

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

100,000 Demonstrate their Outrage

1 00,000 demonstrated in London on August 5 in condemnation of US-Israeli state terror and British complicity.

Demonstrators came from

every corner of Britain. The aggression of Israel against Lebanon and the resistance from Hezbollah has been a chapter in the strategic aims of US imperialism, in which Britain

also has its interests, and the resistance of the masses of the people to this occupation and aggression, which is reaching the level of the war crimes and crimes against humanity of

Hitlerite fascism. The demonstration on August 5 reflected the deep anger and outrage against US-Israeli terrorism unleashed on the

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ANSWER THE SCAREMONGERING AND HYSTERIA BY STRENGTHENING THE RESISTANCE TO WAR CRIMES AND STATE TERROR



– Statement of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), August 14, 2006 –

The revelations by Home Secretary John Reid of an alleged foiled “terrorist plot” which would have brought “mass murder on an unimagin-

able scale” have been met with huge scepticism.

RCPB(ML) condemns the government for its fostering of chaos and hysteria on this issue,

as has been consistently done in conjunction with its fraudulent agenda of the so-called “war on terror”. We also condemn the

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Interview

Domestic Workers Struggle for the Proper Evaluation of their Role under Agenda for Change

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY DOMESTIC WORKERS AT SOUTH TYNESIDE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST have just finished a one-week strike over the evaluation of their job in agenda for change. This follows a continuing work to rule and overtime ban and two one-day strikes. The two unions involved, Unison and GMB, entered further talks with the management on Wednesday. *Workers' Weekly* interviewed Roger Nettleship, Unison joint branch secretary, about the current struggle

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people, with the complicity of the British government. It was Bush and Blair who were condemned as the terrorists. This spirit of the people will not be diverted by any amount of underhand manoeuvres by the Anglo-US alliance or its campaigns to generate hysteria about "terrorist plots". On the contrary, these manoeuvres are fuelling the people's anger against war crimes and state

terror.

This spirit was also reflected, for example, in the militant actions which took place in the US on August 12. "Occupied People Have the Right to Resist!" declaimed the demonstrators, denouncing occupation as a crime, in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine. Saluting the Palestinians and Lebanese and those fighting everywhere, the chant rang out, "Stand Up and Fight, Resistance is Your Right!"



The Cuts in the NHS and its Future

When the government and the health authorities speak of "saving" millions of pounds, what are they talking about? For example, when the government urges people to "save" for their retirement, they are speaking of putting aside a section of their wages or salaries in a savings account. It is true that the government and the monopolies which have robbed surplus value from working people should guarantee them a livelihood. But the issue is that from produced values, something is put aside. The "savings" in the NHS are of a different quality. Nothing is being put aside. The budget is not decided on the basis of need or safeguarding for the future. It is declared by the government, and the health authorities then have a legal obligation to "balance the books".

A space for fighting

The whole issue of the "money" which is funding the NHS and the source of this funding is obscured, and this goes from the top to the bottom. The issue of funding local hospital trusts is posed as though hospitals were a productive force, creating added value, a healthcare product which the Primary Care Trusts have a budget to purchase. Similarly the budgets of the hospitals are described as though the hospital trusts put into motion constant and variable capital, which is either used up or produces added value. The issue of "privatisation" comes naturally into this scenario as the question then is raised about the "productivity" and efficiency of the enterprise and its workforce. The fraud

that in fact the private enterprises simply siphon off the wealth which society has generated and which has been allocated to health services is therefore doubly obscured.

For health workers and those involved in the campaigns against cutbacks and hospital closures, to arm themselves with this understanding opens a space for fighting to safeguard the future of the NHS. It helps build the resistance to the programme that the ruling elite are carrying forward with regard to social programmes, encapsulated in the government's outlook of "investment with reform", i.e. cutbacks and delivering social programmes to the rich, channelling funds to the monopolies and the private sector. It takes off the pressure of a hysteria that it is all or nothing now, that the juggernaut of privatisation is coming, and it is crushing the people and their social programmes beneath its wheels.

Conscious participation

The important thing about building resistance to the cuts in funding of the health service is not to compile the longest list of dangers to the NHS and predict its demise. It is the future of our health service, hospitals and health care that we are fighting for, in which health care is a right, and ill people are not consumers but human beings who have claims on society. Now is a critical time in this struggle. A coherent resistance with a vision and programme of a health service of the future must be built with the conscious participation of health workers and society.

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Interview

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of the domestics at the hospital.

WW: We understand the dispute is about job evaluation of the domestics' role in the new pay system introduced by the government jointly with the unions, *Agenda for Change*. Can you tell us about this?

RN: Yes, there are a number of very important issues here. Firstly, we think that the *Agenda for Change* process has undervalued the domestics and other sections such as catering workers and auxiliary nurses. Secondly, *Agenda for Change* has been sold to health workers as a proper system to evaluate their jobs yet it seems the old prejudices persist. In this dispute, managers simply argue that the domestics will get a pay rise so that they should be grateful and accept that. But this is missing the important principle that the domestics want their full role recognised and evaluated and that, I think, is the right of all working

people to determine. Thirdly, *Agenda for Change* was supposed to eliminate discrimination between men and women but in our NHS Trust, as in many other NHS Trusts, it is the female ancillary workers such as domestics, catering workers and auxiliary nurses that have come off worse compared to other ancillary workers, or estates workers who are predominantly men.

WW: You say the domestics want their full role recognised and evaluated?

RN: Yes, we have said that of all the time that the domestic workers are punching above their weight. Only a few years ago they won for the Trust the cleanest hospital award. Over the last year in particular, when the government short-funding has created such a financial crisis, the domestics workers have kept the hospital clean under the most difficult circumstances. They are trained to do specialist cleans and are expected to work in most areas and this includes areas where patients are extremely ill and they are often a first point of contact. They want a generic job description that reflects this role. However, one of the sticking points has been on whether they communicate at a level that some domestics on



Some of the pickets outside the District Hospital

mental health wards are required to do. We know that they do, and managers who have been covering this job in the strike have also found this out so maybe we can make some progress!

WW: What sort of support have the domestic worker had?

RN: Foremost has been that the strike was solid and the confidence of these domestic workers has grown day by day. That has won the support of fellow health workers in the hospital who have refused to do domestic duties and contributed in so many ways. We have received thousands of pounds to our strike fund from other health branches as well contributions from staff, patients and visitors.

WW: What are the prospects for the forthcoming negotiations?

RN: Firstly, both unions before this week's strike began tried to move the situation forward. It is not the desire of the unions to see members lose money, or to see the hospital disrupted. In fact, we tried very hard to find this way forward through negotiations.

However, whilst we were prepared to explore how we could move forward on areas where we disagree and were prepared to suspend the action to discuss this we were not prepared to go back on matters that had already been agreed. This is why the talks broke down. The response of the domestic workers to this was to propose a step up to the action to indefinite strike. So I think that the new development is that the domestic workers are determined to see this through, so I think the prospects for the negotiations are good.

WW: What has been the most important lesson so far?

RN: I think most definitely that the strength is the involvement of the domestic workers themselves in discussing and taking the decisions themselves, and in those that have come forward to take a more active role. At every stage this has been the key lesson. I think this will be important after the dispute is over – the strengthened unity and their own organisation across the two unions.

WW: Thank you very much.



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NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION

TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ!

DON'T ATTACK IRAN!

NO TRIDENT REPLACEMENT!

Saturday 23 September 1pm

Manchester

Organised by Stop the War Coalition and CND. For more information:

Website: www.stopwar.org.uk or Email: office@stopwar.org.uk or Phone: 020 7278 6694.

ANSWER THE SCAREMONGERING AND HYSTERIA BY STRENGTHENING THE RESISTANCE TO WAR CRIMES AND STATE TERROR

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propaganda implicating the Islamic religion and world outlook in the genesis of terrorism.

It is very convenient for the government and its propaganda machine that all the details of any plot and its discovery are kept in their hands as a security issue. While the government deliberately will not rely on the people to discuss matters of security, of the origin and definition of terrorism, and draw their own conclusions, it nevertheless attempts to sow divisions and suspicion against Islam and the Muslim community. However, the conclusion which a wide section of the people are coming to, based on both recent and historical experience, is that the state is behind the promotion and commission of acts of terror directed against the people.

The whole scenario of the ter-

rorist plot and its thwarting has been used to attempt to divert attention from the crimes of the warmongers, subvert the growing movement to end these crimes and prepare the ground for measures which further violate the exercise of human rights. The scenario attempts to contribute to an atmosphere of strife and conflict while paving the way for an escalation of the aggression, war and state terror of the Bush-Blair imperialist programme.

Falling short of a terrorist atrocity with attendant loss of life, the "foiled plot" has come precisely at a time when the outrage of the people's movement was reaching unprecedented levels and a great militancy against the US-Israeli aggression, state terror and crimes against humanity in the Middle East. Indeed, the monopoly media have fallen over themselves to whip up hysteria on the

"plot" and swamp completely the coverage of the atrocities against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. At the same time, this hysteria has an aim of justifying the demonisation and racist targeting of entire communities, those which are predominantly Muslim in particular.

The Home Secretary for his part preceded his "announcement" with a speech the previous day to the Demos think-tank in which he created a spectre of "Islamic terrorists" in order to call for a curb on freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. He has followed it up by signalling that the government intends to revive plans to detain "suspects" without charge for up to 90 days.

The "war on mass terrorism" was announced by Tony Blair minutes after 9/11, as a stark refusal to deal with the serious problems that the people of Britain and the world's people are actually facing. Time and again, the state has attempted to subvert the growing unity of the people's movement of resistance against fascism and war and their determination to deal with the problems of society by relying on their own strength and energies. But the government's credibility in these matters is in serious crisis after the experience of Forest Gate and the shooting of Jean Charles de

Menezes, and its desperation is increasing. Tony Blair is setting a very dangerous context of a battle of values to incite the people to divide and justify the trampling of human rights and the state's acting with impunity.

In these circumstances, RCPB(ML) calls on the working class and people to answer the scaremongering and hysteria of the government and its mouth-pieces and agencies by strengthening the resistance movement to the war crimes and state terror of the imperialists. This will be a contribution to turning things around and turning the tide of reaction and retrogression. Through deepening the exposure of the Blairite doctrine of "civilised British values" and combating and condemning the speculations floated by the monopoly-controlled media, we can defeat the attempts to subvert and undermine the movement. We too are the resistance! We too take up responsibility to end the crimes of war and fascism and to defend humanity! Young Muslims and those that espouse Islam have no reason to be apologetic about their world outlook, and the government must stop targeting them!

Answer the Scaremongering and Hysteria by Strengthening the Resistance to War Crimes and State Terror!

Forward Together in Defence of the Rights of All!