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Kazakhstan

Statement: Solidarity with the uprising in Kazakhstan

- News from around the world -

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There has been a rapid and strong response to the circulation of this Kazakhstan solidarity statement. Very close to 200 signatures in almost 40 countries were collected in the space of just two days, with many prominent individuals and organisations.

We, socialists, trade unionists, human rights activists, anti-war activists and organisations have watched the uprising in Kazakhstan since 2 January with a sense of deep solidarity for the working people. The striking oil workers, miners and protesters have faced incredible repression. The full force of the police and army have been unleashed against them, instructed to 'shoot to kill without warning'. Over 160 protesters have been killed so far and more than 8,000 have been arrested.

We reject the propaganda of the dictatorship that this uprising is a product of "Islamic radicals" or the intervention of US imperialism. There is no evidence of that whatsoever. It is the usual resort of an unpopular regime - to blame 'outside' agitators.

Instead, the trigger of the protests was the rise in fuel prices. This was the straw that broke the camel's back, in a country where immense oil wealth exists side by side with terrible poverty and exploitation. It is also the result of the crushing weight of a brutal dictatorship on people's backs. This regime has liquidated all opposition parties, imprisoned and tortured trade union and human rights activists, and was responsible for a massacre of striking oil workers in Zhanaozen ten years ago.

The position of all the major capitalist powers is clear. Putin stands full square behind the regime. The Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) has sent 3,000 troops to Kazakhstan to intimidate protesters. Chinese President Xi Jinping also announced his support for the Kazakhstan government and claimed the unrest was the deliberate result of "outside forces."

The US administration has called for "restraint by both the authorities and protesters". The EU has similarly called on protesters to "avoid any incitement to violence" and called on authorities "to respect the fundamental right to peaceful protest and proportionality in the use of force when defending its legitimate security interests"!

Unsurprisingly, they all prioritise 'stability' for their oil companies who are benefiting from the exploitation of the natural resources and Kazakh workers.

In response to the class solidarity of the capitalist regimes, we respond with working class solidarity and commit to raise the following demands in our trade unions, parliaments and organisations:

" Solidarity with those rising up against the dictatorship in Kazakhstan

" End the repression of the protests

" Release all the detained protesters and political prisoners

" No to Russian and CSTO intervention - withdraw the troops now

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" No to the hypocrisy of the EU and US who equate the revolt of the masses with the brutal violence of the regime

" Down with the dictatorship

" Support the call from oil workers for nationalisation of the oil wealth and major industries under workers' control

" Support the building of an independent trade union movement and socialist movement in Kazakhstan

Albania

Redi Muci

Aotearoa / New Zealand

International Socialist Organisation

Joe Carolan, Unite Union, Senior Organiser

Argentina

Christian Castillo, por la Dirección Nacional del Partido de los Trabajadores Socialistas (PTS)

Nicolás del Caño, Diputado Nacional por la Provincia de Buenos Aires por el Frente de Izquierda y de los Trabajadores - Unidad, dirigente del Partido de los Trabajadores Socialistas (PTS)

Myriam Bregman, Diputada Nacional por la Ciudad de Buenos Aires por el Frente de Izquierda y de los Trabajadores - Unidad, PTS, Abogada del CEPRODH - Centro de Profesionales por los Derechos Humanos

Alejandro Vilca, Diputado Nacional por la Provincia de Jujuy por el Frente de Izquierda y de los Trabajadores - Unidad, dirigente del Partido de los Trabajadores Socialistas (PTS)

Raúl Godoy, ex Diputado provincial de Neuquén por el Frente de Izquierda. Dirigente del PTS, ex Secretario General de SOECN (Sindicato de Obreros Ceramistas), obrero de la fábrica ex-Zanon recuperada por sus trabajadores

Eduardo Ayala, trabajador de Madygraf (ex Gráfica Donneley recuperada por sus trabajadores), PTS

Claudio Dellecarbonara, dirigente por la minoría de Asociación Gremial de Trabajadores del Subte y Premetro (AGTSYP) y referente de línea B de Subterráneos Buenos Aires. Diputado Provincial (Buenos Aires) electo por el Frente de Izquierda y de los Trabajadores Unidad, PTS

Australia

Caitlin Doyle-Markwick, Solidarity (IST), Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance

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Miroslav Sandev, Solidarity / Teacher's Federation

Luke Alexander, NTEU

Dani Cotton, National Tertiary Education Union, Branch Committee, University of Sydney

Susan Price

Mick Armstrong, Socialist Alternative, National Executive

Austria

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Manfred Ecker, Gewerkschaft der Privatangestellten GPA, Member

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Heidi Specht, Arbeiter*innenstandpunkt

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Belgium

Daniel Tanuro, Gauche anticapitaliste, Ecosocialist author

Jean Vogel, Marcel Liebman Insitute, President

Eric Toussaint, Fourth International, international activist & historian

Freddy Mathieu, FGTB, Ancien Secrétaire Régional

SAP - Antikapitalisten / Gauche anticapitaliste

Britain / England and Wales

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Fiona Lali, Marxist Student Federation (MSF)

Anne Alexander, Middle East Solidarity magazine, Co-editor

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Labour Representation Committee (LRC)

Neil Faulkner, Archaeologist, historian and writer

Kazakh Solidarity Campaign

John McNally, Public & Commercial Services Union, Former Vice-President

Socialist Appeal

Workers Power

Ukraine Solidarity Campaign

Alex Callinicos, Emeritus Professor of European Studies, King's College London

Andy Richards, UNISON, Brighton and Hove Branch Chair

Donny Gluckstein, SWP, Educational Institute of Scotland, EIS Council

Gareth Jenkins, SWP

Jon Woods, Portsmouth City UNISON, Chair

Gilbert Achcar, UCU, Professor

Michael Tucker

Ian Parker, Unite

Andrew Kilmister, Oxford Brookes University UCU (Universities and Colleges Union), Branch Secretary

Rowan Fortune, Anti*Capitalist Resistance, EC Member

Penny Foskett, SWP. NEU

Campbell McGregor, Scottish Socialist Party / UNISON

Tony Foley, NEU, England

ACR, Anti*Capitalist Resistance, England and Wales

Alan Thornett, UNITE

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Costa Rica

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Fernanda Quirós, dirigente de Pan y Rosas Costa Rica

Esteban Fernández, dirigente de OSR, profesor de filosofía UCR.

Cuba

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Athina Kariati, NEDA - New Internationalist Left

New Internationalist Left, NEDA

Denmark

Søren Sondergaard, Red-Green Alliance, Member of Danish Parliament, spokesperson on European Affairs

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Movimiento Socialista de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores, MST

France

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Nouveau Parti Anticapitaliste / New Anticapitalist Party

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Michael Findeisen, Fellow

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Daniel Behruzi, ver.di TU Darmstadt (Trade Union), Shop Stewards Speaker

Alexander Keim, LiK/ die Linke/Verdi

Internationale Sozialistische Organisation (ISO)

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Wilhelm Schulz, Gruppe ArbeiterInnenmacht, German Section of the League for the Fifth International

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ANTARSYA, Front of the anticapitalist Left

Xekinima - Internationalist Socialist Organization

NAR, New Left Current

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International

International Marxist Tendency International

Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (www.thecommunists.net)

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Iran

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Ireland

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People Before Profit

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JRCL (Japan Revolutionary Communist League)

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Socialist Tendency (IST)

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Hannah, Bewegung für den Sozialismus

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Jackal, Revolutionary Left Movement

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Fang, International Socialist Forward

Nicholas Soo, International Socialist Forward

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Sosyalist Alternatif

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Tempest Collective

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Steve Leigh, Seattle Revolutionary Socialists (*for identification purposes only)

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Zimbabwe

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