

PAKISTAN

Who are we ?

● The International Workers Committee Against War, Exploitation, for a Workers' International (IWC) was set up at the World Conference held in Mumbai (India) on Novembre 19, 20 and 21 gathering delegates from 28 countries.

● The IWC was set up on the basis of the Mumbai Manifesto against war, exploitation and precarious labour which was endorsed by labour activist and trade union and political organisations officers from 46 countries (*)

● Its continuations committee is composed of labour activists from all political/ trade union backgrounds:

Innocent Assogba (Benin),
Alan Benjamin (USA),
Colia Clark (USA),
Constantin Cretan (Romania),
Berthony Dupont (Haiti),
Ney Ferreira (Brazil),
Daniel Gluckstein (France),
Rubina Jamil (Pakistan),
Apo Leung (China),
Gloria Gracida (Mexico),
M.A. Patil (India),
Mandlenkosi Phangwa (Azania),
Klaus Schüller (Germany),
Jung Sikhwa (Korea),
John Sweeney (Great Britain),
Mark Vassilev (Russia),
Nambiath Vasudevan (India).

(*) Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Azania, Belarus, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Korea, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

ALL PAKISTAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION STRONGLY CONDEMNED the brutal killing of 10 Construction Workers in Gwader, Balochistan

On Sunday 10 construction workers working in Gwader, Balochistan were killed by the terrorists. Terrorists put those workers in a line and asked them to showed their Identity cards, 9 from the Sind and one from Punjab. It is not a new incidence earlier hundreds of workers were killed in the same way.

All Pakistan Trade Union Federation strongly condemned the brutal act of the terrorists for the killing of innocent construction workers working in Gwader (...)

APTUF said that it is the failure of the rulers not able to maintain peace in the country, it is the failure of the pro Imperialists government not providing any security to those grieved workers working in Gwader and other parts of Pakistan.

APTUF strongly criticized that the Prime ministers and ministers pay huge amount to their own security, not paying attention to secure the lives of the working class/people.

This killing evident that it is the failure of the government to stop hatred among the people of different provinces with each others rather than to resolve the issues of different provinces.

APTUF also condemned to all political parties in Pakistan raising slogans in election that they are pro workers, but shame on that no one never condemned the killing of workers.

We condemned that the government is following the Imperialists plan of war, growing terrorism in Pakistan.

APTUF continue its struggle and raise its voice against terrorism and bring peace not in Pakistan in the region and in the world too.

APTUF demand the government to:

- Immediately implement National Plan of Action
- Reject Imperialists plan of war
- Stop taking loan from IMF/World Bank
- Not implement Imperialists policies
- Maintain good relationship with neighbouring countries
- Reduce defence Budget
- Give 20 lac to every workers family
- Give a job to martyrs family members



On May 1st APTUF took to the street despite a ban on demonstrations

PORTUGAL

Open Letter to Mr. Joao Vasconcelos, Member of Parliament for the Bloco de Esquerda (Left Bloc) in the Assembly of the Republic

Lisbon, 4 May 2017

Mr. Vasconcelos, Member of Parliament,

You recently declared the following in a French weekly newspaper [1]:

"In the every dangerous times we are experiencing, the holding of the 9th World Conference against War and Exploitation in Algiers next October is particularly well timed. Imperialism and its puppets spare no opportunity to strike out at peoples with the intent of increasing exploitation and extending their empire. (...) They resort to destructive and criminal invasions in order to subjugate all peoples who rise up against tyranny or who simply do not agree with their diktats. The threat of a new world war could become reality in a very short time. Terrible regional wars have devastated nations and peoples, on the false pretext of fighting terrorism or eliminating dictators. Whole countries and regions have been and continue to be destroyed – Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Mali, Pakistan, and many others. Trump wants to extend war further still, and he has already begun to attack Syria, Afghanistan and is getting ready to do the same with North Korea. That is how a new world war is in preparation, which could, this time be nuclear and have catastrophic consequences for all humanity."

Apart from a few nuances, we could share what you say here and the accusations that you make against those whom you call *"Imperialism and its puppets"*.

We could do this if the anti-war language that you use at a meeting in Paris to promote a "World Conference against War and Exploitation", corresponded to the actions you have taken in the Assembly of the Republic in Lisbon.

We regret having to state that this is not the case.

Here are a certain number of facts that are well known – and which are public and can be verified by one and all.

Mr. Vasconcelos, Member of Parliament,

You are not only Member of Parliament, but a member of the Parliamentary majority that supports the government (made up of Socialist Party members, Portuguese Communist Party members, and members of the Left Bloc – BE). And as such you have been appointed Vice President of the National Defence Parliamentary Commission.

It is within this framework, Mr. Member of Parliament, that you voted the 2017 budget, including its military expenditures, and in particular you voted for the funding to support Portuguese military intervention abroad, mostly within the framework of NATO of which Portugal is a member, under U.S. leadership.

The military budget is what financed last February the sending of the Fifth Portuguese contingent to Afghanistan within the framework of the Resolute Support Mission (RSM), i.e., the criminal military occupation responsible, in 2016 alone, for the deaths of 11,500 Afghan civilians, among whom 3,500 were children, according to the UN !

As for the Ministry of Defence of the government that you support, it recently declared in *l'Espresso* (8 October 2016) that it *"is certain that the government has the intention of maintaining the same level of engagement within the Atlantic Alliance"* (NATO) framework in 2017. (...) *The possibility of Portugal taking part in a NATO mission in Iraq had already been admitted by the Ministry last June."*

You have also approved the main items of the 2017 Plan, which underscore, *"the importance of the relations with North America, especially the United States of America, within the framework of the Agreement on Cooperation and Defence."*

In Paris, you denounced the fact that, *"Trump wants to extend war further still and he has already begun to attack Syria, Afghanistan and is getting ready to do the same with North Korea."*

But in Lisbon, you and the Left Bloc (BE) parliamentary group submitted a motion for a vote on 16 February 2017, stipulating that, *"The Assembly of the Republic in full session, condemns the launching of a ballistic missile by North Korea, rejects the international arms race, asserts the need for a global commitment in favour of nuclear disarmament and calls for the implementation of the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons"*.

It is one of two things, Mr. Vice President: Either it's Trump who is responsible for the military escalation, as you say in Paris.

Or it is North Korea that must be condemned, as you voted in Lisbon -- and in that case Mr. Trump's policy is justified. But one cannot ride two horses at the same time!

Mr. Member of Parliament, the Ministry of Defence and the government, supported by your Parliamentary group, keep on reasserting, far and wide, their unwavering commitment to NATO under the leadership of the United States under Donald Trump.

What will you vote tomorrow when Donald Trump directly threatens Algeria's sovereignty from the U.S. military base at Morón de la Frontera (near Seville)? One hardly dares imagine!

Mr. Vasconcelo, Member of Parliament,

On the basis of well-known facts that can be verified by one and all, we regret to state that your discourse *"against war and exploitation"* in Paris is reserved for Sundays and holidays... to mask your actions and votes in favour of Trump's wars during the rest of the week in Lisbon! Is it possible, Mr. Member of Parliament, that you should not be held accountable for your actions?

Your actions discredit in advance any initiative "against war" that you may take part in!

Several of the people endorsing this Open Letter participated in the resistance movement that led to the April Revolution of 1974, having refused to take part in the dirty colonial wars -- and in exile we supported those fighting for the independence of Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique.

Yesterday, as today, we will not accept that such wars be waged in the name of the Portuguese people.

José Santana Henriques

On behalf of the "A Internacional" group

[1] *Informations ouvrières* No. 450 (27 April 2017)