

INDIA

A first step toward the release of all the Maruti workers and trade unionists

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 November 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.

The Haryana High Court has granted bail to four imprisoned Maruti workers who had been punished by the Sessions Court with 5-year jail sentences.

13 life-term victims are still in jail. Their case hearing is scheduled to come up soon.

Here is the report sent yesterday, July 12, by comrade Ramniwas Kush on behalf of the Maruti Suzuki Workers Union (MSWU):

"After 4 years and 8 months since the incident that took place in the Maruti Manesar plant on July 18, 2012, the Sessions Court of Gurgaon gave its verdict against 17 workers. Out of these 17, 13 were given life terms in jail, and four were given five years imprisonment. Today, on July 12, 2017, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has granted bail to four comrades, Pradeep Gujar (1), Iqbal, Jogendra and Ramsabd Maurya. Our struggle is on in the courts as well as in the streets. We thank all those who supported us in our struggle. This struggle is still on because of the support we received from all -- and that solidarity has given us strength. We believe we shall continue to get solidarity and support and drawing inspiration from such support we shall march forward. On 18th July we will be completing 5 years of our ordeal. On this day we shall observe our day of resistance with full force. Hence, this is an appeal to all to assemble at Rajiv Chowk, Gurgaon, at 4 pm on July 18."

This is a first step, a first result of the tremendous efforts of the Maruti workers' legal team, as well as the tremendous efforts of the very broad number of working class organisations and activists in India and around the world who have demanded the immediate release of all the imprisoned Maruti workers.

This first step is a leaning point toward the immediate release of the 13 Maruti workers sentenced to life imprisonment!

On behalf of the International Workers Committee Against War and Exploitation, For a Workers International (IWC), we send our fraternal greetings to the July 18th Gurgaon workers' gathering!

Free the Maruti 13, now!

Respect the right to strike and to unionise!

July 13, 2017

Nambiath VASUDEVAN, Daniel GLUCKSTEIN, on behalf of the IWC

(1) Comrade Pradeep Gujar, a MSWU activist, attended the Mumbai World Conference Against War, Exploitation and Precarious Labour (November 18-20, 2016). He addressed the conference and called upon worker activists around the world to defend the Maruti workers threatened by repression.

Trump and Macron in Paris on July 14 Holy Alliance of Warmongers and Exploiters Joint Declaration by *The Organizer* (United States) and *La Tribune des Travailleurs* (France)

So it was that Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron presided over the traditional military parade on July 14.

In France, the national celebration commemorates July 14, 1789, when the Bastille prison -- a symbol of the monarchy's arbitrary rule and oppression -- was stormed by the people in their revolution. This commemoration was therefore presided by the man who is hell-bent on building the "Wall of Shame" on the Mexican border, on the one hand, and the "crownless monarch" of the French Fifth Republic, on the other -- a man who just pushed through the adoption of the Collomb Act, a law that makes the state of emergency -- the rule of the arbitrary -- a permanent feature of government.

Without a doubt, it is a holy alliance of reactionary forces, of warmongers and exploiters who presided over the military parade on the Champs Élysées on July 14.

.../...

Warmongers! Trump and Macron, whose troops have embarked on interventions, wars, and bloody occupations against oppressed nations and peoples in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Mali, Haiti, and beyond.

Warmongers! Trump and Macron, whose war fleets cruise the seas off Korea's coasts and participate in a dangerous military escalation against Korea and China.

Warmongers! Trump and Macron, who ceaselessly repeat aggressive declarations against Iran, resorting to the same phony "arguments" as those which, in 2003, were used as justifications for the war on Iraq.

Warmongers! Trump and Macron, whose administrations, just like those of their predecessors, support the criminal embargo against Gaza that has now been in force for 10 years. Moreover within a couple of days, Macron is set to receive Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump's faithful ally.

On the Champs Élysées, Macron and Trump loudly cheered the troops engaged in battle in Iraq and in Afghanistan who were part of the parade. This took place at the very moment when U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis announced that 5,000 additional U.S. troops were to be sent to Afghanistan, and when Lieutenant-General Stephen Townsend, chief of the Combined Joint Task Force in Iraq, announced that U.S. troops were to return to Iraq to be permanently stationed there. It took place right when Macron announced a further deployment of French troops in the Sahel region.

Trump can all the more strut about as he got Macron and every other NATO member country in Europe to increase their military budgets to 2% of GDP to promote still more wars and military interventions. And this, at a time when in the United States it was announced that \$2 trillion have been spent since 9-11 on the wars that the Bush, Obama and Trump administrations have been waging on peoples the world over! Of this sum, \$841 billion alone have been spent on the bloody occupation of Afghanistan.

These are billions of dollars and euros that in the United States as well as in France have been looted from the State and public-service budgets by Trump and Macron.

And that's because in the crisis-ridden and decomposing capitalist system, war and exploitation are closely intertwined, as was underscored in the Mumbai Manifesto Against War, Exploitation and Precarious Labor (November 20, 2016): "On every continent, war is ceaselessly spreading, exploitation worsening, and precarious labor continuously expanding."

Trump and Macron, these two representatives of finance capital, are not only engaged -- as labor activists say in the United States -- in a "war abroad," they are also engaged in a full-scale "war at home" against their own working classes.

While Trump seeks to impose a federal nationwide "Right to Work" (for less) law with the aim of driving out all trade unions from the workplaces to impose "labor costs" similar to those prevailing in the Mexican sweatshop *maquiladoras*, Macron, with his fast-track bills, has launched an offensive to dismantle the Labor Code by generalizing workplace agreements from which he would like to expel the trade unions.

While Trump and his administration of billionaires -- among which there are representatives of private insurance companies -- are hell-bent on dismantling Medicaid and depriving 23 million people from access to health insurance, Macron announces that he will dismantle the French single-payer healthcare system, the *Sécurité Sociale*, that was won by workers in 1945 through bitter struggles. Beyond healthcare, Trump and Macron are determined to destroy and privatize public services, starting with public education.

While Trump is pushing one "anti-immigrant" law after the other, expanding the roundups and deportations of undocumented people from Mexico and Central America that had already been carried out massively under the Obama administration, Macron, in agreement with the European Union, is expelling from French borders the people who are risking their lives to flee imperialist wars and poverty. Both these men, with policies that combine repression and attempts at co-opting trade unions to the State, are undermining all forms of political democracy.

But Trump has another point in common with Macron: Both were elected by less than half the number of registered voters; both are at the head of crisis-ridden institutions; both, by their actions, are fueling the anger of millions and millions of exploited and oppressed people against their policies.

The arrogance of these "grand figures" that was on full display on July 14, 2017, on the Champs Élysées will come to an end. The resistance of workers on both sides of the Atlantic -- despite all the obstacles within the labor movements -- will, sooner or later, put an end to the rule by these warmongers and exploiters.

As for us -- independent workers' newspapers in the United States and in France -- we will never cease campaigning, together with the International Workers Committee (IWC) and with our comrades in Afghanistan and in all other countries assaulted by these military interventions:

- *For the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. and French troops from the countries they occupy and where they intervene.*
- *For an immediate end to the threats, sanctions, interferences and military interventions outside our borders.*
- *For the confiscation of the billions earmarked for war, to redirect these sums to socially useful purposes.*
- *For the withdrawal of all the counter-reforms demanded by finance capital and all the "free trade" treaties and supranational institutions (NAFTA, European Union, among others)*
- *For the defense of the independence of the working class movement and especially of the trade unions.*
- *For a true political representation of the working class and the oppressed, for a Workers' International!*

July 14th, 2017