



IV532 - May 2019

Release Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar, withdraw false police charges

31 May 2019

Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar were elected as Members of the National Assembly (MNA) in the general elections held in 2018. They are also leaders of the Pashtun Defence Movement/Pashtun Tahfuz Movement (PTM), a mass social movement that emerged two years ago.

The PTM demands an end to military operations in the region bordering Afghanistan. This region is inhabited by ethnic Pashtuns. Their demands have brought them in conflict with the country's powerful military. For the last two months, the military spokesperson has been passing threats to the PTM. Besides, the media were publicly advised by the military not to give any coverage to the PTM.

These threats and media black out translated into a tragic reality on 26 May. On the one hand, the peaceful procession was fired upon. On the other, media unanimously reported that the PTM activists led by Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar attacked a military check post and ensuing violence claimed the lives of three protestors besides injuring three soldiers.

Ironically, video footage - filmed through mobile phones - has emerged. These videos clearly show that Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar were fired upon from behind. While people were falling to bullets, Ali Wazir, instead of

running to safety, went back to help an injured comrade. As he approached his comrade, near the checkpost, he was arrested by the military.

The next day, he was produced before the Anti-Terrorism-Court and remanded for eight days. Meantime, the entire opposition in the Parliament has demanded his release. He suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure.

There have been unconfirmed allegations of torture as well. In the event, even if he is released for now, his life remains threatened. Like the rest of the PTM leadership, he has been subjected to a vicious hate propaganda. He is being portrayed by the mainstream media and the military as a foreign agent, a traitor, and a terrorist.

Fact of the matter is, the PTM staunchly believes in non-violence while 16 members of Ali Wazir's family, including his siblings and father, were assassinated by the Taliban owing to his family's opposition to the Taliban. He emerged as a symbol of anti-Taliban struggle before the rise of the PTM.

We urge you to sign this petition for these democratic demands:

(1) The urgent release of Ali Wazir and

his PTM comrades

(2) An end to vilification campaign against the PTM leadership

(3) Withdrawal of fake police charges under anti terrorist laws against Ali Wazir and the PTM members.

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To sign, use the ESSF "contact" form:

Put your name, "title" (function, organisation) and country, mentioning "solidarity with Ali Wazir".

<http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?page=contact>

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Direção SEPE, Petrópolis Teachers Union; Mara Cotinho, SEPE Porciñncula Teachers Union; Juliana Santos, SEPE Valença Teachers Union; Valdir Vicente, SEPE Nova Iguaçu Teachers Union; João Silva, SEPE Cabo Frio Teachers Union; Brazil	Wolfgang Alles, Trade unionist (IG Metall), Mannheim, Germany	Valerio Arcary, Resistencia/PSOL, Brazil
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Muhammad Khan, I condemn the brutality of a cruel state as a Muslim and Pashtoon, Britain	Sosa Laura, Delegate of Amsafe Santa Fe, Montenegro Claudia, Gaitán Maricel and Fernández Facundo, Delegates of Amsafe Rosario, Argentina	Silvana Louzada, Dirigente Sindifrij Teachers Union, Brazil
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	Reynaldo M. Monteverde, Chairperson, Federation of Rural Organizations in Zamboanga Peninsula, Mindanao, Philippines	

Geral Jan Omelio, Youth Section, Philippines	retraité, France	Leonardo Nicolás Rando, ATE Delegate of the Ministry of Culture, Marcela Salas, secretary of tourism of ATE Lanus, candidate to sec for the Multicolor list of ATE, Daniela Saavedra, delegate of ATE Health Care, Argentina
Nahuel Orellana, Board of Directors of CTA Autónoma of Lomas de Zamora, Argentina	Michael Petersen, council Chairman, IGBCE (Trade Union for mining, chemicals and energy industries), Germany	Ammar Rashid, Secretary Information, Awami Workers Party Punjab, Teacher at Quid Azam University Islamabad, Singer, Pakistan
Marcio Ornelas, Presidente do PSOL São Gonçalo, Brazil	Sandro Pimentel, Deputado Estadual do PSOL RN, Brazil	Dr Taimur Rehman, General Secretary, Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party, Pakistan
Victor Ottoboni, Secretary of minutes and press of the Union of Tire Workers of Argentina	Gastón Pinchetti, La Virginia Local Board (Rosario Food Union), Argentina	Vivi Reis, DNPSOL e suplente de deputada federal, Brazil
Priscila Ottón and Pablo Ottón, Subdelegates of ATEN (teachers union of Neuquén), Argentina	Átalo Pires, AOB RJ Union LAYERS, Brazil	Daniela Rei Varas, doctor, Germany
Niels Overgaard Hansen, member of Socialist Workers' Politics (SAP), and of the Fourth International, Denmark	Emilio Poliak, Secretary of Organization of the CTA Autónoma of Santa Cruz, Argentina	Hans-Peter Renk (solidaritéS), conseiller général (Le Locle), Switzerland
Ámer F. Oyal, writer, Turkey	Christine Poupin, Spokesperson, NPA, France	Edgardo Reynoso, trains union leader, delegate of the TBA Branch-Sarmiento, Argentina
Sophie Ozanne, member of the NPA, France	Chantal Pottier, member of the NPA, France	Frédérique Riedlin, solidarity with Almi Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, France
Guillermo Pacagnini, General Secretary of CICOP, Trade Union Association of Health Professionals of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina	Joël Pottier, member of the NPA, France	Rebeca Riela, economist, Uruguay
Naãde Pacheco, Presidenta do PSOL/Marabá, Brazil	Mutiara Ika Pratiwi, National Secretary of Perempuan Mahardhika, Indonesia	Ranier RÃos, leader of the Socialist Workers' Movement (MST), Chile
Luciano Palagano, Executiva Estadual CSP-Conlutas e militante MES/PR, Brazil	François Preneau, retired, trade unionist and member of Ensemble !, France	Mariana Riscali, Tesoureira do PSOL, Brazil
Ugo Palheta, Sociologist, Assistant professor, Lille University, and director of the online magazine <i>Contretemps</i> , France	Socialist Party of Malaysia (PSM), Malaysia	Betina Rivero (Palpalá), Leonardo Rivero (Jujuy), Delegates CTA Autónoma and Congress Delegate of ATE, Argentina
Jaime Pastor, Professor, Political Sciences (Spanish State) and editor of the magazine <i>Viento Sur</i>	Masood Punjabi, trade union activist, Stockholm, Sweden	Rolando Rivero and Alejandro Omarle, APUBA Delegates, Argentina
Rince M Paulose, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, India	Chiara Puppo, Secretary of Women and Dissidences CECSO, Socialist Left, Argentina	Roberto Robaina, MES Socialist Left Movement, Roberto Robaina, MES Socialist Left Movement, Vereador de Porto Alegre RS, Brazil
Laila Pecheny, Social Communication Council member UBA, Socialist Left, Argentina	François Preneau, trade-unionist, member of Ensemble !, France	Sylvain Roch, member of the CGT Union, Corèze, France
Dante Peixoto, PSOL São Carlos SP, Brazil	Awais Qarni, Central Organizer Revolutionary Students Front(RSF), Pakistan	Heloãse Rocha, Presidenta do PSOL/Santarém, Brazil
Rogge Perfecti, PSOL Macaé, Brazil	Alexandre Raguet, NPA activist, France	Victor Rodrigues, member of the PCF, France
Marie Cécile Perillat, trade unionist, France	Asia Rahman, Politician for Vänsterpartiet (Left Party), Sweden	Pedro Rosa, Sintuff union leader and
Patrice Perret, responsable syndical	Mongi Rahoui, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia	

leader of the Fasubra University Workers' Federation, Brazil	IGBCE (Trade Union for mining, chemicals and energy industries), Weinheim, Germany	Argentina
Xavier Rousselin, Divisional Engineer of Agriculture and Environment, France	Sukla Sen, Peace Activist, India	Nicolas Springer, member of FSU trade union, France
Pierre Rousset, Europe solidaire sans frontières (ESSF), France	Danilo Serafim, Secretária Executiva Nacional da CSP-Conlutas, Brazil	Juan Staiano, President CEFyL-UBA, Partido Obrero, Argentina
Talat Rubab, editor of Labour Education, Pakistan	Má'nica Seixas, Deputada Estadual do PSOL SP, Brazil	Petra Stanius, United Services Trade Union (ver.di), Germany
Daniela Saavedra, delegate of ATE Health Care, Argentina	Nisar Shah, Jammu Kashmir Awami Workers Party, Kashmir (Pakistan side)	Marcin Starnawski, academic teacher and translator, Poland
Julia Saavedra, Board of Directors of AEJBA (Judicial CABA, Argentina)	Umar Shahid, Information Secretary, PTUDC, Pakistan	State Workers Alternative - Lilac Orange List ATE, Argentina
Hilda Saeed, Former chairperson Women Commission Pakistan, Women Action Forum Karachi, Pakistan	Ferida Sher, Activist (retired from Development activism), Lahore, Pakistan	Dr. Farooq Sulehria, Assistant Professor, Beaconhouse National University Lahore, Pakistan
Yohichi Sakai, Japan Revolutionary Communist League, Japan	Micha? Siermi?ski, doctorant en philosophie, Pologne	Kolja Swingle, member of DIE LINKE party, Germany
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Olivier Salles, member of Ensemble !, France	Rubén "Pollo" Sobrero, Secretary General, Trains Union West Section-Haedo, Argentina	Pawe? Szelegieniec, Political Scientist, Poland
Catherine Samary, Economist, France	Sindy Soler, MTWRC- Cotabato City, Mindanao, Philippines	Roxana Szyszko, Executive Committee of the CTA Autónoma of LanÃ's, Argentina
Edgard Sánchez, PRT (Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores), Mexico	Soren Sondergaard, Member of the Parliament, Denmark	Giulia Tadini - PSOL BrasÃlia DF, Brazil
Lucien Sanchez, retired, NPA, Toulouse, France	Bambi Soumar, member of the CADTM/Senegal	Arlette Tardy, member of the NPA, France
Marcelo Santana, DireçÃo do Sinpro Teachers Union, Brazil	Adama Soumaré, Alternatives, Senegal	Mansoor Tareen, organizer of PTM-Sweden
Ma. Gittel Saquilabon, SUMPAY Mindanao, Iligan City, Mindanao, Philippines	Alda Sousa, former Member of the European Parliament, Left Bloc, Portugal	Farooq Tariq, Spokesperson, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan
Patrick Saurin, member CADTM-France	Heitor Sousa, Member of the Parliament, Left Bloc, Portugal	Teachers Alternative, Argentina
Jakob SchÃfer, activist in the trade union left, Germany	Camila Souza, Executiva Municipal do PSOL do Rio de Janeiro e dirigente GTN Juntos!, Brazil	Mohammed Tehseen, Executive director, South Asia Partnership
Michael Schembri, trade union advocate and a gay left activist, Australia	Laura Spinelli, Associate Secretary, Maximiliano Lalli, Secretary of records, Valentina Viglieca, Secretary of Training, Agustina Grinberg, Local Board delegate, Paola Molina, Local Board delegate, LucÃa Giménez, Delegate, Moroz, Nahuel, Delegate, Javier RodrÃguez, Delegate Museum of Engraving, Fernando Franco, Delegate MNBA, ATE Culture,	Bernhard Thiesing, Member Public Service Union Ver.di, Germany
Mónica Schlottahuer, trains union delegate and congresswoman, Socialist Left-Left Front (FIT), Argentina		Janne Toft-Lind, Member of the Zeland Regional Council, Red-Green Alliance (Enhedslisten), Denmark
Helmut Schmitt, Member of the		Francisco Torres, Secretary of the National Federation of Teachers, FND-CTA Autónoma, Argentina
		Yennah Torres, peace activist, Mindanao, Philippines
		Juan Tortosa, solidaritÉS, Switzerland

Eric Toussaint, CADTM International Spokesperson	Paulo Vasallo and Alejandro Parlante, Municipal Delegates of Rosario, Argentina	Thomas Weyts, SAP-Gauche anticapitaliste, Solidair Gent, Belgium
Josette Trat, Sociologist, France	Priscilla Vásquez, national leader of the social security workers, Panama	Ani White, Editor, Fightback, Australia
Rafael Trujano Feroso, Jubilado, Sindicato de Telefonistas de la República Mexicana, Mexico	Mariano Veiga, Union Secretary, Interdisciplinary Union Association of the Moyano Hospital (AGIHM), Argentina	Peter Widén, Socialist Party, Suède
Anwar Ul Haq, Economist, Pakistan	Marie-Christine Vergiat, Human Rights activist, Member of the European Parliament, European Left, France	Violet Wilson-Baird, Executive Assistant, UnionAID, Aotearoa/New Zealand
Zafar Ullah, Member of Pakistan Trade Union Defence Campaign, Islamabad, Pakistan	Pietje Vervest, Transnational Institute, The Netherlands	Vivi Widyawati, Perempuan Mahardhika, Jakarta, Indonesia
University Teachers Alternative, Argentina	Pedro Vianna, poet, teacher in the Master's degree Human Mobility Universitat de Valencia (Espagne), former judge assessor at the National Court of Asylum, France	Simon Wood, member of "The Australian Greens", Australia
Miguel Urbán Crespo, Member of the European Parliament, Spanish State	Gérard Vidal, photographer, director, France	Cynthia Wright, Assistant Professor, Gender, Sexuality, Women's Studies, York University, Canada
Ingrid Urrutia, General Secretary of ATE INCAA Local Board, Argentina	Laerson Vidal, Presidente da Ap-Ler e dirigente MES/Paraná, Brazil	Nora Zaldua, Massacre Commission of La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Murat Uyrkulak, writer, Turkey	Luigi Viglino, Sinistra Anticapitalista, Italy	Susana Zaldua, Massacre Commission of La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Jesus Uzkudun Illarramendi Activista social por la Salud Laboral Euskal Herria, Euskadi	José Villa, local commission SIAT TENARIS, Argentina	Luis Zamora, Autodeterminación y Libertad, Argentina
Seth Uzman, rs21, UCU member, Britain	Mary Joy Villagomez, Secretary General, DKMP- Lanao, Mindanao	Philipp Zehmisch, Laal Hartal, Lahore, Pakistan
Alejandra Vaca, Secretary of Gender of UTS, Argentina	Violet List Unión Ferroviaria, Argentina	Stefan Zgliczyński, Le Monde diplomatique, Poland
Gastón Vacchiani, Secretary General UTS (Union of Health Workers) Córdoba, Argentina	Dr J. P. Voloch, Cardiologist, France	Muhammad Zubair, Member Fairness Committee, Magna international, Toronto, Canada
Roseline Vachetta, former Member of the European Parliament, France	Henri Vuillomenet, militant de Solidarité, Suisse	<i>To sign, fill the ESSF "contact" form:</i>
Charlotte Vallée, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, Denmark	Ahmad Waqas Goraya, Abducted activists living now in exile, Pakistan / The Netherlands	Put your name, "title" or "identification" (as, profession, function, organisation, field of activities...) and country, mentioning "solidarity with Ali Wazir".
Achin Vanaik, Retired Professor of International Relations and Global Politics, former Head of the Department of Political Science and former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi, India	Claudio Wasquin, Deputy Secretary of the CTA Autónoma of Santa Cruz, Argentina	http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?page=contact
Julien Vanhove, CADTM Belgium		
Christian Varin, Fourth International		

The Struggle over Women's Bodily Autonomy and the Dehumanisation of Women in the US

30 May 2019, by **Susan Pashkoff**

However, this is just a ramping up of an attack against women's right to abortion since the decisions of Roe and Doe; the Guttmacher Institute has compiled a list of the ways that this right has been curtailed in various US states. [1] With the failure of Texas's Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) law based on the pretence of protecting women's health, [2] the push has been towards passing legislation eliminating procedures and cutting back the time that women can have safe and legal abortions due to the supposed development of medical procedures that enable a foetus to survive outside the womb or that the foetus can feel pain or that it is a person as it has a heartbeat. The lie that anti-choice advocates were "protecting the health of women" has been easily jettisoned (they were lies anyway) towards protecting the "personhood" and hence civil rights of fetuses. [3] Since these people do not view women as having the same rights of men in terms of their bodily autonomy, the assertion of the rights of a potential person is not a big leap.

These attacks have not only attempted to eliminate forms of safe abortion [e.g., Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) in Kansas and Kentucky [4] [5]] where rulings have recently been made on the bills, but also have attempted to grant civil rights to fetuses (they are viewed as dependents for tax purposes and pregnant women are entitled to appropriate financial child support in the Georgia bill) and have further limited the time for which women can have a legal abortion to 6 weeks (the so-called foetal heartbeat bills).

Even pregnancies which are recognised as non-viable by the Catholic Church and hence not officially abortion (ectopic pregnancies) are questioned by the

medical ignoramuses that these legislators are; Ohio Republican representative John Becker has sponsored a bill claiming contraceptives cause abortion and even better that ectopic pregnancies can be fixed by moving the embryo from the fallopian tubes and replanting them in the uterus (perhaps he has watched his mother garden and thinks that what can be done with plants works as well with women's uteri). [6]

Ignorance of medical procedures is not just the purview of Republican state legislators, but also belongs to US Congress people and Senators and parroted by the President. The failure of the Born Alive Survivors Protection Act in the US Senate (2018) [7] and the vetoing of a similar bill by the Wisconsin Governor provided another opportunity for Trump to exhibit his skill with lying and demonstrate his misogyny in a speech in Wisconsin where he essentially said that following the birth of a living child following a late-term abortion that doctors simply wait around to execute it. [8] The poison of his lies, his lack of knowledge of medical procedures, and his willingness to trample on the deep grief of parents and the sadness of doctors to make a cheap and false political point is not only dangerous; it creates a view of a woman (in perhaps what is the worst moment of their lives) and doctors as psychopaths moving onto the next aborted birth as easy as breathing.

Natural Rights: Life, Liberty and Pursuit of

Happiness and all that Jazz

You are probably asking "what the hell are Natural Rights?" You are probably also asking yourself, what the hell does Natural Rights have to do with this discussion? If you have not succumbed to the pleasures of reading Political Philosophy (which most people haven't), Natural Rights are in many senses a precursor to Human Rights. [9] They are fundamental rights that human beings have that are guaranteed independent of the civil societies in which we live; these are rights that are inalienable and non-transferrable. Prior to the enlightenment these were seen as rights that existed in Scripture (so the right to life was argued to imply a right to subsistence for example and the right to steal, see Aquinas, to ensure your life); fundamental rights guaranteed to us as living beings created by God. During the Enlightenment, the basis of these rights changed in that human being could interpret them themselves due to their ability to reason. The relationship between your natural rights and your civil rights (that is do you keep these rights in civil society and how can you pursue them is a major point of debate between political philosophers; so for example, while Aquinas and the Scholastics recognise the right to subsistence as part of the right to life there was no attempt to insist upon this being enshrined in civil law; theft is a civil crime even if you were trying to ensure your right to life).

What is very interesting about Natural Rights is that in the period of the Enlightenment they were used by Locke to reject the Divine Right of Kings and to support universal

suffrage, oppose slavery and the death penalty on the basis of the right of property in one's own body which the state cannot take away from you. This is where these rights become relevant even though Locke's right of property was not used in the American constitution and state constitutions based on it and the right of the pursuit of happiness is substituted instead. This is because the rights of life and liberty on their own are very relevant to this discussion at least theoretically (as we know theory and reality often diverge strongly).

Interestingly, the issue of Natural Rights has been used in both the total abortion ban legislation in Alabama and Georgia (the Georgia legislation speaks of fundamental rights, but is along the same lines) and recently by the Kansas Supreme Court in blocking the state legislation which banned the use of the D&E procedure in second trimester abortions.

Going and reading legislation is interesting as understanding how these arguments are formed which eliminate our rights are important (and I am obviously a masochist but if you are taking away my rights, I want to know how you are doing it), so I went to look at the legislation from both Alabama (companion bills in the Senate [10] and House [11]) and Georgia. [12] Both states abortion bans cite the right to life guaranteed in the Constitution; what they try to do is extend the right to life and due process to cover fetuses so as to grant civil rights to potential human beings while undermining the civil rights of living members of our society, women.

From the Georgia bill, the issue allowing this extension is one of advancing medical science:

"In the founding of the United States of America, the State of Georgia and the several states affirmed that: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness - that to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among men;"

To protect the fundamental rights of all persons, and specifically to protect the fundamental rights of particular classes of persons who had not previously been recognized under law, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified, providing that, "nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws";

Modern medical science, not available decades ago, demonstrates that unborn children are a class of living, distinct persons and more expansive state recognition of unborn children as persons did not exist when Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992) and Roe v. Wade (1973) established abortion related precedents;

The State of Georgia, applying reasoned judgment to the full body of modern medical science, recognizes the benefits of providing full legal recognition to an unborn child above the minimum requirements of federal law;

Article I, Section I, Paragraphs I and II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia affirm that "[n]o person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property except by due process of law"; and that "[p]rotection to person and property is the paramount duty of government and shall be impartial and complete. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws";

It shall be the policy of the State of Georgia to recognize unborn children as natural persons." [13]

Alabama's bill also is based on the advances in medical science, but has to add something even more ridiculous to the discussion (just because it is Alabama); essentially comparing abortion to genocides and crimes against humanity:

"In the United States Declaration of Independence, the principle of natural law that "all men are created equal" was articulated. The self-evident truth found in natural law, that all human beings are equal from creation, was at least one of the bases for the anti-slavery movement, the women's

suffrage movement, the Nuremberg war crimes trials, and the American civil rights movement. If those 4 movements had not been able to appeal to the truth of universal human equality, they could not have been successful.

Abortion advocates speak to women's rights, but they ignore the unborn child, while medical science has increasingly recognized the humanity of the unborn child.

Recent medical advances prove a baby's heart starts to beat at around six weeks. At about eight weeks, the heartbeat can be heard through an ultrasound examination.

A fetal Doppler can detect a fetal heartbeat as early as 10 weeks.

Ultrasound imaging shows the developing child in 15 utero. As early as six weeks after fertilization, fetal photography shows the clear development of a human being. The Alabama Department of Public Health publication "Did You Know . . ." demonstrates through actual pictures at two-week intervals throughout the entire pregnancy the clear images of a developing human being.

It is estimated that 6,000,000 Jewish people were murdered in German concentration camps during World War II; 3,000,000 people were executed by Joseph Stalin's regime in Soviet gulags; 2,500,000 people were murdered during the Chinese "Great Leap Forward" in 1958; 1,500,000 to 3,000,000 people were murdered by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia during the 1970s; and approximately 1,000,000 people were murdered during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. All of these are widely acknowledged to have been crimes against humanity. By comparison, more than 50 million babies have been aborted in 5 the United States since the Roe decision in 1973, more than three times the number who were killed in German death camps, Chinese purges, Stalin's gulags, Cambodian killing fields, and the Rwandan genocide combined." [14]

The comparison of abortion to crimes against humanity and genocide is beyond offensive; one of the additional

issues around this is that this is also a violation of religious freedom substituting Christian beliefs for the beliefs of other religious groups and atheists. [15] The rights of women as living members of society are recognised in other religions and among those that do not believe in religion. Using the Holocaust and other genocides and crimes against humanity and comparing the victims to aborted foetus denies the humanity of the victims of genocide and crimes against humanity by comparing them to potential human beings.

These pieces of legislation both seek to create civil rights for fetuses on the basis of developments in medical knowledge which in their view warrant a change in the law to limit the rights of the women that are pregnant with these fetuses and to advance the creation of foetal civil rights. Both laws are unconstitutional and have been justified on the basis of guaranteed fundamental natural rights, placing a ban on abortion with the appearance of a foetal heartbeat (as though that is the determinant of life and irrespective of whether that foetus can survive independently of the pregnant woman). As Mark Joseph Stern writes in *Slate*, the Georgia law not only provides for changes in tax laws, guarantees of child support, but also changes in population based on the pregnancy as it is included in census stats. [16] It additionally updates legislation allowing for felony prosecution for murder and conspiracy to commit murder if someone assists a woman to obtain an abortion; if the woman leaves the state to obtain an abortion elsewhere, that also could fall under the conspiracy to commit a felony. Additionally, if it can be demonstrated that a woman had a miscarriage based upon her behaviour while pregnant, she could be charged with second degree murder. Both the Georgia and Alabama laws are already being challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); but this is a radical shift in the attack on women's bodily autonomy and our reproductive rights. Moreover, it does not have strong support by Georgia's voters. [17] A boycott by the film industry is a great idea and should be extended; I would argue that a total boycott of products produced there is a great idea. The threats to jobs,

profits and tax revenue will hopefully force the people of Georgia to vote those that sponsored and supported this bill out of office. I would argue that these boycotts should be done against all states that pass these foetal heartbeat bills; these should be enforced until those that passed the bills are out of office and the legislation is dead and buried.

An additional and important use of Natural Rights has come in the Supreme Court of Kansas decision in upholding the injunction against the legislation prohibiting the usage of the D&E procedure for second trimester abortions. [18] While the Kentucky decision only addressed foetal viability against a women's reproductive right to abortion to strike down the prohibition of the use of the D&E procedure [19]; the Kansas decision is actually an interesting one and has the potential to be used to provide a stronger basis (that of the right of personal autonomy) for a women's right to choose than that of the right of privacy on which Roe and Doe are based. [20] In fact, this decision goes right to the heart of the fundamental issue of a women's right to choose, that of their bodily autonomy.

"Section 1 of the Kansas Constitution Bill of Rights affords protection of the right of personal autonomy, which includes the ability to control one's own body, to assert bodily integrity, and to exercise self-determination. This right allows a woman to make her own decisions regarding her body, health, family formation, and family life" decisions that can include whether to continue a pregnancy.

The State may only infringe upon the right to decide whether to continue a pregnancy if the State has a compelling interest and has narrowly tailored its actions to that interest.

When common-law terms are used in the Kansas Constitution Bill of Rights, courts should look to common-law definitions for their meaning.

The recognition of inalienable natural rights in section 1 of the Kansas Constitution Bill of Rights is intended for all Kansans, including pregnant women.

The Kansas Constitution does not begin with an enumeration of the powers of government; it instead begins with a Bill of Rights for all Kansans, which in turn begins with a statement of inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. By this ordering, demonstrating the supremacy placed on the rights of individuals, preservation of these natural rights is given precedence over the establishment of government

Whether this decision can be used against other pieces of legislation restricting women's reproductive rights is a decision for constitutional lawyers (which I am not) fighting the various cases and whether it is applicable depends of course on the wording and interpretation of the various state constitutions as well as the US constitution. But it gives food for thought: essentially, does life, liberty and pursuit of happiness with the right of property in one's own body (a corollary to right to life and liberty and an essential point of the Bourgeois Democratic right to universal suffrage and opposition to slavery advocated by Locke in *The Two Treatises of Government* and a fundamental point in Tom Paine's *Common Sense* as well as underlying the Bill of Rights of the American Constitution) only apply to men or does it apply to women as well? Moreover, if women do have the right to bodily autonomy, at what point and under what circumstances does the state have a compelling interest to interfere in that right?

On the Dehumanisation of Women

Yesterday I read something which I have been expecting for a while. In his zeal to protect fetuses, the Republican Speaker of the House in Florida, Jose Oliva, finally expressed his actual view of women. In an interview with CBS, Oliva referred to pregnant women as "host bodies" for fetuses five times in the interview [21]; here is an example of this usage:

"Well the challenge there is that there are two lives involved. So, where I believe that we should stay out of people's lives, I don't believe that people's lives should be taken. It's a complex issue because one has to think, well there's a host body and that host body has to have a certain amount of rights because at the end of the day it is that body that carries this entire other body to term. But there is an additional life there."

Claiming that he was trying to use "medical terminology," in his ignorance of such medical terminology he managed to describe fetuses by the term used for parasites in medical terminology. Moreover, he manages to actually portray pregnant women as nothing more than hosts for fetuses; he has dehumanised women to be nothing more than incubators whose function is solely physically reproductive in nature. We need to ask ourselves if that is the sole role of women in his mind, what are we if we are either too young, unable to bear children, or past the age of fertility? This description of women reduces our role to that of physical reproduction. Not even primary providers of social reproduction; we are merely defined by our ability to breed the next generation. This creep doesn't even acknowledge our roles in caring and rearing our children and families; perhaps he is one of those people that think preparing meals, cleaning the

house and washing the laundry happens on its own by magic. In making our role as physical reproducers oppressive in and of itself, he has ignored our real oppression in social reproduction. Reading this description, I could not help thinking of the Alien series of movies where humans are nothing but hosts for gestating aliens until they are able to survive on their own.

That we have come to this, the logical conclusion of a fight against women's bodily autonomy should not be surprising. The idea of a women's right to bodily autonomy, to have the recognition that their humanity is essential to society, that our contributions are more than breeding the next generation has been a primary component of the ongoing struggle for women's liberation.

Unfortunately, this vicious attack on women's reproductive rights and their bodily autonomy has had world-wide implications for women as well due to the use by the US government of a new tactic (the removal of words from resolutions that are found "threatening"; this has not only happened in the resolution of rape as a weapon of war, but also the words "climate change" were removed from an international statement on protecting the Arctic). [22]

While the struggle over abortion rights and US government

international aid has been a long-term issue; this struggle has impacted a long-term fight over the use of rape as a tool of war. By no means a new phenomenon (read the *Iliad* on the division of the spoils by the Greeks after the fall of Troy if you want an ancient historical discussion), finally getting this enshrined in international law under the auspices of a UN resolution with formal reporting and recording of these acts (sabotaged by the US, China, and Russia due to "administrative costs") the measures were completely undermined by the US which insisted that the terms "reproductive and sexual health" be removed from the UN resolution as they implied that women may want to terminate unwanted pregnancies due to these rapes. [23] Watered down to the point of meaninglessness, millennia of crimes against women, struggles for recognition of this as a war crime, become irrelevant due to the desire to remove women's reproductive rights, their right to bodily autonomy, from the discussion. [24] This is more than the elimination of words; it is the elimination of the recognition of women being demeaned as nothing more than objects, as property, under the pretext of protecting the result of rape, an unwanted fetus.

May 12 2019

[Daily Kos](#)

May resigns and Brexit moves to the right

29 May 2019, by [Alan Davies](#)

She will resign on Friday 7 June and the election campaign for the Tory party leadership will open on Monday 10 June. She will remain as a caretaker PM until this process is completed, probably in early August and will still be there to look after Trump.

There is a frenzied race for her job amongst up to 20 contenders, with little to indicate who is likely to win.

What is clear is that the right-wing trajectory of Brexit will accelerate and that the new leader will be a hard line Brexiteer looking as much like Nigel Farage as possible and pledging to deliver a no deal exit.

Does this make a no-deal Brexit more likely by the end of October, given that May's deal is gone and a legal default is now there for a hard line Brexiteer to drive through? Not

necessarily. There are two things to consider. The first is that the issue of the British border in Ireland will not go away just because a new hardliner, who is self-deluded on the issue, starts banging the table in Brussels. The harsh reality is that if Britain leaves the EU without a deal, the British border in Ireland becomes the border between the EU the UK under WTO rules, and a hard border becomes inevitable however much rhetoric is

expended to the contrary.

The second thing is how to get a no-deal Brexit through at the end of October. It would involve by-passing Parliament under conditions where the Parliamentary arithmetic on all this is unlikely to change. This would be very difficult without splitting the Tory Party even further and bringing about yet another constitutional crisis,

which would result in either a general election or a second referendum.

In other words it is still possible to stop Brexit but Labour would be the key. It would involve Labour coming off the fence, ending talk of negotiating their own Brexit deal, and backing a second referendum with the option of remain. The same applies if a general election is called with Brexit

remaining as the central issue. Labour must recognise that there is no such thing as a soft or jobs friendly Brexit. It must appeal to the growing remain vote as a part of a programme based on clear anti-austerity demands: "For the many - not the few".

Friday 24 May

[Socialist Resistance](#)

Election Results, Trends and Political Perspectives

27 May 2019, by **Ernesto M Diaz**

But the dangers remain possible. If the government that is formed does not solve the crisis of the national-territorial conflict and the social problems that we face, if this new government does not take decisive measures to deal with the problems in a radical way (going to the root of the problem), we run the risk of a right-wing radicalization that could be devastating in the medium term.

The general results give important indications:

1. The LePenization of a large part of society has been (temporarily?) curbed;
2. The national-territorial conflict continues to mark the agenda;
3. the results do not make a clear change in the situation possible.

Popular Party (PP): between the neoliberal economic recovery and the ultra-reactionary

turning point

Its slogan, "safe value" - opposed to the "uncertainty" attributed to the policies of the PSOE - was intended to be a continuation of Mariano Rajoy's discourse on economic recovery. The permanent lies concerning job creation at the time of the Rajoy governments were related to the fantasies of the Instituto Juan de Mariana - a neoliberal think tank linked to the PP - on economic recovery. This was one of the main axes of the electoral campaign of Pablo Casado's PP.

But he could not limit himself to continuity with his predecessor. He radicalized the programme, the discourse, the tone and the forms, knowing that he was in competition with Ciudadanos (Cs) and Vox to occupy the space farthest to the right. But it remains to be seen whether this radicalization is not one of the elements that has increased abstention among an electorate characterized by its advanced age. Because this electoral sector was the real "safe value" of the PP and it is more than likely that it was left behind by this radical change.

Finally, this turnaround did not convince either the really ultra-sectors of the electorate of the PP, who see

Vox as a force in full swing, with more nationalistic values, not having a past as marked by corruption and able to win also the votes of abstentionists to awaken a real patriotic illusion.

All these elements caused a significant leakage of votes to Cs and Vox, and the PP has had one of its worst results. The right-wing vote that Casado has invoked can be turned against him: with such a fall in votes, the PP could soon find itself below Cs.

It is hard to see how the PP can get out of its present situation. But it is more than possible that without a clear roadmap to strategically reorient the party and its prospects, we will have in the coming months other cases like the passage of Angel Garrido from the PP to the Cs. And it is very probable that the first steps will be opportunistically taken in municipalities and regions where there has been sharp competition between the right-wing forces, which could be repeated in the next elections.

Ciudadanos: a central task, the competition with

Vox

Alberto Rivera has progressed by about one million votes since the general elections of 2016. But this is below the result last December in Andalusia and it is less than he had hoped.

Just like the PP, Cs was strongly conditioned by the irruption of Vox and the predictions of its further rise, which were clearly inflated. An opponent to the right of the PP, challenging its electorate, whose success was clearly expected, could only help Rivera to seize a political place.

And he saved his vote quite well by accepting the debate around Vox's

themes at the price of a terribly exaggerated gesticulation. He thus avoided some of his potential electorate turning to Vox. But he also won part of the electorate that turned away from the PP while believing for the moment that the discourse of Abascal was excessively radical.

The moment seems to be favourable for Ciudadanos. If this combination of elements persists, if the PP fails to reorient itself and if the PSOE does not move forward in the domain of granting rights to the population, it is likely that Cs will continue to progress and, in a few months, replace the PP as the second political force of the country.

Since the moment is favourable for it, it makes sense for Ciudadanos to wait quietly without engaging in any form

of government with the PSOE. Rivera seems to have understood this well and he marked it as his identity in the campaign. He is unlikely to let himself be carried away by the temptations of government, which would be justifiable only by declaring that "if it is not with me, it will be with the separatists, so it is better that I stop separatism from within". But this is an argument that could only be used once.

Vox: unexpected braking, "May dew"

The big news of the election results was the results of Vox. [