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Lebanon. The imperialists impose an unjust peace.

On Saturday July 31 the Israelis raided the Bekaar Valley, deep inside Lebanon. and in doing so made a serious breach of the peace agreement. Of course they justify their raid legally. They argue that the raid was justified because Hezbollah was importing weapons. No weapons have been witnessed. Kofi Annan considers the raid as a serious breach of the agreement Israel is pulling its weight. But, on the whole the peace agreement appears to be holding, though no-one is bold enough to suggest that peace will be permanent. War could break out at any time. But what sort of peace agreement is this? Basically it is a peace on Israeli terms.

The UN is demanding Hezbollah disarm. But no demand for disarmament is made on Israel. The UN is treating Israel with kid gloves. The United Nations is having problems assembling the UN "neutral" force . Israel still considers that it has the right to deal with Hezbollah in the meantime.

Israel claims that it wants the Peace Agreement to work. They haven't got all they would desire. Hezbollah is armed and they haven't released the two captive soldiers, whose captivity sparked the Israeli invasion of Lebanon Israel does not trust the UN to crack down on Hezbollah as much as desired, But what the Agreement means is that the United Nations is defending Israel from the Palestinians, doing its dirty work and saving Israeli lives. This is Israel's peace.

As the world knows, the affect of the Israeli action on the Lebanese has been devastating. Over a thousand civilians have been killed. More than a million have had their lives uprooted. Infrastructure has been devastated. Many thousands lack water and electricity. Food is in short supply.

Israel argues that because Hezbollah mixes with civilians, civilians must get killed if they are to destroy Hezbollah. But many of their targets (such as Beirut Airport) have absolutely nothing to do with Hezbollah.

The attack on the Airport was an attack of the people of Lebanon

Once again, this target had nothing to do with Hezbollah. Israel was essentially showing the world who has the power

. Israel attacked a United Nations observation post killing UN observers.

Protecting Israel is the umbrella of US imperialism. When Israel began invading, George Bush said that Israel had the right to defend itself, but it should do this responsibly. This has been interpreted to mean that Bush whilst not backing down in his support, would have preferred Israel to have invaded Syria or Iran. Lebanon whilst tolerating Hezbollah doesn't arm it. Syria and Iran certainly do. So why did Israel invade Lebanon? Because it understands the power of wedge politics! Israel knows that Lebanon is a divided nation, divided between Christian and Moslem. They know that Christian Lebanese have strongly fought interference by President Assad of Syria, interfering into their internal affairs. Bombing, they thought would exacerbate the division. What could be a better a solution than Lebanon declaring war on Hezbollah! There has been hostility from Christian Lebanese towards Hezbollah but not to the degree which Israel hoped for.

Israel has taken advantage of the US sponsored war on terror. Because Hezbollah do not run a state, they can be dismissed as "terrorist". Yes, they are religious. But they are not like El Quaida, fanatics prone to strike anywhere in the name of Islam. Hezbollah are representatives of the people of Palestine. They are fighting for their liberation.

Revolutionaries do not share their beliefs nor their bourgeois political programme. But we have a side in this war. We support military victory to Hezbollah.

We oppose the reactionary settler state of Israel which from its birth has been a lackey of imperialism. We reject those

who put Palestinians and Israelis on an equal footing, calling for a bi-national state. The Israelis have a state The Palestinians, after decades of battle, have finally got a mini-state This is not a solution. Palestinian rank and file realize this.

Recently the Palestinians voted for Hamas because they still believed in struggle against the injustice which is Israel. The PFLP leadership had given this struggle away, accepting Israel's "right to exist". Hamas, at least in rhetoric, did not. But it is Hezbollah doing the fighting and not Hamas. So the Palestinians support them. Because they are fighting the reactionary state of Israel, revolutionary communists give them military support.

Our support is only military. We urge Palestinian proletarians to forge a revolutionary leadership committed to proletarian dictatorship and a socialist middle east.

Workers in Australia must take direct action in defense of Hezbollah and against Israel. Israeli goods and services must be blacked. This is especially true for those goods and services which are part of their aggressive war effort. We must assist Hezbollah with aid both humanitarian and to directly assist the war effort.

SMASH ISRAEL!

DEFEND PALESTINIANS AND LEBANON !

MILITARY VICTORY TO HEZBOLLAH!

After June 28. What next in the struggle against Work Choices

June 28 saw a massive show of force by unionists throughout Australia. Hundreds of thousands marched in every capital city and major regional centre. It is pretty clear that working people are angry and are not taking this lying down. There is a serious problem of leadership though. Both on the union and political level. Workers have a leadership committed to respectability not to class struggle. How their politics shape this campaign was shown most markedly in Sydney. The Sydney rally of forty thousand marched through the western suburb of Blacktown. Whilst the rally was held at the showground there was a march through the main shopping centre about a kilometer away. The marchers were strongly supported by the locals including shoppers and workers.

Why Blacktown? Blacktown is a working class suburb. But it is located in the federal electorate of Greenway. Greenway, a traditional Labor seat was won over to the Liberals last election. The people who swung to the Liberals were those whom Mark Latham was desperately trying to win – the so-called aspirational voter. Latham failed but the current ACTU leadership have chosen to pitch their campaign at those voters also. Some of the union tops are so electorally oriented that they opposed any sort of rally at all. This march and rally was a compromise.

The rally was designed to demobilize struggle. Apart from the speaker from Unions NSW, there was a Church speaker and rank and file speakers already suffering. One a childcare worker, told how last election she voted Howard. But in no way did she vote for a system which undermined her wages and working conditions. Other workers told of their horror stories.

Whilst having rank and file speakers was, in a way, refreshing. But the point was to avoid any debate on struggle or give workers a forum which would discuss any strategy which wasn't the bureaucrats.

Kim Beazley, a belated convert to opposing Australian Workplace Agreements, is now in their good books. Despite Beazley, Labour being thoroughly supporting the system and its "efficiency" the bureaucrats give him their backing. They were also silent concerning state government attacks on unions.

The closest the bureaucrats came to endorsing industrial action was to ensure any victim of Workchoices that they would back them. With what was not clear.

Basically, the bureaucrats want a campaign of respectability. They hope that by showing that they are fair responsible Australians, middle class and ruling class sections will give them a fair go. This is the road to suicide! It is only when workers are prepared to struggle that they are taken seriously. Crawling is the road to defeat.

Revolutionary leadership is needed urgently. Such a leadership would not only fight Workchoices but the whole agenda of the Howard Government! This includes their war effort, reactionary policy on refugees, the employed and unemployment. Black people, Gay marriage. We could go on!

What is needed is a programme to bring down the Howard government. Labor's reactionary policies must also be rejected. The alternative is not a parliamentary government but a revolutionary workers and small farmers government. A revolutionary communist party must be constructed as a matter of urgency!

New Zealand: Workers fight the Mapp Bill

It is not just in Australia where workers are under attack. In Aotearoa / New Zealand workers are threatened with proposed legislation moved by National Party MP for North Shore, Wayne Mapp. This Bill known as the 90 Day Bill

intends to remove all rights from workers within their first ninety days of employment. Basically if this legislation were to be carried in the NZ Parliament, the boss can sack you for anything, however trivial, without any redress or explanation. Of course workers are angry and want to see this proposed legislation killed, stone dead.

The Clark Labour Government opposes this Bill. But Clark Labour has a slender majority. She depends on the support of reactionaries such as New Zealand First led by the racist Winston Peters, a former leading light in the National Party led by "Piggy" Muldoon. Her majority is unstable so the Bill being defeated is not guaranteed.

But the trade union bureaucrats are now very happy. The centre right Maori Party has now declared opposition after much deliberation. As in Australia, the New Zealand bureaucrats pursue a respectable approach and with Maori Party support, their campaign appears to have born fruit. But beware the bourgeois forces. A labour movement dependent on bourgeois forces for support is a weak movement, ripe for smashing. No doubt sinister forces such as the Maori Party will demand more sell-out for support. Well who needs reactionary legislation if workers can be persuaded not to fight by their own leaders. No doubt NZ bureaucrats will oblige!. New Zealand workers must reject all popular fronts!

NZ unionists are very well aware that the Mapp Bill is a foretaste of the National Party 's industrial agenda which looks very much like John Howard's. John Howard has been influenced by the previous NZ National legislation, the Employment Contract Act. Trans Tasman workers solidarity against reactionary attacks is urgent. A new revolutionary leadership of the New Zealand working class must be forged..

Kahui family New Zealand: tragedy leads to reactionary attacks on Maori communities and unemployed New Zealanders.

In July, in a household occupied by twelve members of the Kahui Maori tribe, twin babies were killed. Police suspect murder and this could well be the case. The Kahui family have been under strong media attack. It has been suggested that they know who the killer is and are protecting him (or her) from the police and are not co-operating. There is no serious basis for this.

Also serious are the social conclusions politicians and the media are drawing. You see the problem is large collective households which they describe as clusters. Helen Clark has announced her government's resolve to deal with the problem of clustering.

There is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that clustering leads to child murdering. Many children are killed in nuclear families. Clark's reactionary problem will not solve the problem. It will only lead to social breakup of Maori families. Unemployed people live in clusters because they can't afford rent which is exorbitant in New Zealand as it is in Australia. Breaking up collective households will mean more poverty. It will lead to more social dislocation and more domestic violence.. ..

Howard's welfare to work – Making unemployed and beneficiaries suffer

John Howard has never made any secret of the plans to destroy the Australian social welfare system. His first major step in this project was to privatize the old Commonwealth Employment Service and putting unemployed in the hands of private job network agencies. Being private, these agencies are motivated by profit and paid by results. "Results" means either finding jobs or kicking unemployed off the dole.

The next step was to establish work for the dole. Under Keating Labor, there already was a form of work for the dole called work experience. The Keating philosophy was to force unemployed people to respond to economic restructuring. This meant forcing them into training programmes. The programmes were expensive to run, had a shelf life of six months and were an expensive way of providing very few jobs.

The Howard government philosophy is to attack the unemployed outright. This is indeed the effect of work for the dole. In 2001 there were quite a few soft community programmes. Some radical organizations such as food co-ops and green groups benefited from work for the dole labour. No doubt this softened the opposition of much of the radical left. However, as of last budget, the gloves are off and all work for the dole schemes involve hard labour. Unemployed are forced to do concreting, carpentry, bush clearing, painting, nurses and teachers aid work being paid \$15 per week on top of their normal dole payment. This is indeed slave labour. It is an attack on the unemployed forced to endure such slavery. It is also an attack on the work force. Those who normally do this work as their paid labour are deprived of their jobs. Work for the dole is not a job creation project. It is a job destroying one. It is part and parcel of Howard's attack on work place rights.

This year, Howard has continued his "reform" programme. Over fifty year olds are being forced to do work for the dole if they are deemed to be "shirkers". Howard has also introduced Full time Work for the Dole. Under Full Time Work for the Dole the victims are forced to work twenty five hours per week paid \$15 on top of regular dole payment. They also must attend their job network agency office and prove that they are actively seeking work. This is indeed oppressive.

The Howard programme to deal with single parents and those with disabilities is to force them to look for the work like those on Newstart. They must pass the work test. For those with disabilities it applies if you are less than 18% disabled. Victims of this new work testing include those with Cystic fibrosis leukemia and multiple sclerosis. Which are serious chronic diseases. Centre Link changed its mind in relation with the person with leukemia, but only after the case was promoted by the Sydney Morning Herald. Often some with cystic fibrosis look normal and can do a limited amount of work. But this may aggravate their condition and lead to weeks bed-ridden, perhaps in hospital!

It may appear to many that single parents have plenty of time on their hands, and may be able to do work. But sole parents have to be there afterschool to pick up their children. Work does not often allow this. Also work often means tiredness and a tired parent may not be able to look after their child properly. Bringing up a child is work and sole parents have to do this below the poverty line. A living wage should be a right for all! This should be index under workers control.

For hundreds of thousands of unemployed and beneficiaries in this country, the effects of Howard's "reform" are extremely oppressive. They mean hardship and poverty. However these attacks are also part of Howard's industrial agenda – to smash organized labour.

It is heartening to know that virtually every Church has abandoned any support for Welfare to Work. Most have though benefited from work for the dole. Apart from the moral blow this means to Howard it also means that the government will have to employ rather than banking on the Churches to do their dirty work.

Why should bosses employ if they can get unemployed labour – to work for nothing! Bosses will use all this as a gun to workers head. "Accept these conditions or we will bring in unemployed labour" will be the message. And so hard fought for conditions such as holiday pay, overtime pay (etc) will be thrown out the window. Unemployed also have no work choice. If there is a suitable job available, they must take it. If they don't they will be breached which will mean loss of income.

So it is extremely important that the workers movement fights both unemployment and attacks on the unemployed. This should be done not only out of solidarity with others under attack, but because these attacks directly affect workers.

All work should be paid for at full award rates. The working week should be shortened, without loss of pay until everyone is employed. As long as there is one person looking for work the working week is too long!

Workers should support the unemployed and unemployed should support the union movement in its struggle against Work Choices. Unless there is education then unemployed or guest workers will be used to undermine hard fought for conditions.

Unions should take action against the work test which forces unemployed people to take jobs with low pay and poor conditions.

The union movement must take an active stand against work for the dole. It must be blacked now! Bans should be placed against institutions which utilize this slave labour!