

International Newsletter

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THE GREEK PEOPLE IS REBELLING against its Parliament that takes its orders from the European Union



Contents :

Page 2 - France : Solidarity with the workers and people of Greece Troika, out! European Union, out!

Page 3 - Portugal : Lisbon, Fe-

bruary 11th, 300,000 workers demonstrate for a political solution for Portugal.

Page 4 - Algeria : *Fraternité*, February 1st to 15th: « **Syria:** *The Libyan scenario is gaining substance.* »

Page 5 - Senegal : Common declaration of the four trade union federations, CNTS - CNTS/FC - UNSAS - CSA.

Page 6 - Afghanistan : A letter from a worker of AWCC (*Worker Bulletin* issue# 15)

Fund raising form.

Pages 7/8 - Guadeloupe : *Workers and peasants* newspaper, leader article: *Let's go ahead, Marie-Galante shows the way!*

Contact address

International Newsletter

EIT/ILC

87, rue du Faubourg-Saint-Denis - 75010 Paris - France

Ph: (33 1) 48 01 88 28. E.mail: eit.ilc@fr.oleane.com

POI
PARTI OUVRIER
INDÉPENDANT

*Pour le socialisme, la République
et la démocratie*

Membre de l'Entente internationale des travailleurs et des peuples

PARTI OUVRIER INDEPENDANT

87, rue du Faubourg-Saint-Denis -75010 PARIS

Tél. : 01.48.01.85.85

poi@fr.oleane.com

www.parti-ouvrier-independant.com

Solidarity with the workers and people of Greece Troika, out! European Union, out!

The people of Greece are rising up.

Following two days of a general strike called by the trade union confederations (GSEE and ADEDY), the workers, youth and the general public took over the centre of Athens on Sunday to demand that the new austerity plan imposed on the country by the IMF and European Union was not passed by Parliament.

On behalf of the financial markets, this plan of unprecedented brutality imposes:

- A 22 percent reduction in the minimum wage as well as a new reduction in retirement pensions;
- 150,000 job-cuts in the civil service;
- The complete and immediate privatisation of the water, electricity and railway systems.

This disaster comes on top of all the measures that have already been taken against the Greek people over the course of two years by the "socialist" Papandreou government and the current government of "national unity".

During the night of Sunday, 12 February, Parliament voted the plan through. Forty MPs from both the right and left who refused to vote in favour of this murderous plan were immediately expelled from their party.

The people of Greece want to live, they are rising up, to shouts of: "Troika, out! European Union, out!"

The disaster they intend to impose on the people of Greece is being planned and organised by the European Union for all the peoples of Europe: after Greece, it will be the turn of Spain, Italy, Portugal and France.

Throughout Europe, the IMF and the European Central Bank are demanding that the governments implement plans of unprecedented social regression in order to service the debt of the banks and the speculators.

The new draft European treaty (decided upon at the European Summit on 30 January) intends to impose permanent austerity, the destruction of all the social gains and the abandoning of all national sovereignty on all the peoples of Europe.

The Independent Workers Party calls on the workers and youth to take part in the demonstration (1) on Monday, 13 February, starting at 6.30pm (Kleber metro station, Auguste Vaquerie Road) and heading for the Greek Embassy in Paris.

Hands off the people of Greece!

IMF, European Union, out!

Down with the new treaty!

Long live the free union of the workers and peoples of Europe!

Paris, 13 February 2012, 11.00am

Claude Jenet, Daniel Gluckstein, Jean Markun, Gérard Schivardi

POI National Secretaries

(1) This demonstration has also been called by the PG, PCF, NPA, Left Front, etc.

Lisbon, February 11th

**300,000 workers demonstrate on Terreiro do Paço
(Lisbon's largest square)
for a political solution for Portugal.**

They came from every part of the country, responding to the call of the CGTP – the largest union federation, the one which refused to sign the “Troika” Social Consultation Accord – which imposes the scrapping of labour laws (liberalising redundancies, drastically reducing compensations and unemployment benefits, reducing workers' personal holiday rights by three days cancelling a further four days of public holidays at national level, reducing the payment of overtime and so on).

In an intervention interrupted by the jeers and boos of the crowd each time the words “government”, “Troika” or “*president of the Republic*” were uttered, the new coordinator of the CGTP, Armenio Carlos, affirmed that this demonstration showed the determination to protest, to keep up hope, to continue fighting to create the conditions of a political alternative addressing the problems of the people and putting the country on the way to social advance.

In his speech, as he launched the slogan “*The IMF does not rule our country!*” Armenio Carlos greeted the peoples of the world fighting imperialism and especially the Greek people, mentioning their general strike as well as the workers of the Spanish State with their mobilisation planned for February 19th.

On the one hand, he called to continue the fight and launched this criticism: “*The more we pay, the more we have to pay for the debt*”; on the other hand, he demanded to “*renegotiate the debt*” so Portugal could “*meet its commitments*”.

A speech offering no future in spite of the strong words?

“*I take part in every demo. but I feel that we are left empty-handed. We must do this differently.*” That is what one of the teachers explains aloud and his feelings are doubtless shared by thousands of those who are demonstrating here.

Actually, the only solution proposed by Armenio is to stage de-centralised marches, next February 29th, in the framework of the demonstrations organised by the ETUC, whose aim is to trap workers and activists into “*critical support*” of the policies of the European Union and its institutions.

The activists who participated in the Committee for a Ban on Lay-offs (CDP), who came from the factory town of Marinha Grande, received loud applause when they marched by with a banner which read “*Withdraw the Troika's plan*”. Together with the activists from Lisbon, they handed out flyers reading:

« **United mobilisation:**

- **To end the programme of the Passos Coelho/Troika government:**
- **To link up with April 25th »**



(.) The CPD considers that all the workers taking part in this initiative share the same strong determination to realise united mobilisation for the withdrawal of the programme of the Passos Coelho/Troika government.

(.) With this feeling, they greet the workers from all the sectors who are fighting and all those who are mobilising to demonstrate on February 11th :

to cancel the signature of the Social Consultation Accords;

to defend collective agreements:

for the withdrawal of the on-going privatisation programme: of TAP and of ANA, of the Post Office, of the Water Company, of the General Savings Bank.

Consequently on the basis of workers' actions and by the democratic means they can use and in solidarity and cooperation with other peoples, on the basis of the free union of Europe's sovereign nations, it is time to put an end to Passos/Portas and “Troika” policies in Portugal.

During the demonstration, CDP activists collected 78 signatures on a solidarity petition with the leaders of the GENOP-DEH (the Union of the Greek Public Electrical Facilities):

- * demanding that the charges against them be immediately dropped;
- * addressing the competent Greek authorities (Prime Minister Papademos, Labour Minister, Justice Minister), as well as the Greek Embassy in Portugal to communicate their position.

On the basis of this petition, they will ask the Greek embassy in Portugal to receive them.

An article published in issue N° 36 of *Fraternité* the paper of Algeria's Parti des Travailleurs (February 1st to 15th)

Syria: The Libyan scenario is gaining substance

Last February 5th, a resolution condemning Syria, presented to the United Nations Security Council by the Arab monarchies, was vetoed both by China and Russia. Frustrated at the vote, the United States, Great Britain and France severely criticised the two members of the Security Council and even stated they intended to bypass the United Nations.

The resolution as well as the “*Arab end-of-crisis plan*” it was based on, pointed at the Syrian regime as bearing the whole responsibility for the daily slaughter and had a single purpose: to force the Syrian regime to step down.

Vitaly Churkin, the Russian spokesman, justified his country's position by the fact that “*some influential member of the Security Council had, since the start of the crisis, undermined all the opportunities to solve the conflict (in Syria – Ed.N) by calling for a change in the regime and had fuelled the recourse to the method of arms*”. Even the report of the Arab League mission, subjected to the major powers, purports the same.

Indeed, in its report, the mission of the Arab League – which cannot be suspected of covering up the – real – brutality of the Syrian regime against the Syrian people – notes: “*The mission has observed brutalities in the two sectors of Homs and Hama, caused by armed groups against government forces, which have caused deaths and injuries among government troops. In some situations, government forces resort to violence in reaction to the attacks targeting some of their members. The mission observers noted that the armed groups made use of incendiary bombs and missiles not thwarted by armour plating*”.

The report adds that “*The mission witnessed acts of violence against government troops and citizens in the sectors of Homs, Idlib and Hama, causing numerous deaths and injuries. The mission noted the issuing of faked reports from several parties mentioning several bomb attacks and brutalities in some regions. When the observers travelled to these zones to inquire, the information they collected showed that these reports were not credible. On the basis of documents and reports by people working on location, the mission also noted that media were exaggerating the number and nature of accidents and of deaths and injuries caused by the events that occurred in some cities*”. (*L'Expression*, February 6th, 2012)

That is the reason why those same monarchies, led by Qatar and Saudi Arabia, have decided to ignore this report and bypass the Arab League. Acting in the name of the Council of Cooperation of the Gulf (which regroups Saudi Arabia, Barhain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar), the Gulf monarchies decided “*to adhere to the decision of the Saudi kingdom and withdraw their observers from the Arab League mission*” in Syria, accusing “*Damascus of not conforming to the Arab end- of-conflict plan*”.

Daily *L'Expression*, February 6th, 2012 issue, reported that when the general from Sudan was presenting the mission's report “*Arab diplomats who were attending the session revealed to As Safir Lebanese daily that the people in charge from the Gulf monarchies did not even hear him to the end of his report and speedily started releasing the communiqué on the initiative they had prepared and demanded that the case be submitted to the Security Council, as explains Al Manar*”.

After the Russian and Chinese vetoes at the Security Council, the monarchies tried again via the Arab League. In its February 13th issue, newspaper *El Watan* reports that, prior to the meeting of the Arab Foreign Affairs Ministers, the countries of the CCG met and “*decided to speak with one voice and agreed on how to get some countries of the Arab League to bow to their decisions -Algeria for one – for these Arab League countries' opposition to the Syrian regime was rather lukewarm*”.

The pressures they applied entailed escalating aggression on Syria: sending in joint UN-Arab military forces. What's more, the resolution which was adopted by the meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers calls on the Arab countries “*to put an end to any form of diplomatic cooperation with the representatives of the Syrian regime at state level, in international structures and meetings*”, “*to open ways to communicate with the opposition in Syria and provide the opposition with every form of political and material support*”. A clear appeal to recognise and provide weapons to the “*Syrian opposition*”, which Qatar and Saudi Arabia have steadily done since the beginning of the crisis, for the benefit of US imperialism.

“*Now, the Libyan scenario looks almost inevitable in Syria. And the survival prospects of Bashar Al Assad's obstinate regime look very poor*”, concludes daily *El Watan*.

Hamid B.

**Common declaration
of the four trade union federations of Senegal**

**CNTS - CNTS/FC – UNSAS - CSA
COMMON DECLARATION**

Delegations from the four trade union federations met on Wednesday February 1st, 2012 at 11 o'clock at the Trades Council of the CNTS in order to analyse the national situation regarding the elections and to define the responsibilities of the trade union movement.

The meeting gave rise to fruitful exchanges on the national social and political climate, on social unrest and the serious threats looming on workers.

After discussing, the trade unions,

– considering the increasing unrest and resulting brutalities which seriously threaten social peace;

– considering the government's failure to comply with its commitments to the workers' unions, which has resulted in repeated unrest in the sectors of healthcare, education, telecommunication, transport, oil and gas facilities and fisheries, in the light of what happened at the SNCDS, with the dock workers, local public sector, enterprises in trouble and all the other sectors where workers are fighting;

– considering the tense political climate characterised by the absence of dialogue and resulting conflicts which have already caused the loss of many lives;

– considering the risks that such a situation necessarily entails for the entire nation;

The CNTS, CNTS/FC, CSA and UNSAS firmly condemn the acts of violence whatever the origins and causes;

- Call on the government to ensure the security of people and their belongings and to take every adequate measure to avoid police blunders;

- Encourage workers to remain mobilised and alert so that nothing and nobody can make them swerve from their demands for a genuine decrease of staple commodity prices, for lower payroll taxes and respect for democratic and trade union liberties.

The CNTS, CNTS/FC, CSA and UNSAS call on all the political actors to work towards salutary dialogue in order to create, in our country, the conditions of a pacified electoral process because it will be run in consensus and will respect the fundamental texts that rule our Republic.

They reaffirm their determination to fight to improve the situation of the labouring masses. At the same time, they state that they are fully ready to contribute to a pacified climate in our country and to bringing an end to all forms of violence.

Dakar February 1st, 2012

**Consult the website
of the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples,**

**You will find all the documents published in the International Newsletter,
with a classification by file themes, or country, month, date of publication.
<http://entente-internationale-des-travailleurs-eit-ilc.blogspot.com/>
or simply EIT International Liaison Committee on your search engine.**

AFGHANISTAN

We are starting to publish a series of articles sent to the *ILC Newsletter* by militants from Afghanistan who attended the recent Algiers Emergency International Conference "*Against wars of occupation, against interference in countries' internal affairs, in defence of the integrity and sovereignty of nations*".

These militants, who are fighting against war and occupation as well as the rights of Workers and the oppressed, have started to build up an independent trade union (The Independent Workers Union of Afghanistan, IWUA) .

In the terrible conditions that prevail in their country, they publish a bulletin in which the article below - which they translated for us - first appeared.

A letter from a worker of AWCC ⁽¹⁾ (Translated from Worker Bulletin issue# 15)

Today is Eid day ⁽²⁾. It is 6 am as I am deprived from any type of leave, wanted to go to workplace. Suddenly my wife and two of my children stopped me and said: "*today is Eid and we have nothing for eating and serving our guests*". Susan the elder child added: "*Dad, Lala my neighboring friend has been purchased new red shoes by her father and I like to have one too*"...

But, I had only 100 Afghani (2 \$) in my pocket and the rest of my salary I paid to baker, house rent and shopkeeper. I had nothing to reply positively to my wife and little daughter.

I left the house for workplace to be not absent and fired. When I reached to my workplace, I found an envelope with my name on it. I thought I found a solution to my concern and the money for Susan favorite shoes and will have a happy Eid.

So, I carefully and immediately opened the envelope and found a letter: "*have a happy Eid!*" and there was nothing else.

I understand that in Eid days people are happy, visit their closed friends, purchase new cloths and gifts and make colorful their dinner table with different dashes, fruits and foods. But, in capitalist system, there is only a handful families, capitalists, government senior officials and the bosses who celebrate Eids with their families and friends happily.

Yes, in capitalist system, cheers, sadness, poverty and richness are divided. The cheers and richness belong to capitalists and poverty and grief belong to workers and the oppressed.

On the occasion of Eid, it was expected from the boss of AWCC (Afghan Wireless Communication Company) to increase workers salaries or at least beside Eid congratulations added 500 Afs (10 \$) in envelop that would help me to realize my small Susan dream of having red shoes.

(1) Telecom company

[2] Eid is one of the main Muslim religious feast

ILC International Coordination Committee

Fund raising form

The ILC International coordination has decided to launch a subscription to fund its activities in 2012,
(see *International Newsletter* n° 49, November 18th, 2011).

The coordination's has set 30 000 € (40 000 \$) as the sum necessary to guarantee
its independant functioning during that year 2012.

I agree to contribute to the subscription fund of the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples

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Workers
and
Peasants

Leader of *Travayè é Pèyizan* "For the national independence of Guadeloupe" (February issue)

**Bayalé : MARIGALANT KA MONTRÉ CHIMEN LA !
(Let's go ahead, Marie-Galante shows the way!)**

For over two months, workers, youth, pensioners, unemployed, responding to the call of their unions, their associations, regrouped in the "*Marie-Galante action group, a country up and standing*" (Marigalant Péyi doubout), have mobilised to refuse the dictatorship of public deficits, the planned death of Marie-Galante island in the name of the payment of the debt. Among other things, their platform demands:

- /retaining all the activities of the hospital;
- /retaining the sugar and rum industries;
- /taking measures that ensure territorial continuity;
- /taking measures towards a genuine employment and training programme;
- /halting pwofitasyon (profiteering) on water and commodity prices;
- /retaining public services and universal equal access;
- /establishing a plan to meet the needs of youth.

December 1st: general strike.

To attract attention, they decided to strike on December 1st 2011. They staged a march backed by the LKP. Some 4,000 people, a third of the total population, flooded the streets of Grand Bourg and they received the support of the island's local representatives. Demonstrators, helped by their action group, camped in front of the town house to demand the opening of negotiations.

In reaction to this determination,

the French State embarked on various manoeuvres.

The person in charge at the ARS (regional agency for healthcare) announced the appointing of one surgeon for two months and a six-month reprieve for the hospital. The préfet [*the representative of the central state – TN*] announced a two million grant for the Grande Anse factory. The youth transferred to Pointe-a-Pitre was able to come back to Marie-Galante. This trickle of funding was announced via a press release without ever contacting the Marie-Galante action group; therefore, their aim was clearly to weaken the mobilisation. The heads of main administrative bodies dithered. Other local representatives back-pedalled, especially those from Marie-Galante, even though they had made their commitment public on December 1st. Meanwhile, dozens of police forces landed on the island and started provocative moves, especially targeting the young. Thus the state, the members of parliament and local representatives gambled on creating division within the people and letting the mobilisation rot away in order to legitimise the repression. So it came about that a young man was arrested and transferred to Pointe à Pitre where they tried to sentence him without due trial on December 27th 2011.

What is the reason for such behaviour?

In actual fact they all abide by the framework set by colonial institutions. This was also obvious during the well-known December 8th and 9th congress of local representatives in Basse-Terre. Complying with this framework means implementing austerity measures and programmes against workers and people on Marie-Galante as well as in Guadeloupe.

Concretely, this means that the numerous local representatives of Marie-Galante cannot make any decisions in the interests of the people. It means flouting the rights of the people of Guadeloupe to take the measures demanded by the situation of Marie-Galante and Guadeloupe. Concretely, this means: dismantling the hospital, closing down

the factory, dropping the planned building of Capes-Terre-Belle-Eau hospital, scrapping the Accords of Bino and March 9th, 2009 among others. Those are the consequences.

Konstwi on dot Gwadeloup (Building another Guadeloupe)

The activists of Travayé è Pèyizan say that a fight is needed to break free from the colonial yoke, which strips us of any social control, any sovereignty. To escape the trap requires developing the **instruments to build a different Guadeloupe** (*dè zouti pou on dot Gwadeloup*) and implementing a new structure with representatives at the people's service, answerable to them and who can be recalled at any time.

That is the objective of the fight to bring together a national assembly of the Guadeloupe people (*Sé sans a konba pou Sanblé Nasyonan a pèp Gwadeloup*). Travayé è Pèyizan emphasises that it is a necessity to build the structures required to set up this new framework, which therefore affords the possibility to exert our sovereignty.

It is also the objective of our fight for a workers' party of Guadeloupe (*Sé osi sans a lit an nou pour on Pawti a travayè Gwadeloup*).

**The workers, youth, people of Marie-Galante,
the people of Guadeloupe are not fooled,
they show the way.**

They say: enough demagoguery, enough contempt. They firmly demand again the opening of genuine negotiations on the platform of demands raised since December 1st and they are organising to have their demands met. That is what was formulated in their December 9th declaration.

The workers, youth and people of Marie-Galante are quite right when they want to continue fighting to have their demands and the demands of the workers and people of Guadeloupe met. This fight cannot succeed without the active solidarity of the people of entire Guadeloupe.

Travayè é Pèyizan

-/Demands an end to repression, demands the opening of genuine negotiations on the demands of the workers and people of Marie-Galante;

-/Calls its members and supporters, workers, youth to bring their support to the Marie-Galante action group and to this fight: **"To defend Marie-Galante is to defend entire Guadeloupe!"** (*davwa Défann Mari-galant sé défann tout Gwadeloup!*).

To help such solutions emerge (*des chimen konsa*), fitting the realities of the entire Guadeloupe islands, such is the significance of our contribution!

Abymes, January 2012

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**Contact address
International Newsletter
EIT/ILC**

87, rue du Faubourg-Saint-Denis
75010 - Paris - France

Ph : (33 1) 48 01 88 28
Fax : (33 1) 48 01 88 36
E.mail eit.ilc@fr.oleane.com