

LABOUR NEWS

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FREE TRIBUNE OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE



The British people votes to leave the EU

One Million workers in Paris on June 14

The French government fails to ban a new demonstration

Strikes in Belgium

Institutional crisis in Spain



Leave vote takes European Union crisis to a new level

A massive and popular vote against the EU, against Cameron and the Tories

If there is one fact that official commentators cannot hide, it is that the June 23 vote was massive and popular. With a 72% turnout, one has to go back to the 1997 general election to find similar voter participation. Almost 17.5 millions voters chose 'Leave' -- 51.9%. But this figure hides huge differences. In working class areas, the Leave vote was above 60%, sometimes more than 70%. The industrial heartland of England saw the highest scores against the EU: Great Yarmouth (71%), Castle Point in Essex (73%), and Redcar and Cleveland (66%). Redcar's steelworks was shut down just last October.

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June 24 2016: Storm warning

FROM INFORMATION CURRENTIES #406



The Guardian noted: "Voters in the Labour heartland of Liverpool city centre followed the official party line and backed remain. But the further you get from the city centre, the stronger leave becomes: 51.56% in Knowsley, 58.02% in St Helens and 63.9% in Wigan. Here, less affluent Labour voters were less loyal." Same thing in London: "Although remain was strong almost everywhere in the capital, leave had a majority in the east London working class neighbourhoods of Havering, Barking and Dagenham, plus Bexley and a number of neighbouring areas in the Thames estuary."

The working class voted against all the defenders of the EU: the British government, all the European governments, the American government, the biggest multinational companies and especially the banks of the City, which all wanted the UK to remain in the EU. The people also voted against the leadership of the TUC and of the major trade unions, which had waged a shameful campaign, claiming falsely that workers' rights in this country come from a benevolent EU and not from almost two centuries of class struggle and trade union organisation!

They also voted against the leadership of the Labour Party, many of whose MPs campaigned alongside Conservative MPs, such as Sadiq Khan with David Cameron. They also voted against Jeremy Corbyn, even though he was elected by a huge majority of Labour Party members, supporters and trade unionists against the previous party leadership and the Blairites.

Even though Corbyn refused to campaign with the Tories, the 'Another Europe is possible' campaign contributed to prevent little or no independent working class expression from emerging in the course of the referendum campaign.

A majority of the working class voted for

Out, despite a deliberately confusing campaign

Indeed, the real issue of this referendum was obscured by those on the Left who campaigned for a Leave vote alongside Conservative 'Brexiters' such as Boris Johnson and Michael Gove in Vote Leave or those such as the Labour MP Kate Hoey and George Galloway, the Respect party leader, who campaigned with UKIP and Nigel Farage in Grassroots Out. By putting forward the argument of restoring British sovereignty, they helped fuel the vicious campaign orchestrated by the Remain camp to present Leave voters as racists and ultra-nationalists.

The only three trade unions that officially backed a Leave vote -- the RMT (transport workers), Aslef (train drivers) and the Bakers' Union (BFAWU) -- all refused to take part in cross-party campaigning with the Conservatives. They launched the Lexit campaign, a working class-based campaign standing for socialism, trade unionism and internationalism, clearly directed against the Tories and the EU.

The risk of such a campaign, which was backed by the SWP (Socialist Workers Party) and the CPB (Communist Party of Britain), was that the central issue of the TUC's and Labour Party's support for the EU could be avoided or ignored. Yet this was a central issue of the referendum, since the Labour Party is still the main party of the working class and the great majority of the trade unions are affiliated to the TUC and most of them to the Labour Party too.

Even though more could have been done to link up with them, at least the Lexit campaign was able to organise trade union and Labour Party activists who clearly rejected both the EU consensus and the political mingling with the right or the far-right. In its June 24 statement, Lexit rightly said: "This could have been a great Labour crusade if it had put itself at the head of this working class revolt (...) This has left the right to claim a victory which is not in truth theirs. Nearly 17 million people voted Leave, but only 3.8 million voted UKIP at the last election."

The class confusion and the fact that the Labour Party was officially in the Remain camp led to high percentages in favour of remaining in the EU in big

cities where not only rich bankers live.

In Scotland, the collapse of the Labour Party, in what used to be one of its heartlands, had already led to the rise of the Scottish National Party, a bourgeois party yet able to capture a large proportion of former Labour votes.

Despite its anti-Tory posture, the SNP is tied to a capitalist EU. Also, while the SNP campaigned to remain, and while there was a large Scottish vote in favour of remain (62%), a significant share of SNP voters chose to vote for leaving. SNP leader and First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon has now declared she wants a new referendum on Scottish independence.

She had already said before the vote that she will do everything to secure Scotland's membership of the EU – thus clearly threatening a break-up of the United Kingdom. It is therefore not surprising that a majority of Scots chose to remain – despite the fact that they face the same attacks on workers' rights, public services and jobs by the Tories and the EU as in England and Wales. The problem in Scotland is the political defeat of the Labour Party that has fuelled the rise of the SNP in a traditional working class Labour heartland. The populist SNP has taken advantage of the pro-austerity orientation of the Labour Party for years. Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland Prime Minister, went to Brussels to meet with EU officials, she met Jean Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission and Martin Schultz, president of the Parliament, but the initiative is opposed by many officials, including the French and the Spanish governments that try to limit the present crisis and understand that the explosion of the UK would have terrible consequences for the EU and for themselves in their own country.

In Northern Ireland, the same political parties that have accepted the partition of Ireland for decades, are now calling for the reunification of Ireland to stay in the EU. In both cases, it has nothing to do with the right of peoples to self-determination. The issue has to do with those parties being completely devoted to the capitalist EU and the Labour Party being unable for years to advance an alternative to the Tory/EU austerity and to defend an united Ireland truly independent from London and Brussels.

World finances enter 'maximum uncertainty zone' for capitalist order in Europe

Global stock and financial markets crashed on news of the Leave vote on Friday, June 24. *"Monday added to Friday's woes, with £1 trillion wiped off world stock markets – adding to \$2 trillion in losses on Friday – making this the largest two-*

day stock rout of all time. The UK also waved goodbye to its last AAA rating, with credit agency Standard & Poor's saying the Brexit vote was "a seminal event" that would "lead to a less predictable, stable and effective policy framework in the UK". Credit agency Fitch swiftly followed, lopping the UK's rating from AA+ to AA. Sterling fell on Monday to \$1.32, its lowest point in more than 30 years." (The Guardian, Tuesday, June 28)

World finances have entered a 'maximum uncertainty zone', as a result of the Leave vote, in addition to a sudden slowdown of the US economy, the threat of recession in China, the imminent bankruptcy of countries like Brazil – all reasons that have led the US Federal Reserve to postpone an increase in its base interest rates.



The deepening crisis of EU institutions is an expression of the incapacity of leading circles of imperialism to replace deficient nation-states rejected by their peoples with a form of 'supranational governance' able to maintain the order necessary to implement a true counter-revolution. As a result of this incapacity, we have already witnessed the implosion of the Schengen area, a cornerstone of the EU, as well as an extreme softening of the Euro-zone economic convergence criteria, since the 2008 crisis.

The division among the Tories reflects an opposition between those who are dedicated to the EU as the only means by which to impose the will and desires of finance capital and those who think that they can do so by themselves and be spared part of the burden of having to support other deficient European governments.

Whatever the disagreements among the British ruling class and the Conservative Party, they all agree on one thing: there must be continuation of the destruction of all workers' rights, of public services, of jobs and all that the working class has built for its protection through the trade unions and other forms of organisation.

For Johnson and Gove, the process was all about renegotiating more advantageous terms for their participation in the maintenance of the capitalist

order in Europe, even by taking the risk of a collapse of the EU. In or Out, they will keep on with the same policies, supported for decades by Brussels, for as long as they can.

On the day of the referendum, Johnson, Michael Gove, still Justice secretary of this government despite his Out stance, Chris Grayling, Leader of the House and the 86 Tory MPs who supported the Out vote sent a letter to Cameron thanking him for calling the referendum. The letter added: *"Whatever the British people decide you have both a mandate and a duty to continue leading the nation and implementing our manifesto."*

The next day, Johnson paid tribute to Cameron, a *"brave and principled man"*, *"one of the most extraordinary politicians of our age"*. He added: *"In voting to leave the EU, it is vital to stress there is no need for haste, and as the prime minister has said, nothing will change in the short term except how to give effect to the will of the people and to extricate this country from the supranational system. There is no need to invoke Article 50."*

Article 50 of the EU treaty is the one that stipulates

DOCUMENTS

Statement by the Lexit Campaign

The Leave vote is above all else a rejection of the entire political establishment by millions of working class people who have been left to suffer austerity for decades with few defenders among the mainstream parties.

This is now a social crisis of the first order. Every institution of the British establishment backed Remain. The Tory party, despite professions of unity, is beginning an internal war. 'It's a hammer blow to Cameron', reported the BBC this morning. Osborne is already talked of in the past tense.

This could have been a great Labour crusade if it had put itself at the head of this working class revolt but the Blairites forced Jeremy Corbyn to abandon his long held opposition to the EU.

This has left the right to claim a victory which is not in truth theirs. Nearly 17 million people voted Leave, but only 3.8 million voted UKIP at the last election. But it is up to the left to now put itself squarely at the centre of opposition to the Tories and the right.

If you don't want the racists to be the face of today's result, then don't let them. There is a significant proportion of those who voted Leave that did so on the basis of opposing the austerity and the neoliberal order that has directly impacted their lives and is part and parcel of the EU. Don't be so quick to paint millions of people with the same brush as Farage.

Many on the left voted Remain for understandable reasons in a very divisive referendum. It is now time to unite around the most elementary demands that millions of working people will readily support.

The ONLY thing the left can do now, is to rally around this result and take the fight to the Tories.

End austerity now! Cameron must resign! General election now! No more 'Fortress Europe' - equality for migrant workers!

8.30am Friday 24th June.



ASLEF on the EU vote

24 Jun 2016

As a trade union which backed a vote to leave the European Union we acknowledge the decision the people of the United Kingdom have taken. ASLEF respects the self-determination of the British people. Today's verdict reflects the inability of successive governments to meet the aspirations of people particularly in providing affordable housing and secure employment. There has also been a failure to make the case for immigration. These reasons underpinned a deeply divisive referendum campaign. ASLEF

will continue to campaign to protect workers' rights in the UK and abroad and to safeguard our vital public services including the NHS. International solidarity between British workers and European workers existed long before the European Union and will continue long into the future.

that a country can leave and how it can be done. Meanwhile the pro-EU Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (finance minister) sought to reassure the markets after the vote and Cameron's resignation announcement. New billions pounds cuts have been already announced for big companies. For all of them – Cameron, Osborne, Johnson and Gove – the most important task is to reassure the markets and to maintain the stability of British political institutions, to keep implementing the same policies demanded by finance capital, whatever new relations they may establish with the EU or European governments.

Nevertheless, the strong popular and working class vote in favour of quitting the EU is a major blow to the Conservative Party, the EU and the European governments. Despite the attempts to delay Cameron's resignation, fill the breach in the party, form a new government and avoid a general election, the Tories are still divided.

Nobody knows how they will form a new government, given an overall pro-EU House of Commons with a Conservative group including 86 'Brexiters' while they have a government majority of just 18 MPs...

Both Osborne and Johnson are trying to save their party, to avoid elections and even to save the EU itself. They both know that a collapse under its own contradictions and the resistance put up by the peoples of Europe would pave the way for a violent earthquake under all the European governments that have linked their fate to the will and desires of finance capital.

But less than one week after the referendum, Johnson who appeared as one of the leading candidates in the Tory race, had to step down, two hours after his close friend and adviser, Michael Gove announced he will be candidate too in a press conference behind Johnson's back. This is probably only the first step of a more profound crisis.

Once again, the Labour Party sides with the Tories against the majority of the people. It's now time for a real debate on the Left

In the Labour Party, the Remain campaign has reinforced the Blairite wing, which had been waiting for the first occasion to oust Corbyn -- elected last year by 60% of the members, registered supporters and trade unionists. The day after the referendum, Corbyn sacked shadow Foreign secretary Hilary Benn, a proponent of imperialist military interventions who last December voted with the Tories and against Corbyn and the majority of the Party, including a majority of its MPs, in favour of bombing Syria.

Benn and others had apparently prepared their

plot against Corbyn for a long time, waiting until just after the referendum to oust him whatever way the vote went. But the plot was leaked to the press, pushing Corbyn to sack Benn. Then, 20 members of the shadow cabinet resigned in three days and a no-confidence motion was overwhelmingly voted by Labour MPs. They want him now to resign, this would trigger a new leadership election in which Corbyn could not probably be candidate as he would not get the support of 50 MPs as required. He has vowed to remain as party leader. The right wing has now to challenge him, for a few days, Angela Eagle was presented as a potential challenger but the right wing had to step back for two reasons. First, in case of a challenge, it is not clear in the Party rule book, if the incumbent is automatically on the ballot paper or not and this could lead to a judiciary battle with unpredictable consequences. Moreover, the second risk is Jeremy being re-elected with a landslide which would be humiliating for the plotters.

Nobody should be surprised by the coup bid, fomented for months by the Blairites and their allies, who will never accept that the Labour Party is and remains the party of the rank and file Labour membership, of the trade unions and the socialist societies and not just of the Parliamentary Labour Party.



Jeremy Corbyn, campaigning to Remain.

But the plot and the resulting destabilisation of the Labour Party, a few weeks or months before a possible general election, could have been avoided if Corbyn had not tried to compromise with the party's right wing since day 1. Thousands of Momentum activists gathered in Parliament Square on Monday, June 27 to support Corbyn against the PLP, but Momentum is just a fan club, endorsing uncritically any decisions that he takes.

In a rather patronising statement, Momentum sought to explain the referendum result: "*Much of this vote reflected anger in communities which have experienced many years of industrial decline with the subsequent loss of secure employment.*" Yes people are angry, and they are right to be, but they may also be angry because part of these policies

were implemented by Labour governments!

Aside from promises of 'a new kind of politics' (Momentum's slogan), the Labour Party, once again, campaigned on the same side as the Tories. But Momentum and many Corbyn supporters prefer to call for Labour Party unity ahead of a hypothetical general election, rather than have a serious debate about the result of the referendum and the line followed by the Labour Party.

There is a belief among left wing militants and in the media that Corbyn is still opposed to the EU,



Yanis Varoufakis speaking at the rally organised by 'Another Europe is possible' campaign.

that he was pushed by the PLP and the majority of the shadow cabinet into defending the Remain position, that he campaigned quite reluctantly.

All that might be true, but we prefer to avoid such simplistic psychology, because at the end of the day, the whole Labour Party campaigned to Remain, on the same side as the majority of the Tories, in defence of a fundamentally anti-worker EU, and that is how our party will appear in the eyes of the 17 million who voted to leave the EU.

Fortunately, many people in the Labour Party and in the trade unions still defended working class arguments against the EU and they did it openly (see the Lexit campaign and the appeal of Labour militants in Camden). Had the Labour leadership done the same, it would have *"put itself at the head of this working class revolt"* (the Lexit statement). But they did not.

Indeed, campaigning with Cameron and then, a few days after, announcing that his promised freezing of London tube and underground fares will not be implemented, as the recently-elected mayor of London Sadiq Khan did, was even more harmful to the party. But was campaigning together with Yanis Varoufakis, the former finance minister in Greece's first Syriza government, any better?

At the 'Another Europe is possible' rally on May 29, Varoufakis was presented as *"someone who took up the Troika but then realised that we cannot win*

from any one country, we all have to win, all of us together".

We should remember that after his foreseeable failure to negotiate with the troika (IMF, European Central Bank, European Commission), let alone reform the EU, Varoufakis resigned and that his former colleagues in the present Syriza government led by Tsipras are now implementing the 5th austerity memorandum for Greece, the ones they were elected back in January 2015 *not* to implement!

After him, Owen Jones spoke in defence of the EU, the same Owen Jones who was still writing in The Guardian in July 2015: *"The Left must put Britain's EU withdrawal on the agenda. Progressives should be appalled by European Union's ruination of Greece. It's time to reclaim the Eurosceptic cause."*

Now what was the point of such a campaign, if not to try to convince Left activists and trade unionists that you might be 'a Marxist economist who fought the EU', or a former proponent of leaving the EU that has sought to crush the Greek people, but in the end you should support remaining in the EU?

All the nonsense about reforming the EU, defending a 'Social Europe' or fighting for one – things that are completely impossible in the framework of the free market-based European Union, the only one that exists – has just one goal: peddling illusions with which to chain Left militants and trade unionists to the EU and prevent any serious fight against it.

In the end, this is not really different from campaigning together with David Cameron and the Tories who implement the same austerity plans demanded and supported by the EU – an EU which is, in the final analysis, an instrument of finance capital, however much its apologists try to disguise or dress it up.

We cannot know at this stage if the divisions in the Tory Party will lead to a general election in the next few months. In that event, all Left militants, including those supporting our bulletin Labour News, will campaign to elect a Labour government with Jeremy Corbyn as the Prime Minister. We will fight to defend Jeremy against the coup fomented by the Blairites, we will fight to defend the Labour Party as the party of the working class and of the trade union movement.

But if we don't have a serious debate and don't make an appraisal of the errors made in the past year, and not only on the referendum, then a Labour victory may not happen -- even faced with an enfeebled Tory Party.

Interview of Sarah Friday, Member of the Labour Party and Unite trade unionist

by Labour News correspondent

The main political parties in Britain, the European and the American governments, the biggest companies and their CEOs were all supporting and financing the Remain campaign, how do you explain the victory of the Leave vote?

Working class people particularly in ex-industrial areas in the NW and NE and Wales were crucial in winning the Out vote. They could see the impact of EU policies of privatisation, free movement of labour and de-regulation on their own lives and communities. They didn't see how things could be worse outside of the EU and are hopeful that things can be better.

They just didn't believe the scare stories from the Remain campaign, took objection to the threats and towards the end of the campaign just stopped listening.

The TUC, the main trade unions and Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Party leader elected against the previous centre and Blairite leaderships, all of them have campaigned to remain, what do you think will be the consequence of this position for the trade unions and the Labour Party? Does it reflect what the rank and file members think?

I don't think the position taken by the trade unions and the Labour party reflected the views of the majority of their rank and file members. I am a member of Unite trade union, the biggest union in the UK, which campaigned for a Remain vote. In what seemed to be an indication from the UNITE general secretary Len McCluskey that many of his members were likely vote Leave wrote just a few days before the referendum that he was not surprised that Labour voters were concerned about immigration. *'In the last 10 years, there has been a gigantic experiment at the expense of ordinary workers. Countries with vast historical differences in wage rates and living standards have been brought together in a common labour market'*. Since the referendum result he has written to his members that the voters including "significant numbers of Unite members, have democratically decided what they want". So there may be some move from the trade unions to say that they got it wrong on this one – I hope that this is the case as we need to build unity at this stage.

Although the biggest and the majority of the trade unions campaigned for a Remain vote, it is still very

significant that three trade unions campaigned for an Out vote. Two of the unions RMT and ASLEF represent workers employed in the rail industry that was privatised in the mid 1990's due to EU directive 91/440. Their members have seen first hand the impact of the EU's deregulatory agenda. They know that if Jeremy Corbyn was elected Prime Minister he could not implement his policy of re-nationalisation of the railways if we had remained in the EU.

The RMT and Baker workers unions have had a eurosceptic position for many years now. I was at the Bakers workers union conference earlier this month when they debated a motion to campaign for a Remain vote in the referendum. This motion was defeated overwhelmingly. Speakers on the motion criticised the TUC for spending far more time, effort and money on campaigning for a Remain vote than they do on other campaigns. They explained that the EU had done nothing to stop UK government implementing anti trade union legislation and that we had won workers rights through struggle – not the European Union.

The consequences of the decision of the Labour Party to campaign for a Remain vote could be disastrous for the party. They have shown themselves to be completely remote from their core constituency – the working class. Right wing parties, have and will continue to exploit this.

As a trade unionist and a Labour militant, you supported the Lexit campaign, why not the Vote Leave or Grassroot Out campaigns launched before Lexit?

As well as Lexit I supported TUAEU (Trade Unionists Against the European Union). Both of these campaigns were very important. TUAEU was a re-incarnation of previous campaigns – 'no to the EU, yes to democracy' and 'no to the EU, yes to workers rights'. This campaigned on the essential project of breaking the trade union movement from their position of support for our EU membership.

The Lexit campaign was useful for reaching out to a wider public. Both campaigns were essential in making the case that there was a trade union and socialist argument for leaving the EU and that this was the historic position of the movement and that we were campaigning in this tradition.

I think the Labour Leave campaign was important. I didn't get involved in it myself, they campaigned alongside Conservative Outers and

that's not something I would have felt comfortable with. But the referendum was on a constitutional question, therefore it is inevitable that there will be a cross party campaign. It helped me as leftist campaigning for an Out vote within within the Labour party to be able to point Labour Leave and MP's and influential party members when I came under criticism. As there was an attempt within the party to shut down any members campaigning for an Out vote, and some made this issue even more toxic as they implied that those arguing for an Out vote were racists. It is important that working class Labour supporters voting Out were aware that there was a Labour leave campaign. This will be particularly important in the future - if the party are not to loose their core vote to the right - including the Conservative party with a newly elected eurosceptic leadership and UKIP.

David Cameron announced that he will resign, and Jeremy Corbyn said that the UK should leave the EU quickly, what should be the tasks of labour and trade union activists, especially those who campaigned to leave, in the new situation?

We should call for an immediate general election. The Conservative party are on the ropes and they are not going to be able to patch up the arguments they had during the campaign. The resignation of the Prime Minister, David Cameron, should be celebrated. He is hopefully the first of many in the Government who will be forced to resign. As socialists and trade unionists we need to make sure our arguments are put in the post referendum debate about what happens next - not just watch on the side lines while the Tories tear themselves apart.

We should reach out to those working class people who voted to leave the EU, winning back their vote for the Labour Party. Jeremy Corbyn should call for a general election and should lead the a

eurosceptic campaign for a Labour Government. This would win him working class support and undermine the Blairites (who are fanatically pro-EU) and are currently organising to oust him. If we don't do this right wing eurosceptics will continue to win the votes of working class voters.

The vicious anti working class policies of this Government are evident in two recent pieces of legislation - the Housing and Planning Bill and the Trade union act, we must defeat these attacks.

It was disappointing that Corbyn campaigned for a Remain vote in the EU, even while recognising many of its flaws. Historically he is a eurosceptic - and I believe still is. Given this Jeremy Corbyn is the best person to lead us out of the European Union.

As opposed to those who explain that the Leave vote was nationalist and racist, do you think the vote of the British people may have positive consequences for other peoples in Europe?

Those that say that this was a racist vote have a dislike of working class people and they seek to disparage and rubbish the referendum result in this way. Of course there will have been racists who voted for Leave. Just as there were racists who voted for Remain - those who prefer white migrants from EU countries to come here and work rather than black workers from outside of the EU.

The result will have positive consequences for others in Europe. They will see from this referendum that we have stood up to the barrage of lies and threats that were peddled from the Establishment as to why we should vote Remain and stuck two finger up to the EU. Workers around Europe whose terms and conditions and lives are being crushed as a result of their countries EU membership will stand up and say enough is enough - we want Out too!

French working class struggle shows the way, so do the junior doctors and the teachers

by Marius McPherson

Despite the huge political crisis open by the referendum, all the problems faced by the working people will not disappear because of it. Even in the eventuality of general elections in Autumn, a Labour government could only be elected and solve these problems if it has the support of the working class and the trade unions. A few more months and maybe years of Tory government attacking our rights and public services would only weaken the chance of a Labour government being elected if we cannot oppose concretely the Tories. The

current struggle of the French working class shows us the way for a positive outcome for the working class (see article in this bulletin). The struggle of the working class with its trade unions is the only way to defeat the Tories and open the door to a Labour government supported by the trade unions and the working class. The crisis open by the referendum makes things easier to defeat immediately this weak government, let's cease the occasion!

The Leave vote opens a profound crisis of

Britain's political institutions.

The incapacity of finance capital to create a 'supranational governance' to replace the deficient nation-states of Europe to defend its interest puts the burden of implementing a counter revolution on the shoulders of these same failing nation-states.

The same crisis is affecting all the old European states, whatever the form they have inherited from History: parliamentary democracy such as Britain, monarchy in Spain, a Bonapartist republic in France etc.

Of course, the British bourgeoisie is strongly affected by this crisis. But the issues and attacks the working class faces won't be resolved by themselves just because everything is falling apart, without engaging in the class struggle.

The Lexit campaign rightly stressed that all workers' rights are the product of the working class struggle in Britain and in the rest of Europe, and not a gift from the EU. Their statement concludes: *"It is now time to unite around the most elementary demands that millions of working people will readily support. The ONLY thing the left can do now, is to rally around this result and take the fight to the Tories. End austerity now!"*

Indeed, let's take advantage of the divisions inside the Tories and the government, let's not wait for a future general election, now is the time to inflict a defeat upon this government on the ground of the class struggle.

Junior doctors and Teachers need the support of the whole trade union movement

The junior doctors of the National Health Service have until now prevented Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt from implementing his plan, not only to smash their terms and conditions with a new contract, but also to threaten the very existence of the NHS.

They did so through 8 days of strike action since January supported by 98% of the junior doctors of the British Medical Association (BMA) that has seen its membership grow up to include 90% of the junior doctors in England.

An agreement has finally been proposed by the government that is being balloted among the BMA junior doctors. On July 6, if they consider that the proposal is not satisfactory, they will discuss new action, including strike action.

Once again, this raises the issue of organising the active solidarity of other NHS workers and their unions, GMB and Unison, in order to defeat the government. That issue concerns the whole Labour movement, including the TUC leadership and the Labour Party which have refused until now to

organise a national demonstration in defence of the junior doctors and the NHS despite the numerous calls made by Constituency Labour Parties and trade unions.

Members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) have voted 92% for a one-day strike on July 5 to defend their terms and conditions threatened by the 'academisation' project, which is basically the full privatisation of our public schools.

They voted for strike action despite the announcement of a partial retreat by the government aimed at dividing the teachers (a few schools considered especially good may be exempted from becoming so-called academies).

Non teaching staff, and their unions GMB and Unison also oppose the project and Unison may ballot its members in September on pay issues.

Last April 27, the NUT organised a joint demonstration with the BMA to support the junior doctors. Now, the BMA Junior Doctors Committee has sent a letter to the NUT leadership to support the teacher's strike on July 5.

A fight by the working class with its trade unions is the only real option to defeat this government immediately.

Let's defend the existence of independent trade unions against the anti-trade union law

This poses important political questions such as the necessity for the TUC to organise a real campaign to defend our trade unions, our right to unionise and to take strike action, rights that have already been strongly undermined by Thatchers' anti-union laws, maintained by the Labour governments and respected by the TUC.

The new anti-trade union law is even worse. If it were already in force, the strike ballot of the NUT would not be regarded as valid because only (!) 50,000 NUT members took part in the ballot – which is 25% of the whole membership -- whereas the new law creates a minimum threshold of 50% in some sectors, including education.

Some people try now to use the institutional and political crisis to prevent the working class to fight the government immediately. According to them, we should not aggravate the crisis with industrial action or accepting the present attacks on the NHS or the schools may prevent a future far-right Tory government to do worse. We have no doubt that these attempts will be defeated because trade unionists know that they can only rely on the organisation and determination of the working class to defend itself.

The very existence of our trade unions is at stake (see a further article in this bulletin), and the

new stage in the crisis of the EU underlines the urgent necessity for workers to have independent organisations with which to defend their interests and fight for the defeat of this government.

The victory of the Leave campaign has suddenly made all these questions resurface, posing more urgently than ever the problem of recovering and

defending independent workers' organisations – above all, our trade unions, and the Labour Party as the political voice of the trade union and socialist movement.

Our bulletin Labour News is open to all militants sharing this aim.



*Pour le socialisme, la République
et la démocratie*

Membre de l'Entente internationale des travailleurs et des peuples

**Communiqué of the National Bureau of the
Independent Workers Party (POI, France)**

A global shock wave

The result of the referendum in Great Britain, where the majority of the population has voted in favour of leaving the European Union, sent a shock wave around the world. The European financial markets, but also those of Tokyo and Wall Street, collapsed on the news.

It's panic at the top within the European Union. The result of the referendum has opened a new stage in the decomposition of the European Union and its institutions, which were already in deep crisis in the face of the resistance of the peoples and the risks of an eruption.

This result is the consequence of the aspiration of workers and peoples to combat the European directives implemented by different governments, which has sent all the member states into violent social regression.

The result of the referendum resonates for all the workers of Europe who reject the European Union, and notably those of France, fully mobilized against the Labour Law.

This shock wave indeed comes at a time when, in France, one of the principal countries of the European Union, the mobilization of the workers with their organizations has not ceased to demand the withdrawal of the Labour Law.

The government -- in crisis, rejected, isolated -- is clinging more and more to the ant-democratic mechanisms of the Vth Republic : state of emergency, article 49.3 of the constitution and now the threat of banning trade union demonstrations.

The steadfastness of the trade union front has forced the government to retreat and to permit such a demonstration. The trade union organizations which demand the withdrawal of the Labour Law have called for further action.

In this situation, one hears voices raised calling for urgent reform of the European Union, while others, confronted with article 49.3, speak of reforming the institutions of the Vth Republic. They are unreformable!

It is through the class struggle of the workers, with the united front of their organizations, for the defence and reconquest of their rights, against the government, that the institutions of the Vth Republic will be swept away!

It is through the class struggle of the workers, with the united front of their organizations, for the defence and reconquest of their rights, against the governments which implement the directives of the European Union, that is to say, those of Capital, that the institutions of the European Union will be liquidated!

Paris, June 25 2016

The one million workers national demonstration on June 14 in Paris raises the issue of a political outcome for the working class and the people.

By Gilles Champion, member of the National Bureau of the POI (Independent Workers Party)



On June 14, one million people demonstrated in the streets of Paris, this was the 9th demonstration called since March by a united front of trade unions, the CGT, FO, FSU and Solidaires. In other cities, at least 300 000 people marched too. On June 23rd, the Trade unions called on a new day of industrial action to which the government answered by banning the demonstration in Paris. It took pretext of a few incidents in the last demonstration caused by people that did not belong to the trade union corteges. The statement of the Independent Workers Party (POI) reproduced in this bulletin explains: *'The government – in crisis, rejected, isolated – is clinging more and more to the anti-democratic mechanisms of the Vth Republic : state of emergency, article 49.3 of the constitution and now the threat of banning trade union demonstrations. The steadfastness of the trade union front has forced the government to retreat and to permit such a demonstration. The trade union organisations which demand the withdrawal of the Labour Law have called for further action.'*

The building of a strong trade union front

The first act of this massive resistance of the working class was the teachers mass demonstration on January 26. The teachers were on strike and demonstrated against the secondary schools reform, a radical reform including extensive cuts to classes. The unity of the FO and CGT teachers trade unions was the axis of this action. A unity based on teachers' demands in defence of their terms and conditions as well as the defence of their pupils. The trade union front excluded the corrupted and state-integrated CFDT¹, but unfortunately, without the

official support of the FSU, the main teacher trade union² (the abstention of one delegate prevented a majority of the National Committee of the FSU to join the other trade unions in unity, a delegate who in the name of the defence of the teachers' terms and conditions opposed the unity of the whole working class).

Despite these manoeuvres, the trade unionists have imposed a solid unity between CGT, FO, FSU, SOLIDAIRES and the youth organisations UNEF, UNL, FIDL which started at the end of February against the new Labour law, promoted by the Labour Minister EL KHOMRI. The CFDT is not part of the trade unions front, as opposed to 2010 where its presence paralysed the fight against the reform of retirement conditions of the former president Sarkozy, because the CFDT wanted to amend the reform. Also opposed to 2010 where the CFDT prevented the trade union front to fight for the withdrawal of the retirement bill, the solid front in 2016 made all the working class based trade unions as well as the youth organisations fight for the complete withdrawal of the bill: 'Not negotiable, not amendable, withdrawal!'

In April, the national conference of the CGT saw hundreds of delegates opposing the fake unity between CGT and CFDT which had been the official

the Catholic Church and opposed to the notion of class struggle, when it became the CFDT, although not officially Christian any more, its ideology is based on the common interest of workers and bosses.

2 The FSU has its roots in the National Education Federation (FEN), when in 1947, the CGT trade unions confederation split into two confederations, the CGT and the CGT-FO (CGT Labour Strength), the Teachers Federation affiliated to the CGT decided not to choose between the two confederations. The FEN remained independent until 1992 when it split, the FSU is the main non affiliated trade union originating from the FEN and still organises a lot of workers in public services and the majority of trade unionists among teachers.

1 The CFDT was originally a Christian trade union created by

political line of the CGT leadership since 1995. The new General Secretary had to acknowledge that this orientation was a mistake. The conference put its orientation in line with the reality of the strong unity between CGT and FO as well as FSU and Solidaires and the rejection of CFDT by trade unionists at all levels of the trade unions, seen a simple puppet of the government. Indeed, the CFDT tried to organise a demonstration to support the Labour law and the so-called 'socialist' government.

The determination of the working class and its trade unions



Many attempts have been launched by the government and the media, in order to break down this unity: police crackdowns against young activists, lies against the FO leader (supposedly open to negotiate the present bill), attempts to focus attention on NUIT DEBOUT (Standing Night, a French version of the Spanish 'indignados' and American 'Occupy Wall street' of 2011) and calumnies against CGT militants and leaders (supposedly a minority that hold the rest of the country hostage)...but it has been impossible for the bourgeoisie and its government to break down the working class front. Militants have been accused of terrorism, of destroying the national economy, of sabotaging the football EURO championship... without any success!

The mass resistance has grown and has taken various forms. The strike actions decided by the refinery workers and in some waste centres, closed these plants. Strike actions resulted in the diminution of electricity production every week in nuclear plants run by the National Electricity Company, EDF, partial railway closures and a lot of various form of strike actions in small factories. In many sectors, strike action was decided in the defence of working conditions, which are all dependent on the national Labour Code. The reform wants to abolish the principle according to which a local or a branch agreement can not undermine national laws and agreements gathered in the Labour Code; this ensures that terms and conditions are set at a national level through collective bargaining and that any agreement in a

company or a branch can only improve workers' conditions. A lot of industrial workplaces witness picket lines run by trade unionists and dockers joining the workers of the plant. These picket lines prevent the production, the entry of raw material or production from going out. Every week, there are a lot of mass demonstrations in more than 100 cities and towns. The financial support to striking workers is also organised on workplaces, especially from non striking sectors and universities. The French working class is on the way to re invest the traditional methods of the class struggle, in the same way that in Spain, 'piquetas' reappeared during the last general strike. We can also point out the international messages sent by workers from others countries, this is new and a landmark of internationalism and worker solidarity.

The 1 million demonstration on June 14 has a worldwide significance



The strength of French working class recalls the 1 million demonstration in Paris on 13th May 1968 that was the starting point of the general strike. Workers and young people were protesting together against the repression of the student strike. This was the biggest demonstration ever, the slogan was "De Gaulle 10 years is enough!"³. On the June 14, workers came from every town, every corporation, gathering in Paris transforming the streets into a sea of red flags. People marched during the whole afternoon and beginning of evening, people coming from the same regions were demonstrating together, mixing the flags of the different trade unions CGT, CGT-FO, FSU and SUD that usually don't mix. This demonstration was the symbol of the unity of the French working class. A very impressive procession was the one of the docker's from Le Havre, one of the most important industrial port in Normandy, with thousands of dockers wearing their helmets, marching in an orderly fashion. It recalls the 1831 and 1834 demonstrations of the "Canuts" (silk workers in Lyon), considered as the first industrial action of the French working class. The French bourgeoisie was frightened by their discipline and

3 In 1958, in the middle of the Algerian Revolution, where the Algerian people was fighting against France to get its independence, General Charles De Gaulle took the power by threatening the government to overthrow it with the help of the French Generals fighting in Algeria who tried a coup in Algiers.

determination and the armed repression was terrible. The situation is quite new, the mass mobilisation of the working class goes further than the single opposition to the Labour code reform. There is the feeling that the policies implemented for the past decades have to stop, and of course the Labour Code is the centre piece which all the governments have been seeking to destroy. Workers recall the great popular success of the French revolution, the 1936 and 1968 general strikes but also the revolutionary mobilisation of the 1944-1950 period⁴. What is at stake with the Labour law is precisely the workers' rights the French working class conquered in 1936, 1945 and 1968, alongside the main public services and nationalised industries, everything that has shaped our society and the relations between classes for 60 years and still do. What is at stake with the use of the article 49.3 (see below) and a government rejected by the majority, is the democracy won by the French people in 1789-93.

Vth Republic. So the law has been formally adopted by the National Assembly without the vote of the MPs! The law still needs to go through the Senate before going back to the National Assembly where the government will have probably to use the 49.3 again. The use of the most anti-democratic articles of the Vth Republic constitution has resulted in an upsurge of opposition to the government and its bill. All the public opinion surveys reveal the same tendency, a large majority (between 70 and 80%) is against the new law, which quite new too.

This government has lost any kind of support. It appeared clearly when they tried to forbid the Trade Unions to organise a demonstration on June 23rd in Paris. During several days, the government has tried to compel the trade unions to abide to the ban. But the 7 trade unions stood up together against the government and it had finally to authorise the demonstration. They have already lost the support of the bosses who would like the reform to go further, their only support among the



French dockers in Paris on June 14 / Manuel Valls, Prime Minister in the National Assembly.

trade unions is the CFDT that appears now clearly for what it is, a government servant. It clearly says to everybody: the trade union front is able to make the government step back when it tries to attempt to our democratic rights, so why not on the Labour code reform?

The extreme weakness of the French government.

The mass resistance is also reinforced by the weakness of the government and of the state apparatus. For instance, it has been impossible for the government to organise a vote in the National Assembly (the lower chamber of the Parliament) because it feared that a majority made of the right wing and some socialist and communist MPs could defeat the government (a majority of MPs voting for a non confidence motion can compel the government to resign) or at least obstruct the parliamentary process with thousands of amendments. The government had to use the article 49.3 of the constitution in the Vth Republic which allows the government to impose without any vote a law to the Parliament that is a rump parliament under the

This has implications at the European level. In a situation of deep crisis of the European Union, when the British people vote against its government to leave the EU, the French government is, with the German government, at the forefront of the defence of the imperialist system in Europe. The weakness of the French government threatens the whole European Union, an institution set up to implement the demands of the finance capital.

Can there be a positive outcome for the working class?

The June 14 national demonstration in Paris decided by the united front of 7 trade unions is very important. As well as the step back of the government on June 23rd, these events reflect the crucial issue of the political representation of the working classes fighting for a government truly representing the majority as opposed to the present one. This political representation is clearly missing. Political parties are no longer trusted. They are all focused on the coming presidential election (the most important election in a presidential regime) is

4 This period is comparable to the Atlee government period in Britain where the war destructions and huge working class mobilisation pushed the governments to take radical measures, creating most of today public services, nationalised industries, Social Security/NHS, public housing and many workers rights as well as democratic rights.

scheduled for next April 2017. The right wing party, the Republicans, is profoundly divided with more than 15 potential candidates, the Socialist Party, in cabinet since 2012, is rejected by the majority and might split before the election. They are on the way to become like the Greek Socialist Party, the Pasok, that paid a huge price for their support of the IMF-EU led austerity program. The Communist Party (PCF) leaders are trying to save their alliance with the Socialist Party that may take them into their crisis; the young communist militants, often members of the CGT are deeply involved in the current strikes and almost half of the party opposed the leadership at the last PCF National conference in May. Finally, Jean Luc Melenchon, despite his left stance, explains that its individual presidential candidacy is the only solution and that the working class does not need a political party of its own any more, not even Melenchon's party, the Left Party, the endorsement of which he did not ask before announcing his candidacy.

It is to help to strengthen the working class and its organisations, that the Parti Ouvrier Indépendant (POI – Independent Workers Party) was organizing for June 4 a national conference of militants of all tendencies in defence of the working class conquests of 1936 and 1945-50, as well as the democratic rights of the 1789 French Revolution.

The conference decided by the POI 5th National Congress last November has received great attention from several hundreds of trade unionists including trade union leaders. The conference was

not a conference of the POI but was organised under the aegis of 'Informations Ouvrières' (IO) that is the newspaper of the POI but is also since its foundation an open tribune for the class struggle. Hence, IO was the voice of this conference, prepared by the publication of more than 250 tribunes written by people that are not members of the POI and also a great number of local conferences have been held across the country. Very often the same question was raised: how to win against the new Labour law? But recently, a new question has been put forward in the new situation we know: how to built together a political platform, based on the sound requirements of the present struggle, ' how to set up a political outcome for the working class in a situation where neither the government nor the political parties can speak in its name? '.

What happened on June 14 and June 23 is not something due to what the media call the 'French exception', it is the visible part of a political maturation occurring across Europe, as evidenced by the recent strikes and demonstrations in Belgium, in Spain, in Germany where the strikes organised by the Trade unions during the period of the pay negotiations were unusually important. This process is fed from the top by the crisis shaking the EU and all the national governments. The POI statement says that the British Out vote '*resonates for all the workers of Europe who reject the European Union*', at the same time, we can be sure that the struggle of the French workers with their trade unions inspires millions of workers across Europe.

L'émancipation des travailleurs sera l'œuvre des travailleurs eux-mêmes

INFORMATIONS OUVRIÈRES

TRIBUNE LIBRE DE LA LUTTE DES CLASSES HEBDOMADAIRE DU PARTI OUVRIER INDÉPENDANT **POI**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 4th 2016

in defence of the conquests of 1936 and 1945

Following the national conference in defence of the conquests of 1936 and 1945, an assembly of 1800 participants, the proposition is: that workers, unionists, political activists, young people, discuss a platform based on the defence of these conquests which are the foundation of the defence of the working class and of the independence of its organizations; these conquests are being jeopardised today.

In order to write this platform, in order to maintain the links between the participants of this

conference, in order to exchange information, the proposition is: to create around the participants liaison and exchange committees.

This platform, open to collective discussion and elaboration, answers the following preambles:

At the precise moment this national conference (June 4) is taking place, nobody knows what will happen in the coming days, the government itself does not know— its divisions are visible in the press daily.

During the last three months, the mass of workers and activists has overcome the manoeuvres aimed at forcing it to give up the struggle for the withdrawal of the El Khomri law.

The mass of workers has rejected the

“accompaniment unionism” of the CFDT. It has overcome each and every obstacle attempting to stop the mass of workers from regrouping. The mass of workers is at one with the trade unions (CGT, CGT-FO, FSU, Solidaires) who demanded the withdrawal of the law, alternating in the long term: strikes, demonstrations and blockages... with thousands of young people and their organisations following suit (Unef, Fidl, UNL). It has won over the support of a vast majority of the population (70% according to polls).

And strikes are continuing today... they stop in one sector and they start in another, and the number of professional sectors and regions engaged in the movement grows every day.

Strikes and demonstrations continue and they are “rocking the boat” of the government.

The CGT, CGT-FO, FSU, Solidaires, UNEF, Fidl, have called a national demonstration for June 14 in Paris. The participants of the June 4 national conference unanimously agree that this demonstration is going to express, forcefully and clearly, that workers, activists and citizens reject a law that concentrates all the destructive policy of Hollande-Valls-Macron.

On June 14 a further step will be taken in the political demonstration of the irremediable break between the people and a government that is isolated; it no longer has the unanimous support of its troops and it is reduced to taking expedient arbitrary measures, the most reactionary measures of the Vth Republic institutions (49-3).

All this government can do, to keep itself in business, is to use the threat of political “void”, the threat of the right and the extreme-right, and of chaos...

For workers on the other hand, it appears more clearly daily that: the only way to avoid chaos and adventures for the country lies in their capacity to impose, in the unity of their class organisations, the will of the vast majority; and to carry on with their action, in whatever form, until it forces this government to give in.

The refusal to give up the slogan “withdraw the law”, formulated in unity by the CGT and FO confederations, and supported by the great mass of the population – that is what gives strength and cohesion, what has given the workers new confidence in their own strength ever since the beginning of these three months of mobilisation.

This concentrates the political situation. The demand for the withdrawal of the El Khomri law materialises the political refusal of a whole class to give up its rights for the sake of the preservation of

the competitiveness of the national economy; this would impose the adaptation of the whole framework of rules and regulations to the so-called necessities of “XXI century economy” and to digital economy, so dear to Macron. This economy would be back to the service hiring contract and the transformation of wage-earners into slaves.

The mobilisation demanding the withdrawal of this law has taken such magnitude that it has turned into a confrontation preparing and announcing a clash. It announces a confrontation between the majority of this country’s population and this government’s policy, taking its orders from great imperialist monopolies; these monopolies demand (via the IMF, the EU, the OECD and the World Bank) that it carry through the dismantlement started with the Labour Code (the main laws of the Labour Code were written in by the 1936 general strike).

The big monopolistic groups are accelerating the destruction of the industrial bases of the country (Alstom, Mital, Total, Technip...) for the sake of the defence of their profit margins... They demand the dismantlement and privatisation of the public monopolies established in 1945-47 – these were established to restart the national economy and answer the vital needs of the population straight after the war. They demand that agriculture be “reorganised” and be rid of small family concerns... and that all that remains of the republican organisation of the territory based on the independence of municipalities, be scrapped.

All workers are confronted in the present situation with a crucial problem.

It is increasingly difficult even impossible, for workers to rely on the political parties which by tradition are supposed to represent them politically. Some of these parties are in the government and they are the direct instigators of the worst of reactionary measures. For others, the question is this: is it possible to defend workers, is it possible to open up any prospects for the future, whilst accepting to be tied up in the antidemocratic institutions of the Vth Republic? Is it possible to have as sole prospect an election aimed at giving the reins to one man only, with a Constitution that allows for any and all antidemocratic manoeuvres? And at the same time, millions of citizens, having learnt from experience, abstain from voting, in some areas in rates up to 70%, and they reject parties.

Whilst in this situation workers and activists – whatever their political origins – have, and rightly so, been driven towards trade unions to assemble for the defence of the social and political conquests that are the basis of all relations in a democratic society, it is obvious that now the issue is to include

this defence of conquests in a broader perspective.

The fight to keep workers' collective rights, in opposition to the "one-to-one" service contracting of society, the fight to re-establish the public monopolies established after WWII, the fight to restore public financing of housing and country planning – forbidden by the EU, the fight to restore the sovereignty of municipalities, the fight to defend the 1945 Social Security (Health Care system in France – NdT), the fight for the defence of secularism... this is the draft of a programme that can be supported by the mobilisation of the masses, supported by their class trade unions, to open the way to a political outcome in conformity with their interests and the interests of the whole of society.

A programme that used to be called "socialism", abandoned by all those who up till recently claimed it as their own.

This debate around the various points of such a

platform, or manifesto, started in the meetings preparing this national conference. This debate has started to find a place in *Informations Ouvrières*, the POI weekly, and free tribune of class struggle, in the "Debates" column that was created for that purpose. This debate went on all throughout this conference.

Thousands of workers, activists, trade union cadres, representatives of agricultural family concerns, hundreds of elected officials who cannot accept the "democracy" of article 49-3, whatever political organisations they were in till recently or are still in now, are ready to take part in this process.

Let us organise it!

Send your propositions, your informations, to *Informations Ouvrières* (informations-ouvrieres@fr.oelane.com), it will relay them.

Class Struggle and Trade Unions

About the Trade Union Law, independence and class struggle

by Marius McPherson

The trade union bill was adopted on May 4. The law that was adopted was indeed different from the first project. We publish in this issue an analysis of the law made by Carolyn Jones, Assistant Secretary of the Campaign for Trade Unions Freedom, an organisation that defends and informs about trade union rights and fights for the repeal of all the anti-trade union laws passed since Thatcher.

Carolyn Jones, Assistant Secretary of the Campaign for Trade Unions Freedom, an organisation that defends and informs about trade union rights and fights for the repeal of all the anti-trade union laws passed since Thatcher.

Has the trade union movement achieved a victory?

The TUC secretary general, Frances O'Grady, considers what has been achieved as a victory, she wrote: *'There's more to do, but union members everywhere can feel justly proud today in what we've achieved – and in what that tells us about the power, relevance and vitality of our trade union*

*movement.'*⁵

David Prentis, Unison General Secretary, wrote that: *'But after months in which our movement has faced a number of existential threats, we have every right to be relieved with and thankful for the progress we've made.'*⁶



Demonstration of public sector workers and their trade unions in London on March 26 2011 (Dailymail)

But despite a few steps back, Carolyn Lucas considers that *'The imposition of a 50 per cent turnout and an additional 40 per cent support requirement for workers in health, education, fire*

response, transport and border security, make it near impossible for those workers currently leading the resistance against privatisation and cuts to take industrial action. According to an IER report,

⁵ <http://touchstoneblog.org.uk/2016/04/union-campaign-scores-win-big-changes-made-trade-union-bill/>

⁶ <https://www.unison.org.uk/news/2016/04/as-we-condemn-the-trade-union-bill-we-shouldnt-overlook-what-our-campaigning-has-achieved/>

millions of workers will be denied the right to take action under these new thresholds.' She concludes that despite the changes, *'This was a nasty Bill that's turned into a nasty Act.'* But trade unionists have heard a very different conclusion from some trade union leaders.

From the start, the TUC leadership excluded any extra-parliamentary action.

Frances O'Grady explains: *'The trade union movement's job was to expose just how ill-thought-through the bill was, and to build the campaign against it.'* A single demonstration was organised on November 30 which was quite important and could have been the beginning of a massive campaign in the streets, it was the only demonstration the TUC leadership dared to organise. Even during the 'heart unions week of action' on February 8-14, the Trade Union bill was barely present in the TUC leaflets.

Still according to the TUC General Secretary, this so-called victory was not even the result of the fight of the trade unions: *'Pretty much every stage of the parliamentary process has seen concessions from ministers, dealing with growing concern in their own ranks, and growing anger at the shoddy nature of the bill during its progress through the Lords.'*

Trade unionists were not completely alien to this victory: *'today is a day to be proud. None of these positive changes would have happened without the trade union movement uniting to mount a major campaign against the bill. Union members marched, emailed, signed petitions, held local events, joined consultations, told their stories on billboards, and took part in the biggest ever mass lobby of MPs. We've had amazing support from allies across civil society, including human rights organisations, public sector employers and politicians of all parties (including principled positions taken by many Conservative MPs and Peers).'* But no real independent industrial action able to stop the Bill...

David Prentis, Unison SG, goes even further: *'After dozens of meetings with MPs, peers, ministers and even bishops, I saw up close the realisation that, with those driving the attacks on our movement, they were making a terrible mistake.'* O'Grady had indeed forgotten the important role of the bishops in this victory of the working class...

A government in crisis that needs the trade unions' help

The few steps back of the government has to do with trade unions finance and their political fund whereas the increase of the strike ballot thresholds have been let unchanged. Even though, these concessions should not be overlooked by any Labour militant, the nature of this compromise is

questionable.

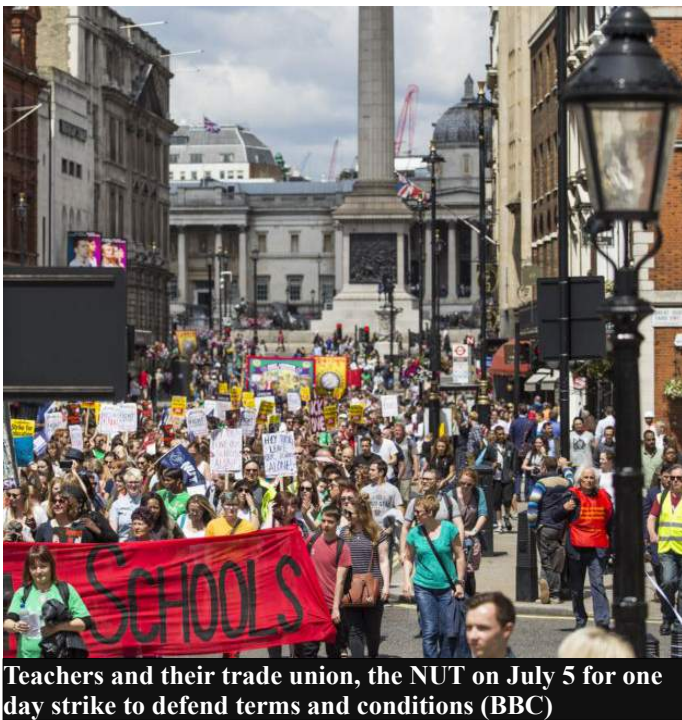
According to David Prentis: *'And on political funding—one of the most recent developments in the saga that this bill has become—the changes secured mean that unions can continue to campaign on behalf of the issues that matter to our members, like fighting low pay, supporting anti-racist campaigns and winning the fight for Britain to remain in a reformed EU.'*

Frances O'Grady explains the same in the Guardian: *'In a practical way, I have been going up and down the country banging on about the trade union bill, when I would much rather be spending at least some of my time going up and down the country banging on about why a Brexit would be a big gamble on workers' rights and jobs.(...)*

I think maybe the penny is starting to drop that in terms of grassroots organising capacity; in terms of having 200,000 workplace representatives who are often opinion leaders in the community, too, that it doesn't make sense to be hammering us at a time when most people have no idea of why they've picked on us in the first place.'

Isolated and rejected, the government needs the Trade union leaders to make workers support the European Union. That is why also David Cameron signed a tribute in the Guardian with Brendan Barber, former TUC General Secretary and member of the board of Britain Stronger in Europe campaign, a cross party campaign gathering all the pro EU campaigns. They tried to explain that right wing and left wing arguments in favour of the EU could be put together and concluded: *'On our side, however, we have a collection of independent experts, trustworthy organisations and friends of Britain from around the world. Whether it is the Bank of England, our universities, the trade unions, employers large and small in every part of our economy, the IMF, President Obama, our allies in Nato or the Commonwealth, the message is the same: Britain is better off in Europe.'* But none of these are workers' friends or of the trade union movement, all of them are friends of big companies, bosses, they are all enemies of workers and peoples, some of them they invaded and attacked in Afghanistan, Irak, Lybia and Syria.

The Tory government, the bosses and the institutions that serve the demands of finance capital, such as the IMF or the World Bank, do not care about trade unions campaigning for a reformed Europe, for a social Europe or even for workers rights across Europe, as long as they campaign to remain in the EU. Because the EU has been



Teachers and their trade union, the NUT on July 5 for one day strike to defend terms and conditions (BBC)

designed to implement and impose if necessary on recalcitrant national governments the will of finance capital.

Thatcher's anti-trade union laws have failed to break the trade union movement

According to O'Grady, *'It was clear from the moment the bill was introduced that they hadn't done their homework. Consultation was limited and rushed – and we waited months for a government response. The impact assessments were rated not fit for purpose by the government's own watchdog'.*

Angela Eagle, now former Justice Shadow Minister, declared during the first reading that the bill was pointless since the number of strike actions had been reduced by 90% by the previous anti-trade unions and anti-strike laws passed by Thatcher.

It is doubtful that the government decided to risk to strengthen and unify the opposition of the whole trade union movement, the Labour Party, the Green Party, the SNP, the Lib-Dem and to deepen the division in their own party just because they *'forgot to do their homework'*.

Thatcher was elected by the British bourgeoisie to realise what all previous Conservative governments had failed to do, especially Heath in 1974: to break what she called *'the enemy within'*, the trade union movement, one of the best organised, the strongest trade union movement in the world. Indeed, the several laws passed in the 80s and 90s have put huge restrictions on the right to strike and even to join a trade union. Britain is still in breach with several ILO (International Labour Organisation) conventions especially conventions 87 and 98.

Despite the weakening of the trade unions, one

has to acknowledge that this plan has failed. The British trade union movement is still strong and still organises a significant number of workers in key industries and services. The weakening of the trade unions has more to do with the destruction of workers rights, the privatisation of public services and the closure of nationalised industries. For instance, the proportion of British workers covered by collective agreements decreased from 82% (then around the European average) in 1979 when Thatcher became prime minister, to about 20% today. But to be able to fight seriously these attacks, the trade unions leaders would have had to disobey the anti-trade union laws, as they did in 1971. The acceptance of these laws by the trade union leaders and the Labour Party that never repealed them, led to the destruction of our rights and the weakening of the trade unions.

Far from protecting our trade unions or workers' rights as explained by Carolyn Jones, this deal threatens even more the very existence and independence of our trade unions. If the government succeeds in preventing trade unions to take strike action in the public sector, in making very difficult to organise workers in the workplace and to campaign, the whole trade union movement will be in danger of disappearing in many workplaces. The structures of our trade unions with local, regional and national organisations as well as interprofessional structures, reflect the existence of workers' rights at these different levels that the trade unions are in charge to defend. If these rights cannot be defended properly any more, then they would disappear, so does the organisation in charge of defending them. Trade unions may also be transformed into transmission belts of the bosses' decisions, helping to implement them smoothly if not opposing them any more.

But the destruction of our trade unions is far from achieved. On the contrary, the weakness of this government, rejected by the people and torn apart by its own internal crisis, will enable the trade union movement to fight back.

The working class needs to defend its independent trade unions

The recent increase in strike actions in the past few years and the willingness of the working class to stop the Tories through a growing number of demonstrations, campaigns and strikes, threaten the relations between the classes established and maintained more or less the same since the end of the 80s.

The junior doctor's strike shows exactly what the government fears. When the BMA is acting as a real trade union, organising the resistance, hundreds of junior doctors are willing to join it. In front of the

government refusal to negotiate, the BMA has taken strike actions and organised a large campaign in which the junior doctors have received the support of the majority of the working class, the trade unions, a lot of Labour party branches and CLPs, socialist organisations and the majority of the country. This struggle has raised the issue of a united struggle involving the whole trade union movement to defend the NHS. PCS and the FBU made the proposal to organise a national demonstration in solidarity with the junior doctors but this was refused by the TUC. This may be attacked by the government as a solidarity strike that are illegal since Thatcher. But a government that is divided and rejected would not have the political strength to oppose a resolute and united trade union front.

The government fears the action of the workers,

organised in their trade unions and knows that they are able to prevent the implementation of the austerity measures asked by finance capital and its institutions, the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union. This fear is not only fuelled by the growing mobilisation of the workers but also by the profound crisis of the European Union and of all the national governments. The new political situation opened by the class struggle in France, in Belgium and Germany, the deadlock of the general elections in Spain and the recent Leave vote in Britain threaten to destabilise the whole imperialist order in Europe. The history of the working class and the recent upsurge of members in the Labour Party show that the working class is able and will take back control over its traditional organisations, party and trade unions, to organise its class struggle against the capitalist class and its government, overthrowing the anti-trade union laws.

The Trade Union Act Is An Unjust Law – And It Spells Trouble

By Carolyn Jones, Assistant Secretary, Campaign For Trade Union Freedom, from their website, May 12 2016



The Trade Union Bill has now passed through its parliamentary stages, receiving Royal Assent on Wednesday May 4th — ironically, the 90th anniversary of the 1926 General Strike.

The Act will appear in the Queen's speech on May 18th, with implementation dates set at the convenience of the government. It's true the Act is a shadow of the Bill first proposed, but dangerous details hide in those shadows. Rather than congratulate ourselves on what has been achieved, we must shine a light on the dangers ahead, exposing the intentions behind the Act and building on the growing opposition. To do otherwise would be a disservice to future generations. It's our kids and their kids who will suffer if the power of trade unions to organise, to

represent and to defend living standards are choked off by this anti-working class Act.

As expected, some of the more bizarre and extreme proposals in the original Bill have been jettisoned. Unenforceable attempts to monitor and control the use of social media during disputes have been dumped, as have plans to make everyone on a picket line show their personal data to the police, employers or anyone else who asks to see it.

But the Act still demands the appointment of picket supervisors who must make themselves known to police and employers and carry a letter of authorisation. Breaches of any of the restrictions will in future attract criminal charges. Similar legislation in Spain has been used to threaten pickets with imprisonment — threats so far resisted by the Spanish trade unions.

On ballots, ancillary workers associated with important public services are no longer captured by the double thresholds (but private-sector workers involved in public services could still be caught by the net) and the wording on the ballot paper is slightly less prescriptive but still extremely vulnerable to injunction. But the “flagship” aspect and main purpose of this Act remains in place. The imposition of a 50 per cent turnout and an additional 40 per cent support requirement for workers in health, education, fire response, transport and border security, make it near impossible for those workers currently leading the resistance against privatisation and cuts to take industrial action.

According to an IER report, millions of workers will be denied the right to take action under these new thresholds. These restrictions bring Britain once again into conflict with international laws. In February 2016 the Committee of Experts told Britain that education and transport should not be included in the government's list of “important services.” Similarly, the International Labour Organisation has reasserted that when setting ballot thresholds, “account should only be taken of votes cast.”

And yet the government pushed on. In response, unions quite rightly demanded the introduction of e-balloting to improve ballot turnouts and help unions reach the high thresholds. In an attempt to save the Bill from outright opposition, an amendment to review e-balloting and roll out a test programme was inserted by the Lords. But the government has rejected the roll-out promise and instead kicked the e-ballot proposal into the long grass of an independent review.

And even when these new hurdles to strikes are navigated successfully, proposals to bus in agency workers — often vulnerable people coerced into taking positions under new universal credit rules — still lurk in the background. On political funds the demand that members opt in rather than opt out will be delayed for 12 months and will only apply to new members. But the opt-in system is now law and threatens to undermine the political voice of trade unions.

And the bureaucratic nonsense of unions having to declare all political expenditure over £2,000 a year stands in complete contrast to the privacy and anonymity given to off-shore funds and off-shore Tory funders. The election of a Labour government committed to removing this nasty Act grows ever more important if the political voice of the next generation of trade unionists is to be heard.

Proposals to ban check-off arrangements in the public sector have been dropped but only if the union wins the agreement of the employer and pays the admin costs. Fine where that works — but a constant threat to the negotiating position of unions where it doesn't. The idea of giving concessions where agreement can be reached permeates much of the final Act. So the Bill proposed doubling the notice period that unions have to give employers on a ballot from seven to 14 days. That period has now been reduced back to seven — but only where agreement can be reached.

Similarly, the validity of a ballot was reduced to three months in the Bill, extended to six months in the Act or nine months, but again only where agreement can be reached. If the government was really supportive of industrial relations being conducted by agreement, it would have introduced statutory procedures to encourage collective bargaining. Instead it has put in place yet more hurdles for unions to jump and created a statutory safety net for employers to fall back on should relations at work deteriorate still further. On the freedom of unions to organise at work, the Lords removed the proposal to cap facility time. The government however reinstated it, promising to research and consult on the cost of facility time before returning to the same attack but with more detail. Using public money to undertake costly research to use against public-sector workers is perverse, as is the imposition of the proposals on devolved governments.

And the backdrop to this malevolent Act is the newly empowered state surveillance officer. The new powers awarded to the Certification Officer (CO) remain much as they were in the original Bill. The CO has powers to initiate complaints, undertake inspections including recording names, determine outcomes and impose fines of between £200-£20,000 on any national, regional or local branch on issues relating to political fund procedures and expenditure, internal elections, ballots and much more.

It's true the government inserted a clause saying the CO would not be "subject to directions of any kind from any Minister of the Crown as to the manner in which he is to exercise his functions." But it's not the manner in which the CO does the work that is so objectionable. It is the nature of the work s/he undertakes that raises concerns and it is the nature of the work that is set by ministers.

This was a nasty Bill that's turned into a nasty Act. Parliamentary activity has delivered what it can in the face of a government determined to silence political opposition, cull collective action, criminalise solidarity on the picket line and strangle unions with bureaucratic red tape controlled by a state surveillance officer. If this Act, like the 1971 Act before it is to be defeated, the immediate battle will be extra-parliamentary, led by workers responding to attacks on their standard of living and working conditions.

Those battles are already being fought in Britain, Spain and France and will continue to grow as current economic policies fail to deliver anything other than growing inequality and lack of opportunity. In the longer term, Jeremy Corbyn and his team need to be given the space and time to develop alternative economic and industrial policies. Such policies will expose the political nature of Tory attacks and show how another narrative and political agenda is possible.

To that end, the Institute of Employment Rights (IER) is working on a manifesto for labour law which places trade unions back at the heart of economic, industrial and social regeneration. In the meantime, the labour movement must do all it collectively can to educate, agitate and organise against this undemocratic, unnecessary and unfair Trade Union Act.



The coordination of the International Liaison Committee (ILC) of Workers and Peoples convened in Algiers on May 28 and 29.

Call for an Open World Conference against War and Exploitation

For the defence: of the rights of the workers and young people ! of democratic rights and liberties ! of the sovereignty of peoples and nations !

The international coordination of the International Liaison Committee (ILC) of Workers and Peoples , mandated by the open world conference of Algiers in 2010, convened in Algiers on May 28th and 29th 2016. After a rich and exciting discussion between its members about the political situation - political as well as social - which confront the peoples and the workers throughout the world, the coordination confirms the convening of the 9th open world conference of the ILC in the course of year 2017.

Indeed, the decision of the coordination of the Entente is dictated by the urgency of concentrating the efforts in the fight against the imperialist system which crushes the nations and oppresses the peoples, by attacking them from all sides and under all possible forms: destabilization of many countries on their borders on within their territories; devastating injunctions of international instances of imperialism (IMF, World Bank, EU...); workers' gains threatened or ransacked; trade-union organizations undermined in their independence or their very existence by liquidating juridical arsenals; criminalized labour rights,etc.

In this framework, the coordination considers that the multiplication of dismemberment wars against nations in the Middle-East and in Africa as manifestations of the imperialist offensive, with, as a consequence, millions of refugees and migrants, is a most barbarous expression of the capitalist system which threatens the human civilization as a whole. The purpose is, for the international Entente of workers and peoples, to initiate a discussion with all those who refuse the systematic destruction of the peoples' right to self-determination and of their social gains, so as to make the conditions for a successful conference meet as a focal point of fights and resistances. Beyond the specifics of each country, the coordination of the ILC remarks that, in many countries, the political and trade-union organizations of the labor movement are driven to participate in, or even implement anti-labour and anti- democratic plans, which make even more urgent the fight for the defence for the independence of labour and democratic organizations.

For this purpose, the coordination of the ILC will meet in Paris on September 2016, to decide - on the basis of the proposals made by the countries willing to host the 9th open world conference - on its date and place. Its also on this occasion that will be proposed the international preparatory committee for the open world conference of 2017.

Statement of conclusions

The coordination of the **International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples** convened in Algiers, on May 28th and 29th, to discuss the initiatives to be taken at the international level. Considering the fierce attacks carried out by a dwindling capitalist system against the workers and the peoples of the whole world, the coordination has taken the following decisions:

- to organize, on June 6th 2016, a press conference of the ILC in Geneva, on the occasion of the annual international labour conference of the IOL;
- to participate, through delegates, in the meeting which will be organized that same day by the CUT, to expose the international campaign it has lead against the parliamentary and judicial power grab in Brazil, for the defence of the CUT, of the PT and of Lula;
- the coordination will convene in early September to fix the date and place of the open world conference.



Demonstration in Mexico in solidarity with the Teachers' Union (CNTE) against the repression- June 26

Algiers/Paris, June 24, 2016

Communiqué addressed to all organizations associated with the activities of the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples, to the international workers' movement

International solidarity with the Mexican teachers and the National Coordination of Education Workers (CNTE)

Dear Comrades,

Faced with a mobilization of teachers in Mexico lasting months, the government of Peña Nieto has responded with repression and a massacre.

We learned with horror that on Sunday June 19 the federal police and those of the state of Oaxaca opened fire upon teachers of local 22 of the CNTE, indigenous peasants and parents at several locations in the state of Oaxaca and notably in Nochixtlan. An estimated number of between 9 and 13 comrades were killed and dozens have disappeared. The police have blocked entry to public hospitals to prevent the wounded from receiving treatment.

Several leaders of the CNTE, such as Nuñez, Villalobos and Madrigal, have been imprisoned.

With their organizations, the Mexican teachers have mobilized for the abrogation of a law privatizing education. Thousands of them have already been laid off.

We call on all workers' and democratic organizations to organize action in solidarity with their struggle, to protest energetically to the government of Peña Nieto and to Mexican embassies.

Stop the murders, prosecute and punish those responsible!

Release the prisoners immediately!

Louisa Hanoune
National secretary of the Workers Party (Algeria)
Geoffrey Excoffon,
Member of the national bureau of the Independent Workers Party (France)
(Coordinators of the International Liaison Committee)

Send your messages to:

President Enrique Peña Nieto : enrique.penanieto@presidencia.gob.mx

Teachers Against the Law : unidad.contra.evaluacion@gmail.com

SPANISH STATE: Unity and mobilisation to prevent further destruction of our rights by Rajoy

by POSI (Internationalist Socialist Workers Party)

Last general elections in December in the Spanish state did not give a majority to any party. Due to the failure in forming a coalition government, new elections had to be organised on June 26. The right wing Popular Party (PP) got 33% of the votes, 22% for the Socialist Labour Party (PSOE), 21% for Unidos-Podemos and 13% for Ciudadanos. We reproduce here the statement of the **POSI (Internationalist Socialist Workers Party) that participates in the activities of the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples (ILC).**



Pablo Iglesias (Podemos), Albert Rivera (Ciudadanos), Pedro Sanchez (PSOE) and Mariano Rajoy (PP).

It is a fact. As a result of the policy pursued by the leaders of the PSOE and Unidos-Podemos, there is no majority in the new Parliament that could guarantee a stable left government. The struggle between the two organisations that claim to defend workers' rights and democracy, turning their back on the fight against Rajoy⁷ to defend social and democratic rights, has led a large number of workers and young people to feel that they are not represented by both political options. The absence of a common commitment, an agreement to get the majority of the people out of an untenable situation, to ensure the fraternity between peoples, has spread confusion. The fight over who was the second prevented to unite to oust Rajoy.

Compared to the December 20 general election, more than million voters, especially from popular backgrounds, have possibly abstained because they could not see any clear commitment to defend the rights attacked by Rajoy and his government. The figures are clear: the PSOE, far from recovering the more than 1.5 million votes that were lost, lost 174,000 votes more; the alliance of Podemos, IU and other progressive forces not only has not increased its vote share but has not even added up the votes obtained separately last December and instead, they have lost 1,142,000.

Nor has the PP recovered from the collapse of last December, the people have not forgotten the catastrophe that have been the four years of Rajoy

government. Out of the more than 3.5 million lost votes, it has barely recovered 500,000 votes that went to Ciudadanos and 100,000 votes more. The results do not give the PP a stable parliamentary majority. No support at all, even in Parliament, to perpetrate new adjustments and cuts required by the finance capital.

The clear demands of the workers and peoples
The Trade Unions have made public the balance sheet of the labour laws reforms: a general lowering of wages, a growing insecurity, an explosion of social misery already announced.

Therefore, speaking on behalf of its millions of members and millions more workers, they argue that it is necessary to repeal the two reforms of the labour laws, as well as the Article 315.3 of the Penal Code⁸, the 'Gag' Law⁹, LOMCE¹⁰ and to rise substantially the minimum wage and salaries in general, to launch an emergency plan to create two million true jobs and to save public services, to give subsidies to those who can not find a job. These are the demands of the vast majority that can not take it any more.

To these, must be added a basic question: there can be no social progress without restoring democracy and brotherhood among peoples, systematically sabotaged by the Rajoy government that relies on the judicial institutions inherited from Franco. They need to confront the people to continue destroying its social achievements and rights.

An electoral impasse demonstrating the regime crisis

A parliamentary combination may allow the formation of a government in the framework of the Franquist institutions, thanks to an undemocratic electoral law and the arbitrary functioning of the institutions of the Monarchical state apparatus, sponsored by the Obama government, whose next visit will strengthen it, and of course by the European Union.

But no government comes out of these elections

⁷ Rajoy is the Prime Minister of Spain, member of the Popular Party, the main right wing party, heir of the Franquist state apparatus.

⁸ Inherited from the Franco dictatorship, this article criminalises picket lines.

⁹ New public security law limiting the freedom of speech and curbing the right to peacefully protest with the introduction of huge fines.

¹⁰ Education reform passed in 2013.

with the capacity or the strength to continue the destructive policy of the Rajoy government.

At the same time, the elections again demonstrate that the respect of the Left leaders for the regime and its institutions is a fundamental obstacle to the satisfaction of the social and national-democratic demands.

It is essential to restore and conquer the rights of all workers, of each and every one of the peoples, by removing the obstacles. The alliance of the workers and the peoples can only be sealed if the power of the institutions inherited from the dictatorship is challenged, paving the way to the Republic, in which the peoples freely decide the relations between them.

Two roads after the elections

At the same time the European Union, now rejected in Britain, shows its true face of austerity and denial of democracy, in France the united mobilization of the workers with their trade unions against the labour reform shows the way to all workers and peoples across Europe.

In the Spanish State there are two ways:

- The one that the finance capital wants to impose to keep looting us. One of their spokesmen, El País [TN, National Centre left newspaper], says in an editorial addressed to the PSOE '*Considering the absolute priority of facilitating the governance, the PSOE should hear the mandate of voters, it should remain in the opposition and allow by its abstention the formation of a government supported by enough votes.*' This newspaper belonging to the American capital requires the PSOE to give the PP the victory that the citizens have refused him in the polls.

The working majority, the peoples of the Spanish State, can only fear the worst from facilitating Rajoy's governance. Any attempt from the PSOE leaders to actually help the PP government to continue its destructive policy, would be a blow to the working majority, a betrayal of the voters and a historical suicide of the traditional workers' party. There is another way.

- The unity of the organisations that claim to defend workers and peoples' interests, forming a united front to defend the social and national rights.

A battlefield in Parliament, in the street, in the workplaces to swing in favour of the social majority the tie the polls have left.

More than ever, industrial action is necessary

What happened in Europe in recent years shows that even an electoral victory is not, in itself, a guarantee. We saw it in Greece, where it has been shown that there can be no negotiations with the European Union on how to implement "better" cuts or "more slowly".

To put an end to the serious attacks that Rajoy, Obama and the EU have prepared, to pave the way to the change we need, unity and workers industrial actions with their organisations to enforce their claims are essential.

Excuses or narrow interests of this or that leader or this or that party are worthless. That has already set us back. Now, no support, no collusion with Rajoy and the PP or Ciudadanos, more than ever we need the unity of the forces that claim to defend workers and peoples' interests, to organise the mobilisation and the political agreements that may achieve the demands and rights of the social majority.

BRAZIL: "Go away Temer! Hands off our rights"

Editorial of O Trabalho [The Labour], newspaper of one of the currents of the Workers Party (PT) in Brazil.

'The democratic solution that feeds the popular mobilization in defence of the rights and to return her mandate to Dilma (Rousseff) to implement the program she has been elected for, urgently raises the issue of the Constituent Assembly in order to reform the political system.'

Even if the Brazil situation has faded from international headlines, the crisis continues. After the day of industrial action on June 10, a third usurping government minister went down for corruption, and Temer himself is involved in the Lava-Jato judicial operation (means 'express cleaning').

Everyone is aware that this government does not have the capacity to complete the anti-working-class and anti-democratic

program it has announced. It is in these circumstances that the Imperialism spokespersons are looking for a third path in the form of anticipated elections. We are publishing the editorial of the newspaper O Trabalho, dated on June 16. O Trabalho is one of the currents of the Workers Party (PT), Dilma Rousseff party.

It is not over yet!

The working people should have the last word!

Denounced by an accused person in exchange for sentence reduction, Henrique Eduardo (PMDE) went down. It is the third minister (in charge of tourism) of the usurper, Temer that is himself involved in this denunciation made by Sergio



Editorial de *O Trabalho*, 16 juin 2016, journal du courant O Trabalho du PT

Machado (PDMB, ex PSDE) in the operation Lava-Jato amongst others.

And this happens, after only one month of the putschist government!

In reality, it is a fragile and unstable government because it is illegitimate, despite of the large national putschist coalition and the support of international finance capital. While he is only there to follow up the “interim” during the months-long trial of Dilma, the legitimately elected president, by the Senate, the usurper intends to apply a genuine war program, including measures that will affect the future generation.

If someone is there to make it look like the actual government, this is really the “market”. Cynical, it acknowledges that the “political» ministers don’t smell of roses, ah! But ministers from the “economic sphere” are better anyway!

This means that they prepare themselves to tear from the people's hands the maximum they can in order to offer it to private accumulation..

However, that is when the troubles start. The open popular resistance does not allow the usurper to do what he wanted. All the more so as the crisis is growing in the putschist coalition and into the closest circles.

The measures stay half-way, others are adjourned, the “market” is losing its patience again.

And it is for this reason, and not because of the hearings or the denunciations, that the arrogant Commander has already lost three generals.

He is fragile and can be defeated.

Provided that the mobilization against the putsch and in defence of the rights spreads, and does not divide itself, but on the contrary takes roots and amplifies itself.

So, the president Dilma can’t change her horse in midstream.

After having defended her mandate and the one of her 54 millions of voters until the end, she cannot propose to consult the people on whether we should continue or not.

This is a confounding and divisive argument.

If her courtesans and supporters have convinced her that a dozen of opposing senators might have been softened, she is wrong, as well as they were wrong in the count of her supporters for the vote in the Chamber of Deputies. They could only give her the majority in the Senate to undertake a consultation, being assured that it will enable to make her capitulate.

That does not mean that it is impossible to reach, included in the Senate, the third of the voices required for her return. But only if she is ready to take the necessary measures to be able to govern against the elites eventually, with the support of the working people she has despised with the budgetary adjustment (TN: cuts in the budget to

reimburse the debt), this people that now wants concrete signs – the PT itself asks her for a commitment charter.

Commitments to defend the pre-salt deposit [TN: off-shore oil deposit beneath a geological layer made of salt), state-owned companies, to job protection, and not to the deficit reduction, a commitment to the political reform, thanks to a Constituent Assembly allowing to get rid of the rot. She already said that in 2013, when the vice-president Temer refused and she backed off, despite of the eight millions yes votes obtained during the popular plebiscite (TN, popular vote in favour a Constituent Assembly held by the PT, the CUT and left organisations in September 2013) .

But it is not over. Not only because the Senate deliberation will last another two months, but also because the last word has not been said yet. The last word will be the one of working people.

The day of industrial action convened by the CUT (TN, principal trade union confederation, linked to

the PT), the PT, as well as the popular organizations and fronts, on last June 10, has shown the disposition for the fight. It is not true that the fight against the putsch has reached its maximum.

No, if we seize all the means available, we can have the whole working class taking the streets. This mean is not to “burn tyres” or exemplary actions by small groups or “cultural” actions. This mean is the general strike.

More precisely, the strike began to be more used on June 10 by bank and oil workers. There is no lack of concrete reasons to go on strike against the measures announced by the illegitimate government.

The CUT has a timetable to discuss in that direction, and it is supported by the PT. This is what it is all about!

The emancipation of the working classes must be conquered by the working classes themselves

LABOUR NEWS

FREE TRIBUNE OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE

Why this bulletin?

Our modest bulletin intends to be a free tribune of the class struggle of the working class.

In the struggle in defence of workers and their organisations against bourgeois (pro-capitalist) governments and the European Union, our bulletin has political sympathies for the French weekly **Informations Ouvrières** (newspaper of the Parti Ouvrier Indépendant and a free tribune of the class struggle).

It supports the International and European conferences organised by the ILC (International Liaison Committee of workers and peoples) since 1991 aimed at bringing together militants and workers organisations in the defence of Labour interests "Against war and exploitation", as declared by a first conference in 1991.

As a free tribune of the class struggle, the aim of our bulletin is to give an account of ongoing debates within the British and European Labour movements. We believe that such debate between Labour militants can only help the working class through its organisations to defend its interests against the bosses, governments and institutions of finance capital.

For this purpose, all contributions from Labour movement activists, members of the Labour Party or trade unionists who seek to fight sincerely for the emancipation of the working class are welcome.

Send your messages and contributions to Labour News. If you find this bulletin interesting, do not hesitate to pass it on to other comrades.

To send your remarks, comments, articles

or if you want to receive this bulletin, write to Labour News at

E-mail: labournews.ilc@gmail.com