

Who are we ?

● The International Workers Committee Against War, Exploitation, for a Workers' International (IWC) was set up at the World Conference held in Mumbai (India) on November 19, 20, 21, 2016 gathering delegates from 28 countries.

● The IWC was set up on the basis of the Mumbai Manifesto against war, exploitation and precarious labour which was endorsed by labour activist and trade union and political organisations officers from 46 countries (*)

● Its continuations committee is composed of labour activists from all political/ trade union backgrounds:

Innocent Assogba (Benin),
Alan Benjamin (USA),
Colia Clark (USA),
Constantin Cretan (Romania),
Berthony Dupont (Haiti),
Ney Ferreira (Brazil),
Daniel Gluckstein (France),
Rubina Jamil (Pakistan),
Apo Leung (China),
Gloria Gracida (Mexico),
M.A. Patil (India),
Mandlenkosi Phangwa (Azania),
Klaus Schüller (Germany),
Jung Sikhwa (Korea),
John Sweeney (Great Britain),
Mark Vassilev (Russia),
Nambiath Vasudevan (India).

(*) Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Azania, Belarus, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Korea, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

PAKISTAN
APTUF (All Pakistan Trade Union Federation)
India's decision to revoke Article 370 is just another chapter in Kashmir's long history of imperial oppression.

All Pakistan Trade Union Federation hold a protest rally to liberate Kashmiris by the attack extremist political party BJP. More than 500 workers gathered and raised slogans against the Modi government brutality on Kashmiris Children's, women's and youth and issued a surprise executive decree stripping away the autonomy that the state of Jammu and Kashmir was granted in exchange for joining the Indian union after independence in 1947.

While speaking to the workers gathering Rubina Jamil, Anwer Gujjar, Mirza Zafar, Malik Humayun, M. Ilyas, Saeed Gujjar, Ashraf said that we protestors condemned Indian authorities imposed an unprecedented lockdown in the region, cutting off all communication lines, restricting movement and putting prominent Kashmiri politicians under house arrest.

The government's decision to revoke Article 370 of India's constitution, which ensured the Muslim-majority state its own constitution and independence over all matters except foreign affairs, defence and communications, was undoubtedly the most far-reaching political move on the disputed region in the last seven decades. However, neither the Indian government's decision to impose direct rule from New Delhi, nor its attempts to silence the Kashmiri cries for freedom and dignity is anything new.

Speakers further narrated that the discrimination Kashmir's Muslim majority is still facing to this day also came to the fore for the first time during the Sikh rule. Back then, the murder of a native by a Sikh was punished with a fine of 16 to 20 Kashmiri rupees to the government, of which 4 rupees would go to the family of the deceased if the victim is a Hindu, and only 2 rupees if the deceased is a Muslim.

While speaking with protestors Rubina said that the workers' resistance against the Dogras kicked off as early as in 1865, when Kashmiri shawl weavers agitated to improve

their work conditions. The regime brutally crushed the uprising and in the three decades following the protest, the number of Kashmiri shawl weavers decreased from 28,000 to just over 5,000. Despite the setback, however, Kashmiri workers continued to fight for their rights. In 1924, workers from a Srinagar silk factory went on a strike for better working conditions.

While the suffering of the Kashmiris working class was immense under the Dogra rule, their situation did not get any better following Britain's departure from the Indian subcontinent and partition of colonial India into two nation-states.

One such example was the case of Maqbool Bhat, one of the founder members of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front and proponent of organised armed struggle for the liberation of Kashmir. He was hunted down and hung by the Indian state, but the state of Pakistan also caused every trouble they could to stop Maqbool from organising a liberation movement for Kashmir that does not aim to pull the region into Pakistan's zone of influence.

Despite the best efforts of the imperialist forces to silence and subdue them, the Kashmiris have been fighting for self-determination for hundreds of years. Today, imperial efforts to control the valley continue albeit quite ironically in the garb of nationalism. India's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status thus is nothing other than yet another act of shameless imperialist aggression.

At worst, August 5, 2019, will be remembered by future generations as just another chapter in Kashmir's long history of imperial oppression. At best, this latest attack on the dignity of a long-suffering people will mark the beginning of an era of unprecedented resistance and struggle towards freedom for the Kashmiris.

At last workers raised anti Modi slogans and disperse. ■

AZANIA**Xenophobia: An outcome of narrow nationalism***Black Republic Newspaper***Introduction**

In the June 2018 issue number 10 of the *Black Republic* editorial, we raised the question “*What levels of barbarism are they prepared to go to?*”, in reference to the migration of people from war ravaged states in Africa and the Middle East, to Europe. The Mediterranean had at that time, become the graveyard of migrants.

Devastation in other parts of Africa and Middle East, by drought and wars, has also forced these people to migrate to South Africa/Azania. This brings us to the current climate in SA/Azania, in the past few weeks. And the same question arises; “*What levels of barbarism are they prepared to go to?*”

A situation that did not arise only now, but that has been going on for a number of years.

We vehemently condemn any and all attacks on immigrants that have been taking place in the country. We also understand that extreme poverty makes our poor vulnerable to manipulation by those who lead them.

The impression is created that the last 9 years of the Zuma administration, was responsible for the woes of the South African citizens, and that the new administration under Ramaphosa will “rescue” the country, its economy and its moral compass.

This fallacious impression must be dispelled, as the woes of Azania finds its genesis in the capture of the liberation movements, by capital, in the 80’s with the fall of the Soviet Union, and the subsequent 1994 negotiated settlement.

The historic liberation move-

ments were forced into compromising positions, and were forced to the negotiating table, thereby betraying the struggle for the liberation of the oppressed and exploited people of Azania, as had happened in most African states, such as Namibia and Zimbabwe, where *freedom was without land and economic power*. These countries were advised to exist peacefully with imperialist, and follow the dictates of the instruments of international capital, the IMF, WTO and World Bank.

Thus came into being this new liberated democratic South Africa, accepting the Economic Structural Adjustment Program of these institutions. The woes of the Azanian people go back to the negotiated settlement of 1994!

Odious debt

The Apartheid debt, which is still being serviced currently, was debt incurred during Apartheid to benefit the white minority, and was used to suppress Black peoples’ resistance to racism. In accepting the dictates of the IMF and World Bank, the ANC led government betrayed their own slogan of “a better life for all”.

Instead the white privilege was maintained, no wealth was expropriated, nor any land expropriated to address the socio-economic imbalance that is now the most unequal in the world!

Black people became more marginalised and impoverished.

Over the past 25 years, more debt was incurred, to assist in creating, developing and maintaining infrastructure, for the benefit of big business. All the

state institutions of housing, healthcare, education, social services, have suffered because of the dictates of the Structural Adjustment Program of the IMF/World Bank, to reduce spend of these services, which affect the poor and the working class.

This has also been the case with some African states that have been ravaged by the debt burden, that does not allow their economies to grow and flourish, extreme poverty and uncertainty are the results thereof, precipitating migration.

Migrants stealing jobs and wealth

According to the ILO global estimates on migrant workers, in 2017, migrant workers accounted for 164 million of the world’s approximately 258 million international migrants. Migrant workers contribute to growth and development in their countries of destination. Migrant workers spend 85% of their income in the country they work in, and only remit 15% to their country of origin. They also contribute to the fiscal, in paying rent and VAT. It is the big corporate companies who, who through off-shore accounts and transfer pricing that pilfer the wealth of Azania and not migrants.

In South Africa/Azania, political parties in the last elections of May 2019, have anti-immigrant policy and sentiments in their manifestos, by call for undocumented immigrants to be repatriated and stricter border controls. They have created the xenophobic tension by telling black people that “foreigners” had taken their

jobs, whereas the jobs losses have been an ongoing nightmare for the working class. Just in this year only over 50 000 jobs have been lost in all sectors, and more have been announced, especially in the mining and finance service sector such as the banks who plan to cut over 5000 jobs.

Political party's role

Political parties should take responsibility for fuelling xenophobic sentiment. Most political parties, especially the Democratic Alliance (DA), have in the last elections posited a very anti-immigrant policy. The DA controls the Western Cape Province and city of Cape Town, where the army has been deployed, in poor and working class area, with the blessings of Ramaphosa under the guise of the drug war. The mayor of Johannesburg, Herman Mashaba, a DA leader, precipitated the current events, when he sent in the "urban army", the Metro Police, into the city centre to deal with migrants, allegedly selling counterfeit goods. The migrants repelled the police, and the video went viral.

The ensuing violence and "looting" was an outcome of the policies of political parties and the failure of those in authority to act responsibly. They now claim that it has nothing to do with xenophobia and is just criminality.

One cannot dispel the notion that the current events could be an orchestrated crisis to benefit certain interests, both political and business. Mashaba does not rule out the army being called as was

in the Western Cape.

In mirroring the United States, Australia and much of Western Europe, South Africa immigration policy is informed by whether foreigners can benefit the economy or not. This separation is rooted in racism and classism.

The classist aspect is that anti-poor and anti-African immigration plans have already been approved by the government led by the ANC in March 2017, by approving the White Paper on International Migration. Skilled and moneyed foreigners are welcomed, poor and unskilled migrants, who are predominantly from the African continent, are undesirable and should be repatriated. Also planned is the establishment of asylum seekers processing centres, to hold migrants, while being processed by the authorities. This forced detention is a gross violation of human rights.

The racist aspect is that White foreigners and migrants don't experience xenophobia in South Africa/Azania. It is reserved mainly for poor black migrants from the African continent and the Asian sub-continent.

Monopoly capital threatened

The migrant workers are running small enterprises in the heart of the townships and informal settlements. This has affected the taxi industry, in which politicians and business have a vested interest. This informal/small business sector has also hurt the supermarket monopolies, which are losing market share.

Conclusion

We can only conclude that the current climate and events in Azania, must be attributed to the sell out and betrayal by the Azanian Revolution, by those forces who have constituted themselves into a comprador class, and continue to propagate that the system of capitalism, in a more humane form can and will deliver a "better life for all". All the while pillaging the state coffers, and advancing the privatisation of the State Owned Enterprises (SOES), as well as enacting anti poor and working class policies and budgets.

Extreme deprivation, in housing, healthcare, and social services, has created poverty and deplorable living conditions. These are the conditions that allow political opportunists to use the masses to do their biddings.

We should be wary of the current calls for reversal of democratic gains, such as the reinstatement of the death penalty, repatriations of migrants, relaxing labour laws, minimum wage etc, and oppose them vehemently.

The Black working class needs to seize power, and establish its dictatorship to ensure a better life for the Black Working Class and the poor and only a revolutionary leadership that can unite workers and peoples of Azania, of the continent and the world, will deliver true liberation, through a World Workers Party.

"Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains"

"Its either Socialism or Barbarism!" ■