

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

Manifestation of Unprecedented Militancy

At least 100,000 people gathered in Hyde Park in the bitter cold on January 10. Throughout the initial rally, people with

placards, banners, flags, in contingents and groups, entered the Park, shouting slogans as they came. The Park rang with collective shouts of "Free, Free

Palestine" and other slogans as the huge demonstration greeted and acclaimed the speakers, as they denounced Israeli Zionism for its war crimes, condemned

the British government for its support of the crimes, and pledged to stand as one with the Palestinian people and their

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A CONSISTENT ENEMY OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE



Actions in solidarity with the Palestinian people have continued across the world. Photo shows Hyde Park, London, Saturday, January 10, 2009.

One of the most significant features of the recent onslaught against the people of Gaza, in which over 1300 Palestinian people, many of them children, have been slain has been the stand of the British government,

which has consistently attempted to justify the war crimes of the Zionist regime in Israel and to blame the government of Gaza for the genocide against the Palestinian people. It is therefore not surprising that the statements that government minis-

ters have made since the ceasefire have been as reactionary as those made before it; what is more, the government has continued with its campaign of disinformation about the crimes committed against the Palestinian people.

In their recent statements both the Prime Minister and David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, have focused on what they refer to as

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Workers' Weekly Youth Group

Eighteen University Occupations in Support of the Palestinian People, and Counting

A WAVE OF UNIVERSITY OCCUPATIONS HAS BEEN SWEEPING ACROSS THE COUNTRY, focused on unity with the Palestinian people resisting Israeli aggression and occupation.

University buildings have been occupied over the past week and a half in eighteen universities at the time of writing. They began when students at the School of Oriental and Asian Studies (SOAS) in London occupied the School's Brunei Gallery on January 14.

The occupation was linked to a preceding large student union meeting that passed a motion condemning

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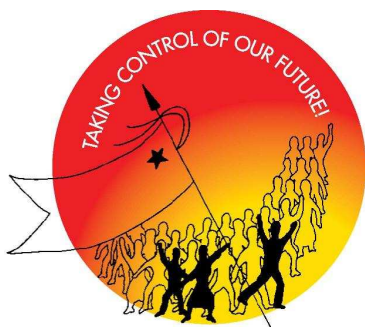
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the actions of Israel. Students' demands included the closure of a Ministry of Defence exhibition held in the gallery and greater student control of the gallery. They demanded an assurance by the School that military presence on campus will no longer be allowed under any circumstances, in line with current student union policy. The students held a series of meetings on these issues and set up an alternative exhibition "to display solidarity with the people of Gaza".

The students claimed victory after winning significant demands from the university management. These included an agreement that there will be no military on campus without prior consultation with the student union (which had also passed a motion the previous day opposing all military presence on campus), an agreement on use of the lecture theatre and gallery, and an



Eighteen University Occupations in Support of the Palestinian People, and Counting

agreement that there will be no repercussions for the students involved in the occupation.

Inspired by the SOAS students' call for "other students to join us here and in similar demonstrations at other universities", students at the London School of Economics (LSE) entered the university's Old Theatre on January 16 to demand that the university release a statement condemning the attack on Gaza and that it divest from arms companies that supply the Israeli military. "It is a matter of humanity," a spokesperson for the students said.

They also issued the demand that the university to providing material support for Palestinian students including providing five fully paid scholarships for Palestinian students, books and computers for Palestinian universities and facilitation for fundraising activities.

Wave of occupations

The LSE occupation attracted high profile speakers to their meetings, including Tony Benn and George Galloway amongst several others.

The students claimed success after a week of occupation when agreement was reached with the university on all of its demands.

The demands made at SOAS and LSE became the blueprint for the wave of occupations that followed, with the number of universities

involved growing daily. Students at Essex University began an occupation the same day, followed over the following days by occupations at Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Kings College London, Kingston, Leeds, Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan (MMU), Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Salford, Sheffield, Sussex and Warwick universities. Demands at MMU included the creation of a memorial to Tom Hurndall, a student of the university killed five years ago this month by Israeli forces in Gaza.

Oxford University

The occupation of the Bodleian library Clarendon building at Oxford University on January 22 had the added significance that Israeli President Shimon Peres had been invited to speak at Balliol College in November, and the college had established a lecture series in his name. One of the occupation's demands was that the master of Balliol College cancels the lecture series.

The occupation declared victory when the university agreed to: look to institute five scholarships to students from Gaza; ask congregation to consider its investments in BAE; provide surplus books and computers to the University of Gaza; issue a statement deploring the destruction of the Islamic University; and ask the master of Balliol college to

reconsider the association of Shimon Peres' name with the lecture series.

Success in their actions

Most occupations have won on their similar lists of demands. However, the occupation of Birmingham University's Arts building ended after twelve hours when the university authorities and West Midlands police colluded together to lay siege to the occupation.

According to the occupation's blog, birminghamoccupation.wordpress.com, police and security staff closed the building down at 7pm and cleared people out, no exceptions being made for staff or visitors. The blog tells how they attempted to prevent water and food being brought into the building from outside. Students were pressured into negotiations with the Vice-Chancellor while police and security increased their presence outside the room. A stand-off ensued after a security guard pulled and held open the door, which concluded in the students accepting a university offer under threat of removal by force. Students continued to be harassed by a group of around thirty police in tactical gear as they left the building.

Students and other participants including university workers are remaining vigilant and aware of the careful wording of the agreements made with university management. Discussions are ongoing and experiences are being shared between universities. *Workers' Weekly* Youth Group is at one with the students in occupation and their determination to win further success in their actions.

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Unreserved Solidarity with the DPRK!

"At the Construction Site"

- Choe Chang Ho, 2007



The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is taking a stand in forging ahead with building and strengthening its social system in which it is the people who have pride of place. Its socialist society, a new arrangement of society which has been chosen, defended and built by the people under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, has been the target of denigration and outright disinformation by Anglo-US imperialism and other big powers. The DPRK and its sovereignty deserve the solidarity and defence of all democratic people.

The DPRK was founded in 1948, and last September it celebrated its 60th anniversary. This was a historic landmark for the Korean people, for all who hold dear that socialism is the present and future for humanity, and for all democratic forces who recognise that the defence of a country's sovereignty and the people's cause is the crucial task in today's world where the forces of reaction seek to impose their domination and their values everywhere.

The Korean people recognise both their own human and social role in building a new society, and the role of the outstanding revolutionary personalities who have taken up the responsibility for leadership. While relying on their own

work, organisation and thinking to find the way out of the crisis and to bring about the revolutionary transformation of society in this country, the progressive forces in Britain express their unreserved solidarity with the achievements of the Korean people and their leadership.

In this spirit, the Friends of Korea in Britain are organising a celebratory meeting to mark the anniversary of the birth of Kim Jong Il which falls on February 16. Kim Jong Il is the General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Chairman of the National Defence Commission, and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army. In these capacities, he has led the Korean people in solving crucial tasks in building the DPRK as a powerful socialist society, in formulating significant concepts and programmes which put the Korean people in control of their own destiny, and in building the military defence of the DPRK which sets in motion the initiative of the Korean people in making the DPRK impregnable against imperialist aggression. In so doing, he has carried forward the legacy of the late President Kim Il Sung, under whose leadership the Korean people fought for and achieved their liberation from Japanese imperialism, defeated the US-imperialist-led armed aggression of the Korean War, and

embarked upon the path of building a modern society fit for human beings.

Anglo-US reaction has been and is attempting to combine military threats with slanders, lies and disinformation about the DPRK in order to turn back the clock, keep the Korean Peninsula divided and wipe out the gains that the people of the DPRK have achieved under socialism. The hostile labels of "hermit kingdom", "illegal state" and the smearing of the DPRK over the so-called "human rights issue" and the "nuclear issue" are beneath contempt. The right to be of the Korean nation is inviolable, and the imperialist programmes to deny and violate this right cannot but fail. It is a fact that those that love and desire justice are rising as one in today's world in defence of the right of the peoples everywhere to determine their own future unmolested and in peace and security. It is also a fact that it is the armed aggression, neo-liberal values and exploitative system of world reaction that is anachronistic and preoccupied with its own collapse and defeat.

Join in this public meeting to express and celebrate militant solidarity with the DPRK, the Korean people and the leadership of Kim Jong Il, and the people's cause!

Manifestation of Unprecedented Militancy

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resistance.

The huge demonstration leaving the rally occupied the whole of Bayswater, passing Orme Square Gate, a north entrance leading to the Israeli Embassy, where youth stood atop the gates with Palestinian flags, confronting the threatening riot police. Its militancy seemed unprecedented.

The demonstration, especially the youth, again confronted the tactics of the riot police at the main entrance to the Israeli Embassy from High Street Kensington. Their spirit was that of the Palestinian resistance, confronting the armed might of state terror. The whole demonstration shouted "Shame, shame on you" at the riot police tactics. It was the police on this occasion who stood afraid and cowed, and the youth who with their militancy won the day.

Another huge rally concluded the protest for those who had reached Kensington Gardens before the police halted and split the demonstration. So many people had felt that they were impelled to participate, to make their collective voice heard, to continue to swell the movement until the Israeli state terror is ended and the Palestinians are guaranteed and exercise their historic right to exist unmolested.

Public Meeting

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2009,
3.00 PM**

**Saklatvala Hall in Southall, Dominion Road,
off Featherstone Road, UB2 5AA.**

Talk by Keith Bennett of Friends of Korea, with messages of solidarity from participating organisations. A representative of the Embassy of the DPRK in London will be the guest of honour. Opportunity for questions and discussion, followed by a cultural programme, including music, songs, film show and photographic exhibition. Concludes with food and a social.

Organised by Friends of Korea

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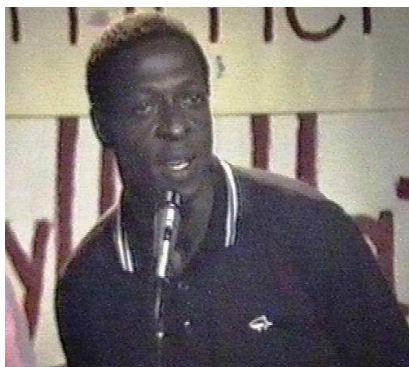
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In Memoriam Rix Ferron



January 9, 1953 – December 29, 2008

It is with deep sadness that we inform our readers that our old comrade Anthony “Rix” Ferron, known to many as Roy, passed away on December 29 aged 55 after some years of illness. Our Party extends its heartfelt condolences to his family – particularly to his daughter and sisters – and to all his friends and comrades in this country and in many other countries throughout the world.

Comrade Rix was a founder member of our Party and Central Committee member who made an important contribution to the Party’s work and cause for 25 years. Our Party first met him, the son of Jamaican immigrants, as a 19-year-old worker at the British Library. He was a talented footballer who had represented All-London Schools and might well have broken into the professional ranks if he had persisted. He was already politically active, having been involved with the Black Panthers, in the struggle against racism and racist discrimination and for the rights of the African and Caribbean communities. Immediately he, and some of his old schoolmates, took up the work of the Party, particularly that against state-organised racist attacks and against fascism. He was a founder of the West Indian Defence Committee, which later became part of the People’s Democratic Front. Among many other things, he led a memorable

demonstration against the fascists at Chelsea Town Hall, resisting savage attacks by the police. Above all, he took up the call of the Party and the Internationalists before it that the national minorities must not allow themselves to be marginalised, but must put themselves in the forefront of the struggles for the rights of all. He was a founder member of RCPB(ML) in 1979 and a member of its Central Committee from then for 20 years. After the death of Cornelius Cardew in 1981, he took up the leadership of the Communist Youth Union of Britain, and represented it at International Youth Camps and Congresses in many countries, notably in Canada, Denmark and Brazil, in all of which he was much loved. One story told by the Brazilian comrades was that they had wondered what this “Englishman” who was visiting them would be like, only to be confronted by what they described as “a typical black Brazilian”!

Those who worked with him will never forget his great vigour and courage, his organising skill, his great warmth, and his integrity. He will always be remembered as a patriotic Jamaican and fighter for the rights of the African and Caribbean peoples, a proud member of the British working class and fighter for its interests and cause and as an exemplary proletarian internationalist.

A Consistent Enemy of the Palestinian People

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“arms trafficking” by the government of Gaza, which they claim is the cause of the recent crisis and which they will do everything to curtail, in concert with the other major powers. Gordon Brown has even promised that the British navy will be dispatched to the region for this purpose. Of course the Prime Minister shows no concern at all for the arms trafficking of the murderous Zionist regime, which has been provided with the most modern weapons of mass destruction, conventional and others, both openly and covertly by the Anglo-American imperialists, since its creation over sixty years ago. In answer to questions in Parliament, including some from MPs demanding a moratorium on arms exports to Israel, the Foreign Secretary went so far as to claim that such weapons were never exported “where there was a clear risk that those arms could be used for internal repression or external aggression”. In such circumstances, it is difficult to see how the government permits any arms to be exported at all.

Whose democracy?

The government is attempting to turn truth on its head and assert that the long-suffering Palestinian people and the government of Gaza are the cause of all the crimes that are perpetrated against them. According to this racist and colonialist logic, it is the Palestinians who must therefore be disarmed, not the Zionist regime, precisely as has been demanded and agreed by that regime and its principal backers, the US imperialists. From this standpoint, the Foreign Secretary brushed aside demands by MPs who in Parliament demanded sanctions against Israel and its prosecution for war crimes.

The government has also been consistent in its argument that it is the government of Gaza that is undemocratic, even though elected by an overwhelming majority not only in Gaza but also in the West



Bank, as well as claiming that it is an organisation that “uses terrorism”, while the warmongering Zionist regime that has unleashed its state terrorism against the Palestinians is referred to as “a thriving democratic state” and a “beacon of democracy”. It is in this context that the government keeps referring to the need for President Abbas to exercise control over all the Palestinian territories. The clear aim of the Anglo-American alliance and the Zionist regime is to make sure that at this time as well as in the coming elections, it is the enemies of the Palestinian people who decide the leadership of the Palestinian Authority and not the Palestinian people themselves. In this regard, it has already been announced that Britain and the other big powers, posing as the greatest humanitarians and friends of the Palestinian people, will endeavour to step up their intervention and meddling in Gaza, as they have elsewhere in the world, in order to export the kind of democracy that they require.

The people condemn

The government position is to maintain, just as if Palestine were still a British mandate or colony, that the Palestinian people should be denied all rights, including the right to self-determination and the right to self-defence. But what is also clear about recent events is that the government’s position has been thoroughly exposed and widely condemned. Even in Parliament many MPs have demanded action against the Zionist regime and its leaders, whom the (Jewish) Labour MP Gerald Kaufmann referred to as “war criminals and mass murderers”.

There is now a global demand that the leaders of the Zionist regime should be tried as war criminals. However, its most consistent supporters, as the Labour government has shown itself to be, must also be held accountable for state terrorism and war crimes against the Palestinian people. The people condemn them.