

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

# FORWARD

# 3

9<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**A Monthly Political Paper of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq**

[www.wpiraq.net/english](http://www.wpiraq.net/english)

## **A common statement by the Worker-communist Parties in Iraq, Kurdistan and Iran**

### **Tunisia developments are a window of hope for the working class in Arab World**

The widespread mass protests in Tunisia which started on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and the coming to the fore of the working class and the labour federations which have half a million member paralysed the ruling regime and forced Ben Ali, the president who ruled for 23 years, to flee the country. Also the attempts and promises of the Prime Minister, Mohammed Alghanoshi, the speaker of parliament and the remnants of the ruling regime to calm the atmosphere and control the situation have not achieved their goals. In protest against the high prices, unemployment and oppression, the workers and labour federations in Tunisia along with the wider masses of people stand up to the remnants of the former ruling regime and demand the overthrow of the entire regime. Through granting three ministries to the Tunisian General Labour Union and a ministry to the opposition, promising to try those responsible for the killings, releasing political prisoners, Alghanoshi provisional government is attempting to calm the situation and keep it under its control. The labour federations faced these attempts and promises with demand that those appointed to the four ministerial posts resign from the provisional government and they were indeed pushed to resign. Thus, the fate of the provisional government remained vague till this day.

The conflict between the protesting workers, labour federations and the masses with the remnants of ruling regime in Tunisia is still ongoing. The gains of the workers and masses of Tunisia out of this conflict so far are the fleeing of the president, releasing of political prisoners and imposing freedom of parties, freedom of press, and other political freedoms. These are precious and revolutionary gains which should be protected with a united rank and conditions suitable to consolidate these gains should be created.

To p2 →

## **Tunisian workers drive tyrant Ben Ali from the country What now?!**

By Faris Mahmood

Jan 25: Dramatic and astonishing changes have just taken place in Tunisia. This country has been regarded by many in the West as an oasis of stability and a model of development and growth which other developing, new and fledgling countries should copy. Yet the ruling regime collapses in the space of a few weeks under the pressure of a mass workers' uprising. Its president hurries to the airport to catch a plane even though he does not know where it is heading!



The speed of developments came as a surprise to everyone, including close political observers and analysts.

For four decades the West turned a blind eye to the bloody oppression and extreme corruption which has been going on in Tunisia. While it lasted, this so-called oasis of stability was a safe place for global capital to investment due to its cheap and gagged labour.

Yet in just a few weeks of workers' uprising led by the Tunisian General Labour Union of Tunisia (whose role was ignored by the world bourgeois media) it all came tumbling down! The protest of the workers and toilers resulted from growing anger at a combination of attacks on their rights and well being: price rises for food and other staple commodities, high unemployment, lack of freedom and widespread corruption orchestrated by the Ben Ali and the Altrabalsi (Ben Ali's in laws) families.

In the first few days of protests against his regime Ben Ali seemed invincible: threatening the protesters and ordering his oppressive apparatuses to use violence against them. Many were arrested. But instead of discouraging the protestors, the police violence poured oil on the fire of their anger.

Ben Ali's next move was to back away: he dismissed one of his government ministers, released everyone

To p3 →

**Long live freedom, equality and worker state!**

Continuation of p1  
A common statement ...

What distinguish the revolutionary protests and atmosphere in Tunisia from other similar events in the Middle East and Africa is the workers and labour federations coming to the fore and their effective role in pushing the widespread mass protests forward in struggle for freedom and prosperity. The weakness of the reactionary Islamic currents during these events and their position on the very margins of these developments is another distinguishing aspect of Tunisian hopeful events from the other parts of the Middle East and Africa. On this basis, the politicians of the reactionary Islamic currents try deceptively to pose as being committed to political freedoms. The weakness of the reactionary parties and currents in Tunisia and the revolutionary gains which have been snatched so far have deepen the activity and hope among workers and the youth in particular in the Arabic speaking communities. Along this, it spread horror among the presidents of other reactionary Arab countries. Moreover, Tunisia is the

most advanced African and Arabic speaking country. The cultural and religious backwardness has no such important standing whether in laws or social mechanisms. It is the first country among Arabic speaking societies in Africa and the Middle East to experience a revolutionary grass root movement and the conditions of a mass uprising through the forces of the masses of people. Most of the ruling authorities in the Arab countries so far have experienced in a way or another important political and economic changes through making deals with imperialist countries, military coups and conspiracies. According to these realities and as the result of demanding the overthrow of the ruling regime and imposing some demands, the current developments in Tunisia are the most important change in the entire Arab World in last decades. Regardless of the outcomes, it will leave a fingerprint on all protests in the Middle East and Africa. The developments of Tunisia and the revolutionary atmosphere which prevails so far, in addition to the atmosphere it created in the Middle East and the World, have shaped important alignments. The working class, the youth and freedom loving masses in the Arab world are watching the developments of Tunisia. The just protests of the workers and the masses in Tunisia have deepen the movement in

countries like Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan and pushed the masses and workers and the youth in particular in these countries to the fore and create hopes that events similar to those in Tunisia can occur in their countries. Hundreds of thousands have already demonstrated on streets of Cairo for first time in decades. The reactionary governments in the Middle East are engaged in putting forward pre-emptive conspiracies to prevent the Tunisia events from spreading to their own countries. The head of the Arab League warned all presidents of the Arab countries to the danger of Tunisia protests spreading to their countries and called on them to take steps toward achieving the demands of the masses before they are stricken by the same fate of Tunisian regime. The ruling bourgeoisie in some countries made some concessions and eased its attack on the livelihood of the masses hoping it will prevent such protests. Those who look forward to see "The Spring of Arab World" called Tunisia developments "the first popular uprising in the Arab World" and "Yasmine revolution". Also, the western countries which do not consider themselves immune to the onslaught of the masses and workers, with utter hypocrisy, and under the pretext of "democracy", "defend the masses of Tunisia" and "maintain calm

and state of law", lined up side by side the reactionary governments of Arab countries in support of the government of Tunisia hoping to extinguish the flames of these protests. In this regard, even the media mafias, the likes of BBC and CNN, which are the extension of the ruling organs, had to break the silence in regard to these developments. The Tunisian developments and what is achieved so far is a big win for the working class in this country. The silence of the most anti-workers governments and currents is broken by the realities of Tunisia and have been left with no option but to admit the role and influence of Tunisian workers. The spirit of intervention to decide the fate of the society and create hope in progression and victory among the working class, communists and all dignified people of Tunisia is in rise. The fate and the outcomes of the developments in Tunisia depend on the role and influence of the working class and the communists of this class in Tunisia. The working class in Tunisia can impose larger and more radical retreats on the ruling bourgeoisie and its government and change the balance of power more and more to their advantage and the advantage of the masses. Tunisia developments have opened the door before the working class and its communist leaders,

To p3 →



Long live Working class!

Continuation of p1  
A common statement ...

to change the situation in the midst of this class struggle, for the benefit of the entire working class and workers' revolution. The working class should not make way for the wings of the bourgeoisie to marginalise the worker and communist prospect and politics under the pretext of "Movement of all and the struggle against tyranny".

Sections of the governing body and the bourgeoisie in Tunisia, seek through criminalization and sacrificing the former president, and with the help of Western governments, to stay in power and send the workers and masses in Tunisia to their homes and save the entire bourgeoisie. This should not be allowed. The condition to prevent this is the conscious role of the Vanguard and communist section of workers in Tunisia, the degree of clarity of its vision and its independent political banner in the heart of these developments.

Turning the program for victory of the working class to a banner of protest of this class and the revolutionary masses in Tunisia is the only guarantee for a decisive victory in the conflict between the bourgeoisie and the working class in Tunisia. In order to move forward today, the working class of Tunisia, at every moment of this conflict should appear more

united, more organized and more partisan. Today, the working class is looking forward with hope for the working class in Tunisia and its progress.

Our comrades, workers, labour federations and communists in Tunisia! We, the Worker-communist Parties in Iraq, Kurdistan and Iran and the working class in these countries stand with you in this conflict, that you are engaged in. Our eyes are directed towards developments in Tunisia, for the benefit of the working class and the revolutionary masses in this country. We regard your victory in this struggle a victory for us and the entire working class. Your victory in this fateful struggle is a window of hope for workers in the entire Arab world, the Middle East, Iraq, Kurdistan and Iran.

Your victory in this struggle is a victory for us. Long live our class unity  
Long live socialism  
Workers of the world united!

**Worker-Communist party of Iraq**  
**Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan**  
**Worker-communist Party of Iran\_hekmatist**  
**26<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!**  
**FORWARD 1**  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2010  
A Monthly Political Paper of the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq www.sppira.net/english

**Why Forward??**  
Interview with Nicolas Desmet  
On the Recent Workers' Protests in France

**A SHORT MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**  
The online bulletin Forward appeared regularly from early 2004 to January 2010. Its creation was an unfortunate interruption to the flow of news about the labour and progressive movements and the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq, to the world. Another of Forward's roles was to help make the policies, positions and views of the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq clearer to English-speaking people. The current situation in Iraq and worldwide necessitates

Continuation of p1  
Tunisian workers ....

detained during the bread and freedom uprising and formed a "committee to investigate corruption". But the protests continued. Ben Ali then appeared on TV. He seemed humiliated, promising "to deepen democracy"... "revitalise pluralism in our country"... "provide 300,000 jobs" and "not stand for re-election in 2014". But none of these promises dampened popular anger and the protests continued.

At this point Ben Ali had no option but to leave the country after hastily handing the reins to Alghanoshi, Tunisia's then Prime Minister, who saw to it that the head of Parliament, Foued Mebazaa, was sworn in as acting president.

The Tunisian protest movement, like others which have swept many Latin America and European countries recently, cannot be separated from the economic crisis of the global capitalist system which broke down about two years ago with the crashes on Wall Street. This movement of workers has been one of the direct consequences of the economic crisis which has put tens of millions out of jobs, caused high inflation, price rises for essential commodities and worsened the living conditions of workers and toilers around the world. It's the ruthless rule of global capitalism which

seeks to absorb this crisis by piling its consequences onto the shoulders of workers and toilers.

**The success of the Tunisian protests is spreading fear amongst other bourgeois regimes in the region**

The importance of this protest movement lies not only in the fact that it overthrew the head of a bloody and dictatorial regime almost overnight but also in the economic and political fallout it has caused in the region. It's been a long time since there was a similar event in the region: the 1979 revolution of workers and the masses of people in Iran that led to the overthrow of the Shah. The Iranian events resulted from a grassroots mass movement i.e. a movement from below.

Tunisia 2011 (like Iran 1979) has spread fear among the extremely reactionary, backward and corrupt police states in the region, which are deeply hated by the masses of workers and toilers. Their survival is now questioned. What happened in Tunisia could just as easily happen in Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other countries. Movements like this stimulate the working class and all disgruntled people to assess their circumstances and to seize the initiative and act.

To p4 →

**Long live freedom, equality and worker state!**

Continuation of p3  
Tunisian workers ....

Demonstrations driven by the same social pressures have already erupted in many countries in the region within the past few days. In Algeria people took to the streets complaining about price rises for flour, milk and sugar. After it became known that five people had been killed public anger forced the government to announce that it will reduce tax and tariffs to lower these prices. Similar demonstrations took place in Morocco against high prices.

President Mubarak of Egypt, who sits on a volcano of mass anger, convened a meeting with his security organs to warn them that there is a possibility of such events taking place in Egypt. He urged the Egyptian government not to take any measures which provoke the anger of deprived people.

In Mauritania the government announced an urgent program to help the poorest as the result of a rise in prices of essential commodities there. The government says it will open its own stores across the country to sell subsidised basic commodities. The Mauritanian government also said it's going to 'increase employment opportunities'.

In Syria the authorities decided to increase the government subsidy on heating oil by 72 per cent (which equates to 33 USD every month), a striking shift in policy for

the ruling bourgeois regime. It also claimed it would hand out direct financial support of \$11 per month to 415,000 families. The ruling Baath Party in Damascus said it would also reverse its plans to cut subsidies and would increase them to combat high prices.

The Jordanian regime was in fact the first to announce such measures after hundreds demonstrated in front of parliament against high unemployment and high food prices. It announced a plan of 225 million dollars to lower the prices of fuel and staple commodities like sugar and rice and create more jobs. Desperate to calm public anger it also endorsed measures which include moving toward fixing prices on basic items and giving state inspectors the authority to punish importers who try and manipulate prices.

In Sudan, opposition figures like Alturabi rode the wave and warned parliament of the consequences of taking economic measures which result in price rises for fuel, food and staple items. In Iraq many say that a future like that of Ben Ali awaits the current government as the result of a breakdown in basic services.

All these reactions highlight what we, the communists, have always emphasised: that improvements in living conditions for the masses of people have rarely been the result of democracy and parliament but almost always the result of a non-

parliamentarian struggle by the masses against the parliament i.e. as the result of a non-peaceful struggle by the masses.

### The reaction of the West

The reaction of the West to the above developments was mostly pragmatic and hypocritical. The US and EU governments supported the Tunisian regime right up to the first days of the demonstrations. For example, France's Sarkozy government refused to condemn the bloody oppression by the Ben Ali regime under the pretext that condemning state violence was intervening in the internal affairs of Tunisia! However when commentators in the West saw Ben Ali running away, they uttered cries of joy for the "decision of the people" and "establishing a government of democracy and human rights".

The West is terrified of the possibility that deepening radicalism in the working class and toilers and continuation of the current conditions could eventually not only will endanger Ben Ali's regime but the entire capitalist system because it is antagonistic to the working class and the vast majority of the population. The political leaders in America and Europe call for "calm", "order", "organizing democratic elections where all parties including the marginalised ones can participate", "building national accord" and so on.

Sarkozy's statement "only dialogue can bring a democratic and

lasting solution to the current crisis" is a precise expression of what the West wants in the region. That is, to open the door of "dialogue" to a handful of bourgeois parties which have one thing in common and that is defending the ruling capitalist system, its profits and the slavery it brings and eventually forming governments of "national unity".

Thus not pushing the conditions in a direction which may endanger the capitalist rule in countries which have made such large profits for them. The call for "calm" is the demand of Western corporations and their political representatives like Sarkozy, Obama, Berlusconi and Merckle who hope this page will be turned quickly so their plans to reap massive profits out of the hunger and poverty of workers and toilers in Tunisia is not affected.

### The framework of the bourgeois movement!

The international and the local bourgeoisie seek a trajectory of events which prevents the workers and disgruntled masses of people from having a role in shaping any future political regimes. They want to tell the Tunisian worker "yes you were right... Ben Ali was the cause of all the hardships, corruption, plunder, repression and miserable conditions that you lived in! But he's gone now! And a new government, free of this ill, will strive to solve your problems

To p5 →

Continuation of p4

### Tunisian workers ....

and provide you with bread and freedom". This "freedom" adds up to virtually nothing- adding three banned parties similar in class composition to the deposed regime to the government and granting each of these parties a ministry!.

In effect they are saying "your task, workers and protesters, has come to an end. We request you return to your homes. Now it's the job of the government to organize a free and democratic election in 60 days". With Ben Ali's escape, arresting several members of the ruling family and the heads of security forces, forming a committee to investigate violations, bribes and rapid enrichment, some rhetorical promises and sardonic smiles they try to close the file while at the same time creating a carbon copy of the previous regime!

It is "blackening" the face of Ben Ali and few members of his regime in order to "whiten" the face of a class!

This is the general framework within which the local and international bourgeoisie operates. It's a policy of musical chairs-allowing each section of the bourgeoisie to take its turn at the helm. So long as the society does not fall into the hands of the working class and the angry masses of the people which may eventually want to ban profit and exploita-

tion.

### The Tunisian working class must struggle for final emancipation

The head of a police state in Tunisia has been overthrown, but the regime with all its oppressive forces, institutions and figures remains. On top of the heap is PM Alghanoshi who tries to separate himself from the regime by saying " my interest has been only on economic issues " and by talking about " pure professionalism" while ignoring that these were the domains which shaped the economic policies of the regime which imposed hunger, abject poverty, high unemployment, corruption and supplied cheap labour in Tunisia.

Workers have not yet achieved their goal. Ben Ali is finished but a new government is being cooked up from pretty much the same ingredients- just with the icing of some marginal opposition parties to make it look different. This is ruling class "spin".

Workers want to make serious changes in their lives: they want prosperity, freedom, equality and a life worthy of a human being in the 21st century. Such changes will not come through the proposals of Alghanoshi's government and the local and global bourgeoisie. It can only come from the hands of an organized working class armed with a liberationist, socialist and humanist prospect.

There having been many uprisings in contemporary times but they have all been contained by the existing system. Even when the working class has been in the forefront of such protests, because it lacked a liberationist and socialist perspective, in the end one of two things happened: either a fresh section of the bourgeoisie assumed control while joyfully proclaiming "victory for democracy, human rights and defending the people's interests". Or there has been a military coup and all the sacrifices of the working class and deprived people went for nothing. In neither case were there fundamental changes and moreover the fighting workers and toilers were the first to pay for their action.

With the absence of an organized presence and conscious and partisan leadership of the working class, such uprisings will inevitably end in failure. The working class will enter the battlefield unarmed. It needs to be armed with a party in a field where party is vital. The working class cannot work out what steps it needs to take unconsciously. By accident. Its struggle needs to be shaped by the political party of the working class i.e. the Worker-communist Party.

The working class needs to become responsible for the future of society; its prosperity, happiness and equality. It needs to establish a workers' gov-

ernment. It should actively intervene equipped with a socialist and liberationist perspective and have the final say on all major issues and not wait for the bourgeoisies to decide for it or accept marginalisation. This will destroy the movement.

Workers in Tunisia should call for a general strike, start running neighbourhoods and factories (and so encourage the direct involvement of the masses in running society), protect itself from attacks by state forces, announce that the government formed by Alghanoshi or any other government formed without the working class having a major say illegal. It should;

form councils in neighbourhoods and working places based on the direct involvement of people

put an end to looting carried out by groups who have no interest in the current events

pass laws which protect the right to gather, strike, associate, speak freely and which make sure that religion and nationalism play no part in the state and in education

ensure full equality between men and women

introduce adequate unemployment benefit

dissolve the army and other oppressive apparatuses

establish a committee to investigate the corruption of Ben Ali's regime

To p9 →

# Long live Socialism!

## Workers in Leather Industry Companies continue their fight!

Thousands of workers in the General Company of the Leather Industry -which belongs to the Industrial Ministry- demonstrated on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the foreyard of the building of the company in *Karada district in Baghdad* asking for their unpaid wages which have been delayed for 42 days. The administration detained the workers within the building by shutting the gates and prevented the media from entering the building of the company.

An official in the company said that media outlets had to produce official permission from the Industrial Ministry to be allowed to meet the demonstrating workers. However the workers who gathered behind the gate were still able to talk to the media personnel standing outside the gate. The workers rose many banners- one of these reading **“stopping danger allowances is the beginning of wider attack on all rights of workers”** another banner read **“We call on the government to stop the policies of starvation against hundreds of thousands of former “politically dismissed” workers”**.

Atyia Hussein, the representative of the workers in the company, said that

“there are 5000 workers who work for the Leather Industry in three sites: Kofa, Dibagha and Baghdad.” He said that “the company received huge sums for contracts with the Iraqi government, but nothing has been done on the ground and the money is embezzled by the officials.” The officials of Mosul branch were under investigation but it did not reveal anything.

Atyia Hussein summarised workers demands: "Cancel the self-financing policy, improve the wages of workers which are very low compared to the prices, dispense danger allowances similar to other companies which belong to the Ministry of Industry, justice for former “politically dismissed” workers, guarantee the rights of retired workers, freedom of unions in the company, continuous maintenance of equipments and machineries, investigate the \$ 17 billion from the funds of the company spent on fake projects, end the corruption in the company and treat everyone in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and stop favouritism.”

Majid Hamiza, a 45 year old worker was stopped at the last moment by his fel-

low workers while trying to set himself on fire in protest of the policies of the company, corruption and the miserable life they lead. Majid who earns just over \$300/ per month, supports a family of 9 members and lives in a ruined and deserted building with his family.

Salah Karim, another worker asks: “Do the members of parliament not pay our salaries because they have not received theirs so far? Have officials in the company not received their salaries?”

We must get out in an uprising like workers in Tunisia and Egypt.

Saad Issa, another worker pointed out that since 2003 the government has been executing the policy of the International Monetary Fund and free market capitalism. It was disastrous as it caused increased unemployment and reduced the production in the public sector. He added “Now that these policies have dismally failed, we find that there is no justification to follow them.” He concluded saying: “We send a message of solidarity with the workers in Tunisia and Egypt.” Sabah Yassin, another representative of the Leather Industries Company, confirmed

that the workers have been on strike for three days because they have not received their salaries for more than 42 days.

Alaa Abdel Wahab said “We are demanding higher wages because the current wages are very low in proportion to the living expenses.” He added “We are watching the uprising in Tunisia and Egypt and we express our support with our fellow workers in these two countries.”

He explained that the workers will close the main street in Karrada district in front of the company and will head to Alfarodoz Square to protest and deliver their clear message to the government as well as the public.

Hassan Abdul-Reda, another worker, said that there is an incredible amount of corruption and that billions of dollars went into the pockets of the company’s officials who live in mansions, drive luxury cars at the expense of the workers and they have the documents that confirm that. Shaima who was very emotional said that she received 350 thousand dinars (\$US 290)/month, which is the general salary and does not meet the demands of her five membered family.

**Continuation of p10**

End the Mubarak regime!...

deep political changes are in store for the entire region. As Egypt is a major political, social and cultural force, the impact of these developments on the region will be bigger, deeper and will have more historical significance than the events in Tunisia. Moreover, the working class in Egypt has built up its strength over the last decade. It has a long history of struggle, it has experience and it has wisdom refined by its manouvers with different sections of the bourgeoisie.

These developments will sharpen the social conflict, lead the mentality of the society into a different direction and impose a retreat on the many traditional conflicts which have shaped thinking in the society for decades involving parties which antagonised the working class and other deprived people.

The momentum of struggle must be maintained, its pace stepped up and the widest possible political and living gains consolidated out of these conditions. The expansion of these gains in favour of workers and the masses depends on the strength of the working class, its organization and unity as a great political force. Of special relevance will be the revolutionary spirit and initiative shown by elements among the communists and the vanguard of the class.

It is alarming however that there has been a blurring of the issues, slogans and demands raised by the working class with those of certain elements within the bourgeoisie. The workers' leaders need to be armed with a clear, well defined, radical message which accurately reflects the expectations and aspirations of the deprived masses. For this a party is required which represents the working class in the political field that will allow it to intervene in shaping the political future of the society. A party is what this movement needs to harness its struggle, channel its energies and make the most of its abilities.

The first and immediate task of the working class and its leaders is to intensify the struggle to overthrow the Mubarak regime and sweep it from the life of the community. The protesting workers and the masses of people must act to impose their authority in neighborhoods, factories and in universities.

The protestors must exercise their authority over the administration of society, ensure that the people are protected from attacks by both oppressive state forces and gangs of looters and establish general councils in working and living places.

Workers must separate out their struggle from the demands of the bourgeois parties, currents and prospects and fight attempts by Western leaders to steer the upris-

ing into "acceptable" channels e.g. through an "orderly transition" of power to people like Mohammed ElBradei and the like and/or by offering minimal reforms.

We should vigorously oppose all attempts to maintain the status quo in some guise or another. The entire political and social system... the system which created all the hardships which face workers and freedom and equality seeking people in Egypt... needs to be changed.

The workers' movement must make a clear and explicit distinction between itself and the currents of political Islam which seek to exploit the situation in order to carve out for themselves the biggest piece of the political pie. The Egyptian workers should make sure there is no repeat of the experiences of the 1979 Iranian revolution that toppled the Shah's regime: a development the Islamists used as a springboard in making their grab for power.

The Iranian workers (and in particular the oil workers) were the mainstay of the revolution to overthrow the Shah's regime and achieve prosperity and freedom. But the working class did not protect itself against armed Islamic groups and their ideas of "Islamic justice". Out of the worker's revolution in Iran arose its grotesque opposite: a medieval, chauvinist, fascist Islamic regime that engages in mass executions, wars, systematic crime, stoning, compulsory vieling and the assassination of opposition political activists and imposes abject poverty, hunger, deprivation, drugs, sex work and moral and spiritual regression.

Workers in Egypt need to beware of these currents and strive to marginalize them.

**Workers, communists and leftist activists of Egypt!**

You have an urgent task: to shape a distinct political line... a radical, liberationist, Marxist line that is independent from the bourgeoisie and its currents like nationalism, liberalism, Islamism and so on.

Yours is the task of leading the uprising of workers and deprived masses according to this distinct political line and posing a radical political alternative before the society which aims at establishing a political regime based on the conscious, free and direct involvement of the masses. A regime of workers' councils and a workers' government which immediately endorses all of the basic demands of the masses in Egypt;

unconditional political freedom

the right to organize, strike and gather

unemployment benefit for every unemployed person  
16 years and over

To p8 

**Continuation of p7**

End the Mubarak regime!...

separation of religion from the state and from education

full equality between men and women

abolish capital punishment

enact a progressive labour law

economic security for workers

**Workers in Egypt, workers' leaders and labour mass organizations!****Freedom and equality seeking people in Egypt!**

We, in the Worker-communist Party of Iraq regard your struggle as our struggle. We express our strong solidarity and stand with you in the dearest, most important and dignified trench: the trench of freedom and equality. Helping to strengthen your struggle against Mubarak's bourgeois regime and the entire capitalist system in Egypt is a priority for us, the communists and workers of Iraq. We are eager to see you win! Your victory would be a victory for all workers worldwide, but especially in the Arab world and the Middle Eastern region. Every one of your victories and every gain you make will have a major impact on the societies of the whole region.

Long live freedom, equality and workers' government

Long live our class unity

29 January 2011

**Continuation of p10**

In support of public protest...

the right to education, the government is bent on slicing off the share of the working class from public services, paid for by their own taxes, and force millions of people into taking up low level jobs and drive down the cost of labour.

The students' resistance is an integral part of the working class struggle and it must be fully supported by the working people, trade unions and workers' organisations. The coalition government is determined to use the budget deficit created by the capitalists to inflict a heavy blow against the working class and all its gains and achievements secured through years of struggle and sacrifices. The ruling classes are exploiting the current crisis to their own advantage and have begun a class war. It is high time that the working class realise that we too need to turn this crisis on its head and turn against the capitalists. Doing nothing and staying indifferent is not an option.

This wave of attack against workers in Britain is an attack on workers world wide. We stand shoulder to shoulder with all those who stand up to the capitalists' attacks on your rights and your livelihood.

**Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist**

**Worker-communist Party of Iraq**

**Worker -communist Party of Kurdistan**

January 29, 2011

**Demonstration in Husseinia against poor services and corruption!**

On 02 January 2011, hundreds of citizens of *Husseiniya town (northeast of Baghdad)* demonstrated in a protest against poor service, corruption and outright theft of the public projects and the deterioration of security conditions.

Nasser Alkaabi who organised the demonstration, said in a statement to media sources who covered the event that the protesters will go to Baghdad to carry out a stronger and violent demonstration if the government did not heed their demands to replace the city officials and hold them accountable. Massive demonstrations are organised in various Iraqi provinces against the deterioration of security situations, lack of services and the prevalence of administrative and financial corruption in all levels of government.

**Mosul sanitation workers demand permanency**

Hundreds of casual workers employed by the local council in Mosul are demanding they be given permanent contracts, awarded on the basis of merit and long service.

Salim Gtheer drives a council truck. He told Somreya News "some workers have been in their current jobs for over 10 years yet the municipality refuses to employ them on a permanent basis". Salim added "recently over 60 workers were granted permanency but this was not done in a fair way using the proper procedures. They were selected by political groups and influential individuals who interfered in the process". Salim said he was threatened with the sack if he complained about this issue.

Ahmed Ali also works as driver. He said "we do our job by removing garbage from the streets of Mosul despite the great danger, constant threats and sectarian violence. Therefore we ask the authorities to do the right thing and add us to the permanent pay roll".

## Let's Support the Uprising of the Workers and Freedom-loving Masses of Egypt!

Following the uprising of workers and liberationist masses in Tunisia which shocked the state authority and defeated its president Zain Al Abdeen Ben Ali, Workers and toilers of Egypt who have been engaged in a struggle through demonstrations and strikes and stoop up to the authority of the bourgeois state and its oppressive apparatuses in this country have entered the arena of a fierce political confrontation to overthrow the oppressive regime of Hosni Mubarak. Workers and freedom loving people from around the world are looking forward with hope for the uprising of workers and oppressed masses hungry for freedom in Egypt.

The freedom loving and deprived masses of workers and toilers in Egypt have risen against unemployment, poverty, political repression and utter deprivation of rights exercised by the bourgeois –nationalist regime imposed with the support of capitalists and their governments in the West and especially the reactionary US government to improve their living conditions and to enjoy a life worthy of a human being during this day and age. The great uprisings of the deprived masses in Tunisia and Egypt have rubbed the prestige of oppressive bourgeois authorities in mud and revived hope and confidence among all deprived and oppressed people. Through this courageous uprising, the worker and freedom loving masses in Egypt rocked the throne of state authority and have engaged in an ongoing battle with thugs of Hosni Mubarak and the oppressive apparatuses of his regime.

The reactionary Egyptian regime led by Hosni Mubarak has triggered a life or death battle against rebelling masses. The cronies of its oppressive apparatuses, who have the blood of labour leaders, freedom loving people and political opponents on their hands, are fighting tooth and nail in fear of the anger of the masses. Due to the fact that they are unable to repress people in police uniform we find them beside hundreds of criminals intentionally released from prisons attacking rebelling masses. Yesterday's events in Al-Tahrir Square in Cairo where more than eight people were killed and hundreds injured reflect the level of brutality of the reactionary and oppressive regime of Egypt and its president.

The working class and rebelling masses in Egypt in their fight against mercenaries of the Capital need the support and solidarity of workers and freedom loving people

worldwide. Their victory against thugs of the bourgeois Egyptian regime will build a firm fortress for the labour and egalitarian movements in the region and all over the world. We should not let the dying regime in Egypt regain strength against the revolutionary workers and the rebelling masses. The crime of this brutal and reckless bourgeois regime must be faced with the decisive response through our protesting ranks, we the workers and freedom-loving people all over the world.

We, the Worker-communist Parties listed below, declare that abroad we will push our struggle forward beside the workers and freedom loving masses of Egypt, Tunisia and all Arabic speaking countries and we regard ourselves partners in destiny with the working class and freedom seeking people in these countries. We also call on all labour organization and unions, radical and liberationist organizations in Europe and worldwide to participate actively in this political- class struggle to raise the voice of freedom seeking people in the world as a humanist-class front of the workers against capitalists, reactionary governments and dictators in the region and big capitalists and corporate in the West.

Long live the international solidarity with revolutionary workers of Egypt

Victory for the uprising of the masses in Egypt  
Long live Freedom, equality and Workers' rule

**Worker-communist Party of Iraq-Abroad Organization**  
**Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan-Abroad Organization**  
**Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist- Abroad Organization**

---

**Continuation of p5**  
**Tunisian workers ....**

The task of the communist workers is to organize an uprising and a revolution which will overthrow the capitalist system and its state apparatus and establish another authority, their own authority and rule on its ruins. Workers need to set up a system which ends the hunger, poverty, exploitation and slavery of waged labour. Which puts an end to capital, the profit system and its oppression.

The uprising of workers in Tunisia is in dire need of a Marxist prospect, Marxist party and Marxist alternative.... or the fate of all these sacrifices will be in doubt.

---

# FORWARD

No 3 Round 2 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011

## End the Mubarak regime!

### Overthrow the entire rotten capitalist system!

Worker-communist Party of Iraq

Further mass uprisings erupted in most Egyptian cities over the last few days. In the early phase the protesters demanded reforms like "increase wages to 1200 Egyptian pounds", "No to bequeathing of power", "work, freedom and social justice". But this soon developed into the political demand for a total regime change.

The impact of the workers' and popular uprising in Tunisia close by (which led to the undignified departure of the ruling dictator) helped turn the protests in Egypt into an unrelenting volcano. A mighty uprising has swept all corners of Egyptian society, shocked the ruling regime and forced Mubarak to start backpeddling e.g. by appointing Omar Suleiman as vice president. However the concessions that he has made have not satisfied the masses of the people and the uprising has reached a point where no promises or reforms like "dissolving Ahmad Nazif's government" will work.

The masses in Egypt are heading toward overthrowing the oppressive regime of Mubarak which is hostile to the people's freedoms and prosperity.

Whatever label attached to this uprising by various political currents there is no doubt it is the uprising of millions of the masses of people who suffer from economic misery and political oppression and aspire to liberation and a better life.

It is the uprising of the workers, the youth and liberationist masses against an oppressive political regime and the injustice of the capitalist system. It is a manifestation of a sharp struggle in Egyptian society between two main classes: the working class (and along with it, all the deprived and freedom-loving people) on the one hand and the ruling capitalist class on the other. Capitalism in Egypt (like anywhere else) is a political and social system that creates misery, injustice, oppression and exploitation.

This is the uprising of millions of people who are saying a loud NO to this repulsive regime with its injustice, lack of respect for basic rights, its corruption and plunder. The message of workers, toilers and freedom lovers of Egypt is clear. This regime has to go and go for good!

Following on from the overthrow of the dictatorship in Tunisia, current developments in Egypt are a sign that

To p7 

**Editor in Chief:** Toma Hamid  
tomalwyn@bigpond.com  
00 61351553438 , 00 61422135730

**Assistant Editor:** Nadia Mahmood  
nadia64uk@yahoo.com

**Subeditor:** Lynn Smith

**Editor:** Noori Bashir

[www.wpiraq.net](http://www.wpiraq.net)

## In support of public protest against student tuition fees increase and public service

The capitalist Tory-Lib Dem government has, under the pretext of dealing with the budget deficit, launched an all out assault on the livelihood of the working people and public services. In this context, the massive increases in university tuition fees and the cost of higher education is a direct attack against the children from working and low income backgrounds, denying them access to higher education. It is worth remembering that it was during Tony Blair's term of office that free higher education and student grant were replaced by tuition fees and loans and hence destroying the right to free higher education.

The Labour, Lib-Dem, and the Conservative, all share a common view on how to tackle the capitalists' crisis at the expense of the working class and the vulnerable groups in this country. Their point of contention, however, seems to be only over the speed of the cuts and the timing.

While the bosses, bankers and high ranking bureaucrats are enjoying hefty salaries and bonuses, billions of tax payers money are spent on military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan and it is the working classes jobs, wages, essential services and welfare that have borne the brunt of the attacks to pay for the capitalist crisis.

The actions of the coalition government and especially the behaviour of the Lib-Dems in opposition and in power has exposed the sham and the hypocritical nature of parliamentary democracy. Every few years the voters are coerced into voting to elect a government. Once in power they totally abandon their own pledges and the voters and do whatever necessary to protect the interest of the ruling classes. And as we all saw during the students protests last year, they even resorted to naked aggression to quell the legitimate protests of the students.

The students' fight against the tuition fees and the cost of education is part and parcel of the wider class war going on in the society. Apart from denying millions of people

To p8 