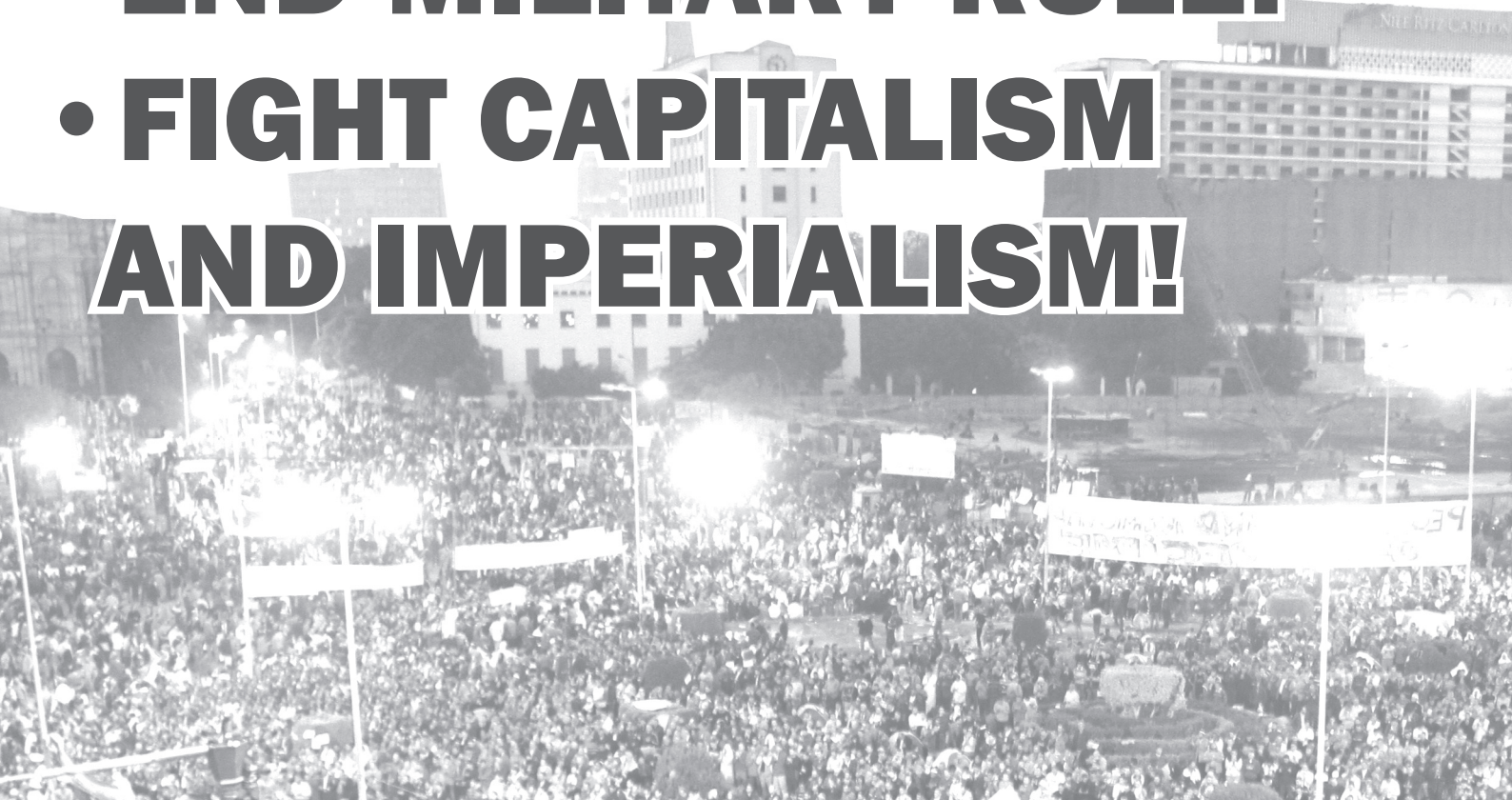




FOR A REAL 'SECOND REVOLUTION'!

- **END MILITARY RULE!**
- **FIGHT CAPITALISM
AND IMPERIALISM!**



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A revolutionary wave is sweeping Egypt once again. Huge protests have taken place over the last week in Tahrir Square, Cairo, and in cities and towns across the country. Courageous youth and workers have defied lethal police violence. The protesters demand Egypt's military rulers are immediately removed, oppose the military's election fraud, and demand real democracy, jobs and social change.

Britain, the US and other Western imperialist countries, still trying to keep Egypt as a regional ally, have made the mildest of criticisms of Tantawi and Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF). While dozens of protesters are killed in Cairo by police, the British government calls for "authority to be restored"! We can expect such galling hypocrisy from the ConDem coalition given their reactionary domestic policies, like opposition to the demands of the Occupy protesters at St Paul's and their vicious attacks against public sector workers taking strike action next week.

The Socialist party and the Committee for a Workers' International (the international organisation to which the Socialist party is affiliated) expresses its full solidarity with the movement in Egypt, demands an end to repression and the release of all detainees and fights to end all capitalist and imperialist meddling in North Africa and the Middle East.

The February revolution overthrew Hosni Mubarak but the bitter experience of Egyptians has shown that the elite will do everything to retain power. The military tops, which control up to 40% of the economy, held onto power regime jailing and torturing thousands, attacked demonstrations and provoked sectarian conflict.

Working people and youth have fought back. In September, there were massive strikes for better living standards and for democratic rights. Then the military's plans to impose a sham electoral and constitutional 'process' in order to keep power provoked November's new uprising.

The prestige and authority of the army has evaporated in the eyes of millions of Egyptians. Protesters demand the immediate lifting of the state of emergency and the freeing of all political detainees

and prisoners. Many protesters now call for a 'second revolution'. They have come into opposition with opposition political parties, including the Muslim Brotherhood leadership, which opposes the street protests and wants to see the 28 November elections go ahead because they are expected to do well. The revolutionary youth are disgusted that so much of the political opposition is willing to collaborate with the military junta. The real reactionary, pro-capitalist character of the Brotherhood leadership, which held talks this week with the SCAF, is revealed to ever greater numbers of the Egyptians.

The military junta was forced to make concessions in the face of this week's mass protests, including bringing forward presidential elections. The regime hopes to isolate the mass of protesters from the wider population, by leaning on more conservative and passive sections of society.

There is a political gap that needs to be filled by workers and youth organising their own mass party, with an independent class programme, involving, for example, the independent trade unions and students' organisations that consistently struggle to continue the revolution.

For millions of Egyptians, the SCAF's 'concessions' are too little and too late. The protesters have no faith in SCAF promises to introduce 'democracy' and to step down from power. Neither can the masses put any trust in a 'national unity' or 'salvation' government. This is a trap for working people and youth! It will be made up of elements from the army and various pro-capitalist opposition parties that are no threat to the vital interests of the ruling elite.

Youth and workers in Tahrir Square and elsewhere are organising themselves and heroically resisting the military regime. Now a programme to show a way forward is urgently needed. Popular, democratically-run committees in workplaces and neighbourhoods can organise mass struggle and defence against state repression. Such bodies, linking up at city, regional and national level, can form the basis for a revolutionary constituent assembly and a government with a majority of workers and poor.

The army rank and file can be won over, with an appeal to join the uprising, by addressing soldiers' grievances about low pay, bad conditions and treatment by their senior officers, and by calling for the right of soldiers to organise a free independent trade union.

The youth and working masses can achieve their democratic and social aims by developing the magnificent steps already taken towards independent trade union and political action and by mobilising the masses of oppressed for the revolutionary overthrow of the military junta and its replacement with a government formed by representatives of the mass of people – the workers, the youth, small farmers and the poor. Mass workers' action, such as mass strikes, which played a crucial role in ousting Mubarak, and the general strike weapon can also see the overthrow of the SCAF and the whole rotten, brutal regime.

A workers' government can take immediate action against counter-revolution and for democratic rights and immediate steps to improve living standards. Such a government would nationalise all the major companies and banks under democratic workers' control, so that the economy could be planned in the interests of the big majority of the population, instead of being run for benefit of the rich. This would entail breaking with capitalism and casting off imperialism, and carrying through the socialist transformation of Egypt, as part of an international struggle for socialism.

The struggle between revolution and counter-revolution continues as the working class strives to complete what it began on January 25th – winning full democratic, social and economic freedoms. In opposition to the parties defending capitalism a workers' party putting forward a genuine socialist programme, linked to the defending democratic rights and fighting for the daily needs of millions of workers and poor – for decent pay and working conditions, guaranteed jobs, housing, education, pensions and healthcare - could gain mass support. Linking up with workers and youth across the region, such a mass movement could lead to a federation of democratic socialist states, ending poverty, corruption and oppression and imperialist meddling.