

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.

ALGERIA
IWC Press Release

On September 25, 2019, the military Court of Blida (Algeria) sentenced Louisa Hanoune, General Secretary of the Algerian Workers Party, to fifteen years of imprisonment.

Louisa Hanoune has been detained since May 9, and stood trial with Saïd Bouteflika, the brother of the former President of Algeria, and generals Tewfik and Tartag. The four of them were accused of « *conspiracy against the State* ».

The International Workers Committee (IWC) condemns the decision of the military Court, and demands the immediate release of Louisa Hanoune and of all the

political prisoners in Algeria.

Whatever opinion one may have about the situation in Algeria or about the political position of Louisa Hanoune and her party, nothing can justify such a repression against the leader of a political party, especially the leader of a party which claims to be on side of the working class. The present Algerian regime has unleashed for months waves of repression against activists, lawyers, trade unionists, young people, under various pretexts.

It is up to Algerian workers and people alone to decide which parties represent them and which do not. It is certainly not the busi-

ness of military courts and army generals.

We reassert here the stand we have expressed again and again since the month of May, especially by circulating worldwide the appeal of the United States labour activists for the immediate release of Louisa Hanoune and of all political prisoners in Algeria.

We call upon all labour activists of all tendencies and ask them to demand, by the means they feel appropriate, the immediate release of Louisa Hanoune and of all political prisoners in Algeria.

September 26, 2019

Daniel Gluckstein

Nambiath Vasudevan

Organising Committee of Internationalist Socialists of Algeria (COSI)
Our Position ...

Revolutionaries base their militant activities on principles. These are the generalization of the experience of workers' struggles. This is the case with the struggle for the defence and/or conquest of democratic freedoms. They are indivisible.

In our epoch, that of imperialism, freedoms and democratic rights are only really defended by workers. Imperialism and his agents in dominated countries cannot tolerate the full exercise of democratic freedoms because this would place in jeopardy the safeguarding of their system, which is based on the private ownership of the means of production.

By denying democratic right to all the people, they are first and foremost denying the right of workers to organise, demonstrate, and strike. In a word, what they are seeking in the end is to prevent the workers from fighting to establish their own political power.

Lenin established as a principle the need to pay close attention to "everything that happens in the Tsar's court" in order to measure the depth of the crisis in the class enemy. On 23 September in Blida, a trial began in relation to the charges of "conspiracy" involving four people: two former intelligence officials, the brother and advisor to

former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and the general secretary of the Workers Party (PT).

Let's underscore the fact that it is a military court that has been called upon to adjudicate the case; hence it's a trial that is taking place behind closed doors. A military court always involves "exceptional jurisprudence", and its closed sessions in fact exclude the people from its proceedings, even though it's allegedly in the name of the people that a sentence is issued.

From the very beginning of the uprising, the Hirak [the popular movement -- Editor's note] has always demanded

that the proceedings of this trial – as all other trials of concern to the oligarchs – be open to the press and to the public. The Hirak has also demanded loudly, "Civil Status, Not Military Status." Revolutionaries have supported these demands without any illusions about "the independence of the civil justice system." On this point, we can only agree with Nouredine Boudherba, former national secretary of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), who writes: "The people must know in order to believe. Without the presence of the press at the Blida trial, this will be

nothing but a settling of scores of those at the top."

Finally, let us note that in the seat of the accused is the general secretary of the Workers Party (PT). She is charged by the military with "wanting to overthrow the regime" for having met on 26 March with two people also charged in this case: Said Bouteflika and Toufik. From the standpoint of democracy, the person in charge of the PT is only accountable to her party and not to the military hierarchy; otherwise this would be nothing more than criminalizing

political activity. The degree of democracy in a society is measured by the conditions with which it manages its "criminals". Without giving the slightest political support to the secretary general of the PT and to her party, the Organizing Committee of Internationalist Socialists (COSI) from the very first moment of her incarceration called for her unconditional release. It reiterates this principled position today. It will continue to take action, together with others in unity, to demand her release.

Algiers, 24 September 2019.

Communiqué of the Independent Democratic Workers Party (POID) of France

A delegation of activists of all tendencies of the workers' and democratic movement, at the initiative of the POID, will gather on Monday 30 September near the Algerian Embassy in Paris (meeting at 6 p.m. sharp) at the corner of Rue de Messine and Avenue de Messine, metro Courcelles or Montceau), after which they will take to the Algerian authorities their demand for the immediate release from prison of Louisa Hanoune.

On 25 September, the Blida Military Court in Algeria sentenced Louisa Hanoune, the general secretary of the Workers Party (PT) of Algeria, to 15 years in prison.

Louisa Hanoune, who has been detained since 9 May, was on trial as part of the case involving the former president's brother, Said Bouteflika, and Generals Toufik and Tartag. The four defendants were charged with "conspiracy against the State".

The Independent Democratic Workers Party (POID) condemns this deci-

sion of the military court, and demands – as it has done since 9 May – the immediate release of Louisa Hanoune and all prisoners of conscience in Algeria.

For its part, the POID has never concealed its disagreement with the political orientation of Louisa Hanoune and her party. This disagreement was only reinforced after 22 February 2019. Having said that, for the POID there is no justification for a leader of a political party, especially a party claiming to represent workers, to be targeted by the very repression that has been unleashed by the Algerian regime against activists, demonstrators, lawyers, trade unionists, and young people under the most diverse pretexts.

It is up to the Algerian workers and people, and to them alone, to decide which parties represent them and which parties do not do not represent them. It's not up to the military courts or generals.

That is why, the Independent Democratic Workers Party reaffirms the posi-

tion it adopted on 9 May – a position that it has reiterated publicly on numerous occasions: Release immediately Louisa Hanoune and all political prisoners in Algeria!

The POID takes the initiative to set up a delegation of worker militants of all political currents and backgrounds, who will go to the Algerian Embassy in Paris to inform the Algerian authorities of its demand for the release of Louisa Hanoune and all political prisoners.(1)

Montreuil, 25 September 2019 at 6 p.m

(1) The POID reaffirms the traditional position of principle in the workers' movement, which is unconditional solidarity with any militant worker who is a victim of repression -- solidarity that cannot be conditioned, therefore, by agreement with his or her political positions. This was not the case, however, either at the rally organised in Paris on 20 June, or at the rally on 5 September in Lyon, whose organisers banned from the rallies the POID activists who came to support the demand the release from prison of Louisa Hanoune. These rally organisers used methods foreign to the labour movement, on the pretext in both cases that the POID was in political disagreement with Louisa Hanoune and her party

Communiqué of *Tribuna Libera* (Italy)

The editors of the monthly *Tribuna Libera* have learned that Louisa Hanoune, general secretary of the Algerian Workers Party (PT) has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, following a trial that also involved the brother of the former president of the Republic, Saïd Bouteflika, and Generals Toufik and Tartag. The four were charged with "conspiracy against the State".

Louisa Hanoune has been in jail since last 9 May.

The editorial staff of *Tribuna Libera* firmly condemns this judgement by a

military court, and demands the immediate release of Louisa Hanoune and all other political prisoners in Algeria.

Whatever our opinions – and the opinions of others – concerning the politics of the PT, we situate ourselves on the historical ground of the labour movement: solidarity and unity in the face of any attacks against democratic freedoms or freedom of opinion and organisation.

This is all the more important when the persons who are concerned reflect the history and the interests of the workers.

The repression that the regime has been exercising for months now, and particularly since the beginning of the mass movement that started in February – which has hit activists, lawyers, trade unionists and young people, on the most diverse of pretexts – must stop!

For our part, we are going to promote an immediate campaign among activists, trade unions and trade union delegates, as well as democratic personalities, which will be addressed to the Algerian Embassy in Italy, for the release of Louisa Hanoune and all political prisoners in Algeria.