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## **Tunisia. The incomplete revolution.**

It's inspiring. It shows that there can be real solidarity both amongst unemployed and between unemployed and unionists. It shows that unemployed and unionists still have the capacity to fight the state. The problem is that they haven't won. Yes there have been some gains but it is clear that the government ruling in Tunis will be a bourgeois one. As long as capital rules, working people and unemployed will pay. They may make concessions now to demobilise struggle, but make no mistake, when power is consolidated, ordinary Tunisians will be forced to pay. That is, unless the revolution is completed. The overthrow of the Tunisian dictator Ben Ali is a massive gain for the revolutionary process. We salute workers, unemployed and middle class people who heroically physically fought the state. They achieved this significant victory. The revolution must though, go all the way.

A workers and small farmer's government must rule Tunisia. This must be based not on parliament but on soviets where workers and small farmers have real power. To establish this and consolidate power, a revolutionary communist party must be forged and establish hegemony over militant struggles. We fear though that this won't happen and that the Tunisian revolution will be contained. At best it will be a bourgeois revolution with democratic reform. Tunisia has an unemployment rate of fifty percent!

It started with an unemployed man who, being deprived of income, selling fruit and vegetables. The problem was that he didn't have a license. Because of this the cops confiscated his produce. Having no source of income he set himself on fire. The response was massive, humungous! Unionists and unemployed fought the police. Within a month the dictator fled stealing billion of dollars and a new government "national unity" established. This government initially included supporters of the dictator but as result of mass pressure, Ben Au supporters were removed.

Communists oppose participation of Bin Ali supporters in any government also. But we also oppose the participation of all bourgeois parties, totally. as they will strangle the revolution also. Power to parties of the working class! The new transitional government has promised on in terms of democracy. There is a new feeling of freedom. Islamic parties are now legal. Yes we support this! State repression is not the answer to religious ideology. This revolution is not an Islamic revolution. It is secular!

Whilst defending freedom of religion, we think the secular nature of the revolution should be defended.

This has been called the Jasmine Revolution. Comparisons have been made to the movement which overthrew Ceausescu in Romania and the democratic bourgeois mass movement against the Islamic government of Iran. The big difference is the fact that the revolution began with the proletariat and had the potential to go deeper, to establish a workers and small farmer's government!

One clear difference between this upsurge and the middle class one in Iran is that in Tunisia, no-one has faith in the US. They know that every US President including Barak Obama has worked hand in glove with Bin Ali.

The proletariat fought the state physically. But there was a failure of political consciousness. Instead of winning middle class elements behind the leadership of the proletariat, the revolution has bourgeois democratic leadership.

One man embarrassed by all this is Barak Obama. Bin Ali was his ally in the fight against Islamic terrorists. But the problem is that he cannot deny the brutal undemocratic nature of the Ben Ali regime and therefore cannot defend him. He therefore sits on the sideline appealing for fair play, hoping for a democratic capitalist Tunisia which he can co-opt in his exploits. We wish him the worst of luck!

According to the World Socialist Web Site, the struggles continuing in Tunisia are now working class centred. This is because most of the petty bourgeois leaders are making deals with the transitional government. We fully support workers fighting the government. But, we stress, to be victorious, work needs to be fully class conscious. This requires a revolutionary communist party.

## **The revolution spreads to Egypt!**

In Cairo, after a mass protest of a million people, President Mubarak has promised not to seek another term and to step down in April. This is not good enough. Understandably the demonstrators are not satisfied. They want Mubarak out now and protests will continue until this happens.

The demonstrators had the support of the army who gave their assurance not to fire on demonstrators. With this guarantee, the protest was massive. The Tunisian revolution has been an inspiration to workers and peasants throughout the Middle East. But the biggest response has been in Egypt, against the reactionary imperialist backed President Mubarak. This revolution is more middle class than that of Tunisia. Banning the internet was a very mistake as it galvanised middle class hostility.

Whilst starting with the middle class, this revolution has spread to the working class. There have been calls for a general strike. Workers understandably hate Law No 100 which regulates trade union activities. They say that success for the revolution requires working class participation. We say that the working class must lead the revolution and continue the revolution until victory.

The spectre of Islam of course is there. Mubarak raises the threat of the Muslim Brotherhood who has the support of about thirty percent of the opposition. At the moment Muslim Brotherhood have

no plans for power. They are also a bit discredited for not supporting the January 25 protests. The main opposition is liberal bourgeois. Should this opposition

fail the Brotherhood could swing into action or take the initiative. The revolution could easily turn Islamic

One nervous country is Israel. Mubarak has been their useful ally. He has constructed a wall around Gaza to prevent supplies coming through. As a result, Gazan people suffer from shortages of goods and building materials. We are confident all oppositionists will tear down this wall. All the oppositionists, liberal and Muslim, want to ban the selling of Egyptian gas to Israel.

The USA has tried to play a balancing act. Hilary Clinton, US Secretary of State has supported the demands of the protestors without calling for the overthrow of Mubarak. The fear is that if Mubarak an ally, maintains power US might lose support. The protestors know full well that Mubarak has been armed by the USA. This includes Barak Obama. So Obama's balancing act will mean a loss of support for America.

At the moment the armed forces claim to be on the side of the people. But they also prevent the people from overthrowing Mubarak. Mubarak listens to force not public opinion. That is why he stays on. He also has recruited thugs on horseback and camel to physically attack the demonstrators. The army does nothing, Apart from Egypt, the revolution has also spread to Morocco, Algeria, Jordan and South Yemen

## **USA. a very political mass murder.**

On the eighth of January, a lone fascist gunman opened fire on a Democratic Party political rally outside a shopping centre, Tucson, Arizona. Nineteen were shot. Six were murdered.

Congresswoman Gabriella Giffords, shot at point blank range in the head, was critically injured and lucky to be alive. She will be injured for life and will be lucky if she regains full capacity to speak again. The murderer has indicated that she was the main target.

The murderer openly admits his support for Hitler and Sarah Palin's Tea Party.

This horrific murder has put Sarah Palin's Tea Party on the defensive. After all, on her web page there is a picture of Giffords in the target of crosshairs of a rifle. Of course, she would say that Giffords is merely a political target. They, at least in rhetoric, totally disown such practices and claim to be a legal respectable US sub party using conventional means such as mass mobilisation. They say that the murderer is just one of many neurotic killers with twisted minds who have terrorised innocent US citizens over the years.

We say: irrespective of Palin's personal intentions, her movement must take some responsibility. We classify Palm's party as semi-fascist because whilst it hasn't broken from bourgeois legality, it mobilise similar forces as fully blown fascists. No doubt it plenty of fascists in their ranks. Some, like the murderer are frustrated with inaction and want to further. Palin has created the political climate for these to flourish.

The message is this: the failure of Obama has meant many middle class sufferers from the crisis are thrown into the hands of fascism and will attack immigrants from Central and South America, people

of colour in general and the workers movement. Obama is not a communist but is sometimes seen one, especially when he has "left" backers. What i exposed is the bankruptcy of the so-called left. Out this climate fascists will emerge. Some will act individually. Others will act as part of groups or parties. We must be vigilant!

We are in no way surprised that this grotesque happened in Arizona. Arizona has reactionary racist legislation which allows police to demand of anyone who appears to be Mexican, to prove their right to live in the USA.

Workers defence must be organised to confront fascism in all its forms. All immigration controls must be opposed. Arizona's reactionary legislation must be smashed

## **Defend Julian Assange**

Julian Assange, an Australian citizen is indeed a controversial man, worldwide! As it is known he is in Britain facing expedition to Sweden to face sex charges. We think the charges are dodgy. We think that these are a cover for a campaign to convict him because he is a threat to the imperialist establishment.

We fear that if sent to Sweden, he will be deported to the USA and may end up in Guantanamo Bay! In the US he is considered a terrorist and right wing Republicans want him to receive the death penalty. If there isn't a crime for him to be charged with, they will invent one. As it is well known the real issue is his web site Wiki Leaks he has exposed the dirty underbelly of bourgeois politicians and agencies. We are supposed to live in democratic countries but important information is kept from us. There is a hell of a lot of dirty work done behind our backs.

Thanks to Wiki Leaks we know that; Kevin Rudd as prime minister of Australia supported a war between the USA and China, that Saudi Arabia urged the US1 to invade Iran that Australia was acting on behalf of Israel to win support in Europe, that Senator Arbib was having close relations with the US government, effectively acting as a US agent, and that Britain has been training Bangladeshi death squads. All this is important to us.

Yet it has been deliberately hidden from us. We can only be truly democratic if we are given information The Australian and US governments want to deprive us of this information because they want to defend an imperialist terror machine.

They want to protect their terror machine, we want to expose it! We also want to expose the Gillard government's role as an agent of US imperialism. Of course it is true that Gillard and Rudd have made it clear what side they are on. They overtly support the USA. But Rudd supporting a war between China and the USA is of significant importance we think that most Australians will oppose this strongly! Thanks ft Wiki Leaks this reactionary position has been outed,

## **NSW elections. The death agony of right wing Labor.**

Even Kristina Keneally acknowledges that Labor winning the March state election will be a big ask. According to current opinion polls there will be a Liberal landslide with Labor lucky to win thirteen seats. The government has been found wanting on many issues and there have been many scandals.

In Victoria, Labor lost. But it is not so disastrous. With better leadership and policies, they will get back on track. For NSW Labor though, massive defeat will not only mean repudiation of leadership and mistakes, what's refuted is their entire strategy.

The right wing strategy amounted to this. Labor was loyal to capital but threw a few crumbs so as to appear better than the Liberals. Well it worked for many decades. Since the Second World War most of the time, the state of New South Wales has been dominated by Labor. But the problem has been this: the price of this "responsibility" has been a massive lag in infrastructure. Sydney is expanding but both public transport and roads remain unsatisfactory. So are schools and hospitals.

The Keneally government has been committed to the AAA credit rating which they have put before public services. The Hills railway line and the Epping to Parramatta link have been promised yet dumped for economic reasons. About face changes in policy have made the public very cynical.

The right wing attempt to deal with these issues has been private public partnerships and money from privatization. Through public, private partnerships, the government allowed private sector to construct roads make a profit. After costs have been realized, the State Government would take them over. The problem is that private enterprise has to make a profit and the price of the public travelling on expressways has been immense. People are not travelling so companies are not making the profit that they feel is needed. There isn't the profit so roads are not constructed.

There has been no real necessity for Labor to maintain the credit rating. NSW would be doing ok with a AA+ but Labor is "economic responsible" putting this responsibility before the services we need. Labor, of course has no desire to challenge the ruling class who have plenty of money. The revolutionary alternative is to expropriate the ruling class.

State Labor's efforts on electricity privatization ha exposed their bankruptcy. Without an electoral mandate, nor without a mandate from the rank and file of the party, Morris lemma announced the privatization of electricity. From this he would finance his transport revolution. It didn't work tho For a start he was repudiated by NSW State Conference strongly! His plan was to defy Conference and get the privatization through Parliament with the help of the Liberals. The Liberals didn't come to the party. Whilst not opposing privatization on principle, they argued that NSW could get a better deal. So they opposed this privatization and left lemma high and dry, without money for the promised "transport revolution".

lemma was kicked out and replaced by Nathan Re and Carmel Tebbutt from the so-called "left faction Under Rees there was a partial privatization of electricity. Unpopular Rees was replaced by Kristina Keneally who once again attempted a complete privatization and failed. She has understandably given up any plan to privatise.

It must be stressed that privatisation of electricity must be opposed, on principle! Laborite reformism, has had a tradition of opposition to privatisation. Private enterprise acts for profit and reduces service to ordinary people who suffer.

There have been many scandals concerning man individual mp's. What this shows is that the rulin class have lumped bad right wing habits but not I them. In the past right wing Labor was necessary counter communism. Today there is no mass communist movement nor a Labor left movement rightwing Labor has been made redundant.

It must be stressed that this crisis is not complete Labor's fault. Thanks to a clever manoeuvre by Liberal Party, state government spending for infrastructure has come out of Goods and Services Tax (GST). NSW has received a poor deal from Howard and Rudd/Gillard as compared to other states. Therefore NSW has less money for schools and hospitals.. But NSW Labor deserve little sympathy.

There is nothing progressive about NSW State Labor. It has moved legislation giving power to State government, taking decision making power away from local government to ensure development takes place. NSW Labor is pro-developer.

NSW Labor is also law and order with less programmes to stop young prisoners to re-offend than Victoria. In Lakemba and elsewhere cops attack young people "of Middle Eastern appearance" Labor strongly opposes any prison reform in favour of prisoners. They have also privatised prisons. This has been opposed by prison officers and prisoners themselves.

State Labor has been party to Work for the Dole. At Lidcombe TAFE, they utilize work for the dole labour to do gardening and landscaping which should be done by paid employees, paid at union rates.

Part of the reason NSW State Labor has remained in power so long has been failure of opposition. Barrie O'Farrell is certainly tougher than previous Liberal leaders. He also knows how to oppose Labor from the left. For example he has opposed the sale of railway land and joined unionists on pickets.

He has tapped into mass resentment concerning hospitals, roads and public transport. He has promised to construct the rail link to the Hills district. He has reassured some that Liberal policy will be based on pragmatism and not on ideology. This means he will privatise ferries (for example) only if there is economic pressure. Many Liberals have supported privatisation because they don't believe in the public sector.

He does have his problems though. Former Liberal leader Peter Debnam has resigned and will not stand for parliament again. His reason is that when elected, O'Farrell will not have a mandate for the savage cutbacks he thinks will be necessary. O'Farrell has tried to oppose Labor both from the Right and from the Left. When in government, he will have to choose. Either way he will lose credibility. But as he will win by a landslide and it will take decades for Labor to mount any effective challenge.

Labor is also under attack from The Greens. The Greens attack Labor from the left. They attack privatisation. There will be a big swing to the Greer against pragmatic cynical Labor from sections of th new middle classes who inhabit suburbs such as Balmain and Marrickville. Labor may lose both of those electorates. Labor is also under attack in the Hunter for supporting coal mines.

In the forthcoming election Labor stands to lose massively both in seats and votes. But more significant than this is that Labor no longer has an election strategy to bring home its electoral bacon. Socialism and government intervention have been thrown out the window so has their strategy which amounts to a slightly sweetened monetarism. As well as the right, the official Left is totally compromised and shown to be barely different from the right. Nathan Rees got into trouble for contracting out the two main prisons to private enterprise. They support partial privatisation of electricity.

For this election, Kristina Keneally is trying to show her affinity with Westies and Bob Hawke is recommending ALP candidates concentrate on getting re-elected on their basis of their own record, as opposed to that of the government. Labor admits that it has no strategy to hold government.

COMMUNIST LEFT AUSTRALIA

For a revolutionary communist party to expropriate the ruling class.

For a fifth communist international based on the programme of the Fourth International founded by Leon Trotsky.

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