

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

Foreign Interference in Pakistan's Affairs Must Stop

Workers' Weekly condemns the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and the US interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. All the global

powers are telling the people of Pakistan how to manage their internal sovereign affairs. Britain has even sent a contingent to allegedly "assist" the regime. US imperialism in

particular has no shame in openly championing this or that Pakistani political leader as "its" man or woman to lead the country.

The imperialist interference

through support and funding for particular political personalities, parties and armed forces can only result in repression of the genuine

Continued on page 7

ATTACKS ON PUBLIC SERVICE PAY: SUPPORT PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS!

The whole public service sector is coming under a direct offensive on their livelihood and rights, with the New Labour government offering them pay increases under the rate of inflation. NHS staff, prison officers,

teachers, police and other public service workers, all are faced with a struggle to affirm their right to decent pay and conditions. Unions such as the GMB and the Prison Officers Association have been struggling with the govern-



Demonstration at Westminster to demand a Trade Union Freedom Bill, 2007

ment who no longer use the method adopted at the time of the welfare state, of free collective bargaining by which employees and employers would sit down and discuss the terms of a pay deal, but who now seem not to

engage in any discussion at all but simply dictate. Most workers and their unions have been left with no option but to go for strike action,

Continued on page 6

Commentary

Oppose Attacks on the Muslim Community, Defend the Rights of All!

AT THIS TIME, THE ATTACKS ON THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS AND PEOPLE on the economic, political and other fronts are very apparent. But there is grow-

ing unity and resistance to the anti-social offensive in all its forms. In particular, the call to defend the rights of all resonates loud and clear. The state-sponsored attacks on Muslim people and on immigrants, claiming that they are a new "enemy within", and demonising the Muslim minority as the problem in society, have by no means gone unanswered and unopposed. After the Cold War, and particularly since 9/11, Muslim countries have been made out to be a new external enemy also. The government and the monopoly media have used the "threat of terrorism" to

Continued on page 5

[inside]

WWYG: On the right to housing 2

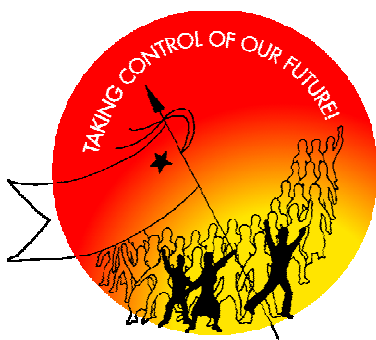
Brown's new plans for the NHS 3

On the criminalisation of dissent 4

Pakistan - a nation without direction 7

Published by RCPB(ML)
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA
Registered as a newspaper
Printed by Millennium Press

Society Should Guarantee the Right to Housing



YOUTH+STUDENT
page of the
Workers' Weekly
Youth Group

A huge source of worry for many young people starting out after school and university, and having concern for their later security, is the situation regarding housing, which has reached crisis proportions. According to the Office of National Statistics, the average price paid by first-time buyers in the UK rose by 204% between 1995 and 2005, while their average incomes increased by 92%. More generally, the average house price is now nearly 10 times the average wage. Homelessness continues to be a big problem: 84,900 households were in temporary accommodation on 30 June 2007, according to the Communities and Local Government website.

There is also substantial talk currently circulating of a likely impending fall in house prices. Rather than provide a solution by alleviating the pressure on first time buyers, this will seriously affect that large part of the population who are currently burdened with mortgage repayments, not least young people who have recently taken on massive debts in order to buy their first homes.

A modern conception of the rights belonging to individuals views them as emerging from the humanity of the individual. People require a stable space in which to base themselves, a protective place to recuperate, a calm environment in which to develop, with decent living conditions, and so on. These are necessities of life, expressing themselves in the need for a home. Based on this need is

the right of the individual to housing: housing is an inalienable right for all people in society by virtue of their being human. It is not a question of wealth or resources.

This modern conception of the right to housing is in contradiction with the outdated idea that individual rights emerge from the possession of money: the capitalist conception of rights based on private property. According to this outdated conception, housing is a privilege based on what an individual can afford to buy. As private property, housing is something to be bought, sold, invested in and speculated upon. Consequently, housing is a question of an individual's wealth and any social provision, where it exists as a result of people's demands, is subordinate to the right to private property and made a matter of resources.

The "property market"

The prevailing conditions are those of the property market, which is increasingly coming under the control of large property investors and developers. These are conditions of escalating competition along with growing monopolisation. The right to private property is increasingly becoming the monopoly right to plunder the lucrative housing market. The right to housing not at present being recognised, the government does not fundamentally address the nature of the property market and does not act to bring the issue under conscious control. The government does not take up

its social responsibility and so market forces manipulated by the monopolies remain the determining factor.

In such a situation, individuals act out of necessity and participate in the property market. People attempt to buy a house, and possibly invest in more "properties". A few individuals do well out of this situation, to the detriment of the majority who struggle to pay the ever rising costs, and those who face no prospects of owning a house, or even become homeless. In other words, in such a situation, the needs of individuals are not harmonised with, but contradict, the needs of society.

The right to housing

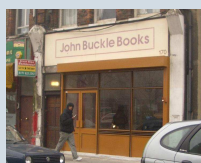
In the face of the housing crisis, calls are made for "affordable" housing. But what is the issue? In contemporary society, the notion of housing as property is a block to the realisation of the right to housing. The "right to buy" one's council house in the 1980s did not solve the problems at that time and are indeed a factor in the problems that have developed today. The very idea of having a right to buy, as opposed to the right to housing, is part of what is in crisis.

People must secure their existence and individuals currently have no choice but to continue to buy and sell houses. But people, especially young people, must discuss the way out of the crisis, to move forward on the basis that housing is a social problem.

Continued on page 8

John Buckle Centre

Centre for communism and communist and progressive literature from Britain and around the world



Please contact us by phone or email before visiting.

E-mail: jbbooks@btconnect.com

170 WANDSWORTH ROAD, LONDON SW8 2LA
Tel: 020 7627 0599 or 0845 644 1979 (Local Rate)

Workers' Weekly

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

Website: www.rcpbml.org.uk

January 19, 2008 Volume 38, Number 1

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £2.95, 6 months - £18.95, Yearly - £33.95. For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly. Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.

Brown's new plans for the NHS:

Retrogression Must Not Prevail in the Health Service! Fight for an NHS Based on the Right to Health Care!

As the workers' and people's movement marches forward into 2008, Gordon Brown, as the present champion of privatisation and the monopolies, sets out his agenda on the NHS and has not changed course from gearing all the efforts of the NHS to paying the rich. Brown speaks of preventative measures, and announces a mass screening programme, but NHS staff have commented that rather than the investment that is promised, cuts to the services are happening in all areas of the NHS.

Brown talks of a voucher style system which he names "personal health budgets", making the central issue one of finance, when the central issue should be that of the human being and providing the care and services needed.

Health care workers have voiced their findings on the Brown agenda. They do not understand the logic that, while Brown is proposing funding for screening, only a week previously he was announcing that funding

should be taken away from patients with hardening of the arteries and kidney disease, the very same conditions that he is now proposing to screen for. This shows the complete incoherence in the empty promises of the Brown Labour government. The Prime Minister continues to paint a vision while underneath he is completely undermining the NHS.

Along with the Darzi report which is due later this month, and will culminate in a "new constitution", the promises of the Brown government to provide a better NHS are not reflections of the reality that health care workers and patients are faced with. All over the NHS, there are redundancies, cutbacks and over 50 District General Hospital closures planned by NHS authorities. This is the New Labour reality, an NHS which is increasingly being farmed out to multinationals, with the creation of PFIs, polyclinics, etc. This attack on the NHS is part of the tearing up of the very fabric of society continuing the

Thatcherite notion that society is no more. What sort of society treats the health of its members as a business venture designed to line the pockets of the rich? A society run by multinational corporations and the monopoly capitalist class is the answer, and it is something the working class and people are increasingly aware of. They understand that this is an anti social offensive, of which attacks on health care are just part.

So what sort of society and what sort of health care system do the working class and people see that can provide a future where all basic rights are fundamental? Increasingly, along with other public service workers, health workers are seeing that it is their own experience they can rely on. They understand that they have the knowledge to build a society which has health care as a fundamental core. They see that such a health care system can only be run on a democratic basis with the conscious participation of all. As well as defending their own inter-

ests, health care workers have the care and treatment of their patients at heart and the patients have the welfare of the staff at heart; this is social love, which is the only kind of love, and part of the basis for creating a society that has the human being at the centre. This social love extends to social responsibility, and that the fight for a different health care system goes hand in hand with the struggle for a different society in which all public services are under the control of the workers and people who make the decisions which will affect them and fellow human being. This concept of the working class and people being the decision makers is very important in the path to building a bright future for humanity; it is one that will lead to the empowerment of both the individual, the "I" who lives by his/her relationship to the world, and the empowerment of the collective, and society as a whole in which sovereignty and decision-making vests with the people.

This power of conscious participation is the way to build a health service that does not have to be subservient to the will of big business, but actually is run to provide the best health care and treatment for all the people, without discrimination. Only the working class can create such a health care system, and build a society that has its fabric sewn with conscious participation and social love, where the right of the people to participate in governance is fully realised.

**Whose NHS? Our NHS!
Who decides? We Decide!**



DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF ALL!

Opposition to the Criminalisation of Dissent

As the government are preparing to launch a bigger offensive on people's already eroded civil liberties, demonstrations took place on January 12 to defy and uphold the right to dissent and the right to conscience. Indicative of the government's policy on the freedom of assembly and the right to demonstrate, the police were sent in to violently attack and arrest the demonstrators. The government and authorities must see this people's dissent as a danger to the state which is now further seeking to "manage protest around parliament". This indicates that the government fear the people, and the power of dissent, and so have continuously criminalised this dissent.

Over 150 demonstrators were protesting in Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square and elsewhere against the Serious Organised Crime and Prevention Act (SOCPA) legislation, which has been used to arrest many people for protesting in Parliament Square and at other public spaces such as

Trafalgar Square. The question should be asked; who do these public spaces belong to? The answer must be given that it is the people to whom they belong.

Under new additions to be made to the SOCPA legislation, could be powers to criminalise the content of banners and flags, etc., with the intention that the state should decide on what people are allowed to be thinking and saying. This is an attack on the right to conscience, and will take Britain further down the road to a state that watches and defines your every move, a police state. Far from the government bringing the conditions imposed on assemblies and marches everywhere into line with those in the exclusion zone around Parliament, Sections 132-138 of SOCPA must be repealed. The right to assembly must be upheld, and the arbitrary police powers to ban marches, censor placards and banners, and decide whether or not to authorise demonstrations and protests must be denied to the authorities.

Physical violence

This type of attack on basic rights is what the protesters were protesting against, and it was with a criminal police attack that they were met with, which left at least one veteran protester Brian Haw, who was filming the event, with a bloody face. Brian Haw is a thorn in the side of the New Labour government who have systematically attempted to remove Brian and prevent him from staging his protest in Parliament Square by bringing in law after law aimed at removing



the beacon of opposition he personifies. Such physical violence against a human being as meted out to Brian Haw is unconscionable.

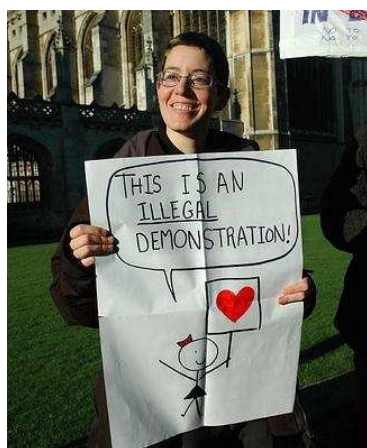
Physical violence

The London demonstration began with an unauthorised rally in direct defiance of the law concerning Trafalgar Square. Civil liberties protesters then decided to "go for a stroll" around Westminster, protesting at various Whitehall ministries, Parliament Square, MI5 headquarters and New Scotland Yard, before gathering at the gates of Downing Street. Members of the notoriously violent police territorial support group swiftly moved in to drag away around a dozen protesters who had lain down and linked arms in the road. The 150-strong carried blank banners, as well as banners saying "Stop Taking Liberties" and "Don't Let Fear Rob Us Of Our Freedom: Repeal The SOCPA Protest Bans".

As well as in London, civil liberties were being defended throughout the country in a nation-

al day of action against SOCPA. This defiance and resistance is reflective of the general concern in Britain for the attack on civil liberties, and illuminates the growing understanding that the British government and authorities are protecting themselves from the working class and people, a people that will not have their actions controlled by a state that seeks to destroy their rights and their fight to bring themselves to power. Increasing the resistance can only move things forward to opening up a path where the people can put their agenda forward without fear of police brutality. Their agenda for an anti-war government and to end privatisation and against the whole neo-liberal agenda should be upheld. In this climate, the people must resist and bring state violence and tyranny to an end, by organising resistance and planting the alternative.

Workers' Weekly salutes all those who fight to defend their rights, and condemns such police brutality.



King's Parade, Cambridge



Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp(aign) - The Atomic Weapons Establishment is subject to SOCPA and military lands byelaws

DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF ALL!

Oppose Attacks on the Muslim Community, Defend the Rights of All!

Continued from page 1

lock up Muslim people without trial, and the armed forces of the state shot dead Jean Charles de Menezes with the aim of creating a psychosis of fear.

In recent times, Tony Blair and now Gordon Brown and his government have stepped up their ideological and political offensive. This offensive goes hand in hand with these attacks on civil liberties. It attempts to combat the people's unity and coherence so as to undermine their opposition to the attacks on rights and the violence of the state and the growing swathe of "anti-terrorism", "asylum" and "criminal justice" legislation. A major weapon of this offensive in the government's arsenal is the incessant propaganda about "Britishness" and the necessity for all citizens, particularly immigrants and those people

who espouse an Islamic world outlook, to put aside their "separateness" and adopt "British" and "civilised" values. In this way, the powers-that-be aim to block the people from working out solutions to the problems of society and to create hostilities between different communities, fostering suspicion and deflecting away the anger that people manifest to those in power. The government and media have taken the condemnable path of attacking the right to conscience, and laying down that those sections of the people that do not uphold the "official" values of the British state – values which in reality arise out of and seek to justify Britain's colonial and empire-building role in the world and the superiority of the so-called "British way of life" – must be considered alien, as not fit to participate in political affairs and take their place in society as second to

none. This is the fraudulent "one-nation" politics of New Labour that is being put on a pedestal by Gordon Brown and his government, values and politics not arising from the people but imposed on them by the state with the aim of "making Britain great again".

It can be asked

It is in this context that the Bishop of Rochester some days ago launched a racist attack of disinformation and slander against British Muslims. The Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali made sensational claims with no factual content. He suggested to the media



that Muslims had created "no-go" areas. As well as these claims, he also stated that Muslims should desist from using amplifiers to broadcast calls to prayer.

The disinformation and contempt aimed towards the Muslim community have angered British Muslims and democratic people, and have prompted Muslim leaders to resist. Inayat Bunglawala, assistant secretary general of the Muslim council of Britain, accused the Bishop of Rochester of scaremongering. "Bishop Nazir-Ali's remarks are quite frankly more like the kind of commentary we would have expected from the far-right BNP, not a responsible figure in the Church of England," he said. "Where are these so-called 'no-go' areas that he speaks of? He doesn't say."

It can be asked why this Bishop is making these remarks and why now. Can it be coincidence that his intransigent remarks are promoted as coming from the Anglican Church's only Asian-born bishop, who was raised in Pakistan? Has he made these accusations to counter the messages of other prominent church leaders in the New Year that were critical of the government's racist and anti-human policies? The remarks by Bishop Nazir-Ali are yet another divisive tool which seek to split the people and negate their struggle as a unified force. The Muslim population are at the receiving end of these attacks, but this is a problem for the whole working class and people, as the establishment

seeks to oppress them further and marginalise sections of the population.

These attacks, like the anti-terror laws and the racist comments of the establishment, serve the ruling class, with the state and its authorities aiming to act with impunity in this climate of fear. The bourgeoisie refuses to settle scores with the old conscience, and does not want an end to the colonial "white man's burden". This call of the ruling class to gather behind "British values" is a means to distort the struggle of the working class who must and will settle scores with the bourgeoisie's old conscience, by being victorious in their fight to have the rights of all recognised.

Taking a stand

This fight entails not allowing the polity to be divided on the basis of country of origin, religion, ethnicity or any other basis, and it also entails upholding the right to conscience and the right of the cultures of all communities to flourish and be supported. *Workers' Weekly* demands that the government and prominent individuals like the Bishop of Rochester stop their disinformation, fear-mongering and inciting passions against sections of the population. *Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class and people not to permit any incitement between communities on the basis of race, nationality, language or religion.

Continued on page 6



Attacks on Public Service Pay: Support Public Service Workers!

Continued from page 1

but there are public sector workers that do not have the right to strike, such as the police, and the prison officers are having their right to strike challenged by the government. The Justice Secretary Jack Straw wants to impose a ban on industrial action for the prison officers, replacing the negotiated no-strike agreement.

So there is a struggle developing amongst the public service workers who want to guarantee their interests in having a decent wage to live on and to provide a healthy life by which they can function and engage with the world. It is also a struggle to provide good public services run for the benefit of the human being. This struggle must be seen as part of the struggle against the whole attack on the working class, and it is a struggle that must be engaged in by the public sector workers to unite the whole working class in a fight that will guarantee the working class's security.

It is certainly not Brown and his government who will provide security for workers. Brown is offering a three-year pay deal for public sector workers, with a proposed 2.45% for teachers from September this year, and 2.3% in each of the two following years, and following strikes a phased 2.5% rise for prison officers, over three years. This goes for the rest of the public service workers, with Brown trying to cap the rise at 1.9%. Mark Serwotka, general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union, the biggest civil service union, said: "We suspect these proposals are about driving down the pay of hard-working staff who deliver the everyday things we take for granted." The government's so-called reasoning is that these under inflation offers are said to be to keep inflation down, completely ignoring the independent pay review bodies.

After plans like "Agenda for Change" in the NHS which were a way for the government to avoid legal action over miserly wages, and saw increase in hours for NHS staff, this three-year deal is yet another way for the government to underpay Britain's public service workers. This has been met with anger and militancy by the workers and their unions, who are all planning actions and to wage struggle showing resistance. TUC General Secretary, Brendon Barber, stated that "the government are on a collision course with 6 million public servants". He also said, "The rationale that limiting pay increases would tackle inflation was not credible," citing research from Income Data Services showing increases in public sector pay follow inflation rather than fuel it.

A way out of the crisis

These are the strong words by the unions, but how do the workers turn into a material force these findings based on their experience of a government implementing the interests of the monopoly capitalist class which is trying to launch on them an offensive that is not only attacking their rights but trying to stop them fighting for them? The workers of our public services have been increasingly understanding and concluding that it is they who must make the decisions. This was expressed, for example, by health workers at a recent NHS demonstration who militantly chanted slogans: *Whose work places? Our work places! Whose hospitals? Our hospitals! Who decides? We decide!*

This understanding is in an act of finding out is the workers' enlightenment that they hold the key to their own future. The workers must continue this act of finding out by engaging in the struggle and seeing that only by they themselves becoming the decision



makers, creating a government that holds the people as the ones who determine their own future, can workers be paid their worth. Only in this way can services that are run for the benefit of the workers and the working class as a whole be realised, building a society centred on the human being. This situation can be turned around through organising. Humiliation can be transformed into dignity through acts of conscious participation of individual workers, militating in and through their own collectives, through acts of finding out the methods and theory of working class organising and leadership. In this way can the workers free themselves from a capital-centred outlook. In this way can the workers through their determined and persistent efforts adopt their own outlook, and reject the viewpoint of the monopoly capitalist class that calls on the workers to "work together" for the benefit of the rich.

Workers' Weekly fully supports the public service workers, and the struggle they have embarked upon. We call on them and all who are allied with them to adopt the perspective that, in order to set their seal on the direction of the economy, to discuss in the course of their struggles how the working class and people can achieve that political power which enables a way out of the crisis to be found and implemented. May the struggle for the working class to be the decision-makers have every success in 2008! *Our Security Lies in our Fight!*

Oppose Attacks on the Muslim Community, Defend the Rights of All!

Continued from page 5

The working class and people have a long history of defending minority rights and opposing state-organised racist attacks. They had deep involvement with Africans in ending slavery. And in recent years they have formed a powerful anti-war movement opposing New Labour's criminal aggression against Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Today the British working class and people are inscribing on their banner the defence of the rights of all. The principle that an injury to one is an injury to all must not go and is not going unheeded. Defending the rights of all is part of the struggle to create a different society in which every member is free from attack and can live without fear of demonisation or imprisonment for their cultural background. All democratic and justice-minded people must resist the attempts of the establishment to divide and rule. *Workers' Weekly* in particular calls on the working class and people to oppose and take a stand against the establishment's demand that Muslims take up so-called "British civilised values", and the criminal calls to blame the Muslim communities for the problems of society.

Workers' Weekly condemns the disinformation and policy of fear against the Muslim community, a programme which is headed by the government, and calls on the working class and people to uphold and defend the rights of all.

Pakistan – A Nation without Direction

In an article in *The Marxist-Leninist Daily* of December 29, 2007, Sandra L Smith, national leader of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), writes: “Torrents of blood have been shed by the people of Pakistan in their struggles for national and social liberation against foreign and native exploiters, against their agencies and collaborators. Yet, in spite of all these sacrifices, Pakistan stands today without direction. Which way to go forward is the question uppermost on peoples’ minds. How to advance? What does the future hold for the people of Pakistan? How can they achieve their cherished desire to end the anarchy and violence, end the grinding poverty and suffering which are becoming worse the more the big powers strive for domination over all of Asia? How can the people end the uncertainty?”

“Following the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the representatives of the US, Canada and other NATO powers and their monopoly-owned media are full of talk

about democracy. They suggest that by finding who benefits from the assassination of Benazir Bhutto the culprit can be brought to justice and the cause of democracy will be served. It is impossi-

What does the future hold for the people of Pakistan? How can they achieve their cherished desire to end the anarchy and violence, end the grinding poverty and suffering which are becoming worse the more the big powers strive for domination over all of Asia? How can the people end the uncertainty?

ble to wrap one’s mind around discussion of who will benefit from anarchy and violence but it is certainly not the peoples of Pakistan, South Asia, Central Asia, Western Asia or the world. It is distressing indeed to hear the US, Canada and other NATO powers try to justify anarchy and violence and dictate

the course of events by raising the banner of high ideals. Their talk about democracy is accompanied by the demand from the US and other NATO powers that elections be conducted on schedule irrespective of the developments. No doubt the ‘return of democracy’ is the greatest desire of the US, Canada and other NATO powers so that their interference in the region has the veneer of legitimacy. But it defies the imagination of just what kind of an election and democracy they have in mind given the disarray of the electoral parties at this time. To even speak of Pakistan and democratic institutions in the same sentence is irrational. Pakistan is the product of the bloody division of India engineered by the British Raj sixty years ago when the Punjabi nation was divided on a communal basis. It was the so-called reasonable accommodation of the day to achieve what in democratic parlance is called responsible government so as to preserve British interests in the region and block the people from going for socialism. Since then, torrents of blood have been shed as one corrupt government after the other has preserved the self-serving rule of the feudal landlords and established the stranglehold of the international financial oligarchy over the people of Pakistan.

“Furthermore, the imperialists’ rhetoric that the killing of Bhutto ‘has further undermined the internal security of Pakistan’ begs the question as to what institutions the imperialists are referring to that provide ‘internal security’. In Pakistan since 1956 (initially the Dominion of Pakistan after parti-

Continued on page 8

Foreign Interference in Pakistan’s Affairs Must Stop

Continued from page 1

leaders who emerge from popular struggles. Imperialist interference in Pakistan is evidenced in a society that does not guarantee the social, economic and political rights of the people or solve any of its outstanding problems.

US imperialism’s direct funding and promotion of certain Pakistani military leaders and others in official opposition has led to assassinations and violent clashes among rivals. The social responsibility of people everywhere is to confront the Anglo-US imperialists and stay their murderous hand of war, retrogression and interference. The people united in resistance to war and retrogression must block the empire building of the big powers, especially the US and British imperialists. This demands, among other things, the immediate removal of British troops from Afghanistan, and the dismantling of all US military bases throughout the world and that there should be no troops of the big powers on foreign soil. It also demands the work to establish anti-war governments and the solving of problems among nations through peaceful means.

Anglo-US imperialism should stop interfering in the political affairs of sovereign Pakistan and stop funding Pakistani political parties and personalities and its armed forces. Stop foreign interference in Pakistan’s sovereign affairs! Anglo-US imperialism get out of Central Asia!



Pakistan – A Nation without Direction

Continued from page 7

tion in 1947, later becoming the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 1956) the only developed institutions have been the armed forces and police agencies. To reduce the issue of democracy in Pakistan to one of eliminating military rule for civilian rule reveals the sorry state of the democracy and democratic institutions the imperialists seek to impose."

Sandra Smith points out that the events in Pakistan are cynically manipulated to persuade NATO members to put more of their troops on the front lines in Afghanistan.

Sandra Smith continues: "The quality of being human presupposes that the public feels revulsion towards the killing of Benazir Bhutto, as they do for the poverty of the majority workers, peasants and tribal peoples, the suffering of children, mothers and the elderly. If this is the case, why do such things continue? How is it that the majority of the human voice and feeling is unable to assert itself at the time it is so sorely needed? What is blocking the solution of the problems?"

"To divert the people from taking up the renewal of the democracy by establishing their own institutions based on their own thought material and reality, deafening propaganda is carried out that the problems are due to the rise of religious extremism in Pakistan. This is intended to force a 'solution' based on the 'civilised values' of the big powers. But it is not enough to say it is the old system or foreign interference and internal reaction and their disinformation that are blocking the solution to the problems in Pakistan and the world. What is it about the old system that is blocking if not its ability to eliminate the human factor/social consciousness from taking up the call of the times?"

"The assassination of Benazir Bhutto is another warning to people to come forward and provide solutions through the democratic renewal of the society. Only those who have no other interest but to create a society fit for human beings can end this dangerous state of affairs which is bound to lead to a world war. There is a chance for such forces to emerge at this time."

Society Should Guarantee the Right to Housing

Continued from page 2

Housing is a right that individuals have by virtue of being human, which must give rise to a demand that it be recognised and realised. The government must be held to account over its social responsibility to guarantee this right; the monopolies must be prevented from blocking it.

It is the responsibility of society to provide the right to housing with a guarantee. To guarantee this and all other

rights, young people and workers must organise themselves to participate in governance, to bring into being a pro-social government in which they are the decision-makers. Such a government will carry out concrete measures to solve the housing crisis, beginning with increasing investments in social housing and other social programmes by giving them first claim on the economy and enacting legislation to restrict the assumed right of the monopolies to prey on the housing system.

The Right to a Livelihood Is Inviolable!

Attacks on the Unemployed and Those on Benefit

Both the New Labour government and the Conservative opposition are launching an assault on unemployed workers, not only threatening them but also blaming them for the problem of unemployment. There is competition between the two parties on who is tougher on those claiming benefits, supported by the "mainstream" media who promote that the unemployed are a burden on society.

Conservative leader Cameron is setting out his "get tough" plan on unemployment benefit. This plan includes a "three strikes and you're out" rule, under which if an unemployed person turns down three jobs then benefits will be stopped for six months. This will cost the individual £9,000 and £14,500 for couples, over three years. The Tories willingly announced that parents on Job Seekers' or Incapacity Benefit could lose a third of their income under the new rules. Meanwhile New Labour is

proudly stating that they are already carrying out a similar policy towards the unemployed and that they are also "tough" on the unemployed. This trend of competition between the bourgeois parties is abetted by the media who are now following the New Labour lead in whipping up a frenzy over Disability Benefit "fraud". The small number of stories of benefit fraud are promoted massively in the headlines and are used to attempt to justify the clamp down on those receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA), making life very difficult for claimants.

This situation of the exploitation of those who have not had their rights recognised is an attack that must awaken unemployed workers to the crisis of society. Unemployed workers struggles are part of the whole working class movement and so the question must be posed as one of defending the rights of all. These inviolable rights must be provided with a legal guarantee.

Workers' Daily Internet Edition

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

Web site: www.rcpbml.org.uk

e-mail: office@rcpbml.org.uk

WDIE sent by e-mail daily (Text e-mail): 1 issue free, 6 months £5, Yearly £10
Address: 170 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 2LA

Phone: 0845 644 1979 (Local rate from outside London)

or 020 7627 0599