

## CONTENTS

Page 3 Refugee crisis

Noel Pearson

Prince William visits

US troops in Haiti

Gaza Egypt builds a wall

The rise of Abbott and the ETS

### **Racist attacks against Indian students**

The "multicultural Australia" image has always been a veneer. Basically, the Australian state has always been a racist state committed to white Australian privilege. But the multicultural facade has given the fascist racists tactical problems: which minority can you scapegoat in order to galvanize racist consciousness? Well in Sydney they tried, with some success scapegoating those from Lebanese and Arab descent. However, recently their propaganda against Indian students has found resonance. Indian students have been brutally bashed and killed. We think that overwhelmingly the attacks are racist. The police and governments claim otherwise. They state that Indian students appear rich and vulnerable and are therefore susceptible to those who want to commit crime. Well this poses the question: why are those under attack disproportionately Indian? There are plenty of vulnerable people who utilize Melbourne's public transport who would clearly appear to have something to rob and would be an easy target. Why are there only significant attacks on Indians and not others?

Because the attackers have a racist bias is the obvious answer. We are not claiming the motives of every attack are racist. But we do think there is an overall racist bias against Indian students which is behind the majority of these attacks.

The governments, state and federal are at pains to deny any racism. There are various reasons for this. Firstly admitting that there is significant racism in Australia is bad publicity and will discourage students and tourists from visiting. Secondly the last thing they want is a debate on racism within Australia. Both Labor and Liberal parties have a significant social base which is racist. For Labor it is the labour aristocracy. For the Liberals, it is a section of the middle class. Neither party wants to alienate itself from its supporters. They also don't want another One Nation.

Any serious challenge to Australian racism may draw uncomfortable conclusions about the racist nature Australian state. If people draw this conclusion, the system might be challenged. Australia is colony with a small mini-imperialist domain in the South Pacific.

White Australians have always identified with imperialist privilege. Racism stems from this identification. It is very convenient for governments to wipe their hands and dismiss these attacks as acts of crime. This is precisely what they are doing.

These attacks are the last thing that Rudd wants to happen Billions of dollars in overseas income are at stake. There has been a serious drop in the number of Indian students who want to study here. These attacks are the major reason for the decline. But there are other reasons such as it being harder to get a visa and the fact that many of the colleges have been shonky and have closed down. This has left many unable to complete a diploma for which they paid tens of thousands of dollars.

The Indian community both here and in India is angry. We think their anger is fully justified. Students from India should have the right to come here and study with safety. No-one should be bashed or murdered because of their skin colour or national origin! This is outrageous! Indian students have held militant protests against this racist brutality.

All racism must be fought and the force to fight it is the working class. **For workers, Indian student, proletarian defense guards against racist attacks!**

The unions should organize contingents to ensure their safety. This may not happen because of the politics of the union leaderships. Should going through the union leaderships fail, workers can organize such a defense on the rank and file level. But workers should go through the union process first, moving resolutions at meetings.

Workers in this country have a duty to fight racism. Our class interest lies in fighting the racist Australian state. Many Indian students no doubt have faith in bourgeois means. These will be broken down when the workers movement takes an active stand against the racists.

The attacks on Indian students have emboldened the racists. The India Government and the Indian people have been less friendly towards Australia. Indeed there has been hostility. This is precisely what the fascists want! They feel empowered, disrupting the Rudd Government's "turn to Asia". The

increased racism also gives them a wider audience amongst middle class racists some of whom they will recruit.

Fascism has a bigger agenda than just racism. Their agenda is the smashing of the organised workers movement. Through their subservience to Rudd, the union leaders have shown their weakness. When Julia Gillard tells the unions that if they fight to defend conditions lost under Howard "they will be met with the full face of the law" the gutless unionists refuse to defy the system and are exposed as powerless. So many looking for extreme answers will look to the extreme right.

So we urge workers defense against Indian students not merely because of our duty to defend victims of racist attacks. We urge action because a successful defense against these attacks will hamper the rise of fascism which is a potential threat to workers, their trade unions, all exploited and oppressed in this country.

Indian students must be defended!  
The fascists must be acquainted with the pavement!

## Refugee Crisis.

Seven Tamils are in limbo. Five were members of the Tamil Tigers, Two are their children. For the foreseeable future they will be stuck on Christmas Island living in the barbaric detention centre located there.

They can't come to Australia. ASIO has declared them a threat to national security. They can't go home. They have been declared genuine refugees. Their safety will be endangered if they return to Sri Lanka. This has been officially recognized. Under international law it is illegal to return to their country those who face jail death or torture. The Rudd Government won't send them home. But where will they go?

But why are these asylum seekers a "threat to national security"? The Tamil Tigers fought a long and bitter war against the Sri Lankan Government. They lost. Now they are being persecuted. The Tamil Tigers are not terrorists. They do not carry out sporadic acts of violence such as El Qaida. They represent a national minority and have a clear national base. Some of their war methods may have been horrific but that applies to those of the Sri Lankan government. The Tamil Tigers have had no other agenda than an independent Tamil Ealam. In no way do they threaten Australia. Why should these refugees want to attack the country giving them safe haven?

We think the Sri Lankan government might have something to do with it. It is clear they want to punish the Tamils. Telling ASIO that they are "terrorists" deprives them of the right to migrate to Australia. Of course Rudd has to listen to ASIO.

On the question of refugees. Rudd's practice is barely different from the barbaric practices of the Howard government.

Instead of the "Pacific Solution" we now have the "Indonesian solution". Instead of Woomerah we have a new expanded Christmas Island Detention Centre! Rudd says he is committed to defending Australia and this means deterring refugees. This is exactly how Howard rationalised his barbaric practices.

The Indonesian solution is especially reactionary and barbaric. Indonesia is not a signatory to the UN Declaration One refugee got shot by Indonesian soldiers. Allowing asylum seekers to be processed in Indonesia may look good in terms of "defending Australia" But it clearly exposes the fact that he is no more humane than John Howard and equally as reactionary.

Those who want to live here should be welcome them irrespective of their official refugee status. This includes former and current members of the Tamil Tigers. We respect the fact that the Tigers fought a progressive struggle to liberate an oppressed national minority. The Tamils have been deprived of their national rights. First they tried democratic methods within the newly independent nation of Ceylon. When this failed they took up arms. They lost the war. We doubt that the new Lankan government will give them their rights. They certainly will victimise those who fought against Sri Lanka.

Communist Left welcomes all proletarians to Australia. They should be welcomed unconditionally and not be forced to live in detention centres!

**NOEL PEARSON**

Noel Pearson is the Black pin-up boy for the conservative right in this country. The Australian columnist Janet Albrechtsen describes him as "Australia's Obama only better". Well he is black, intelligent and charismatic. But apart from that he has little in common with Obama. Pearson is better in serving the conservative right.

His policy propositions are music to right wing ears. The right agenda is to abolish government funded social services. What better from their point of view than to hear this coming from a black man. Pearson supports the Northern Territory Intervention

Pearson does have a few progressive positions. But his key positions on privatisation, welfare quarantining, blaming the left for tolerance on drugs and therefore his communities' drug problems are key planks in the right wing agenda.

Pearson has seen the horrors faced by his people on Cape York and elsewhere. He has seen that tokenistic measures don't work. His solutions are privatisation and multinational intervention such as mining companies who, he figures will employ Black labour. He figures that unless Black people join the "real economy" then they will remain a charity.

Pearson opposes Aboriginal Housing Co-operatives. He sees Black people disrespecting Co-operative housing which is often left in disrepair. He believes that if they owned the houses they would be respected.

The problem is that few Black people can afford to buy a house. It is cheaper to buy a house on Black land because the ownership is not in the hands of investors or speculators. But the cost of labour and raw materials is generally estimated to be about two hundred thousand dollars and very few have that amount of money. Logically this privatisation of housing would leave thousands homeless. Perhaps they will be forced to move to the city and pay exorbitant rent.

Pearson rejects the Black work for the dole CDEP on the grounds that private enterprise should do the job and this programme is a disincentive in terms of getting people to work for private enterprise. The problem is though that it isn't profitable for private enterprise to provide the necessary community services in most small towns let alone Black community settlements. So does he suggest they go without?

No doubt would argue that the multinationals and private industry will bring in the money. But here his position collapses with a bit of scrutiny. How many Black people are these multinationals actually going to employ? How many communities will actually benefit? Only a minority of Black communities have substantial mineral resources and only a few thousand workers will be employed.

Mining can be and is often devastating to local communities. It can destroy the farming land and pollute waterways, not to mention their sacred sites. Rather than creating communities multi-national capital often destroys them. Noel Pearson should take a look at Gladstone with its barrack style workers accommodation. This is hardly a place to bring up a family

Unions had to fight tooth and nail for any decent amenities. Even with their victories workers amenities there are hardly excellent. The social problems which are now destroying Black communities will continue.

He should also talk to the people of Bougainville about what a CRA takeover has meant for their communities. It has meant destruction of their land and their economy. Multinationals care about profit and not the environment nor communities. Multinational capital means right wing governments. These facilitate a strong police state which means more racist attacks

Noel Pearson supports the Federal intervention in the Northern Territory. A full critique of this intervention is beyond the scope of this article. We will point out though that a police state that the intervention creates is not the solution to problems such as neither pedophilia nor alcohol nor the failure of Black kids to go to school.

Noel Pearson appears to be confronting problems. He appears to have answers but his answers empower the bosses, multinationals and their system. They attack Black people who are the victims. No! Multinational capitalists are not the answer!

## Royal visit by Prince William

"Prince William" heir to the throne of England made a quick and well publicised visit to Australia. He was feted and flattered. He was honoured as a "man of the people" and favourably compared to his mother Lady Di. He is considered to have a common touch.

For communists, his personal attributes, real or exaggerated, are beside the point. William is part of a "Royal Family" This family is reactionary.

For a start these parasites cost millions of pounds on taxpayer's revenue to support their luxurious lifestyle. All this money could be better spent on schools and hospitals. But more important, the Queen is head of State. This means she is chief of the armed forces, both in Australia and Britain.

She has what are called "emergency powers" This means that in a political crisis, when the ruling class deem that an elected government is not acting in the interests of the ruling class, she can act against that government. She can command the military to dissolve parliament by force. So much for democracy!

The Queen inherits her position. Personally she is part of the ruling class and is a politically a conservative. In no way would she be sympathetic to a left leaning or working class government.

Revolutionaries support the removal of the Queen as head of state, unconditionally. We support a republic. We want a socialist republic but if for some reason, Australia became a republic under capitalism, it would be a step forward.

Prince William's visit was good pr for the monarchy. Fortunately there was some debate over the issue. Many realise that the monarchy is a useless anachronism. But she has dangerous powers Australia can only be considered a democratic independent nation when she and her family is removed.

## Haiti crisis. US brings in troops

Everyone cares about Haiti. Yes the earthquake was devastating and there is a humanitarian crisis. An estimated two hundred thousand have died from the earthquake directly. Many thousands more will die from the after effects such as infectious diseases. Many have died due to lack of the resources required to dig them out. The imperialist west is pouring in money. So are countries such as Cuba and Venezuela.

Many countries are pouring in money. but the USA is also sending the troops to maintain order. Now we do not deny that the USA is sincere about its caring. The problem is that the USA will extract its pound of flesh – political and economic control This makes US intervention extremely dangerous and must be opposed.

We reprint the following letter from the Argentine Solidarity e-mail grouping. We do so because it counters the false impression that class struggle has somehow ceased because of this crisis. The belief is that somehow, all the community is getting together. No! The ruling class are still fighting working people, our class comrades in Haiti

We reprint this letter because we think it is important for Australian leftists and workers to understand the real situation facing workers on the ground. This e-mail comes from Argentina Solidarity

HAITI: Serious charges and a call for international solidarity from the Haitian group Batay Ouvriye ("Workers' Battle")

The class struggle that continues amid the rubble

In a desperate call for solidarity from the international working class, the group Batay Ouvriye ("Workers' Battle") of Haiti, charges: "While some capitalists are trying to force the workers to return to work in defective factories, while the owners of big businesses are opposed to distributing their merchandise and sell it at a high price, while the state shows and proves again, as always, its absence, its inability and incompetence (the only thing they know how to do is to steal and manoeuvre, by supporting the landlords, the bourgeoisie, and other multinationals), while the national police are conspicuous by their absence (the only thing they know how to do is repress the people), while the imperialist forces are clearly using the aid they give to establish an obvious and, as they intend, permanent guardianship, workers, toilers of every type, the masses of people in general, are suffering and extremely dependent, in this catastrophic situation."

## Egypt builds a wall to isolate Gaza

In 2008 the people of the Palestinian territory of Gaza were bombed and devastated by Israeli planes and tanks. Homes, government buildings, schools and hospitals were destroyed. Many civilians were seriously injured, some by extremely dangerous and painful white phosphorous.

Gaza has yet to recover. The reason being that Israel enforces an extremely effective blockade which prevents raw materials coming in. So many homes and buildings are yet to be rebuilt.

Well some are being rebuilt and this is due to tunnels dug from inside Egypt. Through these tunnels come Gaza's supply of medicines and many other items including daily necessities. Egypt, which is Israel's closest ally, doesn't approve and wants to join Israel in maintaining Gaza's isolation.

Egypt has now announced that it will deal with tunneling – by building a wall underground. This will mean that Gaza will be totally sealed off. The Gaza people will get virtually nothing from the outside world. Homelessness and suffering will continue.

It is important that the people of Gaza overcome their isolation. They can do this by proletarian solidarity. Workers of the world have a direct interest in standing up to the racist reactionary Israeli state. Workers must also act against the loyal ally, Egypt has clearly chosen the side of reaction.

Some will say: what if the Hamas forces in Gaza attack Israel? We say good on them! We oppose the state of Israel, totally. We give military support to those fighting the state. In the case of Hamas, we oppose both their politics and religion. Of course, it is a bourgeois party. We want a proletarian party committed to communism. But until Hamas is transcended, we back their military campaign,

The state of Israel has meant the displacement of the Palestinian people and continual war. The ministate "agreed" to by the PLFP is not a satisfactory solution. But Israel has no intention of abiding by the agreement. Illegal settlements are pushing Palestinians off their land.

The USA which is backing Israel, complains about these. But Israel knows the US will do nothing. Thanks to US sponsorship Israel has the power to do virtually as it pleases without penalty. When the UN moves resolutions which inconvenience, Israel just ignores. Occasionally it is actively defiant. Have no faith in the UN or its paper resolutions!

Real force is needed to smash Israel! Military victory to Hamas and all those fighting back. International working class solidarity is needed. Break down the isolation!

## The rise of Tony Abbott and the ETS

The Emissions Trading Scheme is a tax incentive scheme to encourage industry to pollute less. Most of the bourgeoisie believe people are partly responsible for pollution which causes climate change. The ETS is their preferred option. They understand that fighting climate change by limiting pollution costs money. This they figure, is the most palatable option.

We disagree with the ETS. The ETS will force the poor and working people to pay. The way to fight climate change and pollution is not tinkering with tax, it is by workers control and a revolutionary programme. Expropriate the polluters!

The ETS is not merely the policy of the Rudd government. It is the policy of the Australian Chamber of Commerce. Internationally it is the policy of Barak Obama and thence the USA. No so long ago it was Liberal policy. Some Reps and Senators (notably Malcolm Turnbull) are prepared to cross the floor and back the government.

With all this high powered support you would think that the ETS was impregnable.

Well Tony Abbott is showing the power of mass mobilization. The masses he is mobilizing is the redneck middle class farming and small business community. These people are cynical about whether climate change is science after all. It has been acknowledged that talk of Himalayan glaciers melting is not quite so scientific. So what else could be dodgy? This middle class redneck right hate this green talk. But what they fear most is more taxes. They don't want to pay. as they might lose their farms or business's. They also think that Malcolm Turnbull wasn't one of them.

So they mobilized and with the help of Senator Minchen their mobilization disrupted the Liberal Party. Tony Abbott doesn't claim to be a climate skeptic. He seems to want his cake and eat it too. But he does oppose the ETS.

He does claim to have concrete programmes to deal with the environment. These programmes such as dealing with the Murray Darling crisis. He claims Labor is too soft on the Labor states. His critics point out that he has no programme to actually reduce pollution as opposed to curtail its increase.

His programmes have problems. They too cost money. But he has invigorated the Howard battlers. He is showing himself as one who can stand up to Rudd.

The problem Rudd faces is that the Copenhagen Conference was a failure. He thought by blocking with Obama, he could put Australia on the world ecological stage as a major player in the fight against global warming. It all didn't work out. The colonised countries "third world" quite rightly objected to paying for a crisis created by the imperialist west. So there could be no agreement. So Rudd was not the world leader after all. Chinks are now starting to appear in the Rudd armor.

For more ideological empowerment, Abbott and friends have invited over climate change skeptic Lord Monkton.

Abbott is proving himself a master tactician. He has re-invigorated Liberal heartland and forced Rudd on the defensive. But he has a long way to go to displace Rudd who is the bourgeoisie's preferred option. He must not be ours. Abbott is showing that mobilizing works. It's the class he represents that is the problem. We must mobilize working people on our terms – revolutionary terms. A revolutionary workers party must be forged now!

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