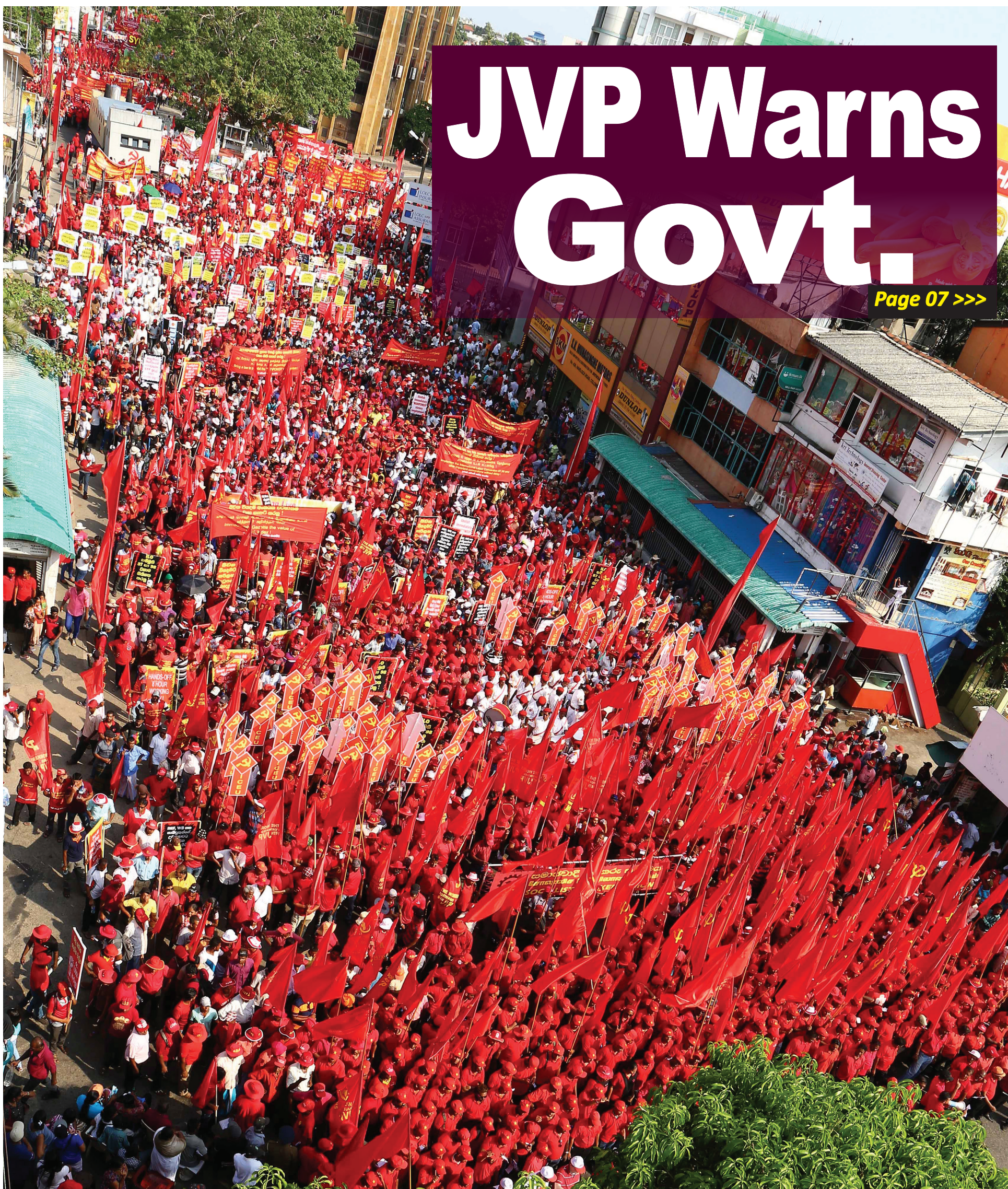


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RED POWER

JVP Warns Govt.

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A Rational Land, a Just Society and a Liberated Human Being!

Garbage, Presidential Powers and Capitalism

Media had reported recently that President Mithripala Sirisena had stated that he would change the top positions of the government service, use the powers of the executive presidency and take tough actions in connection with some issues. Meanwhile, the president issued a special gazette notification making garbage dumping of the local authorities an essential service and providing provisions to take legal action against anyone who opposes garbage dumping.

Although there is no argument on the fact that garbage collection and dumping is an essential service, this gazette notification of the president is a serious matter to be concerned with. Finally, the president has started to take "Tough Actions" using his "Executive Powers" against innocent people who have suffered and terrified as a result of collapsing Garbage Mountains but not against those who had done crimes against the country. So we must say that the president has started at the wrong end.

Peoples' fear and protest against large scale garbage dumping and making Garbage Mountains in their residential areas is realistic. Haphazard garbage dumping make drastic health and environment issues and the areas become uninhabitable. It is one dimension of the issue and on the other hand people have reasonable anxiety on the risk after recent tragedy in Meethotamulla and therefore fear and protest of the people is reasonable. Instead of finding solution to the issue by listening to the voice of the people, President Sirisena too has selected the popular choice of all his successors- the suppression of democratic rights of the people.

For a long period of time residence of Meethotamulla struggled against haphazard garbage dumping, making huge garbage mountain in the area and they also predicted possible tragedies of this nature as they had realized the risk. Previous Rajapaksa regime used police to suppress the peoples' protests and forcibly made this garbage mountain. Finally, the garbage mountain collapsed and people lost lives of their beloved, houses and other properties. With the experience of this tragedy, now the people in other areas oppose haphazard and large scale garbage dumping in their areas and they have started protests against such moves. Instead of educating the people, make people a partner in the process, selecting uninhabited and unproductive lands and start correct, scientific and systematic garbage dumping and recycling process, the President has chosen the option of hunting people who protest, on reasonable grounds, against arbitrary, hap-hazard garbage dumping.

The president who rushed to issue this undemocratic gazette notification to suppress democratic protests of the people did not have the same urgency to compensate and relocate the people who suffered in the Meethotamulla tragedy. If he used the same executive powers against dumping at this garbage mountain at Meethotamulla, most of the people who died when it collapsed would be still alive. Since it is crystal clear that the prominence of the government is garbage dumping and not protecting the lives of the people, it is not difficult to understand who or what do President Sirisena and the government represent today.

The government does not take any action against dealers who earn commissions, ransoms and bribes from garbage dumping process or does not start investigations against those who demanded large scale commissions from proposed garbage recycling projects. It does not take swift action to start systematic garbage dumping process. Instead the government has taken prompt actions against the people who struggle against garbage dumping in their residential areas. This has revealed the true face of the government. This is also an ideal example to identify true class basis of the government. While giving freedom to the criminals of its own class, this capitalist government suppresses reasonable democratic struggles of the masses. That is the truth.

On the other hand this garbage issue also reveals another truth. Capitalism in Sri Lanka too is rotten and has become a garbage heap. While there are ways and means to reduce garbage dumping by reducing daily collection, reduce non-degradable garbage, making garbage a source of income by recycling (these methods are followed by many countries) the rulers of Sri Lanka have become blind and deaf. Capitalism of Sri Lanka has rotten to the point that it fails to manage even the garbage issue and has fallen to the rock bottom so that it has to earn commissions from garbage. If all the people who stage isolated struggles against garbage dumping in their areas can struggle together against Capitalism, that has become a Garbage Dump today, garbage would not be an issue or tragedy any more. This is the time for it.

Resolutions (International) adopted at Red May Rally



The working masses and the downtrodden people throughout the world commemorate the May Day today with dignity. At this moment in 2017, when the International Workers' Day is commemorated, imperialism and world capitalism are confronted with a severe crisis. Unable to break loose from the crisis the full weight of the burden is heaped on masses and the working masses are being further exploited. It is being proved that there is no solution other than Socialism to the annually intensifying crisis confronted by capitalism which has no solution to overcome such crisis. As such, the downtrodden people including the working masses have been forced to embark on a path of struggle to protect their rights that are being denied to them and to defeat capitalism and build a new society.

Sri Lanka too is subjected to a massive social, economic, political and cultural crisis. The present 'joint' government in its administration of two years too has shown that it has no solutions for the crisis and they too are unable to differ from the previous Rajapaksa regime. As such, they have selected the destructive path of taking loans, selling resources of the country and slashing the rights of the people.

The JVP taking into consideration deeply the international and national conditions that exist at present put forward several resolutions pertaining to the national and international sectors to be adopted by the dignified Red May Rally.

We produce here the resolutions connected with the international sector that were adopted at the Red May Rally.

1. As a result of trade and military strategies of imperialist powers carried

out again and again to share regions and markets several states in the world have been turned into countries sans administration where anarchy runs rampant and armed conflicts active throughout the year. As a result millions in North Africa, the Middle East and Western Asian countries flee as migrants due to fear of war, famine and other hardships. The massive human migration that has not occurred at such huge proportions since the imperialist second world war has caused deaths of a large number of children and adults and has made millions refugees in unknown territories.

This Red May Rally while extending its hands of brotherhood to the masses who have been made refugees, demands the rulers of countries lead by the European Union and the USA to

- supply facilities needed by these masses
- accept the masses who have been made refugees due to the wars engineered by such rulers
- take measures to stop communal, religious and anti-immigrant activities against them

2. This Red May Rally that condemns the massive invasions, armed attacks, political conspiracies, dividing communities in the same country and impose sanctions carried out by the imperialist camp lead by the USA and the European Union against independent and sovereign states that maintain different socio-economic systems and do not tow the imperialist line calls upon people all over the world to unite to struggle against imperialism to win independence, sovereignty and peaceful existence of all the countries and to

- demand genuine withdrawal of US embargo

As Sri Lanka working masses were preparing to commemorate the May Day or international Labour Day views were being expressed and a debate was going on regarding solidarity. The capitalist political parties which are already divided were showing more enthusiasm about solidarity on the May Day. This year the theme of the Maithri faction of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) was also "May rally of solidarity". Though the theme is solidarity the reality is that the SLFP is divided and holding two May rallies and forcing the party members to come to the May rallies of each faction further divided them.

The present government is defined as a hybrid unity government of SLFP and UNP. However, the unity in it is not genuine and it is a unity for the sake of securing political power. The two parties of the government, SLFP and the UNP holding two separate May rallies preaching the people to be unite is hilarious. Also, the bankrupt and opportunist factions of so-called left too is preaching of solidarity on the May Day. They ask the people to be united. Therefore it would be important for the downtrodden masses to understand Solidarity for what? And for whom?

Not the class politics, the party politics is still dominating in Sri Lanka. Class politics is below the party politics. There is a special feature in the ruling capitalist class. Although these capitalist political parties are divided as they are greedy for power, they are working as a class. For the protection of the capitalist system they are working together. Though they have divided into separate political parties at any moment the capitalist system faces a challenge they unite unconditionally to protect the system. Even at this moment, they seem as rivals on the surface but when it comes to party politics they are working together for their class interests.

Leaders of the present government, as a slogan to grab the power, pledged that they would take tough action against fraud and corruption at the 2015 presidential election and also at the general election in August. However, now they act in a different way. The law applied to ordinary person



Solidarity for what & for whom?

involved in fraud or corruption does not apply in the same way for the representatives of the capitalist class. The law applied to a labourer or a clerk involved in fraud or corruption in a government ministry or department does not apply in the same way against a minister who misappropriates public funds. This is class politics. The capitalist rulers need to protect their class. Therefore understanding the 'class politics' in the present context is very important to understand 'Solidarity to Whom?'. In addition those who have become splinters of the left and those who broke away from the parties as enemies too are talking about solidarity. It is hilarious to see how those who broke solidarity and created divisions among the working class are now talking about solidarity. Although solidarity is very important in the point of view of the left, it should be within the class and not among the parties.

At this juncture the true solidarity is needed by our class – the downtrodden masses. For what? It is to defeat the suppressive capitalist class and establish their own government. Without solidarity within the class the downtrodden masses cannot gain any victory. This is the reason why the Marxist leaders used the theme of the May Day as "Workers on the world, unite! The slogan of

Marx, Engels and Lenin was, "Proletarians of all countries, Unite!" Solidarity of the proletariat class is not the union of all opportunist groups that feign as leftists for different objectives. Therefore, the responsibility of the true left is to unite the proletariat instead of uniting parties.

In other capitalist countries as well as in Sri Lanka the ruling capitalist class is divided and also divides the proletariat class. Although the capitalist class fragmented into two or three to secure political power they are working in one front for the survival and sustain the capitalist system. They perform the same role of maintaining the capitalist system. For the safe existence and maintenance of the capitalist system they have divided our class. This is the real challenge before the left in the question of solidarity of proletariat class.

How has the capitalist class divided proletariat class? The capitalist political parties have divided people of our class and made them the members of their parties. The capitalist political parties win elections and secure political power using the votes of the people in our class. Capitalism survives even under serious crisis as a result of their success in dividing our class.

On the other hand working people have been fragmented in their working places and

institutions as different grades, trades or professions and have formed different trade unions. The capitalist parties too have formed trade unions. It is hilarious to see that the capitalist parties that exploit and suppress the workers are forming trade unions and it is also heart-breaking to see our working people become members of such trade unions. The real objective of the May Day should be uniting the working masses, build the solidarity among the working class. Lenin's slogan for this was "a union for a trade and a headquarter for the proletariat class".

This is the only way forward for the unity of the working people. In Sri Lanka only JVP and the Socialist Workers' Union work according to this teaching. Unity between the working masses and farmers is also important in the solidarity of working people. Therefore working people and the people who have been exploited should understand the meaning of Solidarity as the unity of our class against capitalism and not as the unity between the political parties that belong to different classes.

In the formation of a new socialist society and working class becoming the force of governing the country, solidarity of the working class is an essential condition. The unity should be with a clear objective, based on correct

policies and the unity should also be in the organisation as well as in the ideology. Those who obstruct the solidarity of the class and divide our class are capitalist political parties and opportunists. Therefore the working class should leave capitalist parties, reject capitalist views and organise themselves as a class with the proletariat view. There should be a political party that guides the working class and today JVP is performing this role and has proved that only it can do it.

Therefore we should unite as a class without being cheated by the slogans on the May Day posters and what was preached in May Day rallies by the capitalist class and opportunists. It is for a social transformation. It is for the formation of real Peoples' rule in which proletariat class holds the political power. It is for the defeat of capitalism and the victory of socialism. Socialist social transformation is easy in a condition where the capitalism is in crisis and the capitalist class is divided while the proletariat class is united.

The objective of the downtrodden masses should be stop following capitalist class falling prey to influence of capitalist views is to work to unite the working class. Then only true solidarity would be achieved casting aside false phrases of solidarity. Capitalism is bankrupt and has fallen to the rock bottom where it cannot give anything to the human race. New socialist society can be formed only through a true solidarity or solidarity of the working class. That's why the word "Solidarity" needs a class interpretation.

Red Power: *The government while talking about a debt burden proposes that selling state resources is the only solution. Meanwhile, the whole burden of the economy is thrust on the masses. How does the JVP look at the present economic crisis in the country?*

Comrade Vijitha Herath:

Rajapaksa regime entrapped the country in a massive debt trap. The country and the masses were entrapped in this massive debt trap by carrying out various tamashas and unwanted parades. This government came to power saying they would change this situation. However, it has been proved they have no ability to do so. This government too takes loans. They have started taking loans from the IMF, World Bank and other international organizations. This new government too wastes the money they take as loans in wasteful spending. Billions are spent for vehicles for the President, the Prime Minister and minister's and rent out huge buildings for ministries. This is what happened during the previous regime. In such a condition we get more and more tightly

entangled in the debt trap. Today, the only solution this government has is taking loans, taxing, imposing fines, slashing relief and selling state resources. Plans have been made to sell Hambanthota Harbour, Pulmoddai mineral sands reserves, East jetty in Colombo Port, islands in Kalpitiya. Everything has been made ready to hand over oil tank farm to India. This shows this government has no ability to salvage economy and increase production.

The President said the country has US\$5 billion of foreign reserves. However, he has forgotten that foreign reserves in January have come down when compared with what was available in December last year. The export income has come down. The export income has come down by US\$500 million during 2016. The import expenditure has increased by US\$600 million. This means production has gone down but the amount that is

Victory for the people is not far away!

Comrade Vijitha Herath
Information Secretary of the JVP

imported has risen. The amount of money that flows from our country to other countries has increased. No new job opportunities have been created. No new investors have come to the country. No massive industrial zones have been created.

However, the government boasted that it could attract investors and industries would come and one million jobs would be created. No investor came to the country. In reality the administration is entrapped in a massive economic crisis that doesn't show any trace of a solution. There are no job opportunities or industrial zones that have come up. What the government sees as an escape from the trap is to sell state resources for a song.

Red Power: *Despite not receiving any attention of the masses, the government is maintaining a dialogue regarding a new constitution. What are your views regarding this move?*

Comrade Vijitha Herath: The main promise given by Mr. Maithripala Sirisena as the common candidate at the presidential election was to abolish executive presidential system. This was the main reason he contested as the common candidate. He said this on election stages. He got the majority of votes to fulfill this promise. At the cremation of Rev. Sobitha Thero President

Maithripala Sirisena affirmed that he would abolish executive presidential system. However, the seniors of the SLFP – the likes of S.B. Dissanayaka, Nimal Siripala, John Seneviratna now say they would not change anything that would need to go for a referendum. The party is used to break given promises.

The process of bringing proposals for a new constitution is moving at a snail's pace. The ball is passed from court to court. However, Maithripala Sirisena's main promise was to abolish executive presidential system. To abolish executive presidential system a new constitution is necessary. It needs a 2/3rd majority in Parliament and majority in a referendum. The constitution cannot be changed without a referendum. Hence, the JVP's stand is that a referendum should be held and a new constitution should be formulated. The executive system should be abolished. This despotic power should be removed from our country. The government, using various manipulations, attempts to avoid this process.

However, the JVP wouldn't allow it. Already, we have met various political parties to discuss regarding this. We have had discussions with SLMC, TNA, Sri Lanka Communist Party and National Muslim Congress. We hope to have discussions with more political parties. We would do our utmost to get executive presidential system abolished. It is an act that must be done, a responsibility and a duty for the people and the country. We would definitely dedicate ourselves to achieve this.

system change would not suffice to save the people and the country. The tragedy at Meethotamulla garbage dump has shown this very clearly. Despite two years have gone by since Rajapaksa regime was beaten the 'joint' government that came to power has given the people only crises and destruction. Could you elaborate on this?

Comrade Vijitha Herath:

Rajapaksa regime dumped garbage at Meethotamulla and made it a mountain. Now, Ranil and Maithri have taken the garbage mountain on to their shoulders. This government is unable to solve the garbage issue either. They are trying to find solutions like dumping their garbage in neighbours compound. Garbage at Meethotamulla is dumped at other places. It is dumped in Muthurajawela; dumped in populous areas. Karadiyana is another place where garbage is dumped. It would be another Meethotamulla soon. In all these places where garbage is dumped people are agitating against such dumping. The solution is not dumping garbage from one place to another. It is necessary to have a recycling programme.

Billions are spent to build ports, airports and highways. However, the government did not mediate to solve the garbage issue – one of the main issues in our country. Garbage is a money bringing mafia. The issue has intensified due to this mafia. Politicians and a few officials are involved in it. Former ministers of environment bragged that they would flatten the Bluemendhal garbage dump to the ground. However, nothing has been done. It was only empty talk. None of the governments were able to

Red Power: *A mere change of government without a*

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Syrian crisis: Reaches a new stage



April dawned dragging Syrian crisis to a new stage. On 4th April media reported that Khan Sheikhoun, a town in Idlib province that was under the Syrian rebels was attacked with a poison gas that killed more than 80 people. Instantly, the USA put the blame of the attack on Syria and on 7th April the USA carried out a missile attack on Shayrat Airbase, a government air force camp in Syria. In the attack US aimed a barrage of 59 cruise missiles into Syria on 7th April from US ships anchored in eastern Mediterranean.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has described the poison gas attack blamed on his Government last week as "100 per cent fabrication" used to justify a US air strike. He pointed out that Syria's military had given up all its chemical weapons in 2013 after an agreement made at the time, and would not have used them anyway.

Russia condemned American bombardment of Shayrat airbase as a violation of international law and pledged to strengthen Syria's air defences against such US aggression.

The Russian Navy sent its most advanced Black Sea frigate into the Eastern Mediterranean on Friday following the U.S. missile strike on the Syrian airfield.

Russia uses veto power

Later, on 12th April a resolution tabled by France, the United Kingdom and the United States was presented in Security Council of the UNO condemning the so-called chemical weapons attack on the Syrian town. However, the draft resolution was rejected. 10 members out of the 15 voted in favour and 2 – Bolivia and Russian Federation – voted against it with China, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan abstaining. Russia used its veto power to reject it.

The Syrian representative

rejected the draft resolution stating it contained sly political language that had wanted the investigation to accuse the Government of Syria in advance. He said, "Whoever read the text would understand that truth was not its true goal. Facts had been doctored and evidence fabricated against the Syrian Government, which, for its part, had sent 90 letters to Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) about terrorist groups' involvement with chemical weapons and other arms." He called on Council members to be rational and to obtain clear responses with regard to the incident.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministers of Russia, Syria and Iran met in Moscow and called for two investigations, an independent probe into the chemical attack and another investigation into the US missile strike.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem welcomed international inspectors to visit the base, which Washington claimed had served as a platform for the attack.

"The Syrian government repeatedly said it does not have chemical weapons. That is because they were all seized in 2014. What happened in Khan Sheikhoun is a fabrication and the Syrian air force did not target anyone with chemical weapons.

We did not use them against terrorist groups or on our own people. We condemn any use of chemical weapons," Muallem said.

The Foreign Ministers are of the view that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons should be widened to include experts from many nations and to carry out an investigation regarding the poison gas attack.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the US missile attack on Syria caused serious damage to

the relations between Russia and the USA, which already are in a deplorable state. The latest move of the US administration hinders the fight against terrorism said Putin.

He said the attack carried on a made-up pretext was a cynical attempt to distract the attention of the international community from numerous casualties among civilians in Iraq.

Analysts point out there was no necessity for the Syrian government to use chemical weapons as it has achieved victory in the civil war after the Aleppo war. 85% of the territory that was under the rebels has been already captured by the government forces. They have the capability of capturing the other areas as well. In such an environment is it the government forces or the rebels who would want an unwanted international intervention the analysts ask.

Several days earlier Syrian government officially reported to UNO that rebels were transporting 12 truckloads of poisonous chemicals from Turkey to Idlib province. However, UNO never carried out any investigation.

Some say the poisonous gas attack was not carried out by Syrian government forces but the debacle had occurred when a chemical weapons depot was hit when rebel positions were attacked.

Image issue

However, targeting a sovereign state in this manner is a violation of international law. On the other hand why does US President Trump change his stand on Syrian crisis and decided to interfere in this way? Certain analysts say he had taken the step to salvage his image that is being deteriorating in his country rapidly. He needs to show that he is a president who takes direct, bold and firm decisions. He targeted Afghanistan after the Syrian attack to substantiate this.

Analysts who are suspicious of the chemical weapons attack point out examples from history. Before Iraq was attacked in 2003 the invader complained of 'mass destructive weapons'. Later, it was proved a blatant lie. However, when the truth was revealed Iraq had been destroyed.

Hence, the present situation in Syria has to be considered taking into account all these facts.

Ecuador: Against the rightist revolt

The second round of votes for the Ecuador presidential election was completed on 2nd April. The second round had to be carried out as none of the candidates was able to get 40% or above votes in the first round. Lenin Moreno, , the candidate of the ruling left-wing 'Alianza País' of president Rafael Correa won in the second round. Moreno won with 51.16% of the votes cast.

'Alianza País' was also able to win majority of the seats in the Parliament at the election. The elections win of the left-wing 'Alianza País' is a symbolic defeat for the rightist forces clawing their way up in Latin America.

Brazil caught up in a political tsunami

The Supreme Court in Brazil has ordered immediate investigations into alleged corruption by 108 politicians, including 8 ministers of the government of President Michel Temer. The order was given on 11th April. Among the ministers and politicians who have been accused of fraud and corruption are senior men of Temer administration and senior men of the political parties of the governing alliance. The list of politicians under investigation includes eight members of the cabinet, 63 lawmakers, three governors, and the member of an anti-corruption court.

The present administration was formed when Brazil's senate voted to oust Dilma Rousseff from the presidency following an impeachment process.

With the decision of the Supreme Court the pro – US government in Brazil is caught up in a political tsunami reports the media.

North Korea: under new threat from US



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned on 14th April that US – North Korea conflict could break out at any moment. He said diplomatic means must be used to resolve tension in the Korean peninsula. He made these observations after the US issued statements against North Korea.

Speaking at a press conference held in Beijing, in which his French counterpart, Jean-Marc Ayrault too was present, the Chinese Foreign Minister said, "I think that all relevant parties should be highly vigilant with regards to this situation. We call on all parties to refrain from provoking and threatening each other, whether in words or actions, and not to let the situation get to an irreversible and unmanageable stage."

He said, "Once a war really happens, the result will be nothing but loss all round and no one will be a –winner. Whichever side provoked a conflict must assume the historic responsibility and pay the corresponding price."

against Cuba

ii. rally against moves of imperialist and local conspirators carried out against Bolivarian revolutionary exercise that brought relief for millions of people in Venezuela

iii. demand immediate halt to imperialist economic sanctions and provocative military exercises carried out against North Korea, an independent, sovereign state by US imperialism that invaded Korea, partitioned it and established US military camps with a presence of thousands of troops in South Korea

iv. condemn the horrendous genocide carried out by imperialists against Syrian people and the attempt to break up the Syrian state and the acts carried out by aiding and abetting ISIS terrorists

v. abhor imperialist invasions carried out in countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Ukraine

vi. condemn murder of Palestinians, grabbing of lands in independent state of Palestine by Israel Zionist chauvinist regime carried out with the support of imperialists

3. In capitalist societies of countries which have weak social economic and administrative structures, caused by the global financial crisis, extreme rightist fascist political tendencies surface as a result of the same crises and this could be seen throughout the world and especially in North America and Europe. Capitalist governments in a bid to prevent the masses weary of socio-economic crises joining left movements support these rightist cliques and groups. Strengthening of these rightist fascist political parties and groups occurred before the second world war and the end result of this was a world war that killed 50 million people and

eliminated the products of human

labour of several centuries. Hence, this Red May Rally sees the rightist political parties and groups that surface in various guises as a threat to world peace in the future and consensus and calls upon people of the world to rise against such rightist, extremist political cliques and rally with the left and democratic forces.

4. This Red May Rally that firmly believes that imperialism led by the USA and the outdated capitalism could be defeated and a modern Socialist society could be established in its place only through a united struggle of the downtrodden people led by the working class, calls upon all Socialists and Communists throughout the world to come forward to rebuild the Leninist International to achieve this task.

5. This year marks hundred years since the Great October Revolution in Russia, the first victorious proletarian Socialist Revolution against world capitalist system and imperialism.

The Great October Revolution that practically confirmed to millions of people in the world that a power of the working masses could be established, an administration that gives fruit of the labour to those who shed sweat, tears and their labour, helped colonies throughout the world to get independence, assisted to establish a network of Socialist states and handed down to the masses free education, health, housing, 8 hour working day, equal rights for women and equality for the oppressed communities.

Also, by establishing the Leninist 3rd International the Marxist – Leninist International was launched that worked for the emancipation of all working people of the world.

Taking the victories of the Great October Revolution and its effective influence at the present time into account and as the Great October Revolution could be justified only by making this century the century of Socialism this Red May Rally invites people of the whole world to dedicate themselves for the victory of Socialism throughout the world.

May Day message of the JVP - 2017

May Day, which falls on the 1st of May each year, is the day that displays the strength, unity and militancy of the working masses. May 1st was named the International Workers' Day to commemorate the struggle launched by working masses in Chicago 131 years ago in 1886 to demand an eight hour working day and to commemorate the heroes and heroines of the working class, who shed their blood and sweat and sacrificed their lives in the bitter struggle to win this right. Hence May Day is the Day of the working masses. It is also the Day that characterizes the aspirations of the working masses and the downtrodden people to achieve a better life for them.

However, the capitalist rulers throughout the world as well as in Sri Lanka use the May Day for their petty interests distorting its meaning and value. They, who shot at and murdered the workers in Chicago who fought for an eight hour working day, are now competing with each other to grab the ownership of the International Workers' Day. As such, masses also have a struggle to save the May Day from the enemies of the working masses

At a time when the 2017 International Workers' Day is celebrated

capitalism and capitalist social- economic system is confronted with the deepest economic crisis in its history and is fast approaching its demise. It has deprived billions of working masses not only their fundamental rights for food, housing, health, education and employment but also the eight hour working day they won with sacrifices of their lives.

Practice has proved that the rights of the working masses and the downtrodden people cannot be protected within capitalism and even the rights that have been won are being abolished. Hence, downtrodden people, including the working masses, have no other alternative but to defeat capitalism on a global scale and organize themselves to create a new society and an administration of the working masses.

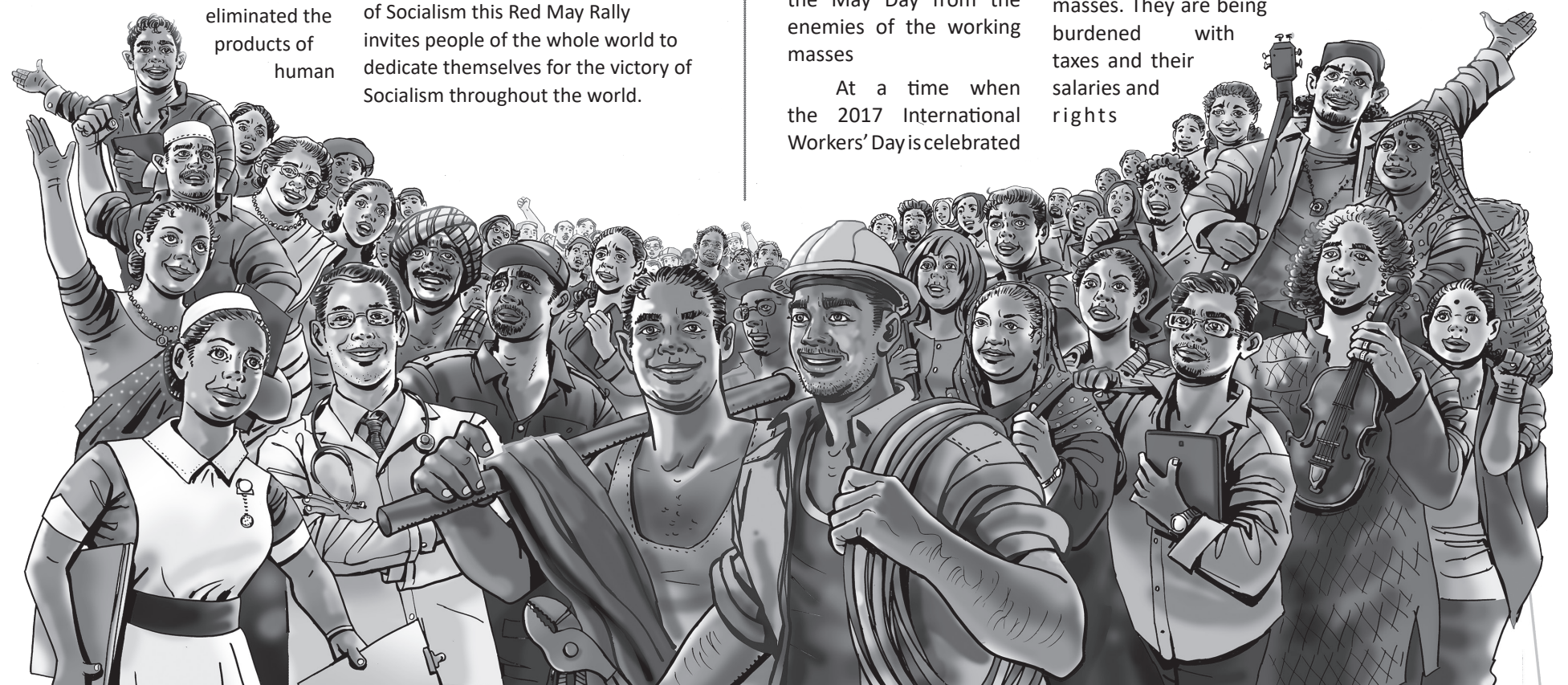
At the moment the capitalist system in the world as well as in Sri Lanka is emerged in an unsolvable crisis. Even developed countries have not been able to come out of the global economic recession that began in USA in 2008. The crisis of capitalism has severely burdened the working masses. They are being burdened with taxes and their salaries and rights

are being slashed. This has greatly inconvenienced and depressed the downtrodden masses including the working masses.

On the other hand imperialists led by the USA in a bid to plunder resources in other countries, especially the fuel resources in the Middle East, and to sell weapons to these countries, continue to set one country against the other, carry out invasions and threaten them. To assist them in such sordid acts various extremist cliques are nurtured and imperialists who really engage in terrorism invade countries on the pretext of suppressing terrorism to take the capitalist world towards barbarism.

In such an environment it is the downtrodden people led by the working masses that have to take the responsibility of coming forward for social progress against barbarism. The working masses in the world have no other alternative other than defeating imperialism and capitalism and giving new life to the struggle to achieve Socialism. This should be the objective of the working

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JVP warns Government Don't tread on oppressive path

The JVP warns that the government that has failed to solve people's issues that have accumulated from day to day is unable to face up to masses that agitate demanding solutions for their issues and is now entering an oppressive path due to its impotency. This is confirmed from the moves the government has already taken and is planning to take.

The government that has decided to allocate days and places for people to agitate has announced that it would establish a special force under Minister Sarath Fonseka, who would be given special powers to mediate in instances of service breakdowns when working masses carry out agitations and trade union action to protect or win their rights. The President had also taken measures to issue a special

gazette notification to suppress agitations carried out by the masses against dumping garbage in their cities and villages. These are indeed oppressive steps taken by the government to suppress people's agitations and protests.

The government that doesn't have solutions for the anti-SAITM agitations had to accept defeat when employees of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation engaged in

a token strike demanding not to hand over oil tank farm to India. This government believes that the only economic strategy with which it could survive from the economic crisis it is immersed in is by selling state assets and natural resources. Also, the government hopes to slash free education and free health services to reduce its expenditure. All these moves would directly clash with the interests of trade unions and the masses and the government hopes to threaten and suppress people's forces to control agitations and protests that would arise.

The General Secretary of the JVP Comrade Tilvin Silva speaking at a press

conference held at the party head office on 26th April said if the government attempts to stop agitations and protests it would lead to more agitations demanding the right to agitate. He said suppressing agitations is an old habit of the UNP and added that the UNP that sought the power of thugs to suppress agitations then is now wobbly and impotent and should remember its mandate. He warned, "This government came to power promising 'good governance'. If it moves against the mandate, the people will teach it the lesson that was taught to the previous government."

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solve the garbage issue. How could a government that is unable to solve the garbage issue develop the economy? How could such a government solve the unemployment problem? In reality the debt mountain is bigger than the garbage mound.

This 'joint' government has been in power for more than 2 ½ half years now. They have shown their impotency. The economic crisis has intensified with the political crisis. There is no stability in the country. This government could tumble at any moment. In such a situation foreign investors would not come to Sri Lanka; there wouldn't be any more industrial zones. Hence, this 'joint' government could only create more and more crises. They will create more issues. Every issue is put off as they have no solutions for the issues. SAITM issue is put off. Putting off issues proves they have no solutions for them.

Red Power: What is JVP's programme to create a people's administration to defeat this situation and what is the state of such a programme at present?

Comrade Vijitha Herath: By now a large majority of the people are rejecting green and blue politics. An economy based on country's production should be established. We have to develop a righteous political culture. People throughout the country are demanding a new economical and political programme. The people should be rallied and organized for such a programme. A massive people's power should be developed to build economic development, social justice and national unity.

The JVP has already begun building a broad national front to achieve this task. We have begun building a massive force incorporating intellectuals, artistes, trade unions, fishermen's and farmers' associations, students and other communities. This new national front that is being built will be prepared to end the present vicious administration. We believe that the present economical and political system could be completely changed and a populist economy and a populist administration could be built. The JVP would take the initiative for such a task. The JVP is already meeting Sri Lankans within the country and outside it and is carrying the burden of creating such a front. This victory is not very far away. In the very near future the people would be able to enjoy the benefits of a people's administration.

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masses on this May Day.

At the moment Sri Lanka too is confronted with a colossal financial crisis and is submerging in it without being able to come out of it. The massive debt accumulation, the loss in foreign trade and collapse of foreign reserves have depreciated the rupee which has opened the way for a massive crisis. The severity of the financial crisis and the dearth of dollars could be seen from the decision of the government to present five year visas for foreign nationals who come to Sri Lanka with US\$300,000. It is for the same reason that the government is planning to sell or lease valuable resources including ports, lands and islands for a few dollars. Regardless of the fact that the situation is thus, the government that increases the tax burden, slashes relief of the masses, slashes the pension of state employees, plunders the EPF of the employees in the private sector, wastes billions to buy luxury vehicles for ministers and MPs, rents out buildings spending million and holds tamashas. It is the downtrodden people including the working masses that are being severely distressed and have to suffer under such circumstances.

While the economic crisis exists the crisis in the ruling class too has intensified. The chaos in the 'unity' government and the division in the SLFP have brought the crisis of the ruling clique to the surface. Even on this May Day, the day that symbolizes the

unity of the working masses, the SLFP, now divided into two factions which are fighting among themselves, without any shame, is attempting to divide the membership to grab a bigger portion by either of the factions.

What does the extreme severe social, economic, political and cultural crisis that has surfaced in Sri Lanka is craving for? It is that capitalism in Sri Lanka cannot create anything new for the people in this country and this impotent capitalist system should be changed. The need for a new social transformation to create a modern Socialist society instead of the bankrupt capitalism that exists is being emphasized again and again. The UNP, the SLFP or other small cliques and groups can never find solutions for the current crisis in capitalism or bring economic development and progress to the country. It could be done only by the working class that includes working people and the downtrodden masses. It needs a political leadership and at this moment such a leadership could be given only by the JVP, the only political party with dedication, determination and honesty and that has an alternative programme to build the country.

Hence, the bankrupt capitalist system that is in crisis should be defeated and in its place a massive people's power, a mass movement, a people's center should be established with the leadership of the JVP targeting a broad

social transformation to establish a Socialist society that would affirm economic development, social justice, national unity and democracy. The people's movement that is being built already should be strengthened. Such a task could be executed only with determination and dedication. The rights of the downtrodden people including that of the working masses could be won and protected and they could achieve their emancipation only by strengthening and bringing victory to this people's movement.

Hence, on this May Day, we call upon the working masses in this country, the farmer community, fisher folk, youths, women, students, professionals, scholars and intellectuals, writers and artistes, journalists, environmentalists, all humanitarians, progressives and democrats to defeat the present administration and the social system that hands down for the people death instead of life, disease, epidemics, frustration, sorrow and pain and to struggle for a modern Socialist society and to rally with the JVP to achieve this noble task.

Down with imperialism—liberation for the people!

Down with capitalism – Victory for Socialism!

Political Bureau

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna

1st May, 2017



JVP participates in May Rally in UK



International solidarity at JVP Red May Demonstration

The foreign delegates who participated in JVP's Red May Rally and the Demonstration

Comrade Abelardo Rafael Cueto Sosa - Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Of Cuba,
Comrade Konstantantinos Papadakis - Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece and Member European Parliament,
Comrade V.Ram Mohan - Member of the Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc and the General Secretary of its Kerala Committee,
Comrade G.Devarajan - Member of the Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc and its International Secretary,
Comrade Sammi Ibrahim - Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist - Leninist),
Comrade Vasileios Stamoulis - President of Textile-Garment Workers' Federation of Greece and Member of All Workers Militant Front (PAME) and
Comrade Grorgios Vasilakis Representative of the Telecommunication and IT Union Of Athens and Member of All Workers Militant Front (PAME).



JVP participates in May Rally in Switzerland



JVP participates in May Rally in Italy