

Socialist Society Weekly Newsletter



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THIS WEEKS NEWS

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11/3/24, 4:04 PM The Sixth Form College Farnborough Mail - Socialist Society Weekly New sletter

Four killed in Kashmir - 25/10

In the fourth attack in two weeks, Indian military forces report four people have been killed, including two soldiers, after a group of armed men ambushed a military vehicle near the de facto border between India and Pakistan. Kashmir is a long disputed region between the two countries, as well as its local population. Most of the region is currently under the control of Indian authorities, headed by Modi's extremist government,



guided by Hindutva, a fascist ideology rooted in nationalism and a distortion of Hinduism. This ethno-nationalist ideology has caused large-scale oppression of Kashmiris, both from hateful sentiments instilled in civilians and direct attacks from state forces, including the police and military.

Nationalist violence in India is increasing in other areas, too. On August 9th, trainee doctor Nirali Kumari was raped and murdered for being a member of the Dalit community, the lowest rung in the complex caste system, an archaic remnant of British colonial oppression. So far, no opportunities for justice have been offered to her family or community. The police have ruled out a rape charge despite forensic evidence pointing towards gang rape, and so far the suspects have not even been charged with murder.

Ethnic tensions in India remain high between many communities, exacerbated by the government's racist rhetoric, endangering the lives of Muslims, women, Kashmiris, Sikhs, poorer workers, and anyone who does not meet the criteria of the strict caste system.

Indian military vehicle attacked in Kashmir I Conflict News IAI Jazeera

At least four killed after

'Does a Dalit's life have no value?': The murder of a teenage girl in India | Women |Al Jazeera

Israel attacks Iran - 26/10

Just after midnight on Saturday, Iranian air defence systems activated to intercept a sudden Israeli attack on the capital, Tehran, as well as llam and Khuzestan in the Southwest of the country. The attacks seemingly targeted Iran's air defence systems and military targets. At the same time, Israel launched attacks on Iraq and Syria. The attacks caused Iranian airspace to close down for around 7 hours,



and killed 4 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps according to Iran, however other sources claim that up to 10 were killed. The attack was carried out across three waves of strikes, however Iran claims that the attack was successfully countered with minimal damage to Israel's targets. This attack marks another step towards further regional escalation in an already dangerous and deadly conflict in Palestine and Lebanon. Iran has stated it has a duty to defend itself and respond to these attacks. Several countries have already condemned the attacks.

Israel strikes Iran:

What we know so far and what's next | Israel attacks Lebanon News |Al Jazeera

Israel continues siege of Northern Gaza - 27/10

In Gaza, a series of IDF drone strikes killed at least 35 in Beit Lahiya. The IDF is continuing its siege of the north, with ever looming concerns of mass starvation due to the complete blockage of aid into the region. Following the raid of the al-Adwa hospital last week, IDF soldiers have since withdrawn



after 2 days, leaving massive destruction inside the medical complex.

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Gaza's Kamal Adwan Hospital in ruins | Gaza | Al Jazeera

LRA commander sentenced to 40 years - 27/10

Thomas Kwoyole, a commander of the Lord's Resistance Army, a terrorist organisation that employs child soldiers in Eastern and central Africa, has been sentenced to 40 years in prison by Ugandan authorities. Kwoyole says that he was forced to join the LRA in 1987 when he was abducted at age 12. He has been found guilty on 44 separate charges, including murder and rape.



sentences LRAcommander Thomas Kwoyelo to 40 years for war crimes | Lord's Resistance Army News |Al Jazeera

Israel votes to ban UNRWA - 28/10

The Knesset (Israeli Government) has voted 92 to 10 for the total ban of UNRWA across the country. This move is a direct attack on both the UN and an act of genocide against Palestinians, essentially blocking all aid into Gaza. The vote gives UNRWA 90 days to leave the country. This so far has been strongly condemned by most countries and humanitarian organisations, however Western governments in the US and the UK



still offer only empty words, as they continue to fund the IDF's genocide.

Further north, to escape the intense IDF bombings, many Lebanese civilians have opted to flee to Syria, a country ravaged by civil war yet significantly safer from the intense Israeli attacks back home. IDF attacks on the Southern city of Tyre continue to intensify, killing at least seven. Another sixty have been killed in strikes across Eastern Lebanon early this morning. On Tuesday, 8 UNIFIL peacekeepers were wounded by IDF fire in Southern Lebanon.

As the siege in Northern Gaza continues, airstrikes in Beit Lahiya on Tuesday morning killed over 100 people. Hezbollah named their new secretary general, Naim Qassem, this morning as well.

Attacks on Gaza and Lebanon continued well into the week. On Friday, IDF strikes in northern Gaza killed at least 84 people, 50 of whom were children. Some of these strikes targeted the Kamal Adwan hospital, which is currently operating under extremely limited capacity due to a lack of supplies and damage caused by previous attacks and also sheltering thousands of refugees. Attacks in Lebanon have targeted the southern coastal city of Tyre, the eastern city of Baalbek, and the suburbs of the capital, Beirut.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories Francesca Albanese has called for the UN to suspend Israel's membership in the UN general assembly.

Israeli air strikes pummel Lebanese historic city of Tyre | Israel attacks Lebanon News |Al Jazeera

Lebanese escape Israeli bombardment by fleeing to Syria I Israel attacks Lebanon IAI Jazeera

UN should consider suspending Israel over genocide, says special rapporteur | Israel-Palestine conflict | Al Jazeera

Israeli attacks kill dozens in Gaza, Lebanon as ceasefire remains elusive | Israel-Palestine conflict News |Al Jazeera

Minimum wage set to rise - 30/10

Today's budget confirmed comments by Chancellor Rachel Reeves that the UK's minimum wage will be rising in April of next year. Currently, the hourly minimum wage for over 21s is £11.44, and will be rising to £12.21. The minimum wage for 18-21 year olds, currently £8.60, will be rising to £10, and the minimum wage for apprentices will be rising from £6.40 to £7.55. The rise of minimum wage overall intends to allow people working on lower wages to be able to survive with the ever increasing cost of living, and the larger rise of minimum wage for under 21s and apprentices is supposed to be a step towards an equal minimum wage for all ages. While this step marks significant progress, the Labour government so far has not stuck to its promise to create an equal minimum wage for all people, regardless of age.

Several other measures have been announced, including small increases to the funding of the NHS and local government, however these measures fall far short of what a government representative of the working class could provide.

Minimum wage to rise to £12.21 an hour next year - BBC News

UN vote on the Cuban embargo - 30/10

On Wednesday, the UN general assembly voted on ending the Cuban embargo for the 32nd time. This time, 187 countries voted to end the embargo, with only 2 countries voting against the draft resolution, the US and Israel. Whilst the resolution was adopted by overwhelming majority, due to the nature of the UN being incapable of upholding



human rights or democracy anywhere in the world, it is certain that the US will continue imposing its illegal and genocidal embargo against the Cuban people, as has been the case for the past 6 decades and 31 resolutions demanding the same. The Trump administration in 2020 imposed tighter restrictions on Cuba, and the Biden administration has only continued to tighten the grip of imperialism intended to suffocate the developing nation.

The far right president of Argentina, Javier Milei, fired the Argentine foreign minister for voting in favour of the resolution.

UN General Assembly condemns the US economic embargo of Cuba for a 32nd year

Floods in Valencia kill over 200 - 31/10

Heavy rain in Spain caused the banks of the river Turia to burst, leading to massive flash floods in Valencia and the surrounding areas in the eastern part of the country, causing damage to property and forcing several thousand people to flee. At least 200 were rescued from their cars by emergency services and military personnel that were deployed to help with the rescue efforts. So far, the death toll is over 200 people.



<u>Dozens dead, thousands trapped after flash floods in Valencia, Spain, officials say - ABC News Trapped in cars and garages: Why Valencia floods proved so deadly - BBC News</u>

LOCAL EVENTS

Black History Month - October

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?ik=866c039112&view =pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f:1814565838474128405&simpl=msg-f:181456583847... 4/5 11/3/24, 4:04 PM The Sixth Form College Farnborough Mail - Socialist Society Weekly New sletter In October, we are remembering and celebrating the impact that Black people have had on history and challenging the narrative of history that we usually see through a whitewashed, Western lens.

Black History Month 2024

End Genocide in Gaza - Hands Off Lebanon - Don't Attack Iran

At 12 noon on Saturday, the PSC and other groups have organised another national demonstration in solidarity with Palestine, Lebanon, and other victims of IDF brutality in Central London - location TBC

National Demonstration for Palestine - 2 November 2024 - Palestine Solidarity Campaign

Surrey Socialist Book Club - 3/11

If you are interested in discussing socialist literature, come along to the Maybury Centre in Woking at 6pm on the third of November for a discussion of Oscar Wilde's 'The Soul of Man Under Socialism'! We will be holding these on the first Sunday of every month.

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SOCIALIST SOCIETY

Week 6 - 6/11

This week we will be holding a general discussion on what we have covered so far this year as well as any other topics of interest to people

Remember we hold a session every Wednesday lunchtime in Economics 4!

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

The Jakarta Method by Vincent Bevins

The Jakarta Method offers a deep analysis into various CIAoperations and how they have had lasting and devastating effects on countries across the entire world, focussing on the model derived by their operations in Indonesia that caused up to 3 million people to be murdered in just over a year.