

RedPower

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Lets drive away the rogue regime to build a Modern Sri Lanka

"We need a new generation of young people who work hard to transform this society in a conscious and planned manner. Radicalism or militancy is not trivializing what is seen. Radicalism means moving society from where it is to modernity. That is why the slogan "Modern Sri Lanka" has become the slogan of the Socialist Youth Association," said Comrade Anura Dissanayake addressing the 'Che' commemoration held at Viharamahadevi Open Air Theatre in Colombo on the 8th.

He said, "We need a modern society. The turning point of that society, the forerunner of that society, should be the young generation gathered here. What we need is not only an attitudinal transformation; We need fair and just human activity. We need a young generation whose hearts quiver, seeking fairness and justice.

The empathy generated by this quiver must become the engine that calls one into action."

Speaking further Comrade Anura Dissanayake said, "When we see thousands of young people gathered here, we can see that they are not afraid of the future. That's what we feel. But the rulers feel that the present is also scary. We

are here to celebrate 'Che', who was born in Argentina in 1928, came to Cuba on the Granma boat in 1956, played a major role in the Cuban victory in 1959, fought together with the people against the dictatorial rule in Bolivia in 1967 and was killed by reactionaries led by the United States.

Today, the rulers who preach to the world about our country's democracy and human rights have are mum regarding elections in Sri Lanka. When laws are passed to infringe on the people's right to free flow of information, they are overjoyed. Sri Lanka has become a state that violates the right of the farmers to protect their farmlands, the right of the youth to fight for stability of their future, the right of the journalist to write, the right of the citizen to express his views, and

the right to protest. Don't we need a new diligence, a new practice? The Socialist Youth Union should learn from Che's militancy. He is an uncompromising fighter. He had not only a consensus to overthrow Batista's regime and build Cuba. He was not a limited fighter. He was going to fulfill his mission for the people who were oppressed by the military government of Bolivia and the dictatorial frenzy. His compromise was the final victory. What are we confronted with today? Our country has a very difficult reality. There is a ruling group that has been in power for a long time, has amassed great wealth and power, and uses the media, the underworld, and the state machinery for their existence. Nevertheless, there is also an opportunity in this difficult reality.

This is not a smooth situation. The reality is that these ruling groups repeatedly create new difficult situations in their desire to protect their power until the end. When the conditions are smooth, elections are held. In the harsh reality, elections are canceled. In smooth reality, the election must be called in August next year. Trying to change it is a difficult reality. They are trying to abolish the office of Executive President. This is a harsh reality. They try to go to the people and give various promises and hopes. What did Che show us? Even in a difficult reality, if there is an opportunity to win, we should not give it up.

Don't we have opportunities for victory under these difficult conditions? We do have opportunities

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

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How far can they go...

According to the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the sovereignty of the Republic of Sri Lanka rests with the people, including the right to vote.

Every citizen who has completed the age of 18 years and is eligible to be a voter and whose name is included in the voter register should be able to vote in the respective elections.

Constitution's Articles 1-4 regarding the people, the government and the sovereignty states that: A registered voter in Sri Lanka has the following opportunities to express his constitutional right to vote at

One - a Presidential election every five years

Two - a General election within a period of not more than five years

Three - a Provincial Assembly elections within a period of not more than five years

Four - Municipal Council elections every four or five years and

Five - a Referendum held from time to time.

The term of Local Government Councils, where representatives elected by the people directly meet at the ground level, expired 19 months ago.

The Provincial Council elections were held in February 2018. Some of the provincial councils that have the power to implement development activities and a part of the legislative power expired 72 months ago, The elections for North Central, Sabaragamuwa and Eastern Provincial Councils were held in September 2012. The maximum term for the parliament appointed in the August 2020 general election will expire in August 2025.

People's uprisings in 2022 have shown that the mandate given to the current parliament in 2020 has been revoked. However, two-thirds of the parliament was elected to give the parliamentary power to implement the then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's policy programme. Mahinda Rajapaksa became the Prime Minister according to that mandate. Now, that mandate has completely ended because the people themselves chased Gotabaya and Mahinda away from the presidency and the premiership.

As a democratic country, where the mandate of all the four institutions through which the people's sovereignty is exercised through the voting power in Sri Lanka has either expired or is distorted. What should be done now is to give the people that opportunity. The President-led government's strenuous effort to prevent elections to the local government councils, the smallest unit of this institutional system, clearly indicates how much they fear public opinion.

In instances where they can deceive the people and take power, and when the people did not even ask for it, elections were held before the expiry of the prescribed period. Some Provincial Council elections were held after three and a half years! Those who were ecstatic about having elections are now showing a great fear of the polls.

Ranil - Rajapaksa government has already abolished the voting rights the constitution has conferred on the people. Without stopping at that, they may be discussing whether they can abolish even these institutions if they do not get power.

However, while the executive and the legislature are working to deprive the people of their right to vote, we still hope that the Supreme Court will quickly decide to protect the rights of the people.

Although the scheduled case was to be finished on October 10, it had to be put off until the first week of December due to a technical reason. However, we are patiently waiting for that decisive decision.

No one should underestimate the message read through hope's eyes.

Largest strike ever in the U.S. healthcare sector



Nearly 75,000 healthcare workers at Kaiser Permanente, one of the top U.S. medical employers have been on strike for the third day of a planned 72-hour strike on Friday. The contract talks focusing on staffing shortages and pay appeared to remain in a stalemate.

Nurses, medical technicians and other support personnel at hundreds of Kaiser hospitals and clinics in California, Oregon, Washington state, Colorado, Virginia and the District Columbia, took to picket lines on Wednesday morning in the largest strike ever

in the U.S. healthcare sector.

However, Kaiser workers say they are prepared for a real fight and questioned the power of the three-day limited strike called by the trade unions saying there should be a united struggle of workers across all industries.

Kaiser Permanente, a private healthcare company with hundreds of facilities across the country — including 39 hospitals and 715 medical offices — serves more than 12 million people.

Members at University of Melbourne on a week-long strike



About 1,400 National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) members at the University of Melbourne (UoM) walked out for a week-long strike in their long-running dispute with the university over its proposed enterprise agreement. The action followed a 24-hour strike on August 28, with some faculties extending the strike for a week.

More than 500 university tutorials

have been called off, and thousands of students have been affected as union members step up trade union action at one of the country's richest universities just weeks out from exams.

University of Melbourne staff cancelled week ten classes across all faculties in what the union says is the most extended strike action at the university since 1856.

Union members have sought a 15 per cent wage increase over three years or a pay rise in line with increases in the consumer price index (which measures inflation) plus 1.5 per cent.

Other concerns include job security, workloads, flexible working arrangements and limiting restructures.

Bangladesh: Garment workers demand pay rise

Hundreds of garment workers protested outside Dhaka's minimum wages board office to demand a wage increase. The Garment Workers Alliance, representing 11 trade unions in the garment sector, want the minimum monthly wage raised to between 23,000 and 25,000 taka (\$US209-\$227) from the current \$73. They also want a 10 per cent annual increment, and grade restructures reduced from seven to

five.

However, garment factory owners are dragging out negotiations and not offering a pay increase. According to the factory owners, the new wage increase would only occur in January 2024.

The current minimum monthly wage for garment workers is 8,000 taka (\$72.55), which was established at the end of 2018. The government and factory owners are determined to keep

Bangladeshi garment workers' minimum wages below the wages of garment workers in competing countries.

According to the Bangladesh Institute of Labour, the minimum wage for garment workers is \$307 in Turkey, \$262 in China, \$250 in Malaysia, \$244 in the Philippines, \$194 in Cambodia, \$168 in Vietnam, \$137 in Indonesia and \$128 in India.

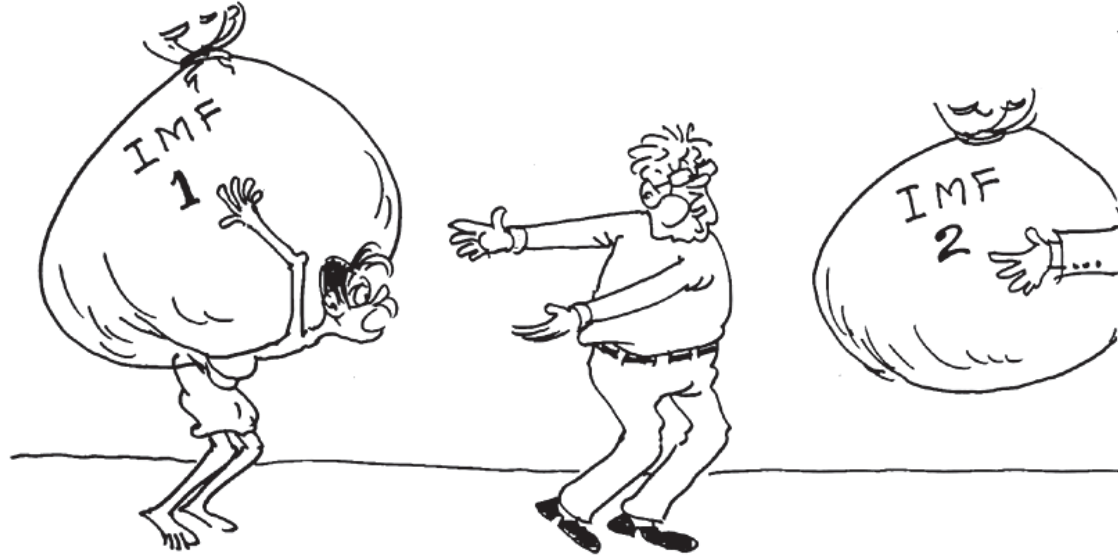
Can Ranil & Rajapaksas avoid defeat?

Ranil became the President when the people's opposition against the Rajapaksa regime that developed in 2021 exploded in 2022, forcing Mahinda Rajapaksa to leave the post of Prime Minister and Gotabaya, the post of President. Then, the Rajapaksas sought Ranil's help, giving Ranil the Prime Ministership and later the Presidentship. As such, there is now a Ranil-Rajapaksa regime.

Ranil, who thought of the presidency, which he would get on a roll, accepted, though the country was amid an enormous economic crisis. At the same time, he also put Sri Lanka under the IMF. That was for a loan of \$2.9 million over four years and to cut off the already unpaid debt.

When Ranil started dealings with the IMF, some people in the country thought he would recover the economy. When the foreign debt was suspended, restrictions were imposed on a large number of goods, when fuel queues disappeared as fuel and gas were brought in with the few dollars saved and also due to the massive increase in oil prices, some people thought that Ranil was a 'superman'.

Boasting and dealings of Ranil and company were unveiled to the whole world when this 'superman' responded to questions recently asked by a journalist of Deutsche Welle (DW), a German public international broadcaster. Ranil, who thinks he is educated and knows everything including archaeology, who thinks he is more mature than all other politicians, poses as a democrat and was a Chairman of the Asia Pacific Democrat Union, indicated his and his government's infirmity, arrogance and stupidity by attempting to teach communication to the journalist or trying to ridicule him. Ranil was not only a complete failure but also looked foolish in front of the world. He also gave a stupid answer to a question and looked at someone to his right meekly, expecting approval.



All these show his infidelity, which are the characteristics of an unreliable, weak and failed personality. It is such a person that the Rajapaksas and their lackeys have chosen to save them from public anger. Now, they have ganged together to deprive the people in this country of their democratic rights, especially the right to vote. They come up with various gimmicks to refrain from holding elections to hang on to power.

Nevertheless, Ranil has not yet been able to cut the foreign debt. Because of that, borrowing as much as expected has not been possible. Also,

insurance, government land, dairy farms, etc. will be sold. India's Amul has visited dairy farms. Meanwhile, the Water Management Act is also ready again.

All this has again intensified the people's opposition against the Ranil-Rajapaksa regime. Instead of the poor getting better, the middle class is getting poorer. The fate of the ruling class is being decided by this crisis and by the political crisis faced by all political groups affiliated with the ruling group.

The ordinary people are rallying against the Ranil-Rajapaksa regime, the entire

political groups are also worried. All these people wish to prevent power from going to the people's movement. For this, the Ranil-Rajapaksa government is taking various anti-democratic measures. It is why the local government elections are not held. That is to avoid their inevitable defeat. Also, to avoid this defeat, the new media censorship laws that shackle the voice of the people and the new terrorism laws that frighten the people are being prepared.

Can the corrupt party, including the Ranil-Rajapaksa gang, escape inevitable defeat? Not at all. Nevertheless, they

election because even if they lose, they can win a group of MPs. They will plan to carry out more tricks and deceptions in the future. Constitutional twists, political conspiracies, and unethical acts will be among them. However, even with all that, they will not be able to escape their defeat.

Currently, there has been a qualitative change in politics. It is not the political situation related to the previous rotation politics. This time, a large majority of the people and many people's forces have come forward with the hope of establishing a new people's government, abolishing this government and this system of governance. It is now a mass power moving steadily towards a definite goal: a flood of people. The National People's Power leads it. The likes of Rajapaksas and Ranil have not yet understood this new situation.

Most people in this country are fed up with the Rajapakse regime and the Rajapakses and Pohottuwa. They hate Ranil. They do not take Sajith seriously. Everyone's goal is a new administration, a new economic system and a profound change in political culture. That is why, unlike in normal times, constitutional twists or conspiracies do not matter with such people. It is especially so when there is widespread opinion that jumping from one party to another or forming various fronts is invalid. Coercion or conspiracies do not succeed. Often, they are reversed.

So now the likes of Ranil and Rajapaksas cannot avoid defeat. Public opinion cannot be turned around. Anyone hoping for a new society should not fear Ranil's constitutional twists or political mechanisations. Any steps taken by the likes of Ranil and Rajapaksas also have solutions. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the people to recognise and understand the existing conditions and go towards victory with confidence. Now, nothing can prevent the defeat of the ruling class and a people's victory.

For the first time in history, ruling groups have learned the fear of defeat. It is about the possibility of the power in the hands of this corrupt elite getting into the hands of a people's force. In this new political situation, not only Ranil Wickramasingha and Rajapaksas, but also small opportunistic political groups are also worried.

the IMF programme has not been successful. In the attempt to fulfil the IMF conditions, a large number of those receiving Samurdhi concessions had to lose that concession, and the prices of goods, fuel and electricity had to be increased as well.

Also, almost all the country's valuable resources had to be sold. By now, 150 gas stations have been handed over to China. Another 300 will be given to the United States and Australia. The Sale Act of the Electricity Board has been set up. Government institutions like telecom,

corrupt regime of 75 years, and the existing economic and political system. It is in this situation that the National People's Power is becoming a people's power that can take power.

For the first time in history, ruling groups have learned the fear of defeat. It is about the possibility of the power in the hands of this corrupt elite getting into the hands of a people's force. In this new political situation, not only Ranil Wickramasingha and Rajapaksas, but also small opportunistic

are not ready to give up their power. Therefore, they are trying various fraudulent methods to stay in power. Ranil was initially optimistic about the upcoming presidential election. However, according to the behaviour of public opinion in the country, it is evident that the National People's Power has the advantage in the presidential election. Therefore, Ranil may have doubts about the presidential election.

Meanwhile, the presidential election is fatal for the Rajapaksas. Therefore, they are thinking about the general

Denial cannot better the HR situation in Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka is undergoing a severe economic crisis, worsened by the politicians appointed to the Presidency and the Government of the country. The crisis escalated, especially with the irrational, nepotistic, arbitrary and stubborn governance of Rajapakses. The escalated economic crisis has led the country to a profound social and political crisis. In the year 2022, there was a massive people's uprising against the then President Gotabaya Rajapakse, and he had to flee the country as a result. Due to this political crisis, Ranil Wickramasinghe was appointed the President by the Parliament, which still has a Rajapakse-biased majority. Ever since the appointment of Ranil Wickremesinghe, we can observe the rapid dilution in democracy, fundamental rights, and overall accountability.

This year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a Report on the Human Rights situation

in Sri Lanka. An update and interactive session to the report took place on 11th September 2023. In this session, a team of officials from Sri Lanka has outright and bluntly rejected the report and the Resolutions 46/1 and 51. The government of Sri Lanka also rejected the conclusions and recommendations as well and has expressed that they will not cooperate with it. However, the delegation has indicated that though they reject the report, the government will voluntarily take responsibility regarding the HR situation. From experience, we know that it is said just for the sake of it. Most recently, the current President, in an interview with one of the German channels, has directly expressed the view that he rejects the report made by the OHCHR and that the report is wrong. This rejection was done very rudely, showing that the current President is not ready to be accountable to Sri Lankans or the international community.

The report by OHCHR indicates the economic situation in Sri Lanka, the crisis it is going through, and the mass protests that emerged as a consequence. It has indicated the impacts on Human Rights occurring due to increased poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to health and education, the burden of the crisis on women, corruption and the weakening of democracy and the rule of law. The report indicates that though the government had some expanded social protection programmes, adverse effects on the Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals can be adversely affected due to increasing taxes, reducing Government expenditure, and limiting investments in health, education and care services.

The report also refers to the impacts of the legal and institutional reforms that are being proposed, which have direct impacts on the Human Rights of the Sri Lankans.

Initially, it has indicated how the 20th amendment to the Constitution, which increased the powers of the Executive Presidency, how it has been rolled back by the 21st Amendment to the Constitution and the impact of the reestablishment of the Constitutional Council, which has impacted the appointments to the independent institutions such as Election Commission and Human Rights Commission. It has specifically indicated that the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka has lost A- status accreditation due to the 20th Amendment and has the opportunity to regain it. The report also refers to the bills recently prepared to be passed, namely the Broadcasting Regulatory Commission Bill, Anti-Corruption Act, Bureau of Rehabilitation Bill and Anti-Terrorism Bill, which contain

of international law obstructing Freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly. It also has grasped the continuous misuse of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. The report ends with several conclusions and recommendations.

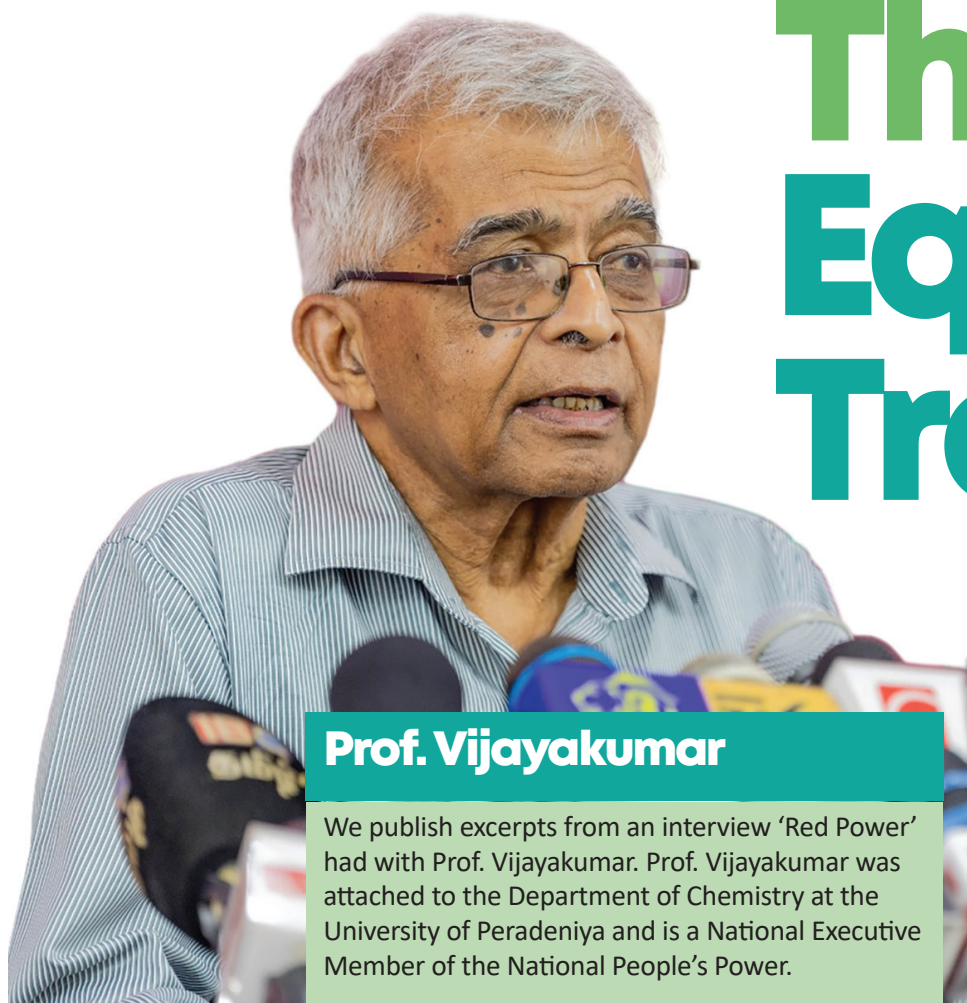
Every country and its citizens must have a right to make policies, make economic decisions, hold investigations and make and implement laws domestically using legitimate methods without being subjected to foreign interventions. Then why must we consider or give validity to this or any other report considering our country? Firstly, such reports of internationally recognized organizations can convey a country's situation to the world. Secondly, this particular report has outlined authentic facts regarding the rapid deterioration of the Human Rights situation in Sri Lanka. Thirdly, when people of a country are facing violations of democracy and rights at the hands of the rulers of the very country, the international organizations and the international community are the ones people can require assistance from.

Though there can be some overstated or understated facts, the outright rejection of the report by the government and President adversely affects the international relations of Sri Lanka. Many concerns raised in the report must be addressed with proper attention and met with solutions domestically. However, in the current context, such a process is not visible, and what is observable is more suppression of fundamental rights by a mandate-less President and a mandate-less government. The recent Online Safety Bill will also affect the freedom of speech, especially on social media and digital platforms. The outright refusal of the OHCHR report on the Human rights situation in Sri Lanka by the government and the President clearly reflects the lack of accountability and responsibility. In this scenario, Sri Lankans' most crucial task is to elect a government with a mandate that can be accountable to the people. So far, the government and the President have obstructed people from exercising their right to vote by postponing the Local Authority Elections. However, this gamble on people's patience will not hold for long.

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provisions counterproductive in the sense of Human Rights as well as the rights assured to citizens by the law itself. The same report refers to the still incomplete process of reconciliation of ethnicities. Simultaneously, the report has referred to the use of crowd control methods in contravention of the standards

They Need Equal Treatment!



Prof. Vijayakumar

We publish excerpts from an interview 'Red Power' had with Prof. Vijayakumar. Prof. Vijayakumar was attached to the Department of Chemistry at the University of Peradeniya and is a National Executive Member of the National People's Power.

RP: Please give us a brief introduction to the history of the Estate working Tamil community (presently known as the Malayaga Tamilar Community) and how they became a part of Sri Lankan population.

Prof. Vijayakumar: The first wave of Indian migratory labour came mainly as freelance workers from South India to Sri Lanka, then Ceylon 200 years ago to seek employment in the new coffee plantations during the harvesting season. The 300-kilometre journey from their villages involved the 30 km journey across the Palk Straits dhonis and much walking across South India and from the Mannar where the boats usually landed through the jungles of Wilpattu to Matale. Around a third of those men, women and children who made the trip died from exhaustion, starvation and infectious diseases like cholera and smallpox. Bodies were scattered on the roadside and these diseases spread among themselves and the local population. The work available initially was in road construction and small plots of coffee. Employers visited the Matale to take them to their place of work. They

originally worked during the plucking season and went back when they had earned enough. However, the sale of crown land to British entrepreneurs and colonial officers at very low prices saw the growth of plantations, which provided more regular employment in clearing forests and establishing and running estates. Immigrant labour from South India estimated to be around 10,000 in the 1820s had grown to 120,000 by 1848. This population was reduced due to the 1848 Matale rebellion and low international prices for coffee but with the coffee boom of the 1860s, the population had exceeded 123,000 making up 8% of the population of Ceylon. The fungal attack that destroyed the coffee industry in the 1870s affected migration but this was replaced by tea and rubber instead. They required a regular workforce and with assistance to migration from the Indian government, the Head Kangany system of recruitment, better shipping, bridging of large rivers and the opening up of roads and the railways, there was a rapid increase in plantation labour. The Indian Tamil population

which was 12.9% of the total population had grown to 15.2% by 1946.

RP: Estate working Tamil community especially those concentrated in upcountry in Sri Lanka contributes to a major part of the economy. Please explain about their contribution to the economy.

Prof. Vijayakumar: Their contribution was through their work mainly in tea and rubber estates throughout their life in Sri Lanka although they also contributed to the national economy by working in constructing roads and railways in the early days. They worked in plantations owned by the British and Sri Lankan capitalists, in the nationalized period during the 1970s to 1992 and since then in privately managed estates. In the 130 years since rubber was introduced, the acreage under rubber grew to 250,000 acres and rubber production to around 100,000 metric tons (MT) earning an export income of 800 million to 1 billion US Dollars, Tea occupies 450,000 acres producing 300,000 MT of which three quarters are exported earning around 1.3 and 1.5 billion US dollars. Under private management,

the acreage and number of workers have been halved but the production has been maintained or increased largely because of improved productivity of the workers. However with improved education, due to the stigma attached to estate employment, the lack of a career path and the low pay they receive, most of the younger generation work outside the estate in vegetable farming, shops and supermarkets contributing to the national income.

RP: Though they are Sri Lankans they are not being treated equally and are being discriminated. Can you explain in detail the discrimination and hardships faced by this community?

Prof. Vijayakumar: The first problem the Malaiyaga community faced was their loss of Citizenship in 1948 through the Citizenship Act of the D S Senanayake government, although most of them had lived in the island for six to seven generations. The lack of voting rights for more than forty years meant that the problems of the estate workers did not receive the attention they deserved. Investment in education and health in the estate areas suffered. No attempt was made to improve housing in the estates and replace the shameful line room housing of the estates although Premadasa built hundreds of thousands of houses for the village population.

During this period their population reduced due to voluntary repatriation to India and a much larger repatriation of over 500,000 through

200 years: Not to celebrate, but to take responsibility

Comrade Krishnan Kaleiselvi
(Asst. Secretary of the All Ceylon Estate Workers' Union,
Executive Committee Member of National Peoples' Power)



The Upcountry estate working community in Sri Lanka is confronted with many problems. Considering the problems estate working women face, they live a very constrained life without any freedom. They wake up at 4 a.m. every morning. They work from morning till night on household chores and estate work, standing on their feet all day and continuing the same cycle every day; apart from that, they do not have the necessary sanitary facilities or good conditions.

Though it is said that they are supposed to get a minimum wage of LKR 1000 as daily wages, the reality is different from that. The estate assigns a weight target for them to pluck, and if they pluck fewer tea leaves due to weather conditions or any other reason, they get a value less than the minimum daily wage. Therefore, they are not even entitled to equal pay. Unlike women who are involved in other professions, estate-working women do not get the dignity or respect they deserve. They are also deprived of education. It has become a serious problem when making progressive political interactions for the betterment of this community, as it is challenging to make them comprehend the realities.

When it comes to children, they lead a very insecure life. The places they have to live are mostly line rooms in which many families live in a limited space. Mothers have to leave their children when they are going to work. There are numerous situations where children are subjected to harassment, including sexual harassment. Access to education and health is also minimal for them.

Estate working communities suffer not as a consequence of their fault. Now, 200 years have passed since their predecessors first came to Sri Lanka for estate work. There are some celebrations Organized to that effect. The reality is after 200 years, there is nothing to celebrate for them. The responsibility for their suffering must be borne by the rulers so far appointed to the country and the opportunistic politicians who have misused and misled them.

It is time we take responsibility for making their lives better. The National People's Power, with their initiative together with other civil societies and intellectuals, is going to take this responsibility. On 15th of October 2023, a declaration called 'Hatton Declaration' will be launched with a programme to uplift the lives of the estate working community under a government of National People's Power.

Tyranny is Tyranny, whether it's from USA or France!

Resistance from West Africa!

The last three months has shaken the Elcy palace of Macron and White house of Biden at once! This time its due to the successful Armed rebellions against west installed puppet regimes in few western

African countries like Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau and Mali. Now Chad has also asked to leave the French troops from its soil. One common factor of these countries are even though they got independence mainly from France in 1960s, even though they are Insanely rich with precious minerals, these countries are the world's poorest countries for decades. France had been the largest colonizer, looter and mass murderer of the western and central African regions. It has been implementing its neocolonial policies on these 14 countries for last 75 years and It has the largest number of foreign military bases in African continent. It has been installing puppet regimes in these countries for decades as well as it has been uprooting through coups and killings if any anti colonial progressive regimes established by the people of these countries.

Here we have explored some basic facts about the recent anti French military take overs in western African countries. When we observed the reactions from the imperialist centers its proved they are shaken by these developments. At the same time we see the majority of the populations of these countries are supporting this new military governments and general perspective of the global south is also symphethetic to see the French colonialism is defeated in one or other way. While we are observing the peoples power and their huge anger against the Imperialists we are doubtful about the final outcomes from these coups. When these uprisings are not lead by progressive experienced people friendly leaderships as a rule these victories wont long last as well as won't bring much needed

economic and political opportunities to the fighting masses. However it's a fact that people of these countries have proved that they are ready to abandon the old system and even they are ready to fight it with any means. Not only had that people of Niger showed something symbolically important. They brought down the French flag and hoisted the flag of Russian



federation. It shows fighting masses of these oppressed nations want to be with anti imperialist bloc which can really fight against US lead

NATO bloc. Even though present day Russia is a much weaker state politically, economically and militarily compared to the USSR, People are showing their collective memory they inherited from their parents generation, that how did USSR helped them to gain their independence from Imperialists.

Abas La France! Vive le Niger!

Down with France, Down with ECOWAS, Down with the European Union!

Thousands of people demonstrate in the streets of Niamey, the capital of Niger. They do not want an ECOWAS intervention. ECOWAS stands for Economic Community of West African States. And ECOWAS stands for western influence.

On 26 July 2023, Niger's official French-supported President, Mohamed Bazoum, was overthrown by a military junta, led by General Abdourahmane Tiani.

ECOWAS, France, the European Union (EU) and other western governments may be thinking they are domineering over the sovereignty of other nations. They slammed down sanctions on Niger.

What is ECOWAS

The creation of ECOWAS in 1975 via the Treaty of Lagos was prompted by Europe and the US, to keep a closer grip on the 15

resources-rich member countries. The official reason was free trade and economic integration. ECOWAS members include, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

ECOWAS continues to be strongly influenced by the west, notably France and the EU. It has lost the trust of many members, all those which defy the western impositions and colonial standards.

ECOWAS has threatened with military intervention in Niger if the military junta under General Abdourahmane Tiani does not re-instate the "legitimately and democratically" elected President, Mohamed Bazoum, who is apparently detained in the Presidential Palace. The country will not submit to threats no matter where they come from, the junta's president General Tiani has said.

So far, nothing has happened. Most likely nothing will happen. ECOWAS is not united and has no common front. The ECOWAS members of Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, have recently had a military coup, for basically the same reason, the military stood up against western-implemented and western-favouring leaders, to finally free themselves from the chains of western new-colonial slavery.

The only reaction so far, as of 7 August, Niger has closed her airspace and Air France, possibly other airlines, have stopped flying to nearby countries.

General Tiani, the former head of Niger's presidential guard, the

coup's mastermind, has since created a coalition of different civil society groups. He also has the support of the neighboring military juntas of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria. They all had recently similar military coups of liberation.

Africa Continues Way Beyond Colonial Times

When the west talks of "democratically" elected West African leaders, they are lying. These ex-French colonies' heads of states were all groomed by the west, especially by France, and very likely by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Many of them emanate from the WEF's academy for Young Global Leaders (YGLs), so that they are in line with western thinking and most notably with the western agendas.

No wonder that Africans are waking up. In a first go, it appears West Africa has had enough of French usurpation and decided to exit the bond. Others may follow.

Niger preceded her 63rd anniversary of independence on 3 August 2023 by about a week – with a coup to liberate themselves from "Independence" which they never really had, since like most other

"Former French colonies", they were never free, economically free, and politically free to ally with whom they chose, and free to trade with whomever they desired.

As of this day, France has more than 1,000 military personnel stationed in Niger. General Tiani has said they must go, and France

responded that they will be withdrawn. But why were they there in the first place – 63 years after "independence"? And there were many more in earlier years, the same as in other former French colonies.

USAFRICOM operates the Niger Air Base 201 close to Agadez. "It is owned by the Nigerien military but built and paid for by the United States". Air Base 201 is allegedly designed to fight Islamic insurgents in coordination with the Niger military. According to USAFRICOM, the US has some 1,100 U.S. special forces in Niger

Western Interest in Niger

Niger is the world's seventh biggest producer of uranium, according to the World Nuclear Association (WNA). The radioactive metal is the most widely used fuel for nuclear energy. It is also used in treating cancer, for naval propulsion, and in nuclear weapons.

Niger, which has Africa's highest-grade uranium ores, produced 2,020 metric tons of uranium in 2022, about 5% of world mining output according to the WNA.

The world's three biggest producers are Kazakhstan, Canada and Namibia.

Niger has one major mining operation in the north operated by France's state-owned Orano, another major mine is under development. Niger has also other western-coveted economically valuable raw materials, such as crude oil, natural gas, coal, tin, and columbite (an iron-bearing mineral that accompanies tin). Petroleum, first discovered in 1956, is the most important source of government revenue and foreign exchange.

The CFA Franc Zones! French IMF

The key to Niger's true independence – as well as that of the other 13 Central and West African nations – is breaking loose from their dependence on French imperialism, by cutting the chain of their CFA currency to the French Treasury.

Niger and all 14 of the West (8 nations) and Central African (6 countries) sub-Saharan former

Tyranny is...

From Page 06

French colonies remained tied and monetarily enslaved to France through the Franc CFA (CFA = Communauté Financière Africaine or African Financial Community) – which remains guaranteed by the Bank of France without any justification. To get this guarantee they must deposit 50% of their reserves in a special account of the Bank of France. Thereby the CFA-countries are not free of moving CFA currencies as they wish and find advantageous to themselves and their people. They need the Bank of France's approval to use their own money!

For more flexibility and monetary stability (France's stability), France created two CFA zones. Each of the 14 countries is affiliated with one of two monetary unions. Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo comprise the West African Economic and Monetary Union, or WAEMU, founded in 1994 to build on the foundation of the West African Monetary Union, founded in 1973. The remaining six countries – Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon – comprise the Central African Economic and Monetary Union, or CAEMU.

These two unions maintain the same currency, the CFA franc. West African CFA countries belong to the West African

Monetary Unions (WAMU); and Coopération Financière en Afrique Centrale (Financial Cooperation in Central Africa), or the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). WAMU and CAMAC account for 14 percent of Africa's population and 12 percent of the Continent's GDP.

While both CFA francs have the same exchange value against the Euro (CFA 655.74 = 1 Euro – [6 August 2023]). Yet, the two CFA francs are not inter-changeable and the two monetary units have two separate Central Banks, the Central Bank for West African States (BCEAO – French acronym – 8 countries) and the Bank for Central African States (BEAC – French acronym – 6 countries).

If all of this sounds confusing, it is because it is confusing.

CFA Franc – History and Future

The CFA franc was created in December 1945 when the French government ratified the Bretton Woods Agreement; it became the currency of the "French Colonies of Africa". Today, the French

Treasury guarantees the currency under a fixed exchange rate but requires a deposit of 50% of CFA Franc reserves into the French central bank. Immediately following independence, this figure stood at

100 per cent (and from 1973

to 2005, at 65 per cent). Imagine, all their reserves were blocked at the French Central Bank until 1973. They could not use any of their reserves, without the approval of the French Treasury or Central Bank. Today it is down to 50% without any justification. Today, there is absolutely no need for a French guarantee of the West and Central African currencies.

And the former French colonies, through this usurping monetary arrangement, contribute significantly, directly and indirectly, to the French economy. Rough unproven estimates range from 15% to 25% of France's GDP stems from the former French colonies.

It is time that the former French colonies take their lives and economic development and prosperity under their own control. Perhaps the recent military coups against French-imposed leaders are the first steps – and may be replicated in other former French colonies. Not that military governments are ideal, they are not. But it is hoped and expected that eventually these military juntas will call for public elections, as democratic as possible, without foreign interference.

Africa, as part of the Global South has a major role to play in the structure of our future world order. To do so, they need economic and political independence.

Lets drive away...

From Page 01

to win and oust the ruling groups in this country. The thousands of young people who have come to this park today show us the hope and expectation for victory. Today, the fact that the National People's Power has become a widespread movement in all parts of the country is a moment of victory. We have to manage the opportunity that we have in these difficult situations well and march towards victory. These young men have a responsibility that should not be abandoned. We are confident that the trust placed in you will definitely make victory a reality.

People in our country are dying in every way. People die when elephants hit them, when trees fall on the moving bus they travel, and when the bus falls down a precipice. Young people are dying every day because of drugs. Cancer patients are dying daily due to lack of necessary injections. People die due to lack of medicine and sub-standard medicine in the hospital. People die because there is no food. Don't we have compassion when confronted with these? If the practice of humanism is to be learned from Che, we should learn from those experiences. We should not give any chance to these rulers to lead the country in this way. Shouldn't we engage in an exercise of ending the reactionary rule every passing hour, day or week? The most significant role of this change is assigned to the young generation.

We need a new generation of

young people who work hard to transform this society in a conscious and planned manner. Radicalism or militancy is not trivializing what is seen. Radicalism means moving society from where it is to modernity. That is why the slogan "Modern Sri Lanka" has become the slogan of the Socialist Youth Association.

We need a modern society. The turning point of that society, the forerunner of that society, should be the young generation gathered here. What we need is not only an attitudinal transformation; We need fair and just human activity. We need a young generation whose hearts quiver, seeking fairness and justice. The empathy generated by this quiver must become the engine that calls one into action.

A person can feel compassion and run away from this country or feel compassion and sleep without action. A person can also have compassion and mind his/her own business. What is necessary is that the resulting sympathy should be turned into an engine with firm determination to create a new state for our society. We know that you have goals. These rulers can be ousted in a very short time. We have to work for it. It doesn't have to be binding. You do not have a contract with us. However, we trust that you will do your best. We aspire you to do your best to educate people in your village, field, and society."

The Need Equal ...

From Page 05

the Sirima Shastri Pact of 1964. However 450,000 were made citizens, but the granting of citizenship, issuing of national identity cards and getting into the electoral list was slow and it took several years for it to have an impact on the electoral process.

Although the nationalization of one's industry should be an occasion to rejoice. the initial nationalization of around 150 private estates in the mid-country region during 1972-73 saw estates being subdivided and handed over to supporters of the local MPs, through the Usawasama. Estate workers were driven out of estates and thrown onto the streets often having to beg for food. However, nationalization improved their living condition with increases in pay, equal pay for women and a cost of living allowance providing them with some protection against inflation.

Thondaman was able to negotiate citizenship for all stateless work but this was followed in 1992 by privatization of estate management, removal

of cost of living allowances and introduction of periodic negotiation of pay which were detrimental to workers. Unfortunately, the Companies try to keep the workers subjugated through their outgrown schemes, arbitrary norms and refusal to register workers. The Rs 1000 daily pay is hardly a living wage and that too is not often paid in full resulting in increased poverty and malnutrition in the estate sector. Most also do not have proper housing living still in the line rooms which were introduced 150 years ago by the British

RP: For decades these people have been misused by politicians and misled by fake pledges. How can we break this tendency and truly grant equality to people in the Malayaga Tamilar Community? What is the importance of a genuine political desire for that purpose?

Prof. Vijayakumar: If the problems of the Malayaga Tamils are to be solved, there must be a commitment by the government to deal with several issues they

face.

There is a need to provide them with livable housing through a scheme which would promote ownership to develop them into a flourishing community in the plantations. Their access to public services requires an expansion of Grama Niladhara, Divisional Secretary and Pradeshiya Sabhas in the plantation areas based on equitable delimitation and national standards with staff bilingual and competent to deal with people in Sinhala and Tamil. Educational facilities should be improved with more than 1 AB school able to teach A/L science and mathematics with competent teachers. The

plantation health sector should be fully integrated into the national health stream.

The present system of the private sector managing the plantations has been a failure as their only strategy appears to be to maximize their profits by depriving workers of whatever financial and other rights they enjoy. The anti-worker actions of the companies must be prevented including the outgrown system which attempts to establish a worker base of independent casual workers, the fixing of arbitrary norms and the

payment of half-day wages if the norm is not achieved. The companies should register new workers and subsistence levels of pay using running at a loss as an excuse cannot be tolerated.

Companies that are unable to pay workers a living wage should not be allowed to manage estates.

Unfortunately, political parties and trade unions representing estate workers have not worked hard enough to solve the problems they face. The plantation trade unions and political parties seem impotent to prevent the attempt made by plantation companies through the government to deprive them of their basic rights as workers through the new Employment Act although some of its leaders hold office in the government. The labour reforms incorporated in the proposed Employment Act remove many of the rights guaranteed by laws such as the Trade Union Ordinance, Workmen's Compensation Act and the Minimum Wages Ordinance introduced by a Malayaga Tamil leader, Peri Sundaram when he was Minister of Labor, Industries and Commerce in the 1930s.



RedPower



Indian Deputy High Commissioner meets JVP leaders

The Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Dr Satyanjal Pandey met JVP Leaders at the JVP head office on the sixth afternoon.

He had discussions with JVP & NPP Leader Comrade Anura Dissanayake and Comrade Vijitha Herath, Member of the JVP Political Bureau and National Executive Member of the NPP.

They discussed the country's current economic and political situation, and the Indian Deputy High Commissioner said that he expects the friendship between India and Sri Lanka that has existed throughout history to continue.



Rally to win Rs. 20,000 living allowance!

The National Trade Union Center has decided to take action to win a living expenses allowance of Rs.20,000 to employees in the government, semi-government and private sectors as well as for pensioners.

Accordingly, a nationwide pamphlets distributing campaign has been organized to inform the masses about this, and the initial campaign was in front of the Colombo Fort railway station held on 2nd October at 4.00 pm. The campaign will continue in major cities in the island.



Comrade Handuneththi addresses Sri Lankans in S. Korea

The Member of the JVP Political Bueau, Comrade Sunil Handunneththi participated in several public meetings organized by the JVP Committee in South Korea.

JVP meets a major TU & leftist organization in Italy

Comrade Bimal Rathnayake, the National Organizer of the JVP and National Executive Member of National People's Power, has discussed with the representatives of USB, a major trade union in Italy, and Rete dei Comunisti (The Network of Communists). Comrade Bimal Rathnayake is in Italy to address the National People's Power meetings with the participation of Sri Lankans living there.

The meeting was held on the 18th at the USB trade union headquarters in Rome.

Comrade Pierpaolo Leonardi and Comrade Nicoletta Testa from the foreign branch of the USB trade union, and Comrade Alessandro Perri from the Rete dei Comunisti organization participated in the discussion.

The discussion has been on the trade union movement in the two

countries, the political situation in Sri Lanka, the state repression in Sri Lanka, the non-holding of elections and the support of the USB trade union in the issues faced by the Sri Lankan community working in Italy. They have also discussed, especially, the delays in obtaining the services of the Italian Embassy in Sri Lanka and the joint measures that can be taken to stop irregularities.

Member of JVP Committee in Italy, Comrade Sudath Adhikari has also participated in the discussion.

The meetings were held to make the Sri Lankans living in Italy aware of the current situation in Sri Lanka and the policies of the NPP.

Meanwhile, Comrade Bimal Rathnayake participated in several conferences held in Italy, especially in Cataniya, Pesaro, Rome, Syracuse and Messina.



Che Day in the UK



The Socialist Youth Union had organized major programmes at two places in Sri Lanka on Che Day in October. For the first time this year, the United Kingdom Committee of the Socialist Youth Union had jointly organized a Che Day in London.

There was a very attractive bicycle demonstration, and after the bicycle demonstration, they had also organized a Che day meeting!

Ambassador of Oman meets JVP National Organizer

A meeting between Mr Ahmed Ali Said Alrashidi, the Ambassador of Oman to Sri Lanka, and Comrade Bimal Ratnayake, member of the JVP Politburo and the National Organizer of the JVP, took place today (13th) at the Oman Embassy in Sri Lanka.

Discussions were held about Sri Lankans living and working in Oman, Omani investments in Sri Lanka and potential Sri Lankan investments in Oman.

The Ambassador of Oman said if Sri Lankan businesspersons are willing, they can invest in Oman, and the Omani government can support them. The Ambassador also said that Sri Lanka can profit from those investments and the ability to gain employment opportunities for Sri Lankans in those businesses.

Comrade Bimal Rathnayake discussed the economic crisis Sri Lanka faced and its impact on investors due to the deterioration of Sri Lanka's political culture and made the Ambassador aware of the policies proposed by the National People's Power led by the JVP to change the situation.

