was published. In 1999, the OAU became the African Union.

As Ghana and Africa made small strides to establish national and continental sovereignty, some people had other ideas. Nkrumah was removed from office in a Western-backed coup in 1966, five years after Patrice Lumumba was ejected as prime minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and then assassinated. Anyone who wanted to build a project for the sovereignty of the continent and the dignity of the African people would find themselves either deposed, dead, or both.

The Western-backed governments that followed these coups often reversed the policies to exercise national sovereignty and build continental unity. For instance, in 1966, the military leaders of Ghana's National Liberation Council began to gut the policy of establish-



Above: Guo Hongwu (China), *Revolutionary Friendship Is As Deep As The Ocean*, 1975. Below left: Zhao Jianqi (China), *Longing For Home*. Below right: third issue of the international journal *Wenhua Zongheng* titled *China-Africa Relations in the Belt and Road Era*



ing quality public education and an efficient public sector with industrialisation and continental trade at its centre. Import-substitution policies that had been important to the new Third World states were rejected in favour of exporting cheapened raw materials and importing expensive finished products. The spiral of debt and dependency wracked the continent.

This situation was worsened by the International Monetary Fund's Structural Adjustment Programmes, set in motion during the worst of the 1980s debt crisis. A 2009 research paper from the South Centre noted that "the continent is the least industrialised region of the world, while the share of sub-Saharan Africa in global manufacturing value added actually declined in most sectors between 1990 and 2000". Indeed, the South Centre paper referred to the situation in Africa as one of "de-industrialisation".

## Harsh

In April 1980, African leaders gathered in Lagos, Nigeria, under the aegis of the OAU to deliberate about the harsh climate created by the IMF's Structural Adjustment Programmes, which targeted their fiscal policies but did nothing to change the adverse international credit markets. Out of this meeting came the Lagos Plan of Action (1980-2000), the main argument of which was for African states to

establish their sovereignty from international capital and to build industrial policies for their countries and for the continent. This was, in essence, a renewal of the Nkrumah policy of the 1960s.

Alongside the Lagos Plan of Action, the United Nations established the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1980-1990). Towards the end of that decade, in 1989 the OAU, cognisant of the policy's failure due to the deepening of neoliberal approaches that slashed budgets and intensified the export-oriented theft of African resources, worked with the United Nations to establish November 20 as Africa Industrialisation Day.

The failure of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa was followed by a second decade (1993-2002) and then a third (2016-2025). In January 2015, the African Union adopted Agenda 2063 to combine the imperative of industrialisation with Africa's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. These "decades" and Agenda 2063 have become merely symbolic. There is no agenda to undo external debt and debt-servicing burdens, nor any policy to create a climate to advance industrial development or finance the provision of basic needs.

At the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue, held on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) summit in Johannesburg,

China launched the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialisation "to support Africa in growing its manufacturing sector and realising industrialisation and economic diversification".

The Chinese government pledged to increase its funding to build infrastructure, design and create industrial parks, and assist African governments and firms in developing their industrial policies and industries. This new initiative will build off China's commitments at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to strengthen infrastructure on the continent, share its own experiences with industrialisation, and support a development project that emerges out of the African experience rather than one forced upon African states by the IMF or other agencies.

Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research and Dongsheng have launched the third issue of the international edition of the journal *Wenhua Zongheng* titled "China-Africa Relations in the Belt and Road Era". This issue features three articles, written by Grieve Chelwa, Zhou Jinyan, and Tang Xiaoyang. Professor Zhou, concurring with the South Centre report, notes that "African countries were essentially de-industrialised" since the 1980s and that whatever growth African countries experienced was a consequence of high commodity prices for exported raw materials. She points out that

Western countries – offering debt, aid and structural adjustment – are "not motivated to promote African industrialization".

Drawing heavily from the UN Economic Commission for Africa and analysing the industrial policies of most African countries, Professor Zhou highlights four important points:

- First, the state must play an active role in any industrial development,
- Second, industrialisation must take place on a regional and continental level – not within African states alone – given that 86 percent of Africa's total trade is "still conducted with other regions of the world, not within the continent",

## Fantasy

- Third, urbanisation and industrialisation must be coordinated so that cities on the continent do not continue to grow into large slums filled with jobless youth, and,
- Fourth, manufacturing will be the engine of African economic development rather than the fantasy of service sector-led growth.

These points guide Professor Zhou's assessment of how China can support the process of African industrialisation. In sharing its experiences with African countries, she notes that "China's failures" are as important as its successes.

In his essay, Professor Tang tracks the record of the Chinese-

led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on the continent. Established in 2013, the BRI is only a decade old, which barely allows enough time to fully assess this massive, global infrastructural and industrial development project.

At the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (April 2019), UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, "With the scale of its planned investments, (the BRI) offers a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the creation of a more equitable, prosperous world for all, and to reversing the negative impact of climate change".

In 2022, the UN released a report on the role of the BRI called *Partnering For A Brighter Shared Future*, which noted that the BRI – unlike most other development projects – provided significant funding for infrastructure projects that may form the basis for industrialisation in regions that had previously been exporters of raw materials and importers of manufactured products.

Building on such assessments of the BRI, Professor Tang offers three practical ways in which the BRI has promoted industrialisation on the African continent:

- First, by constructing industrial parks with integrated power sources and creating industrial clusters of interconnected firms,
- Second, by building industries to supply infrastructural materials, and,
- Third, by prioritising production for local markets rather than for export.

Unlike the IMF policies that are forced on African countries, Professor Tang argues that "China encourages each country to follow its own path of development and to not blindly follow any model".

Neither Tang nor Zhou nor Chelwa indicate that China is somehow the saviour of Africa. Those days are gone. No country or continent seeks its salvation elsewhere. Africa's path will be built by Africans. Nonetheless, given its own experiences of building manufacturing against a structure that reproduces dependency, China has a lot to share. Since it has enormous financial reserves and does not impose Western-styled conditionality, China can, of course, be a source of financing for alternative development projects.

In December 2022, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina said that "Africa's prosperity must no longer depend on exports of raw materials but on value-added finished products". "Across Africa," he continued, "We need to turn cocoa beans into chocolate, cotton into textiles and garments, coffee beans into brewed coffee." To keep in step with the times, we might add that Africa must also turn cobalt and nickel into lithium-ion batteries and electric cars, and turn copper and silver into smartphones.

Inside Adesina's statement is Nkrumah's dream: as he wrote in 1963, we have here, in Africa, everything necessary to become a powerful, modern, industrialised continent.

Tricontinental



# Biden calls for US\$100b for wars in Ukraine and Israel

## Bloodshed ‘a smart investment’ that will ‘pay dividends’

Patrick Martin

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden’s recent speech on national television was a demand for vast new military spending to expand the ongoing US-NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine and pour billions more into Israel’s aggression against Gaza and suppression of the Palestinian people.

The speech was not a serious attempt to convince anyone or rationally explain US foreign policy. It consisted of a series of non-sequiturs strung one after the other, with no coherent argument binding them together. Biden drew a parallel between Hamas and Russian President Vladimir Putin that, objectively, did not make the slightest sense.

But as he spoke, it became clear that the main aim of the speech was to use the war in Gaza to procure a massive spending bill for the war in Ukraine to prop up the Zelensky government following the failure of its summer offensive.

Indeed, the New York Times has reported that US\$60 billion of the \$100 billion spending bill Biden proposed will go to fight the war in Ukraine against Russia. This figure is more than twice Biden’s initial request of US\$24 billion in August. Some US\$14 billion will go to Israel.

Despite its rambling and incoherent nature, the main import of the speech is clear: America is hurtling towards global war, and the president of the United States, the so-called “commander-in-chief”, is demanding US\$100 billion in additional funds, on top of the US\$1 trillion already proposed for all military spending, to finance this explosion of military aggression.

Not mentioned in the speech, but widely reported in advance of the formal request to Congress, is the fact that Biden will also seek billions more in US military aid to Taiwan – an effort to provoke further conflict with China – and to militarise the US-Mexico border and intensify US intervention throughout Latin America.

### Stalemate

Aware of the deepening opposition to the US war in Ukraine, now ending its 18th month, and apparently mired in an endless, costly, and bloody stalemate, Biden sought to boot-strap the conflict in Israel to justify further spending in Ukraine, which will get the lion’s share of whatever military aid bill ultimately emerges from Congress.

While Biden declared that the world was at an inflection point, this is not because war is something new for the United States. On the contrary, America has been at war for more than 30 years, and the countries it has invaded, occupied or bombed amount to a significant portion of the world’s population; Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Pakistan, most of North Africa, Bosnia, Kosovo, Serbia, and Sudan.

What is new is the transformation of these wars into a more general conflict, or, as Leon Trotsky



Blood on Biden’s hands: the US President asks Congress for US\$60 billion for Ukraine to fight Russia and US\$14 billion to support Israel



described it on the eve of World War II, when “separate clashes and bloody local disturbances ... must inevitably coalesce into a conflagration of world dimensions”.

The contours of this new world war can be inferred from Biden’s US\$100 billion bill. It is aimed at expanding the war against Russia, using the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians for a possible war against Iran, and preparing for a war against China. The US administration is shaping the battlefield of what amounts to one continuous front in a global conflict whose goal is US dominance of the Eurasian land mass, from Eastern Europe, through the Middle East, Central Asia and ultimately China.

This is combined with efforts to safeguard its Western Hemisphere “backyard” by militarising the US-Mexico border and disposing of political inconveniences and potential obstacles like Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

If this appears to be a megalomaniacal programme for global conquest, it articulates the outlook of the megalomaniacs on Wall Street and in the Pentagon for whom Biden speaks when he delivers his paeans to the ability of America to do “anything” as long as it mobilises its full resources.

Biden even used the language of Wall Street in making his argument for the next enormous payout to the Pentagon and the US arms industry, declaring, “It’s a smart investment that’s going to pay dividends for American security for generations.” American workers will pay

with their living standards and social benefits, and the lives of their sons and daughters. But war will certainly pay for Raytheon, Boeing and Lockheed Martin, and for the big banks and hedge funds that control them.

A debased and discredited media will undoubtedly hail Biden’s speech as a political masterstroke, as it already has his rabid pro-Israel speech and his fulsome embrace of Netanyahu and the fascistic Israeli government during his visit to Tel Aviv. But no matter how they seek to glorify this aged representative of a senile and criminal imperialism, the United States is not able to conquer the world, only to destroy it with its arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Biden has already made himself the co-author of war crimes in Gaza, through his visit to Tel Aviv and embrace of Netanyahu. At least 4,000 Palestinians have already been killed, but the death toll is likely to rise to five or even six figures in the course of a ground invasion.

In one revealing reference towards the end of his speech, Biden invoked the late Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who described the United States as “the indispensable nation”. He did not cite Albright’s most notorious declaration, when she was interviewed by “60 Minutes” in 1996. She was asked about the catastrophic effect of US sanctions on Iraq, which caused the death of half a million Iraqi children for lack of medicine and key nutrients. “I think that is a very hard choice,” Albright answered,

“but the price, we think, the price is worth it.”

There is a more recent example of the catastrophe that awaits the people of Gaza from an Israeli invasion. In 2016, when Biden was vice-president in the Obama administration, the US military launched an operation against ISIS, which had captured the city of Mosul in Iraq – home to 2.5 million people, about equivalent to the Gaza Strip today. Mosul was a dense urban environment with a network of tunnels dug to protect against US bombardment. As US forces surrounded the city and closed in, they destroyed the water system and other infrastructure and nearly a million people fled for their lives. The Pentagon called this “the most precise air war in history.

### Genocide

Biden’s speech will not convince the millions of young people and workers in America and around the world, who have already engaged in mass protests against Israeli genocide in Gaza. It will only further anger them.

These protests have erupted, not just out of sympathy with two million Palestinians, cut off from food, water and electricity in the siege of Gaza. The world’s population is coming to recognise Biden’s demand for even more billions for war as a deadly threat to themselves.

The massive worldwide opposition is further inflamed by new crimes of the Israeli government, such as the bombing of Al-Ahli

hospital, in which as many as 500 Palestinians were killed, and most recently the bombing of a church in Gaza, one of the oldest Christian structures in the world, killing many more people.

Biden has endorsed the grotesque lie that the Al-Ahli hospital was destroyed by a Palestinian rocket, not an Israeli weapon. But his backing of Netanyahu only intensifies the opposition to the war. As he was giving his address on national television, the White House was surrounded by demonstrators, including many Jewish Americans, chanting their opposition to US-Israeli atrocities.

A mass movement is already underway all over the world against Israel’s genocide against the Palestinians. This movement must fight to mobilise the mass opposition among youth and workers on a global scale to demand an end to the Israeli blockade, prevent the impending invasion and reoccupation of Gaza, and halt the supply of weapons, ammunition and other equipment by the imperialist powers, above all the United States, to the Zionist regime. It must take up the struggle against not only the US war in the Middle East, but against the war with Russia and the war drive against China as well.

But the central task in the struggle against war is the intervention of the working class as a conscious political force. The international strike movement that is now underway must be unified with the movement against war, on the basis of a socialist political programme.

wsws.org

## CHINA WATCH

INTEREST in China is growing, yet most news and analysis outside the country is produced by mainstream media from the global north. To provide Chinese perspectives, the *Dongsheng Collective* – researchers from various countries – offers a China digest. This is an edited selection. <https://dongshengnews.org/en>

### More chip restrictions

THE US has announced more export controls for China on semiconductor and artificial intelligence chip manufacturing equipment. The aim is to further restrict China’s access to US technology and eliminate some alternatives that had been taken advantage of by companies such as Nvidia, a major exporter to the Chinese market. Peter Wennink, president and CEO of the Dutch company ASML said “the restrictive policies of Western governments are forcing China to be very innovative.”

Caixin Global

### Controls on graphite

CHINA has implemented temporary controls on the export of graphite, an essential material in the manufacture of electric vehicle batteries. The government said the decision was a response to the need to protect national security and interests and that the country firmly complied with its international obligations, “such as non-proliferation”. China is the main source and producer of the raw material.

Caixin Global

### High praise for women

MORE than 69 percent of delegates at the 13th National Congress of the All-China Women’s Federation were from grassroots organisations. The congress, which was attended by more than 1,800 delegates, elected state counsellor Shen Yiqin as president. The congress recognised the hard work of women in reducing poverty, the search for excellence in scientific and technological innovation, and their courage in combating the pandemic.

China Daily

### China’s gain, US’s loss

US tech sanctions have spurred industrial revival in Northeastern China. For the first time in a decade, Liaoning province’s economy grew by 5.3% in Q1-Q3, 2023, higher than the national GDP of 5.2%. The region will be the focus of constructing a modern industrial system to boost self-reliance after heightened US efforts to block China from the hi-tech supply chain.

South China Morning Post

### Real estate defaults

MORE than half of China’s top 50 real estate companies have defaulted since 2020. According to Bloomberg, defaults on offshore dollar bonds have reached US\$115 billion since 2021 and a large number of onshore bank loans also face restructuring. Of the top 10 real estate companies, eight have seen their sales fall due to distrust by consumers, who prefer to buy from safer state-backed companies.

Financial Times

### GM corn, soy agreed

CHINA has approved commercial use of genetically modified corn and soybeans after years of testing and public questioning. A total of 37 GM corn varieties and 14 GM soybean varieties will be allowed to be grown in designated areas as of November 15. Food imports amounted to 146 million tons last year, of which 60 percent was soybeans.

South China Morning Post



# Fears over UN, US-backed Kenyan force for 'peacekeeping' in Haiti

Country has faced 2 coups, 3 dictators and 2 occupations since 2006

Kerbie Joseph

ON OCTOBER 3, the United Nations Security Council approved a US-backed, 1,000-member Kenyan police force intervention to Haiti, ostensibly to fight gang violence.

The 15-member council adopted a resolution, calculatedly drafted by the United States and Ecuador, which has authorised the so-called Multinational Security Support mission "to take all necessary measures" – a veiled wording for clear and approved use of unlimited force on the Haitian people in their own country by foreign agents. China and Russia abstained from the vote.

The senior US diplomat Jeffrey DeLaurentis said, "We have stepped up to create a new way of preserving global peace and security, answering the repeated calls of a member state facing a multi-dimensional crisis amid alarming spiralling gang violence." This resolution is a manifestation of an occupation a few years in the making.

Last year, Haiti's interim government officially requested an international deployment, garnering support from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the United States. Even though many countries had previously backed the prospect of sending what the UN has called a "specialised support force" to Haiti, before Kenya's announcement, no country had stepped forward to lead the intervention.

Guterres took Kenya's pledge, saying he "values Kenya's consideration to possibly lead a non-UN multinational force," according to UN spokesperson Farhan Haq.

Canada, which sent boots to Haiti earlier this year and previously also pledged US\$75 million (\$100 million Canadian) for Haiti's police,



Kenyan police will have the authority to 'take all necessary measures' as a result of the UN resolution proposed by the US and Ecuador

also hailed Kenya's offer. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters that Washington, for its part, is "committed to finding the resources to support this multinational force".

Occupations and foreign invasions have been an ongoing part of Haiti's history since its independence from France in 1804. Haiti has been plagued with numerous foreign interventions from imperialist forces of France, United States and Germany.

This interference with Haitian affairs has led to destabilisation in the country. But there are no UN/US-proposed solutions to the destruction put into motion covertly and overtly for centuries because

of interventions like these. As detailed in Eugene Puryear's analysis, "Haiti: between a rock and a revolution," foreign military interventions and occupations have been "efforts to destroy the popular revolution spirit of the Haitian people who have faced two coups, three dictators, two foreign military occupations, multiple death squads, four straight dodgy elections since 2006, one presidential assassination," and a range of exploitative trade deals that have led 5 million Haitians, half of the nation, to be in poverty.

The Haitian people have every right to be apprehensive of this UN-backed task force because of how other UN interventions have played out in the nation. They have experienced nothing but failed "peace"

deployments that have wreaked havoc in Haiti.

UN peacekeepers sent to the country after the 2010 earthquake were linked to a cholera outbreak that killed about 10,000 people. UN troops who withdrew from the country in 2019 were linked to sexual violence, not to mention numerous acts of racist hate crimes committed against Haitians by so called "peacekeepers".

To be clear, there should not and cannot be a call for foreign intervention in Haiti from Haiti's current administration of the US-appointed Prime Minister Ariel Henry because by definition the administration is itself illegitimate.

Moreover, Haiti's current unelected administration is considered by the majority of Haitians to be antagonistic to say the least. According to the Black Alliance for Peace, "the government is propped up only by Haiti's de facto imperial rulers: the unseemly confederacy of the Core Group countries and organisations, as well as BINUH (the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti), and a loose alliance of foreign corporations and local elites". These proven historical imperialist bodies have caused financial strangulation, structural instability and stagnation in Haiti.

Not only are there proven concerns about the continued deployment of neocolonialist forces in Haiti,

there are concerns over Kenya's human rights record. Human rights groups argue that Kenya's history of human rights abuses should have been evaluated before any consideration was made.

There is also the bigger picture, ie: language, context and history, which Kenyan security mostly won't have. Kenyan professor and political analyst Herman Manyora said that the language barrier and lack of knowledge of Haitian culture and history poses a threat to the Kenyan security forces. "They have their unique history, we don't even understand that history", making the intervention a "gamble".

Haiti has solidarity from within Kenya itself from the Communist Party of Kenya. In a public statement, the Communist Party of Kenya said, "The Communist Party of Kenya firmly rejects any form of neocolonialism and condemns attempts to use a black face to brutalise Haiti or any other nation by the members of the Core Group, including representatives of the United Nations, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, the European Union, the United States, and the Organization of American States. The party recognises the systems of maintaining a neocolonial agenda in Haiti, or as dubbed in popular Haitian lingua, "Sistèm nan" (The System).

"We vehemently stand with the exploited Haitian population and oppose any western led interventions or involvement whatsoever in Haiti."

While Haiti enters this phase of struggle that is taking on different faces, one thing continues to be true: The struggle for Haiti's self-determination, stability and dignity continues. Haiti needs solidarity and freedom from all imperialist chains, not a UN-backed occupation in any form.

*Liberation*

## Cuban president joins 'break the blockades' event

IN SEPTEMBER Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel and Foreign Minister of Venezuela Yvan Gil addressed a New York City auditorium packed with solidarity activists.

Organisers in the room travelled from across the entire United States, not just for a chance to hear these speakers express their views, but also to reaffirm their commitment to ending the criminal blockades against Cuba and Venezuela and removing Cuba from the United States' "state sponsors of terrorism" list.

The high-energy event featured several US-based speakers as well, including Manolo De Los Santos of The People's Forum, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research Director Vijay Prashad, and Dr Samirah Addrey, a graduate of Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine. For nearly three hours, the lecture hall was filled with applause and repeated cheers of "Let Cuba live!"

The title of the night's event was "Voices of Dignity: The People vs Blockades". The event tied together the blockades against Cuba and Venezuela with the broader fight against the domination of the major Western powers over the economic and political world order. For instance, attendees met Vijay Prashad's demands for France out of Africa with raucous applause. And the gathering was explicitly connected with the fight for a whole new type of society as Manolo De Los Santos affirmed to the crowd, "We are not afraid to say we believe in a socialist project. We are not afraid to say this system needs to change."

In his speech, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Gil recounted the many obstacles Venezuela has faced to its sovereignty over recent years, from



Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel addresses the crowd at a New York City auditorium

the attempted right-wing coup led by Juan Guaidó, and multiple assassination attempts on President Maduro, to recent US attempts to create tensions with neighboring Guyana.

"We have defended very strongly our resources, our territory, and our sovereignty. And imperialism cannot forgive us for this and is doing everything possible to destroy our revolution," he explained. Gil also emphasised how continuing support from the people of Cuba, the United States and internationalists all around the world has been essential to fighting against all these attempts to overturn the sovereign government of Venezuela.

Taking the stage to a standing ovation after the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Cuban President Díaz-Canel spoke of Cuba's long history of struggle against imperialism, but also focused on the shared mission of those in the room to build a socialist future. Díaz-Canel proclaimed, "Pessimism is not the nature of revolutionaries! That is not an option for those of us who believe a better world is possible. It is not an option for those of us who have the belief that it is worth it to fight for that better world."

Díaz-Canel laid out the injustice at the heart of the world order and Cuba's vision of an alternative,

"We have suffered the exploitation of our riches and our human resources. And these riches and resources came to enrich the European metropolis. And in more recent times our people have also been the victims of expressions of neo-colonialism.

"We [the Global South] account for more than 80 percent of the world's population. We are also the people who have been hit the hardest by hunger, poverty and preventable deaths. We have been hit the hardest by illiteracy, human displacement and all the consequences from underdevelopment. We are also the nations that suffer most from climate change ... We are calling for solidarity rather than greed. Cooperation not imperialism. Harmony, respect and tolerance, and not discrimination, racism and intolerance."

In addition to speeches, art and culture were featured throughout the programme. Performers included Linqua Franqa, DJ Cardamami and the Arturo O'Farrill Quintet.

Both Díaz-Canel and Gil traveled to New York City for the 78th UN General Assembly debate, the annual event where top leaders of all nations give addresses. After multiple days of meeting with high-profile officials from countries around the world, Díaz-Canel reserved his final night in the United States to address the people's movement.

This event reaffirmed that blockades only serve the interests of the corporate executives and war mongers who profit from imperialism, not the interests of the people.

Attendees left more determined than ever to achieve the task laid out in the slogan of the event: Build the future! Break the blockade!

*Liberation*





## CAPITALISM HAS FAILED OUR PEOPLE FOR CENTURIES

**SOCIALISM** is about a better life for all our people anchored on equity, solidarity, humility and honesty.

And socialism has shown how poor nations can get out of poverty in the shortest of historical times. Look at the achievements of Cuba, a country fought and blockaded for more than 63 years. Without the minerals Zambia has, Cuba had a GDP of around 107.35US\$ billion in 2020. GDP is an important indicator of a country's economic power. GDP in Zambia was expected to reach 24US\$ billion by the end of 2021. In the long-term,

The GDP of Zambia, which has been pursuing unbridled neoliberal capitalist policies for more than 30 years, is projected to trend around 27US\$ billion this year, according to some econometric models.

India's socialist state of Kerala is leading in many economic and social indicators and scientific achieve-

ments, and whatever the attempts to credit China's achievements to capitalism, that is a great socialist state pursuing socialism with Chinese characteristics. And this what its leaders say. They attribute their economic successes to socialism. We also have the successes of Vietnam.

The ignorant attempt by neoliberal capitalists to smear socialism and socialists to hide their greed and corrupt quest to become billionaires won't do. No matter what they say or do, socialism will one day triumph in our homeland. Capitalism has for centuries failed our people. Let them show us where capitalism has succeeded in Africa.

And what is interesting is the fact that many achievements scored in Zambia can be attributed to certain socialist-inspired principles that were implemented in the country.

The creation of free education, infrastructure development, creation of state-owned enterprises that

employed many, and some which still stand today, are as a result of having a human face towards national economic development, which is in itself socialism.

Most leaders today, who are a product of free education and other socially oriented programmes, want to ridicule a system that moved them from poverty, and then support imperialist policies that only benefit a few foreign interests.

Zambia definitely needs a citizen-led economic development agenda, which will be attained under a socialist government.

We want Zambians who can have genuine businesses, and not these crooked dealers – tenderpreneurs – calling themselves businessmen.

Like China, Zambia will manage to free its people from poverty through socialism with Zambian characteristics.

It is socialism and only socialism that can guarantee us a better life and prosperity.

***Fred M'membe, Socialist Party President***

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