



International Action Day of Marxist debating about revolution together with the Colombian Trotskyists and Syrian partisans



After enormous revolutionary mass onslaughts in Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Bolivia...

Colombia: the Latin American revolution is standing up once more

From the "first lines" and
the Resistance committees

The masses are
confronting Duque's
fascist gangs and the
betrayal by the National
Strike Committee



Colombia: international day of debate on the revolution

On Sunday May 9, a day of strategic debate was held organized by “The International Worker Organizer” around the enormous uprising of the Colombian exploited. Workers and young revolutionaries from Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Syria, the Spanish State, France, Italy, Belgium and Iran participated.

The interventions of the revolutionary comrades of Cali and Pereira, from the heart of the uprising in Colombia, and of the young partisans of the Syrian resistance were highlighted. Both, protagonists of two revolutionary focus of the planet, who were able to express themselves and discuss the key issues of the revolution in Latin America and the Middle East.

It was a meeting held in the heat of the struggle, from the very terrain of the class war, as evidenced when the comrades from Cali denounced a fascist attack at the same time as the events occurred.

In this Special Supplement we present the main interventions of the day, rich in strategic reflections on revolution and counterrevolution to intervene on the battlefield.

From the heart of Rebel Colombia

“Cheo” Navarro, leader of the Internationalist Workers’ Nucleus

“These revolutionary action days in Colombia are a continuation of the onslaughts that the working class carried out in 2019 in Ecuador, Bolivia and Chile”

From the rebellious Colombia, receive a warm revolutionary greeting. For ten days, the Colombian people have been leading huge revolutionary action days that have shaken the foundations of the murderous Duque-Urbe government.

These days are continuity and part of the offensives that the working class staged in Ecuador, Bolivia and Chile in 2019, which put the governments of these countries in check. Until today in Colombia and from November 21, 2019 the great struggles are led by a new generation of workers and young fighters, who have surpassed the Stalinist leaderships that for decades betrayed their struggle.

On January 30 and 31, 2020, the National Strike Committee, made up of the bureaucracies of the workers’ centrals (CUT-CGT-CTC and the FE-CODE teacher union), led by Stalinists, called for a meeting to continue



First revolutionary days against the Duque government

the struggle that had began in 2019. There a brave sector of workers, young workers and students stood up against these bureaucracies, which prevented them from participating in the event in order to consummate their betrayal by negotiating with the government behind the backs of the exploited masses.

Those leaderships were surpassed. The young workers and students broke the security thugs' restraining cords, pushed them back with enormous belligerence and forced them to open the access doors to allow entry. As a result of this struggle, the Social and Popular Trade Union National Coordinator

emerged and was established as a pole of regrouping for the combative vanguard to coordinate and unify all the sectors in struggle.

Here and there those processes were stopped, fell back or were led to cruel defeats by treacherous union bureaucracies and collaborationist leaderships.

Colombia was no exception. The Stalinist bureaucracies of the trade union centrals, the reformist left together with the bourgeois center-left of Petro's *Human Colombia*, submit us to the peace pact of Havana signed between the Castros and Obama, a pact of "peace of the graves", of surrender of the FARC and massacre to the Colombian exploited and fighters, with the aim of taking the labor movement out of the fight for the revolutionary general strike, the only way to get food, recover the land, the right to work and decent wages.

The betrayals of Stalinism have allowed imperialism to maintain -not only in Colombia but throughout Latin America- a fierce attack on our peoples after finally restoring capitalism in Cuba.

But we haven't been defeated. The slogans raised in the fight for an indefinite strike at the end of 2019 are the same for which we are returning to the streets today: against the tax, health, labor and pension reforms demanded by the IMF, and to stop the massacre so that they stop killing us. Today we again face the regime, its army, the police and the murderous paramilitaries.

The exploited in Colombia have drawn the conclusion that, to achieve

the slightest of our demands, we must overthrow the murderous Duque government, the government of the 9 US imperialists military bases.

At this time, the leaderships of the workers' centrals and reformism, together with the bourgeoisie -including the opposition-, are once again trying to set up the trap by tying the struggle of the exploited Colombians to the current electoral campaign in development, which leads to the election of a president and congressmen in 2022.

This betrayal was ratified when in April 28 protests got out of their hands and the bureaucracies call for the immediate lifting of the national strike and to celebrate at May 1 an event by zoom. These are joined by the pseudo-left, the reformists, taking the struggle off the streets only to allow the regime and this government agent of the capitalists and imperialism to have their hands free to deepen a cruel attack, not only repressing, to impose the reforms required by the IMF.

The response of the masses was to take the struggle into their own hands, organizing themselves and winning the streets again to break those pacts of death and make the bourgeoisie tremble. To face the betrayal and go for it all, it was necessary to act independently of the bureaucracies. Now we need to structure and consolidate an organization of struggle recognized by the workers, the people and the poor peasants, to stop this attack, the theft of the Colombian land and wealth; a body that is elected from the grassroots, from the bottom up and with the free recalling of its leaders. Self-governing is a felt necessity. In most cities of the

country, progress has been made in confronting the repressive forces of the regime both day and night, who, with orders to kill, have not been able to get us off the streets or Colombian highways.

We can't stop. We must advance



Chile: November 2019

in the alliance and unity of a National Struggle Front of workers, poor peasants, students and young revolutionaries. That is the majority of the Colombian people. We have to put up the power of those below that will shake the Colombia of the US imperialists' military bases, the murderous generals and their fascist gangs.

A revolutionary regrouping of the working class ranks has become more necessary than ever. This will be developed under the fire of the class enemy in the current fighting. The Colombian revolution is part of the Latin American revolution and it's wanted to be held down by reformism and the treacherous union leaderships. That is why we must raise a Latin American and world front of struggle. We don't want more deaths, the life of the people matters. Dissolve the police, that the soldiers abandon the generals, that self-defense committees arise and prepare the workers' militia: these are tasks that can't be postponed.

We Trotskyists must draw the revolutionary lessons from the current fighting at international level, especially from so many betrayals and revisions of Marxism, which have brought our world party, the Fourth International to the feet of Stalinism.

Our international current, the Collective for the Refoundation of the Fourth International-FLTI, is at the service of this very important task.

Revolutionary hug for all of you. •



Ecuador: October 2019

From Cali...

Intervention of "Los Comuneros" (The Communards) Group

"The four city assemblies ratified the strike, security issues are being organized and a plan on how to enter food and fuel for the mobilization"

Comrades, all of us wanted to tell you how this process has been developing since April 28. From that day on, here in Cali the 4 main and most important points of the city were taken, which were taken as the point of the mobilizations that were initially carried out and later ended up becoming a general strike.

In these areas the different concentrations and mobilizations began to be organized that always tried to reach the center of the city, which is where the center of power is. In those 4 points is where people starts to stay constantly, barricades are building up and food operation centers are organized.

On the 4th and 5th day of the struggle, the very violent confrontations with the repressive forces began. The regime begins to shoot. The police and ESMAD, which is an anti-riot squad that the police have here, begin to attack the communities and attack them at all points. At night began the military attacks by the plain-clothes police and from helicopters they gassed and shot on entire neighborhoods. This fact drives people to go out with more strength to the streets to confront the regime. You begin to see the dead, wounded and also disappearances. Vans start to circulate that pick up people and disappear them. Here in the city we have around 6 disappeared, around 35 dead, more than 150 injured and around 400 detained until today.

On the other hand, from the 4th and 5th day of the struggle, committees began to be built on each block in the neighborhoods. For example, yesterday a committee in the area arose here. In these committees a record is drawn up of what is resolved and delegates are elected. These delegates can't make decisions by themselves in the negotiations or in the boards that are to be formed, but every consultation must be submitted to the referendum of the communities to decide whether or not to accept any proposal that exists,

be it from the regime or from any sector.

This led to the emergence of other committees and other councils to coordinate us, as happened in Puerto Rellena and Sameco. Today in Sameco there was an assembly too. Minutes were drawn up and delegates were elected. The same is being done in another sector of the city, in the southern area. At this moment there is an assembly where workers, peasants, students and popular sectors participate. Right now they are in session and are making a trial against the two policemen who were captured with weapons inside the mobilization, who got involved to provoke the concentration.

The four assemblies that were held in the city confirmed that the strike continues. For this they are organizing security issues, food supply and a humanitarian work plan in terms of how to enter food and fuel for the mobilization. That is the panorama of what we are experiencing here and also in other nearby cities such as Yumbo, Palmira and Amundí.

We are trying to coordinate all the committees in the different parts of the city. At the moment we are waiting for the largest assembly to end, which is the one currently in session at the University del Valle, where thousands of workers, indigenous people and students are present. They have already defined that they are going to continue the strike, but they are going to make a work plan and a coordination plan to guarantee the supply, the security of the neighborhoods and a plan of struggle and mobilization.

The other thing that was being defined was for the Governor of El Valle and the Mayor of Cali to resign. Those were the proposals that we had made initially and that they had taken to propose it and submit it to the assembly's decision.



Cali exploited youth confronting repression

The day was crossed by a savage repression in Cali, and from the events themselves the "Comuneros" denounced

A group of indigenous people from the Minga who come from Cauca were preparing to make a blockage in the middle of the protest, at the height of a sector called La María. Automatically the paramilitary groups of a privileged sector of the city, called Ciudad Jardín, went out to prevent the blockage. There were shots fired by those paramilitary forces in that sector, attacking the group of indigenous people, supported by ESMAD, which immediately reacted and appeared with their vandal motorcycles attacking this group of indigenous people with tear gas. There are at least 9 gunshot wounded from the firearms of a group of civilians from the bourgeois sector of Cali who attacked one of the indigenous buses. After that operation that they carried out with civilians, the police entered the University del Valle with tankettes and began to launch gases from the helicopters. Inside there were about 10,000 people, between those who were concentrated in the coliseum and the people who were outside. The police have cordoned off the sector.

People are full of anger and want to continue the strike. There is nothing to talk about, there is nothing to discuss. Nobody wants to know anything with the government.

From Pereira...

Carlos García, member of the National Union, Social and Popular Coordinator

“The workers, despite the calls of the traitors to lift the strike, have taken to the streets and persevered in continue mobilizing”

Good afternoon comrades. I send greetings to all the comrades from the different international organizations that are participating in this important event.

In Colombia it's the moment where working youth and student youth have broken the domination of bourgeois institutions. They have broken their ideological and political domination and are taking the streets throughout the country. They have also broken the dominance of the central bureaucratic apparatuses that have wanted to contain the struggle, when it was unleashed on 21N [November 21, 2019, Editor's note].

The national strike of 21N was heroic. But this time, **the workers, who are totally precarious and enslaved, have decided to take the streets and begin self-organizing processes** that allow progress in this fight.

In this process, its very important the intention **to build a revolutionary alternative to confront the Duque government and the plans of the International Monetary Fund** and also to confront those bureaucracies of the Strike Committee that are only there to contain and betray the struggle.

In July of last year the National Union, Social and Popular Coordinator was built, made up of unions and popular organizations, among the presence of different sectors, with the intention of appearing as an alternative, **for grouping and organizing all those who fight.**

But the reality is that this explosion of youth right now has no direction. **We have to try to build that direction on the same path.** We are in this process.

It's important to recognize that it is the participation of these youth, workers and students, which has managed to maintain blockades and also factory strikes, since, not being able to go to work, workers join



Strike and mobilization on the April 28 action day

the demonstrations, the blockades and the barricades that are maintained even at night in the popular neighborhoods. (...)

It's also extremely important to recognize the fact that this mobilization and this great strike has exceeded the day of 21N, in the sense not only that the mobilizations are more numerous, but also that the participation extends over time. It hasn't just been for a day or two.

The other definite thing is that **the workers and the people** have not been fooled by the traitors who have wanted to come to lift the action days. The workers, **despite the calls of the traitors, have taken to the streets and have persevered in continuing to mobilize.**

Here in Pereira we have had mobilizations with around 17 thousand people, many of whom could not enter the square for lack of enough room and had to remain in the surrounding streets. The mobilizations continued to come out of each neighborhood and each area of the city.

This process was repeated in all the cities of the country, but with a very sensitive peculiarity: **the Cali comrades placed themselves at the head of the resistance, despite the violent repression of the regime** that fires on protesters and activists who remain in the street. This murderous policy is very similar to the one used by the murderous Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria and the one used in Myanmar to dissolve the marches. It's a criminal pol-

icy of the whole bourgeoisie worldwide and here we see it repeated. That is why it must be understood that this revolutionary process has no borders. It's a revolution of the working class at the international level because **the policies of imperialism and colonialism must be defeated.**

Here and in other cities **the intention of the protesters to win over the army base was observed.** That is very important: that we succeed in winning

over the soldiers who are children of the people for this revolutionary process. **That would be definitive in order to bring down this dictatorship of Duque and Uribe.** Here we have gone to the barracks to call on the soldiers to join the struggle and for the families who have relatives providing public service to call on the soldiers **to lay down their arms against the people and embrace the struggle of the workers in the streets.**

This process depends on the pressure of the fight. Now it's about rearranging it. For that, **from the Coordinator it has been proposed to hold a National Congress of all those who are fighting** so that we can make decisions regarding the plan of struggle, the demands and how we are going to continue facing the current situation. This includes that we have **to confront the politics of sectors of the bourgeoisie and bureaucracies that are attempting a maneuver to lift the strike and contain it.** They are trying to reach important sectors that are part of all this mobilization and are vital, to try to negotiate with them separately, as is the style of these bandits, most likely trying to buy their leaders. This is avoided with the popular assemblies that have begun to be held in all cities, where tasks are discussed and balanced and all activities are organized to face this regime in the streets day by day. That is what the comrades have also been doing in Cali and other cities.

Thank you very much comrades. •

*From "The Truth of the Oppressed",
the paper of the socialists of Syria and the Middle East*

A contribution of the Syrian revolutionaries to the exploited rebels in Colombia...

"Coordination became our best weapon ... it allowed us to strike as one fist and held us together"

"But you have to have a clear program, because the same thing that happened to the youth of Syria can happen to you: they saw victory in their hands but unfortunately the leadership crisis led to a backtracking"

Abu Muad:

First, I want to greet the comrades from Colombia. I am one of the comrades who, together with several comrades of the FLTI, had the honor of having arrived on the battlefield in Syria. It's an honor for us to be present this afternoon with our comrades from Colombia, who are currently starring one of the most important revolts in Latin America in recent years.

Colombia and Chile were presented to all Latin Americans as the role model, and the masses have given their verdict. They can't stand the regimes directly controlled by US imperialism.

To us, who were in Syria, it seems important to emphasize that the combats that the youth in Colombia are having today are the same or similar to those that rebel youth have been giving in the Maghreb and the Middle East, especially in Syria, against regimes that are supported 100% by imperialism and are put there to protect and guarantee the business of the USA and European imperialist powers.

I want to mention one of the comrades who have been accompanying us for years, Comrade Andrey from Russia. Greetings to him who is present at this meeting.

At this meeting we also have comrades who are on the battlefield in Syria, where the revolution, over the course of 10 years, has suffered sever-



The youth of the Front Line

al attacks. It started as a riot. It turned into a civil war. There was a near triumphant revolution. The state and the regime led by Bashar al-Assad trembled. The masses managed to arm themselves, made their own coordination committees, and fought to the end. But imperialism leaves nothing to chance or the fate of the masses and launched a fierce counterrevolution.

The crisis in the leadership of all these movements led, little by little, the revolution to be partially defeated. Still, the masses in Syria have not given up. They continue to fight back. Today the epicenter of that revolution is concentrated in Idlib. In this city the best of the revolutionary vanguard of Syria conglomerate. There are the young people who, at the age of 17, were forced to take up arms to defend their families, their homes, their neighborhoods, their sisters, their uncles, their cousins and themselves.

Therefore, I am going to give the floor to these comrades, who are en-

thusiastic about what they see in Colombia and see themselves reflected in the youth who are fighting there. They will try, from Idlib, to give a vision that contributes, with their experience, to the process that is being lived today in Colombia. We hope that this process will be generalized throughout Latin America, as it happened in 2011 in the revolutions throughout the Maghreb and the Middle East.

Abu Mustafa:

Greetings to all who are present at the meeting, especially to the siblings from Colombia. Throughout these 10 years of Syrian revolution, we have been able to draw some conclusions.

In the first three years of our revolution, mobilizations were the main protagonists, taking thousands and millions of people to the streets. It took us 3 years to understand that the reality was that we were fighting against the



2011, Hama Syria

bourgeoisie, and that we had to extirpate and extract from them what they had stolen from us for a long time. Little by little we became conscious of it.

We took into account that the main thing was to coordinate with each other so that no one was isolated and we can all fight as one fist. **Coordination became our best weapon.** We got together in the neighborhood to find out what to do, to know where to put each of the checkpoints. The coordination **allowed us to hit as one fist and kept us together.**

Little by little, **the coordination committees became aware that they had to arm themselves.** First with a knife, then with a shotgun. Little by little we came to understand that our safety was a priority.

The mobilizations always started from well-known places and reached emblematic places. The idea was that our claims were seen all over the world.

Coordination and mass mobilizations, with hundreds of thousands of people in the streets, allowed us to disarm the police, since we vastly outnumbered them. **As the police stations fell one by one, the police began to surrender. They no longer came out to confront us because they saw that we outnumbered them and that we were armed.**

This is a brief account of what has happened in those 3 years, to be able to transmit it to the comrades. I salute you again. It's an honor for me to be here. We are at the disposal of everything that comrades may need, and the knowledge that we have acquired in the last 10 years is also at their disposal

Abu Muad:

Now we will give the floor to a very active comrade in the Syrian revolution. He was in the city of Homs, which is an icon worldwide and within Syria, because it was one of the cities that suffered one of the biggest attacks. It was besieged for more than 5 years, where nothing was allowed to pass. The masses had to manage to eat, even having to eat grass, because not a gram of food entered. It was one of the first cities to



Mobilization in Idlib

rise up and one of the hardest hit in the Syrian revolution.

Yezen Al Homs:

Greetings to all present, especially to the people and youth of Colombia. First I want to share with you an experience that I had recently. **From Syria we are in coordination with comrades from Palestine.** We are two groups of young people, because **we are the Youth of Homs** and we are in discussion with a group of young people within Palestine, since there these days, there have been riots around the Al Aqsa mosque, a sacred place that in these times of Ramadan the Palestinians often visit. **The Zionist occupier never gets tired of beating them. The Palestinian people have responded with combats similar to those that are taking place in the Colombian streets these days and also to the ones that inaugurated the Syrian revolution.**

With these comrades from Palestine the debate opened on weapons. But immediately **it emerged as a need to debate about who should lead the riots.** It's known that in Palestine there are movements, such as Hamas or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine or Fatah, who are the ones who lead and speak on behalf of the revolution and the Palestinian cause. Those movements sent people to Syria to fight against the people.

That is why, in this debate with young Palestinians, **the betrayal of these leaderships, which are even armed, came to light. They claim to**

have their weapons in favor of the people, but what they do is blocking the common people from arming themselves and preventing the struggle of the Palestinian people, to end up surrendering the Palestinian cause.

In Syria, after the beginning of the mobilizations in Daraa, which was where the marches of the Syrian revolution started in 2011, mobilizations began to take place in Homs. They were spontaneous mobilizations where no one coordinated with anyone. Only among a few by phone to meet and from there we grew in number of people, who were leaving almost spontaneously from our homes. We always went to the same place, which was the center of the city. The marches were peaceful.

The Bashar government responded to these marches at first with rubber bullets and tear gas, like in the Western countries. Later they were putting plainclothes inside the mobilizations, and between 5 or 6 they grabbed someone unprepared and beat them, kicked them, tore out their eyes.

When we began to see that the regime was making a huge deployment of its repressive forces, we made a peaceful mobilization to a police station and we were able to recover weapons that were in the possession of the police in favor of the entire people. In this way, a group of young people went out to protect the mobilizations.

However, we didn't dare to show the weapons, much less use them.

We hid them and we kept them as a precaution.

One day, the regime began to respond to our mobilizations with bullets. We saw that each day more of us were dying. One day it was 10, another day it was 20, then 30. But we still didn't dare to use weapons.

We started to coordinate between various cities, Homs with Hama, Daraa, etc. and we decided to go out all armed to protect the mobilizations. Thus, we were able to liberate almost 80% of the entire country, even taking 90% of the city of Damascus, which is the capital.

But I want to convey to you a mistake we made, so that you can learn from it and not make it. We didn't have a program. We didn't know what to do. We had 80% of Syria in our hands. We left a lot of weapons stores unused, because we thought we had won. We had not coordinated with anyone to create field hospitals. We couldn't offer real resistance because we didn't have a real program to follow.

To finish, I want to send a huge greeting from Idlib, from the shattered walls where Aziz al Asmar painted the Colombian flag with a sign that says "From Syria to Colombia, a single revolution." From the entire Middle East to Colombia, a single revolution!

I believe that it's time to set up self-defense committees, to coordinate them, that each of the neighborhoods puts 50 armed comrades, so, when the fascist gangs come out, you can defend yourselves against those people or make sporadic attacks if they require it, for example, to police stations. **It's necessary to be one step ahead of them with the coordination and the defense committees**, away, if possible, from the mobilizations, so that bullets don't run between the masses and the defense committees. Little by little, when these defense committees grow and the police recede, we must get to the generalized weaponry.

I close with these words, and thank you for listening.



Syrian cities devastated by al-Assad's and Putin's bombings

Abu Muad:

These were in a few words the experience acquired, after ten years, by the comrades inside Syria. In summary, I think they teach us how to coordinate among ourselves, especially the comrades who are in Colombia. **Much coordination is needed among those who fight, according to the comrades from Syria, to be able to advance at least to defend yourselves from this fierce attack launched by the bourgeoisie in Colombia.**

Apart from the coordination, **keep in mind that we have to be clear about a program**, because the same thing that happened to the youth of

Syria can happen to you; at one point they saw that they had 80% of a nation in their hands, but unfortunately the leadership crisis led to the failure to seize power and the situation retreated, unfortunately, because the regime was still in force and was supported by imperialism worldwide, as well as by the treacherous leaderships of which Yezen Al Homsy spoke. These leaderships were the ones in charge of speaking in the name of the revolution, but to shoot it in the back.

This is our humble contribution, on behalf of the comrades who have been in Syria. We remain at your disposal. It has been an honor. •

Greetings from the Cali comrades to the Syrian ones

To the comrades from Syria, we want to give them a warm greeting from Colombia. We have learned a lot from you. You are a school and a great teaching for us, about what we are living.

We pay tribute to you for what you have done and what you have fought for. We want to tell you that we are with you; that we accompany you; that you continue to be our references; that we take very seriously what you have raised and the struggle that you have developed.

Thank you comrades from Syria! Long live the Syrian revolution!



Intervention of Carlos Munzer, from the Editorial Board of the "International Workers' Organizer"

"When the bourgeoisie loses control over their slaves, treacherous leaderships want to prevent the exploited from setting up dual power bodies of the working class and the masses"

"This new wave of revolutions has set the fight to recover the banners of the Fourth International red hot"

First of all, I would like to greet the hundreds of comrades and worker and student fighters who are following this conference.

For our international current, it is very important that from two revolutionary centers of the planet such as Colombia and Syria, the protagonists of the revolution are expressing themselves. We have witnessed and listened to an exchange of revolutionary lessons, of learning and political elaboration between revolutionary fighters from the Syrian resistance of Idlib with comrades who today are in the most advanced battle front of the events that are shaking Colombia.

Trotskyism flourishes whenever there is revolution. We prepare for it. We learn from it. And we draw the lessons that allow the proletariat to overcome the crisis of leadership, that is to say, the over accumulation of treacherous leaderships that prevent them from achieving victory.

Holding a meeting where we can draw conclusions and learn from the living processes of revolution and counter-revolution is key for a current that prides itself on being revolutionary and that firmly believes that, if the revolution does not succeed, if a chain of socialist revolutions does not spread again on the planet, what awaits the working class is war and fascism, unheard-of hardships, catastrophes and massacres as in Syria.

If we revolutionaries do not begin to discuss revolution, who else is going to? The masses do not enter into the revolutionary processes, nor do they lead great revolutionary actions, armed with a previous historical and strategic understanding "of what they are doing". The proletariat, being an exploited and oppressed class, cannot enter a revolutionary process with class consciousness prior to the seizure of power. As Marxists say, the working class does not enter the revolutionary process with a book under their arms, but what pushes them to struggle are their unheard-of sufferings. These conditions lead the masses to attack the citadel of bourgeois power, to overthrow governments and regimes, to open real revolutionary crises and even to arm themselves. But to conquer victory and finish destroying the bourgeois state and impose their power, sustain it and



Workers and youth confront repression in Cali

extend it internationally, the working class needs a revolutionary leadership.

The masses enter the revolutionary processes when they manage to break all the dikes of containment imposed on them by their traditional reformist leaderships, the regime and the state; **when they conquer true independent actions**, which is the moment when the oppressed break the shackles of their chains of control of the oppressors and their institutions.

The traitorous leaderships conspire to undo every mass offensive, to disorganize their struggle, to surrender or divert it, while fascism and counterrevolution crush the most advanced vanguard.

The task of the slaveholders is to regain control of their slaves through their institutions of domination. For that they also pay and finance trade union bureaucracies, labor aristocracies and their parties, which give decisive battle to bring the working class back into subjection to the various bourgeois gangs. That is what the fronts of class collaboration are about: to take the masses out of the streets and bring them to the parliamentary detours. Chile is a recent and current example of it. The revolutions in the Maghreb and the Middle East, too, where the Constituent Assemblies or parliamentary elections were nothing but a diversion for the imposition of fascism and the return of counterrevolutionary regimes. These are the stark facts.

In revolutionary processes such as the one that is shaking

Colombia today, where a revolutionary situation is opening up and an enormous mass offensive is unfolding, it is also clear that these independent actions take place when **those at the top can no longer continue to dominate those at the bottom as they have done up to now**. The exploiters had to advance in a brutal attack against the Colombian masses to repay that fraudulent foreign debt of 150 billion dollars that Colombia owes. They had to finance the business and robbery of the bankers and transnationals like Chiquita Brand in one of the most oppressed nations of the Latin American subcontinent, which has become a true US colony dominated by 9 military bases.

They dumped the entire economic and health crisis on the exploited. As Lenin says, in a revolutionary situation, **“the upper classes cannot live in the old way” at a time when the suffering and needs of the oppressed classes have become more acute than usual**. This is a moment like the one we see breaking out in Colombia, where the masses that let themselves be robbed without complaint in the “times of peace”, in these turbulent moments feel pushed to charge against the institutions of domination and power of their tormentors.

No organization or party called to jump the turnstiles or to take over the Plaza de la Dignidad in Chile. No party called to set ablaze Minneapolis, Portland and over 50 cities in the US. No institution upraised the masses of the Middle East in two revolutionary waves. In these revolutionary processes that unfolded, it was the aggravation of the objective conditions and the great mass actions that defined the opening of these situations that Marxists consider objectively revolutionary.

Faced with the opening of these revolutionary situ-



Bogota: the youth clashes with police in front of the Parliament

ations, the reformist and traitorous leaderships got organized under the command of the bourgeoisie to strangle these revolutionary processes, as we have already said, while the Marxists prepare the working class and its organizations to advance decisively to create the conditions for the seizure of power.

This poses a serious problem for the proletariat and revolutionaries. They must be aware that the bourgeoisie is not only a class that acts in the productive process and controls all the mechanisms of the state to exploit the class it oppresses. According to Trotsky, the bourgeoisie is also a social force that defends its interests and its business to the death. This is reaffirmed today in Colombia, when the news of the fascist attacks on the heart of the workers vanguard and of the most brave and combative of the youth arrives. The bourgeoisie is a social force that uses all the institutions and agents at hand to dominate, enslave and control the masses, and to crush and defeat them when they rebel in revolutionary uprisings.

The international character of the Colombian revolution that has begun

In Colombia, in short, a phenomenal mass outburst of an independent character has opened up. April 28, which for the Stalinist bureaucracy of the trade unions was a day of strike to control the hatred of those below, was taken by the workers and exploited in what to this day is an enormous pre-insurrectional uprising of the masses in the face of Duque's brutal attack of taxes on the people and privatization of health care.

Contrary to what all the parliamentary and reformist Left of the Americas affirms, the Duque government, based on the Uribista regime of the US military bases, is an openly Bonapartist government, supported by the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and by paramilitary forces and fascist gangs with which the worker and peasant vanguard of that country is disciplined and kept at bay.

This regime has been strengthened and dressed up as

“progressive” and “pacifist” by an infamous counterrevolutionary pact between imperialism, the Duque-Urbe government and the Stalinist scum. In 2008, the Chávez-Urbe embrace in UNASUR to share the oil business when the price of a barrel was at 130 dollars, had as its background the Uribe government assassinating the entire leadership of the FARC guerrilla in Ecuador. Beyond this or that complaint of the “Bolivarian bourgeoisie”, everything ended in a big hug.

This extended to a sinister pact in Havana, from where Castroism handed over the FARC disarmed to the government and the murderous regime of the US bases in a “peace agreement”, closing a historic cycle of peasant civil war. This was the so-called “reconciliation pact”. As a reward, imperialism allowed good business conditions to the new Castroite bourgeoisie.

Meanwhile, the jails of Colombia were filled with politi-

cal prisoners and there was not a day in which the paramilitary and fascist groups did not assassinate former leaders of the FARC or politically influenced by them in the cities and in the countryside. Not to mention the union fighters. All of them were openly surrendered by the petty-bourgeois guerrilla leadership and by Castroism. A treacherous betrayal, as they had already done in El Salvador and Nicaragua in the '80s. This betrayal continues to this day. The wings and fractions that refuse to disarm are and have been assassinated and surrendered by Stalinism itself. Stalin did it at the end of World War II with the partisans who refused to surrender their weapons in the devastated post-war Europe. Castroism did it in the 1980s in Central America. And they also have been doing it in Colombia.

This semi-fascist government of Duque and this Uribe-ista regime of the US bases, covered with a cloak of “reconciliation” and “goodness”, thought it was strong enough and attacked the masses violently. It was a miscalculation. A new urban workers' movement had just surpassed in 2019 the Stalinist leadership of the trade unions in hard fights for their demands. Broad sectors of the peasant movement, uncontrolled by the FARC guerrilla apparatus, entered the struggle. A hardened student movement took the cause of free education and health care into its own hands.

The whip of capital was uniting all the exploited sectors that burst out on April 28 and terrified the government, the regime and the traitorous leaderships that quickly, on April 30, called for the struggle to be stopped. Duque immediately withdrew the “tax reform”... but it was too late. The mass uprising had already begun.

From the international point of view, the Colombian revolution which is in its beginnings has a decisive importance in Latin America, which all the reformist Left of the continent tries to hide. Actually, this revolution attacks both the most important counterrevolutionary device, together with the military base in Honduras, which the United States has for Central America, the Caribbean and South America, and an infamous pact between US imperialism with Castroism and all the Stalinist bureaucracies of the trade unions and workers' organizations of the Americas.

Colombia's government, the paramilitaries, the army, its judges and Parliament are direct puppets of the U.S. embassy and the US centurions of the military bases.

An advance and a victory of the Colombian revolution would be a hard blow to one of the key counterrevolutionary devices of imperialism for Latin America, at the level of the military bases in Honduras or the Chilean Pinochetista army, direct appendix of West Point.

Those military bases installed in Colombia have a Commander in Chief who is in the US and his name is Joe Biden,



Health workers support demonstrations

the new friend of the entire reformist left of the planet. We must know that in the world there are five military commands with which the United States try to control the five continents. One, AFRICOM, is to control all of black Africa under the conditions of plunder imposed by imperialism. In Japan, in Okinawa, there is the most powerful US military base on the planet, from where the Pacific and Asia are controlled. From NATO, in the center of Germany, there is the EUCOM for Europe. For the oil-producing areas of Iraq, Iran and Turkey there is the Central Command (CENTCOM).

And, as we have already said, in Latin America there is SOUTHCOM, controlled directly by the Pentagon.

Colombia is a “grounded aircraft carrier” of US imperialism. There is no revolution more international, more anti-imperialist and more “Latin American” than the Colombian revolution.

If we defeat the largest counterrevolutionary device of imperialism, the confrontation against imperialism and its plundering of the oppressed nations would be greatly facilitated for the Latin American masses, and the dominance of the United States, including the domestic one, would be terribly weakened.

This is a task that the Colombian workers and exploited will not be able to lead to victory if they are not part of a generalized struggle of the workers and poor peasants of Central and South America, together with the North American working class.

This is what the enormous pre-insurreccional uprising that is underway already poses. Millions of Colombian refugees have left the country becoming political exiles due to persecution and death and also due to hunger and misery. They constitute an important part of the Hispanic movement in the US, the Spanish State and several European countries, taken as second-class workers and super-exploited in the metropolises. They too have entered the struggle. There was no important capital city of the world in the imperialist powers and in Latin America, as in the Southern Cone, where there have not been enormous vanguard actions by Colombian migrants in support of their revolution.

→

“Colombia is a 'grounded aircraft carrier' of US imperialism. There is no revolution more international, more anti-imperialist and more 'Latin American' than the Colombian revolution”

Colombia: a mass semi-insurrection that breaks with the control of the old reformist leaderships and the bourgeois state

As we have seen, it was the masses who imposed the indefinite strike at the national level and began to cut off all access to all the cities in Colombia. Day by day clashes developed with the counterrevolutionary forces of ESMAD, the paramilitaries and the proto-fascist gangs.

The popular assemblies, the blockades with their resistance committees, the setting up of the pickets of the first line as happened in Chile, are already going through the whole country. The masses have set up the embryos of organisms of their own power that allow them to take the resolution of the crisis into their own hands.

The union leaderships had to “reject” the agreement proposed by the government by withdrawing the “tax and health reforms”, but they have already lost control of the working class and the masses.

Here and there the workers, on different days, carry out strikes by locality, city or union and when they leave their workplaces, they go to the blockade point in their neighborhood.

Charlatan politicians of the bourgeoisie and old snitches such as Petro and the bourgeois party “Colombia Humana”, (in the last elections they got 40% of the votes supported, among others, by the PST of the LIT-CI), complained bitterly because on May 2 the fight was not postponed and people did not celebrate “the government’s withdrawal of the tax reform.” Whom is this man, a bourgeois pictured as a “leftist”, laughing at? There is nothing to celebrate. Those below didn’t take to the streets and left their life, their blood, their dead and their prisoners to continue living as they have been until now. This time, the exploited are going for everything. Mr. Petro is furious: his deception mechanisms are not taking the masses off the streets.

The millions of exploited who enter the combat in Colombia have already understood that they will not be able to achieve any of their demands if they don’t topple down the government. From the economic struggle, the working class and the masses have risen to the political struggle. According to Lenin, they are no longer in the “school of war” of the economic struggle, but in the war itself. The political struggle subsumes and concentrates all the demands of the exploited for a better life.

Three years ago, a process of worker and peasant uprising began in Colombia and enormous pressure struggles. There were agrarian strikes, 24-hour general strikes, a thousand attempts by the vanguard to get rid of the traitorous Stalinist bureaucrats of the trade unions. But the masses achieved nothing. Then came the catastrophe that the governments and the regime threw on the workers and oppressed with the Covid pandemic. And on top of that, Duque gave a twist in his offensive with huge rates and taxes. Far from giving in, he redoubled his attack.

Mass response was immediate. The masses recognized



Bogota: May Day 2021

their enemy: the government.

What has begun -which is what no reformist can understand, because they only see the working class as the subject of union struggles- is a phenomenal mass struggle that threatens the citadel of power and that doesn’t want to stop. It’s because the masses know that if they stop and don’t kick out the government, they will achieve nothing.

The government holds on so that the masses don’t overthrow it away, because if Duque falls, he will drag all the Bonapartist institutions and the counterrevolutionary pacts that support him. And the masses, with the demand for bread and to be able to live, are tied to throwing out the government. A decisive fight has begun, and on today, May 9, it has been going on 12 days.

The bourgeoisie, once it has lost control of the masses, will not sit idly by. All the reformist workers’ leaderships, all the variants of Colombian Stalinism, all the bourgeois liberal “opposition” or “leftist” parties such as Petro’s, are trying to re-control the masses. They have joined the popular assemblies of the oppressed with their mayors and councilors of cities and departments to give them a pacifist content from within.

All members of the human rights organizations, which are parastatal institutions, have turned to the first lines so that they don’t arm themselves, to prevent decisive clashes with the police and the disarming of the latter. Meanwhile, the union bureaucracies began to call off the general strike of the productive sectors.

We are facing a real conspiracy and concentration of reactionary forces to demobilize the masses and disorganize their vanguard, for them to be later crushed by ESMAD and the para-police and fascist gangs.

A counterrevolutionary plan is already underway. This enormous mass action has a limit which is its spontaneity, its lack of leadership, which prevents them from seeing this enormous conspiracy that has been organized to undo what the exploited conquered in the streets.

In these moments in which they have lost control of the masses, the objective of the bourgeoisie and the treacherous leaderships is that the exploited don’t set up the organisms

of self-determination and power of the working class, of the millions of unemployed and hungry, of the rebellious youth, of the poor peasants, organized, **centralized and armed by city, department and at national level**. If that body arises, the masses will quickly take the crisis into their own hands. It would be the order of the day to win over the rank and file of the army. The burning of police stations would become widespread. It would mean a step forward in helping the masses to overcome the pacifism that comes from the “reconciliation pact” of Castroism with the Uribe regime. A state within a state would arise; a dual power that would place the victory of an insurrection, that is, of the revolution, on the order of the day.

All the agents of the bourgeois state, be they fascists, Bonapartists, leftists or Stalinists, have focused their forces so that this dual power isn’t set up, let alone armed and centralized at the national level, overthrowing and **defeating the bureaucracy of the Strike Committee**, which for now goes unnoticed but is the one that is leading the negotiations with the government and taking the working class out of the indefinite strike to protect the property of the capitalists in this revolutionary offensive.

Preventing the emergence of a centralized dual power body at the national level is also the objective of all those who are already beginning to suggest that we must go to a “Chilean-style” solution. All the renegades of Trotskyism in Latin America have begun to proclaim that the way out is a Constituent Assembly that leaves the Uribista regime intact and takes the masses off the streets, as has happened in Chile.

The LIT-CI and its group PST go very far in stating that the masses will be able to “politicize” and “get educated” with a Constituent Assembly. These people have no return to the revolutionary movement. They want the masses to retreat to a parliamentary consciousness, when in their combat they have already been educated enough, understanding that the bourgeois governments are only overthrown with the revolutionary struggle in the streets. The workers and the exploited are “politicized” and organized for the revolution in the unions, in the Soviets, in the pickets, in the first lines. Not even Kautsky would have dared to propose such anti-Marxist brutality, that the working class can be “politicized” and “educated” in bourgeois parliaments, which are the mechanism by excellence of deception and lies.

How backward has the consciousness of the “socialists” been in relation to what the masses have already conquered in their revolutionary uprising! The truth is that these currents need to be educated in civil war, where they undoubtedly feel neither comfortable nor satisfied.

But despite so many leaderships hanging onto the coat-tails of the bourgeoisie, in the current phase of the Colombian revolutionary process, the revolutionary spontaneity of the exploited is deployed like an enormous force, surpassing the containment dikes of the state and the reformists. This gives

the masses and the revolutionary movement time to regroup their forces, set up the dual power and overcome the obstacles that the treacherous leaderships mount at every step.

The limits of this spontaneity are also expressed, of the lack of a revolutionary leadership that is at the height of the combat that the masses are giving. That is the current crisis. The masses put everything. The traitors of the Fourth International have much to explain in Colombia. There, since the mid-1970s, two or three generations have fought to set up a revolutionary party under the banners of Trotskyism. The non-existence of this revolutionary party is, neither more nor less, due to the adaptation of the old currents of Mandelism and Morenoism to Stalinism in its union, neo-Castroite, etc. variants. This produced recurrent outbreaks and the dispersal of the forces that speak in the name of Trotskyism in small groups such as those that exist today in Colombia.

That there are no parties with relative weight in the vanguard, as the FIT-U groups in Argentina or the PSTU and PSOL have in Brazil, is because the crisis of parliamentarism has broken out in Colombia for a long time. The forces of the renegades of Trotskyism are not able to break through and strengthen themselves under clandestine conditions and fierce repression of the bourgeois state or conditions of revolution. They are not suitable to

move in those conditions that are deepening and will deepen both in Colombia and at the Latin American and international level. As Trotsky argues, the crisis of parliamentarism carries with it, as soul to body, the crisis of reformism.

In spontaneity, according to Lenin, lies the embryo of the conscious. The masses have overcome the brutal crisis imposed by the Stalinist bureaucracy on the workers’ movement. Unions represent less than 10% of the working class.

By surpassing these leaderships, the exploited have managed to set up organizations capable of fighting that unite all the masses that entered the combat beyond their professions. These organizations bring together all sectors of the working class and the exploited, the working and student youth, the unemployed, the black people, the poor peasants. These organisms are the popular assemblies, the blockades committees, the factory and workplace coordination committees, the security and self-defense committees of the first lines. These are the real organizations that in their “spontaneity” the masses have conquered, which are superior to all the organizations that are under the control of the prison guards of the Stalinists and reformists in the mass movement, which don’t represent anyone.

That these organizations centralize, arm themselves, coordinate and send the traitors of the Strike Committee to the dustbin of history, is a task that urgently needs a revolutionary regrouping of the workers and the rebellious youth that consciously act on events, distinguishing who are the allies and who are the enemies of the revolutionary uprising that has begun.

“All the agents of the bourgeois state, be they fascists or leftists, have focused their forces so that the dual power isn’t set up, armed and centralized”

The counterrevolutionary response of the bourgeoisie and the regime was not delayed

The exploiters clearly perceive the character of the mass uprising and that it calls into question their power and dominance. As we said, they enlisted all the treacherous leaderships, Colombia Humana and the entire bourgeoisie that poses as “opposition” to support Duque and not let him fall.

The bourgeoisie understands that a revolutionary process has begun and that “siren songs” are not enough to sustain its rule of domination. For this reason, the exploiters have launched their battle cry to call for the breaking of all the blockades imposed by the front line and the resistance committees throughout the country, preventing the circulation and trade of merchandise, while production remains paralyzed in various sectors. The bourgeoisie correctly perceives that it is facing a political struggle of the masses that have overwhelmed the leaderships that control them and the former have set up embryonic organisms of dual power, including territorial ones.

Thus, those from above have sent semi-fascist forces, that is, ESMAD and parapolice and paramilitary gangs that before, during and after the demonstrations go out to kill the vanguard and activism in the working-class neighborhoods.

The bourgeoisie is forced to develop all its instinct for self-preservation in the face of a revolutionary onslaught because it knows that it must attack violently the masses in order to continue maintaining its business, its profits and its power. The capitalists do not come to fascism by choice, but by necessity. Duque’s brutal attack on the masses with his “tax” and “health” reforms, expresses that the same bour-

“The bourgeoisie understands that a revolutionary process has begun and that ‘siren songs’ are not enough to sustain its rule of domination”



“They are killing us!”

geoisie could no longer continue to dominate as before. The bourgeoisie cannot retain private ownership of the means of production, unless it is by leading the offensive against the workers, reinforcing oppression, sowing misery and despair around them. They did it in the US, in Europe, in the Middle East, in Latin America. The crisis and the current crash accelerate this process. But, at the same time, the capitalists fear the inevitable response of the workers. They appeal to the middle classes against the proletariat, which they accuse of making the crisis longer and deeper. And they finance fascist gangs and repressive forces of all kinds to crush the workers. Here and there they prepare the generals’ sabers, while, as we have already said, the class collaboration fronts are at work, trying, with “sweet phrases”, to lull the masses to sleep.

The Pentagon’s plan and military doctrine to defeat the revolutionary processes in Latin America

In Colombia, the plan of the 11 Latin American armies gathered by the Pentagon in 2019 is being applied. There the bourgeoisie and imperialism discussed a “doctrine of national security.” That is, a strategy to contain, divert and / or crush the revolutionary mass ascents. They did so after the revolutionary uprising in Ecuador, where the army had even begun to turn around, with the soldiers lowering their rifles before the onslaught of the workers and peasants who were taking Quito.

At that meeting held on October 30 and 31, 2019, it was

defined that the policy was to sustain, support, surround and encourage the “peaceful” and isolate, defeat and crush those they call “violent.”

They did this in the face of the revolutionary uprising in Chile in 2019. Imperialism and the bourgeois front supported Piñera and strengthened the “pacificos” of the union bureaucracies of the Mesa de Unidad Social and with the call for a Constituent Convention. The more the trade union centrals were united from above and took the workers’ movement out of the fight in the streets and out of the way

to the General Strike, the more the repressive forces were able to attack and punish the best of the vanguard organized in the front line. The Chilean masses were left with 2,500 political prisoners, dozens killed and thousands wounded.

This plan is the one that is being applied now in Colombia. As we said, the worst betrayal to the revolutionary uprising that has begun is that the union bureaucracy, relying on the economic crisis and despair, tries to get the workers back to work in the factories and workplaces. In addition, there is the role of the treacherous leaderships in preventing the masses from taking over the Plaza Bolívar in Bogotá, where the reformist apparatuses are strongest, while fighting intensely in all the working-class and popular zones that surround the capital.

For now, the difference between Colombia and Chile is that they have not been able to end up pushing back the labor movement since dozens of workers' layers are still striking. Some go back to work but when this happens, other sectors return into the fight because their factories are paralyzed due to the lack of inputs, caused by pickets and roadblocks.

In addition, the front lines have an enormous weight in the working-class neighborhoods. The popular assemblies support and do not leave their front line isolated in Cali, Pereira, Medellín, Buga and in key cities throughout the country.

Today all the Stalinist currents and their new epigones, the renegades of Trotskyism, have located themselves surrounding the traitors of the National Strike Committee, who are the ones devoted to destroying the strike from within. Some currents say that the Strike Committee must be supported and others that it must be "reformed" and "democratized", "incorporating other organizations." Ultimately, this means ending the revolutionary rise that began because the National Strike Committee is the greatest enemy of the indefinite strike. "They do not represent us!", is shouted in the blockades, in popular assemblies and in resistance committees.

The current weakness of the offensive of the exploited lies in the fact that those allies of Duque, the strikebreakers of the National Strike Committee, who are the other end of the same ESMAD rope, were not expelled, defeated or separated from the fight and are free to go on to strangle the mass struggle.

It is a question of life and death for the insurrectionary process to set up a National Struggle Command that centralizes and coordinates the mass onslaught until Duque falls and the exploited open the way to resolve the crisis, taking it in their hands. This is crucial to the revolutionary process that has begun.

In recent days, the bourgeois left, the mayors who flirt as



2019. US Southern Command chief meets with Duque in Colombia

"friends of the people" and Stalinism are dedicating themselves to transforming a fierce struggle -which is already leaving dozens and dozens of dead, disappeared and prisoners-, into a festive act, as they did in Chile. They organize cultural festivals in the squares, events, kiosks, etc., as if the people had something to celebrate when their best children die in the fight against the government and the regime or from hunger in their homes.

The leadership crisis is deepening to extreme degrees. All the organizations built by the masses in previous periods turn against them, at times when they have started a relentless fight against their enemies. The FARC and all the guerrilla groups have long ago negotiated and agreed with the government and the infamous regime and they support them to the letter. The unions in the hands of a fierce Stalinist bureaucracy are the "Trojan horse" of the insurrectionary process.

However, the persistence of the combat and the tenacity shown by the masses continue because of their unprecedented sufferings and a hatred of decades and decades that has burst up. This gives time, with enormous casualties and with serious suffering for the masses due to a crisis of leadership, to regroup the forces of the most radicalized fringes of the vanguard, to coordinate and centralize the front lines and the resistance committees into a true workers' and popular militia to concentrate its forces and hit dozens of police stations in key places against ESMAD and the repressive forces to provoke their dispersal and take up arms for the people.

This independent action of the masses, which has all the labor pains of a revolution that is beginning, has to walk this path; or else it will go backwards, plagued by betrayals, stabbing in the back and in a bloodbath. This will not be defined in an act. Several more acts are ahead for this play to end. The bourgeoisie is still very far from developing all that it has as a class enemy against the exploited, but the masses are still far from having exhausted all their energies. At such a time, the key is the leadership of the proletariat and the masses, to shift the balance in favor of the exploited.

"Pentagon policy is to sustain and support the 'peaceful' while isolating and crushing those they call 'violent'"

A new revolutionary regrouping of the workers' ranks is necessary, which advances to understand that the tasks of the moment are the fall of Duque and the dismantling of this infamous regime, which would allow the working class and the poor peasants to recover the land, expel imperialism, attack the super-profits of the bankers and the transnationals so that the people can eat and live with dignity, and set up worker and peasant Colombia. This revolutionary regrouping is what the Colombian working class needs to conquer.

The fight for these tasks is a struggle within the entire vanguard of the world working class, to clearly define the flags behind which they fight and die.

On the one hand, there are the banners of reformism; those of the traitors who have said that "socialism is no longer possible, not even in Cuba"; those of the "Bolivarian" bourgeoisie scoundrels who spoke of "21st century socialism" and became in a new elite of bourgeois millionaires, agreeing with imperialism at every step; those of the renegades of Trotskyism who, knelt at the feet of Stalinism, are saving that National Committee of the Strike that does not represent anyone or are trying hard new pseudo-parliamentary diversions as in Chile.

On the other side, the forces that fight under the banners of the Fourth International so that the power of the workers and peasants in Colombia can stand up. This would be an electric shock in throughout the Americas, which would break the

Twin revolutions...

We have called this wave of revolutions in Latin America, of mass attacks that here and there are diverted, retreat or withdraw momentarily, as twin revolutions to the Maghreb and Middle East processes.

We are talking about revolutionary uprisings where the bourgeoisies and imperialism can no longer even continue to exploit the oppressed peoples as they have done until now. To survive, this rotten capitalist system must redouble its attack. To save the London City, Wall Street, the imperialist Europe of Maastricht, they devalue currencies, increase the



2019. New revolutionary uprising in Tunisia



Uribe and Chavez

detours and betrayals of the worker and peasant leaderships in Chile and Ecuador, which would quickly raise up the Venezuelan working class against the scoundrels of Maduro & Co. and his Castro partners than in Cuba and Venezuela are applying the same misery plans as Duque. There is the unification of the currencies that starves the Cuban people. The payment of an infamous foreign debt by Chavezism has left 7 million workers outside Venezuela looking for bread and a roof to live under and millions eating from the garbage dumps. A worker and peasant Colombia would awaken the support of the entire working class in Latin America and the United States. To make it a reality, all the forces and the attention of the revolutionaries must be turned there.

prices of food and minerals, redoubling the looting of the oppressed nations.

Life becomes unbearable. The masses enter the fight. Here and there they are crushed. The reformist leaderships are prepared to numb these processes with deviations, traps and illusions, as we saw with the policy of "two states" in Palestine -which is blowing up today-, in Sudan with a "coalition government", with attempts at electoral diversions, and sticks and repression as in Iran, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, with cruel defeats as in Syria.

But here and there the masses take to the streets again. Either they die from the bullets and sabers of the bourgeoisie or they die of hunger. The exploited fight to save civilization against capitalist barbarism. Their energies drive new revolutionary uprisings at each superior attack of the capitalist system and imperialism.

Although even slower and more out of sync is the wave that we are experiencing in Latin America with Ecuador, Chile, Peru and now Colombia, at a time when George Floyd's blood is still hot and so is too the tough battle waged by the American working class that showed that Imperialism can be defeated and that there are the greatest allies of the Latin American masses, against the cowardice and cynicism of the native bourgeoisies and the treacherous leaderships.



All the forces of the revolutionary movement fighting under the banners of the Fourth International to Colombia! We must set up a revolutionary insurrectionalist combat party, which is what the masses need!

Trotskyists, as we see on this day, are inserted in the key processes of the revolution and the civil war. This is not by chance. It is not because we were awarded by chance, but because we were eagerly looking for it. In Syria, in Palestine, as yesterday in Libya and today in Colombia and Chile, we intervene directly and sharply in the most advanced foci of the world revolution, fighting to set up leagues of revolutionary cadres who are relentlessly seeking a path to reach the masses in the best conditions that the revolutionary movement can have: in the revolution itself, where reformism at every turn breaks its teeth with its program and its revisionist strategy.

By intervening in these revolutionary processes we were able to maintain our course, update the program of the Fourth International and recover the enormous validity of its theory and its strategy, which has proven to pass the test against all the revisionists and opportunists who today are hanging on to the coattails of Stalinism, of bourgeois regimes and “democratic” imperialism.

But we cannot at all be satisfied with this alone. We know that in the time given to us by the masses with their countless sacrifices in their revolutionary offensives, our challenge is to create the conditions to put strong Trotskyist combat parties back on their feet, this time in the heat of the revolution itself.

All the forces of the former Trotskyist groups have been handed over in Havana in a “reconciliation pact” with Castroism at a conference where Stalinism “rehabilitated” the figure of Trotsky in Cuba in May 2019. The liquidators of the Fourth International have given Stalinism that flag so that it could clean the filth of its betrayals: Cuba’s surrender to imperialism, its pacts in Venezuela, its betrayal of the indefinite strike in Colombia, its backstabbing at the revolutionary uprising in Chile, its support to Lula and the PT in Brazil and their delegates sent to support the fascist al-Assad who massacres the masses of Syria. In the meantime, they have all clung to the coattails of the planet’s new counterrevolutionary staff under Biden.

Stalinism and the renegades of Trotskyism are and will be responsible not only for the deviations and traps that the bourgeoisie seeks to impose on the revolutions that are underway, but also for the massacres that the Wall Street “democrats” are or will be organizing.

These leaderships are responsible for fighting hand in



The Trotskyists in Colombia raise the banners of the Syrian revolution and the Fourth International

hand in Chile and now in Colombia to tell the masses that the fascists and the murderous police can be confronted with an electoral ballot, with pacifist calls for a Constituent Assembly, wherever, they say, “the worker movement learns”. All of them, like the LIT-CI and its parties, are enemies of opening up to the masses the perspective of weapons and the setting up of the worker and peasant militia. As Trotsky said, if the revolver cannot be opposed to bourgeois parliamentarism when the masses enter trapped in it, it is a million times more criminal to want to hand over electoral ballots to the exploited and not revolvers when the fascists go after them.

This is how Trotsky defined Stalinism: people who go to sing the wedding march to funerals and the funeral march to weddings. This is what the bankruptcy of the liquidators of Trotskyism is about. They, tied to Stalinism, have joined the ranks of the enemy.

In the Middle East they have already unmasked themselves by supporting al-Assad and placing themselves under the orders of US imperialism in Kurdistan. Their support for the Zionist billionaire Sanders is nothing that they have not already done before, upholding the “two-state” policy in Palestine, under the orders of their bosses: the Wall Street Left.

Reformism has imbued the workers’ vanguard with pacifism, subjecting it to the bourgeoisie and its “siren songs”, while fascism murders the best of the mass uprising. The fight for a revolutionary leadership of the uprising is urgent. The longer the exploited take to carry their combat

“All the forces of the former Trotskyist groups have been handed over in Havana in a ‘reconciliation pact’ with Castroism”

to the end, setting up a powerful worker and peasant militia, the more fascism will grow to crush them in a bloodbath.

Imperialism and the Middle East bourgeoisies have been fattened by the massacres they have inflicted on the masses of Syria, Yemen, Egypt and Tunisia. Before it is too late, breaking with pacifism, the exploited will find the way to their own armament and the disarmament of the police, fascist gangs and vigilante groups, in an organized and centralized way. In Trotsky's words, fascism is the vanguard of the bankrupt capitalist system and the workers' militia is the vanguard of the proletariat and its insurrection. There is where the central battle of the revolutionary moment that has begun will be concentrated.

This question is essential to set up and develop a dual power that advances in the victory of the socialist revolution, a victorious insurrection that puts a working-class and peasant Colombia on its feet. A revolution that expropriates the land from the hands of the front men of the transnationals and the "narco-state" who have occupied the nation with iron and fire, expropriating the peasant and poor people of Colombia. A socialist revolution that attacks the transnationals, the mining companies, the oil companies, Chiquita Brand and that breaks with the IMF.

The workers and people of Colombia do not deserve the misery life, the hunger, the slavery and the unprecedented deprivations that their ruling elites have imposed on them.

The revolution that has begun will succeed by defeating the Duque government and the infamous regime, breaking with imperialism and expropriating the expropriators of the people: the capitalists. This is the way forward for the people to eat and live with dignity.

In Colombia, a key link of imperialist domination in Latin America is dislocating. The union bureaucracies of the continent, which subject the proletariat to its own bourgeoisie country by country, prevent a unified and centralized combat of the Latin American working class with its siblings in the US to stop the massacre that has begun in Colombia for our class brothers and sisters to succeed.

Reformism has not gone beyond declamations in "solidarity" with the Colombian masses and "support" from afar.

A Day of Rage of the Latin American working class, with roadblocks, pickets, strikes, actions in the streets, marches to the USA and Colombian embassies, where the representatives of the murderers of the people are, is what the workers and youth of Colombia need to reach victory.

It will not be Biden or Sanders, but the American working class fighting for the exploited of Colombia (as it



Lenin and Trotsky

did yesterday against Trump), the one who will be able to stop the massacre of the masses.

That is our fight and our commitment. As the Trotskyists put it in the 1930s: *"the proletariat of Latin America has not been able, cannot, will not be able to fight effectively for its class interests, except in collaboration with the proletariat of the imperialist countries. Thus, for the Bolshevik-Leninists, there is no task more important than that of establishing the connection and later the unification between the different parts of the proletarian organization of the continent, creating an organism so well built that any revolutionary vibration of it occurred in Patagonia,*

immediately reverberates as transmitted by a perfect nervous system, in the revolutionary proletarian organizations of the USA. Until such a thing is accomplished, the task of the Bolshevik Leninists in the American Continent will not have been accomplished." That is none other than the task of the international revolutionary movement.

The masses of Ecuador, Chile, Guatemala, Peru, who are part of this same wave of combat, will play a decisive role in synchronizing the enormous combats that have begun.

This new wave of revolutions, children of a deep capitalist crash and crisis, has set the fight to recover the banners of the Fourth International red hot, to regroup the revolutionaries who with these lessons, according to Lenin, make each one of our cadres be worth 10,000 of the traitors. This is what it is about, that we arrive in time to put all our forces as a fulcrum to conquer a revolutionary and internationalist regrouping of the world working class. It is there where we will recover the flags and the strategy of the Fourth International, which were surrendered by those who betrayed it. •

"A Day of Rage of the Latin American working class, with strikes, pickets, strikes and actions in the streets is what the masses of Colombia need to beat"

Speeches and Greetings from the event on May 9th



From Japan...

JRCL-RMF (Japan Revolutionary Communist League - Revolutionary Marxist Fraction)

Dear comrades in Cali and across Columbia,

Revolutionary and militant Japanese workers and students will fight in solidarity with Colombian toiling masses, who have risen in a brave fight against the Duque government supported by US imperialism. Denounce the bloody repression by the ESMAD!

The development of the Colombian working class struggle rests on the fight of the revolutionary nuclei to overcome Stalinists and other degenerate leaderships!

Let us fight together!



From Argentina

Commission of Condemned Workers, Relatives and Friends of Las Heras

Claudia Bazán: wife of José Rosales (sentenced to life imprisonment)

“With my family we have followed closely what is happening and it seems to us an atrocity, today more than ever we must be united. An injury to one is an injury to all”



Claudia Pafundi:

“We are going to make a proposal so that those of us who are part of the International Network for the Freedom of All Political Prisoners and Justice for Our Martyrs may call for a day of fury around the world”

→ continued from page 19

Speeches and Greetings from the event on May 9th**Iran**

Sheyma Silavi, Iranian Human Rights activist:

"I send you the message of solidarity and I am sorry to hear the high number of victims who lost their lives in the protests... Being from Iran

and with a father who was forcibly disappeared by the Iranian regime in 2009, I send my love and support to the Colombian people... Long live the people of Colombia and the Colombian comrades!"

Italy

Amir Hakim Al Amery, fighter for the Syrian, Palestinian and every oppressed's revolution



"In my hands I hold the flags of Syria and Palestine, which represent all the oppressed of the world, all the revolutions"

Chile

Felipe Cruces - Partido Obrero Internacionalista (POI-CI)



"We feel enthused by the struggle of Colombian workers because that is the path we have to follow in Chile"

Zimbabwe

James from the Workers' International League (WIL) of Zimbabwe - FLTI

"The struggle in Colombia has driven the struggles of youth throughout the world; when it was believed that injustice could no longer be fought, now they see that what is happening in Colombia is what must be done"

Bolivia

Irene, board member of the Association of Victims of the Senkata Massacre. Dead - Injured - Deprived of Liberty

"My solidarity to all the brothers and sisters of

Colombia, for the massacre and repression... We understand one hundred percent what is happening there because here in Bolivia the same massacre took place and in the same way there were detainees... Have strength and much blessing to the Colombian sisters and brothers"

Milenka López of LSTI of Bolivia and part of the Committee to support the victims of deceased, wounded relatives and political prisoners of the Senkata massacre

"The uprising of Colombia finds Venezuela and Bolivia with the scam of the Bolivarian revolution, the same one that expropriated the revolutions at the beginning of the XXI century in Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador, saving again the Bolivian fascist oligarchy of 2019-2020"

Spanish State

Paula Medrano - Democracia Obrera (Workers' Democracy)

"Faced with the massacre in Colombia, it's key to be able to develop the worker and peasant militias, extend and centralize them"



See full salutes on:

Web page: www.flti-ci.org

Facebook: [International Workers' Organizer](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalWorkersOrganizer)

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE WORLD POLITICAL PRISONERS AND JUSTICE TO OUR MARTYRS

The rebellion of the slaves is not crime, it is justice!

COLOMBIA Urgent Internatinal Appeal

May 28, 2021

To all militant workers', Human Rights and Student Organizations
in the Americas and around the world

For an International Committee of Struggle in support of the Colombian uprising

THEY ARE KILLING US!



"Ivan Duque, murderous. Out!"

With the unity of workers and the exploited in struggle...

THE MASSACRE OF THE COLOMBIAN WORKERS AND EXPLOITED MUST BE STOPPED!

Unconditional freedom for all political prisoners!
Appearance alive of all the disappeared comrades!

Shortly after a month of revolutionary struggle of the exploited Colombian people who don't submit to the peace accords of the treacherous bureaucracies that negotiate with the murderers of the people over the spilled

blood, the Duque government and its regime of the US imperialists military bases gave the order for a massacre operation to punish the uprising masses and the rebellious youth of the first line who don't surrender, that's why they denounce and

shout "They are killing us, let the world know!"

The police, the ESMAD hitmen, the paramilitaries and the murderous army have killed more than 60 comrades, they hold 1645 fighters hostage in prisons

under torture and 21 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the police police have been already reported. They have disappeared more than 1000 fighters, whose corpses are beginning to be found in clandestine graves with signs of torture, floating in the rivers of Colombia, others dismembered in bags. They slaughter the best of the vanguard! This hated regime has even financed and converted the Exito supermarket, located in the Calipso neighborhood in Cali, into a police torture center.

But the revolted people have not given up and are still fighting for the fall of Duque and to definitively defeat all the an-

ti-worker plans of the IMF and the transnationals: **Out with Duque! Out with the gringos and their military bases in Colombia and Latin America! Out with the IMF, the UN and the OAS! For self-defense committees! Dissolution of the police and all repressive institutions like the ESMAD! Workers' and popular tribunals to judge and punish the murderers of the people! Appearance alive of all the disappeared comrades! Freedom for all political prisoners!**

The gringos and their military bases are the same ones that have commanded the fascist coup and the massacre in Senkata and Sacaba in Bolivia

in 2019. Now they seek to reedit another massacre on the workers and peasants of Colombia as a hard blow to the resistance and struggle of all the workers throughout all Latin America. They are the same imperialist parasites that command the massacre against the uprising of the Palestinian nation by their fascist occupier Israel; that went on a rampage massacring with Putin and the dog Assad the exploited of Syria, that is why we need the broadest unity, to free our prisoners, to do justice for our martyrs and to stop the massacre to the Colombian, Palestinian and Syrian people. One same enemy, one same struggle!

NOT EVEN ONE MORE MASSACRE OF THE WORKERS AND EXPLOITED! WE NEED TO ORGANIZE AND CONQUER A CONTINENTAL GENERAL STRIKE!

Let's call immediately for an **International Committee of Struggle** of the workers', peasants', human rights and militant youth organizations of Latin America, of "Black Lives Matter" -BLM- and of the unions in struggle in the USA, the Conlutas of Brazil, the militant working class and unemployed's organizations in Argentina, the COB and the factory workers of La Paz in Bolivia, the National Union, Social and Popular Coordinator of Colombia and the currents that claim to be socialist like the PST-LIT, Democracia Directa among others. This International Committee of Struggle would raise as a fighting measure the call for a **CONTINENTAL GENERAL STRIKE** with a program that contemplates a day's wage per worker for the first line, that organizes the sending of medicines, supplies and arms for the struggle of the Colombian workers and peasants.

The forces for this combat are already fighting day by day and can take in their hands the effective solidarity with the rebels of Colombia, like the fathers and mothers who continue to search for the appearance alive of the 43 teaching-school students of Ayotzina-pa-Mexico, like the Coordinadora 18 de Octubre of Chile that fight for the full freedom of the 3.000 prisoners of the revolt, the Association of Victims of the Senkata massacre that continue to seek justice and freedom for political prisoners, the



City of Medellín: "Murderer state"

Commission of Convicted Workers, Relatives and Friends of Las Heras that fights tirelessly for the political prisoners of the world and the acquittal of the Argentinean oil workers, the activists who fight for the freedom of Abdallah imprisoned in France for fighting for the Palestinian cause, with the glorious Syrian resistance that doesn't bow down in front of the dog Bashar, Putin and the genocidal US imperialists. The struggle to stop the massacre is the same struggle for justice for our martyrs, the effective freedom of all political prisoners in the world. Without justice there will be no peace for those at the top!

One year after the assassination

of George Floyd we say THE LIVES OF THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS OF COLOMBIA AND THE WHOLE CONTINENT MATTER!

Not one more massacre! Not one more disappeared! Not one more political prisoner in the claws of the murderous regimes and their lackey governments!

THE UPRISING OF THE SLAVES IS NOT A CRIME, IT'S JUSTICE!

International Network for the Freedom of All Political Prisoners and Justice for Our Martyrs



International Network for the Freedom of All Political Prisoners and Justice for Our Martyrs

➔ Continued from backpage

COLOMBIA

30 days after the indefinite strike... No one here has given up!

After 30 days of uninterrupted fighting, surpassing their leaders and deepening the struggle with methods of civil war, the Colombian workers and people made the government and the bourgeoisie tremble, placing on the order of the day the fall of the regime and the head of Duque, Uribe's puppet. If this murderous government, hated by the majority, is still standing, it's because of the betrayal of the union bureaucracies of the National Strike Committee, which, in the face of the panic caused by the revolutionary uprising of the masses, on April 29 one day after calling for the strike, they called it out jointly and on a front with Stalinism, the pseudo-left and Colombia Humana of the bourgeois Petro.

These traitors today continue to negotiate on the spilled blood of our comrades and preventing the resistance committees, the popular assemblies and the workers and students' organizations, unions and the standing first lines from being centralized and coordinated in a National Resis-

tance Committee, centralized in a workers and popular militia capable of confronting and dissolving the murderous police, ESMAD and crushing the fascists. The organizations that call themselves "revolutionary" and that sustained the negotiation of the strike-breakers of the National Strike Committee, refusing to call a General Revolutionary Strike, should stop giving them representation and join the call to set up a Resistance Committee in Cali.

Right now the habitants of Puerto Resistencia, in Cali, and in other cities of Valle del Cauca and the Colombian southwest, are being attacked in the middle of the night, with pistol and rifle shots against the defenseless population. A method of massacre of the vanguard, to terrorize and beat the workers and the combative working class youth, who, leaving everything on this battlefield, defend the few conquests that still remain and that this criminal gov-

ernment at the expense of imperialism intends to take from us, but despite the stabbing in the back, the masses have overcome difficulties, they learn and fight from their struggle organizations.

We make our the call to all workers' and peasant, popular, student organizations, from the first lines to send delegates to Cali to regroup our forces in a National Resistance Committee, whose first task is to organize a worker and peasant armed guard of the first lines in all of Colombia to guarantee security and self-defense marching to the neighborhoods and barracks calling on the soldiers under arms to ignore and disobey the officers and to pass with their weapons to the side of the exploited, because they are the children and the grandchildren of the thousands of murdered peasants and the more than six million displaced people dispossessed of their land.

Let everybody go to Cali, for bread, for land, against repression, so that we have not to mourn any more martyrs

From the First Lines we must march towards the factories that are closed and guarantee the inputs to put them to produce under the control of the workers.

Expropriation without compensation and under workers control of any factory that shutters, furloughs or lays off, starting with the El Cerrejón coal complex that has just suspended comrades miners with the excuse of blockades and who have been starring in a months-long struggle

against transnational imperialists mining companies.

To conquer bread, land and decent work for all, we must advance until we overthrow the Duque government and not stop until there are no traces of the pro-imperialist regime of the Yankee military bases.

Those from above have already taken our bread, our lands and even our lives... It's time to go for them, without collabor-

ationist leaders who give up our struggles...
OPEN THE ROAD TO THOSE WHO FIGHT!
UNITY OF WORKERS, PEASANTS AND STUDENTS. UP THOSE BELOW!

Land must be recovering for poor peasants and agricultural workers. Nationalization without payment of the

banks, the Chiquita Brands, mining and oil transnationals.

ALL THE NATION'S RESOURCES FOR WORKERS TO EAT AND LIVE!

OUT WITH DUQUE!

OUT WITH THE IMPERIALISM FROM COLOMBIA AND FROM ALL LATIN AMERICA!

FOR THE VICTORY OF THE COLOMBIAN REVOLUTION AS A LINK OF THE REVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT AND WORLDWIDE!

Grupos Comuneros de Cali
(Communerds Group of Cali)
Núcleo Obrero Internacionalista
(International Workers' Nucleus)

Collective for the Refoundation of
the Fourth International/FLTI

June 1, 2021





Colombia: 30 days after the indefinite strike

No one here has given up!

The only ones who surrendered were the bureaucracies
of the National Strike Committee that gave up our fight



Before it's too late...

**Let's all march to Cali to set up a
National Resistance Committee now!**



*To defeat Duque we must
take the struggle into our own
hands, disarm the ESMAD
and smash the fascist gangs*

**Open the road to
the Front Line!**

**Open the road to the
coordination of the self-
defense committees!**