

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.

CHILE

Constituent Assembly, Now!

Neither President Piñera's state of siege — with the army and police in the streets, the 18 dead, and the hundreds of wounded and nearly 2,000 arrests — nor the announcement of social measures aimed at calming things down, have had the least effect in quelling the protests.

Pushed by the mobilisations from below, the platform called Unidad Social (Social Unity — which brings together hundreds of the country's trade unions and social organisations, including the CUT / Workers' United Central, the Coordinating Committee Against the No + AFP Pension Fund law, and the Colegio de Profesores, affiliated with CUT — issued a call for a general strike on 23 and 24 October.

The demands are the ones that the workers and youth have been chanting in the streets since the beginning of the social explosion: lifting of the state of emergency, withdrawal of the draft law that destroys workers' rights to retirement pension, education, taxation, and the demand for a series of measures to meet the workers' needs. They also include the demand for a Sovereign Constituent Assembly. Participation in the general strike was massive.

The explosion that is underway is the result of the policies of the governments of both the "left" and the right that have taken turns in office since the end of Pinochet's dictatorship. These different governments refused to break with the dictates of the IMF, which were implemented since the first days of Pinochet's dictatorship and were intensified after 1990. They also refused to break with the institutions of the dictatorship, whose Constitution (adopted in 1980) is still in effect and is the basis today for the state of emergency law decreed by Piñera.

This is what the workers and the people of Chile want to change with their demand for a Constituent Assembly. It is a demand

that is addressed to the parties that claim to represent the workers.

But the only solution that has been proposed to address this on-going situation from a group of parliamentary representatives from the "opposition" — including those of the Socialist Party — as been to call on the U.N. and its High Commissioner of Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet (ex-president of Chile), for observers to be sent to Chile ... without even asking for the lifting of the state of emergency! As for the parliamentary representatives of the Chilean Communist Party (PCC), along with the representatives of the Socialist Party, they have initiated a discussion on the means — in the framework of the Constitution of the dictatorship, which is still in effect — to start legal proceedings for the impeachment of President Piñera and his secretary of the interior, Andrés Chadwick.

For its part, the Frente Amplio (Broad Front), a coalition of parties and movements that claim to follow the example of the Podemos movement in Spain, has joined forces with the PCC, the Progressive Party (centre-left) and the Federación Regional Verde Social (environmentalists and regionalists), to demand a number of social measures — but they are all carefully avoiding to raise the issue of a Constituent Assembly.

Any and all manoeuvres have thus been launched in the attempt to preserve the institutions that have been rejected by the millions of workers and youth who are demonstrating and striking. The declaration by the Alliance of Workers and Students, which has been widely circulated, asserts and affirms that another way is possible: the election of a sovereign Constituent Assembly, designating a government whose mandate is to satisfy the needs of the workers and the population. ■

By our correspondents from the Alliance of Workers and Students

UNITED STATES

Teachers' strike wave returns to Chicago

Today, October 22nd the strike of 32,500 educators, all members of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), is entering its fifth day with even greater energy and determination than in September 2012, when the Chicago teachers' strike kicked off a Teachers' Revolt that would go on to sweep the entire nation over the next seven years. Unlike 2012, the 7,500 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) support staff organized in SEIU* Local 73, have joined the strike "We're fighting for the schools that Chicago's youth deserve," stated Jesse Sharkey, president of the CTU, who went on to enu-

merate the teachers' main demands, including increased wages, smaller class sizes, nurses and counselors in every school, real sanctuary schools, more bilingual and special education teachers, and housing for teachers.

The picket lines and daily mobilizations have been massive, underscoring the strong parental and community support for the teachers.. Democratic Mayor Lori Lightfoot, — the chief negotiator for CPS — was elected earlier this year with the support of the Chicago teachers, as she promised increased funding for schools and an end to

the schools-to-prison pipeline. Once in office, however, she has claimed that there is no funding to meet the strikers' demands — an argument that has been rejected roundly by CTU and SEIU Local 73. Another difference this time around is the active and visible support for the Chicago teachers' strike by the top leadership of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), which has established a national strike fund for the striking educators. ■

Editorial board of the labour movement paper - *The Organizer* (October 2019 issue)

* Service Employees International Union

HAITI

"This popular uprising" which the "servile press" does not want to see (Haïti Liberté)

While "a continuous rain of demonstrations" has been falling on Haiti, aimed at getting rid of the illegitimate president, Jovenel Moïse, who only has been able to remain in power thanks to the occupation of U.N. troops, the capitalist Western press continues to ignore this popular uprising.

"The popular events that are taking place in our country have once again revealed the true colours of some of the foreign press... Need this come as a surprise, need we be shocked? Not necessarily. There is nothing surprising or abnormal about it, since this despicably reactionary press has indeed learnt its lesson from history; it defends only the interests of the multinationals and the imperialist powers, in order to smash any move-



ment of national emancipation and progress.

"This highly specialised press is not completely free and independ-

ent, it does not have the freedom to tell all, especially when it is the working class that is revolting and resisting heroically, calling upon the people's movements of national liberation against the hegemonic domination of one certain imperialistic power. Indeed, this opaque and orchestrated silence, which has hushed the Haitian people's struggle in the traditional media, in the service of Western countries, has been placed in the service of annihilating the working class's attack on the imperialist bastion ... The servile press needs to know that it cannot stifle the voice of the resistance of a people that is fighting for its freedom!" ■

Extracts from the editorial by Berthony Dupont in the 23 October 2019 issue of Haïti Liberté