



Socialist Bulletin

A Monthly Publication from Socialist Labour

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We can fight and stop Tinubu's plans

Throughout his life, Tinubu has consistently attacked workers and their organisations. His recent statement shows Tinubu's attitude to the common people. He said, "No matter how long you protest, we are going to remove subsidy". But if we organise properly, with the trade unions and the popular masses, we can defeat his plans. We can stop any more petrol price increases and we can win a decent minimum wage for all.

The two issues, of petrol subsidy and the minimum wage, are linked. Both of them have a significant impact on the standard of living of all working people. In 1998, when the minimum wage was only N3,000 a month, it could buy nearly 280 litres of petrol. Now the minimum wage may be ten times higher, but it will buy less than 120 litres.

This indicates the extent to which real wages have fallen over the last 25 years. But it doesn't have to be like this. The trade unions have regularly demonstrated that, with effective active strike action, they can defeat even the strongest governments.

In May 2021, the Governor of Kaduna, El-Rufai, was brought to his knees in only three days. This involved extensive unity and solidarity by the member unions of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). The individual members of these trade unions were actively involved and took part in the daily protests through the streets of Kaduna.

We should also recognise that many politicians take trade union actions seriously. For example, the Governor of the Central Bank ignored orders from the Supreme Court, but took steps to release the old currency the same day that the NLC threatened action. The next day the Governor himself came to the office of Joe Ajaero, the president of the NLC.

Too many strikes in recent years have just been "stay at homes". The workers and the masses have not been actively involved in building support and solidarity for the strikes. As a result, many of these strikes were isolated and defeated.



The great ASUU strike last year, for example, did not involve the university lecturers in going out to seek support and solidarity from the parents of their students or from the other trade unions. The NLC promised solidarity action in July when they organised wonderful protests in all state capitals, but this further action was never delivered.

We have rich history of strikes and other industrial action that we can learn from. All our trade union leaders need to look critically at this history and learn the lessons of what is needed to achieve victory. All trade union comrades also need to learn these lessons and encourage their leaders to take the steps that we know are necessary.

Tinubu is old and weak. He may have achieved his life's ambition, but his arrival at Aso Rock comes with a lot of baggage and allegations. These include involvement in illegal drugs, corruption and widespread settling to ensure his victory in the presidential elections. He may now be President, but only a minority of Nigerians actually voted for him.

If we organise effectively, we can defeat his plans to increase petrol prices. We can also successfully campaign for a decent minimum wage with future increases tied to the rate of inflation. These twin victories could begin a major change whereby we take back the wealth and power of from the corrupt elite.

Visit: socialistlabour.com.ng

Is Nigeria subsidizing petrol consumption in neighbouring countries? Izielen Agbon

In January 2022, the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, claimed that the daily petrol consumption rate was 66 million litres. In contrast, the NNPC stated that the average daily petrol supply from January to August 2022 was 68 million litres, but, that the daily petrol consumption rate was only 44 million litres. The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva, argued that petrol smuggling was responsible for the discrepancy in data from different government sources. He stated, “The imported products come to Nigeria, and from there filters out of our borders to neighbouring countries. We are inadvertently subsidizing the whole of Africa.”

During the 2023 Presidential campaign, the Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Tinubu, also stated “How can we be subsidizing fuel consumption of Cameroon, of Niger, of Benin Republic.”

Niger is self-sufficient in petroleum products. The country has a 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) capacity refinery in Zinder. In 2023, the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Niger Republic for the importation of petroleum products into Nigeria. Chad imports around 360,000 litres per day, Cameroon around 2,250,000 litres per day and Benin 6,100,00 litres per day. The total imports for Nigeria’s neighbours is thus only 8,350,000 litres per day. Even if all imports into neighbouring countries were smuggled from Nigeria, the volume will only be a small percentage of the padded volume that is unaccounted for.



The false petrol smuggling assumptions are based on the price differential between petrol prices in Nigeria and neighbouring nations. The retail petrol price per litre in Nigeria is around \$0.6 while the prices in the neighbouring countries of Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon are \$1, \$1, \$0.8 and \$1 respectively. In September 2022, the Nigeria Customs Service questioned the petrol smuggling assumptions of the NNPC and Government.

The Customs Comptroller-General, Hameed Ali, asked “The issue of smuggling, if you release 98 million litres in actuality and 60 million litres are used, the balance should be 38 million litres. How many trucks will carry 38 million litres every day?”. Since it will require 1,151 petrol tankers with 33,000 litres capacity crossing the borders daily, the smuggling argument broke down. There is obvious no smuggling of Nigerian PMS into neighbouring countries.

Actually, PMS prices in Nigeria should be compared to those in other OPEC African countries. Petrol is already expensive in Nigeria.

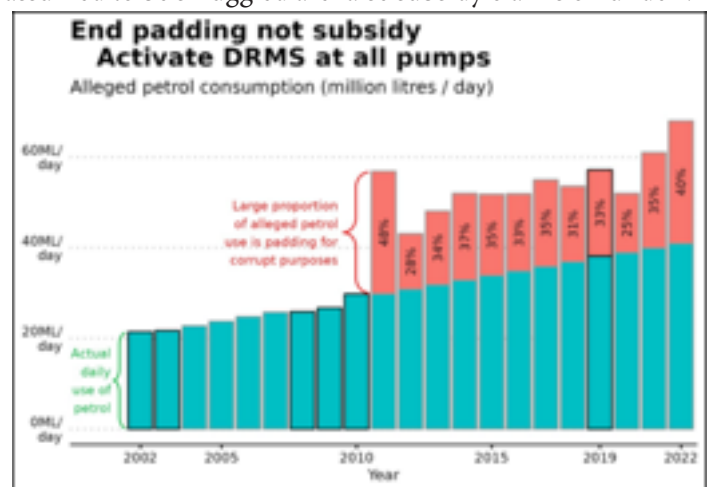
We have shown that no significant petrol is smuggled to neighbouring nations. This is an IMF argument to justify the corruption in the subsidy regime. In reality, the volumes assumed to be smuggled are false subsidy claims on undelivered fuel or padded subsidy import volumes.

These corrupt practices were revealed by the 2012 Farouk Lawan House of Representative Ad-Hoc Committee investigation and report. The Committee found over payments of more than \$6.8 billion for petrol volumes that were never supplied. The Federal Government’s Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede Committee also indicted 25 companies. It identified an over payment of \$2.5 billion and questioned an additional \$1.5 billion worth of transactions for 2011. Nobody has gone to jail for this huge theft of public funds.

Petrol daily consumption rates should be measured with certified Coriolis meters and a modern Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to eliminate the falsification or padding of petrol daily consumption data for corrupt purposes.

This would eliminate the need for the plans of the new President to impose yet another increase in petrol prices and so our transport costs.

This is an edited version of the following article: <https://nationalrecord.com.ng/is-nigeria-subsidising-petrol-consumption-in-neighbouring-countries-by-izielen-agbon/>



How Can We Make our Trade Unions Stronger and our strikes more Effective?

There was a significant increase in strikes during May. There were indefinite general strikes in three states, national strikes by health workers and separately by resident doctors, as well as strikes by doctors in three states and judiciary workers in two other states. Workers are also owed significant arrears including full implementation of the N30,000 minimum wage in Benue, Cross River, Katsina, Kebbi, Rivers, Taraba, Zamfara and other states.



Unity and Solidarity

Socialist Labour wants the workers to win these strikes and so we have supported the production of the following pamphlet, Unity and Solidarity - how we can win strikes. We call on all our supporters to help to distribute this pamphlet to trade unionists and where possible to use it as a training aid. We need all comrades who agree with the advice in this pamphlet to join and support Socialist Labour.

What comments do comrades have about this pamphlet? How can we make our trade unions stronger and more effective? What is your experience of making your trade union branch more democratic? The pamphlet is also available from: <https://ivavalleybooks.com/2023/04/06/unity-and-solidarity-how-we-can-win-strikes/>

A basic trade union saying is “United we stand - divided we fall”. Clearly there are divisions in the health sector between doctors and other workers, but we need to be very careful to avoid the trap of divide and rule by the government. We need to do everything we can to overcome these divisions and struggle together to address the terrible under funding of public health in Nigeria and the resulting low wages by all health workers, including the doctors.

Learning the Lessons of the General Strikes in Imo State

The recent history of industrial relations in Imo State (and more generally across Nigeria) suggests that the trade unions should reconsider their strategy. As in many states, in Imo State, the trade unions face a vicious governor who thinks he is above and beyond the law.

The dominant approach to industrial relations is that strikes should only be implemented as a measure of last resort. Under this approach, the aim of trade union leaders should be to sit down and negotiate with the bosses and seek an agreement which is based on give and take and a compromise between the two sides. The assumption is that both sides will then implement their mutual agreement.

Our experience in recent years shows that this assumption is not valid. Almost all strikes in Nigeria in recent years have been to try and seek implementation of previous agreements signed with trade unions. This was the case, for example, with the 8-month ASUU strike in the universities in 2022. This sought the implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement that was signed at the end of its last strike in December 2020.

In these circumstances, we need a different strategy, we have to force the governors or federal government into actually implementing at least some of our key demands before strikes are called off. The active strike in Kaduna in May 2021 shows that even the most powerful governors can be defeated, but the pressure has to continue if we are to sustain our gains.

The full article is available at:

<https://nationalrecord.com.ng/why-trade-unions-should-change-their-approach-the-case-of-imo-state-by-alex-batubo/>

The Ultra-Wealthy Have a Private Jet Problem

This expensive, carbon-intensive form of travel is bad for both the earth and the taxpayers who subsidize it for the ultra-rich.



The past two years have been a bonanza for private aviation. The drastic increase in demand has led to flight delays, increased costs, and pilot shortages. But the slow deterioration of working conditions for aerospace workers has not stopped the jet-owning oligarchy from flying more than ever. Their increased share of air traffic has a direct impact on inequality and has dire consequences for the climate.

<https://inequality.org/great-divide/billionaires-private-jets-climate/>

Soldiers have not had salary increase since 2010. Soldiers, doctors, lecturers, state and local government workers were excluded from recent 40% increase for Federal workers. We need demands from their trade union for action.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR BAYO ABORISADE ON HIS RETIREMENT

By Biodun Olamosu



I am delighted to be part of history in felicitating with Prof Bayo Aborisode on this occasion of his retirement from the Federal University of Technology (FUTA), Akure. He has spent a greater part of his working life here to advance knowledge. He has thereby been changing the course of history and left humanity better than he met it. Most sincerely, I wish him the best of his heart's desire on retirement...

He organized and associated with not a few organizations in the State of which he led or was the founding leader. These included the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Socialist Congress of Nigeria (SCON), Committee for Democracy and Human Rights (CDHR), National Conscience Party (NCP), Labour Party (LP), etc. He occupied a veritable leading position as the ideological conscience of the working people in the State. The State owned media could not afford to do without inviting him, even when they were not comfortable with his ideas that they found to be contradictory to theirs.

The full tribute can be found on the Socialist Labour website:

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/05/16/tribute-to-professor-bayo-aborisode-on-his-retirement/>

Nigerian Working Class and the Struggle for Decent Pensions

The main speaker at the last Socialist Labour meeting on pensions, Ivor Takor, has provided a briefing on pensions which is now on our website:

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/05/16/nigerian-working-class-and-the-struggle-for-decent-pensions/>

#jointheresistance



Public Meeting

A DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT:

The Nigerian Working Class and the Struggle for Decent Pensions.

zoom  **81087529655**

 Saturday 6th
May, 2023
3pm



Guest Speaker
Comrade Ivor Takor, mni
Former Board Member,
National Pension Commission



Guest Speaker
Comrade Zanna Shettima
Former Chair,
NLC Borno State

JOIN NOW

Questions From a Worker Who Reads – Bertold Brecht

Who built Thebes of the 7 gates? In the books you will read the names of kings. Did the kings haul up the lumps of rock?

And Babylon, many times demolished, Who raised it up so many times?

In what houses of gold glittering Lima did its builders live? Where, the evening that the Great Wall of China was finished, did the masons go?

Great Rome is full of triumphal arches. Who erected them?

Over whom did the Caesars triumph? Had Byzantium, much praised in song, only palaces for its inhabitants?

Even in fabled Atlantis, the night that the ocean engulfed it, The drowning still cried out for their slaves.

The young Alexander conquered India. Was he alone?

Caesar defeated the Gauls. Did he not even have a cook with him?

Philip of Spain wept when his armada went down. Was he the only one to weep?

Frederick the 2nd won the 7 Years War. Who else won it?

Every page a victory. Who cooked the feast for the victors?

Every 10 years a great man. Who paid the bill?

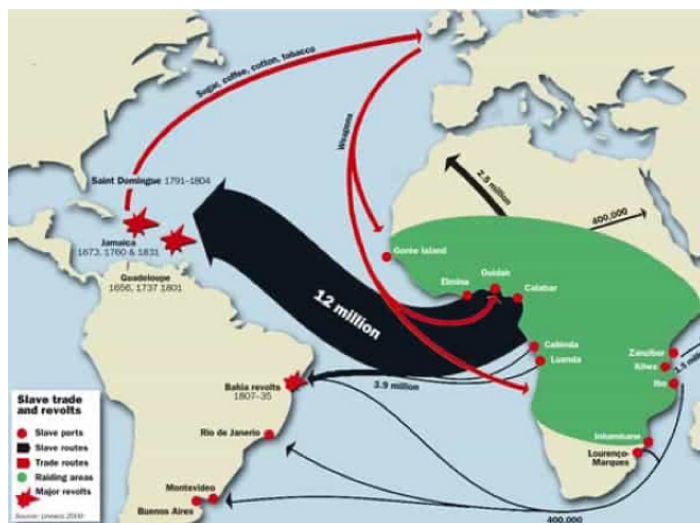
So many reports.

So many questions.

Capitalism—a system born of slavery

In the first half of the 17th century, some 370,000 people were taken from Africa to the Americas as slaves. In the latter half, just under one million were transported. At the peak, over 3.5 million were transported over the course of 50 years.

Marxist historian Robin Blackburn wrote, “The slavery of the New World permanently created, defined and embodied a violent subjugation of blacks by whites ... antipathy and unconcern was transmuted into fear and domination.”



As Karl Marx wrote, “Capital comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt.”

The transatlantic slave trade gave British capitalism an adrenaline shot and serious advantage over its competitors. Britain was in a prime position at one corner of the trade’s triangular route.

The British ruling class lined its pockets with money exchanged for the lives of human beings. A recent study by University College London found that one in five wealthy people had economically benefited from slavery at the height of the slave trade.

For the full article and links to others on this sub-

ject see:

<https://socialistworker.co.uk/features/capitalism-a-system-born-of-slavery/>

Seun Kunti and the police

The Seun Kuti case for slapping a police officer should remind us of many killings by the police. These include the End SARS massacre, Black Lives Matter, Comrade Alex Ogbu, Lagos based lawyer Raheem Bolanle last Christmas and so many more.

<https://socialistworker.co.uk/news/cardiff-footage-shows-cops-lied-about-teenagers-deaths-in-ely/>

There is No Military Solution to Islamic Militants Across West Africa

- Paul Martial

Faced with the criminal policy of Islamic Militants, the all-military policy of the juntas in Mali and Burkina Faso remains a failure and imposes a heavy toll on the populations, aggravated by the deterioration of the food situation.



Islamic Militants in the Sahel are advancing inexorably, to such an extent that countries on the west coast of Africa, hitherto spared, are under attack. This is the case for Ghana, Benin and Togo, which has just renewed its curfew in the north of the country. The juntas that took power in Mali and then in Burkina Faso on the pretext of improving the security situation are doing little better than their predecessors.

Different tactics

The putschists in Mali have decided to intensify military operations against Islamic Militants with the help of mercenaries from the Russian company Wagner. As a

result, the number of civilian deaths in 2022 has doubled. Among the victims, a third was murdered by the Malian army and its Russian auxiliaries.

Burkina Faso has taken a different route. The junta of this country organized a recruitment of civilians in the Volunteers for the defence of the fatherland (VDP). The result is hardly conclusive since these VDPs tend to focus on the Fulani community, accusing them of terrorism. Thus in the village of Ouahigouya, soldiers and VDP massacred in atrocious conditions teenagers and children for the sole reason that they were Fulani.

In Mali, as in Burkina Faso, the strategy remains the same. Use military force to settle the crisis. It is the same strategy that the French army, with Serval and Barkhane, employed... with the success that we know.

Of the three countries, Niger is perhaps the one that is doing best. Its success in settling the Tuareg rebellions in the 1990s created a peaceful situation. Another element is the declared willingness of the authorities to initiate a dialogue with all armed groups, including those of the Islamic State. The goal is to attempt a political resolution of the conflict.

Same repression

The war situation experienced by the three countries is the alibi which makes it possible to restrict democratic freedoms. In Mali, reproaches against the junta are considered crimes. Thus the African Social Democratic Party is threatened with dissolution because its president Ismaël Sacko, during an interview with RFI, had made remarks "insulting to the place of the transitional authorities". Omar Mariko, one of the leaders of the radical left, still lives in hiding. The press is forced to support the patriotic effort and the slightest criticism is seen as a betrayal. The government of Burkina Faso is also acting in the same way. He recently expelled two journalists following the report on the massacre of civilians in Ouahigouya. Human rights activists are forcibly incorporated into the VDPs.

Niger is also not to be outdone in this repressive cycle. Abdoulaye Seydou, coordinator of M62, platform of civil society organizations, was arrested.

Behind the repression is the survival of these regimes which, unable to honour their promise to improve security, maintain pressure on the populations.

People's suffering

The Sahel is experiencing an increase in refugee populations. They are caught in a vice between the regular forces and the various armed Islamic Militants or communal groups. Each conducts policies of reprisals by attacking civilians who, according to their ethnicity, are supposed to belong to this or that camp.

Some cities like Sebba, Dori or Djibo are blocked by Islamic Militants. Food crises are looming across the region. Estimates of the number of hungry people are over 40 million. On the education side, the situation is not very bright. The Islamic Militants have forced the closure of more than 11,000 schools in the territories they control. Hundreds of thousands of children find themselves out of school, jeopardizing their future. Living together in the Sahel is increasingly abused. But finding harmony between communities despite the great difficulties remains possible.

What should our view be of the family lessons from Sudan?

What can we learn from developments in Sudan (at least before the current violence)?

<http://isj.org.uk/beyond-the-family/>

How women are still taking a leading role in the continuous Sudanese revolution:

<https://www.afriquesenlutte.org/afrique-de-l-est/soudan/article/soudan-no-compromises>

NBS Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria 2021



The 'NBS Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria 2021', released in Abuja in May. The report revealed that despite efforts to promote women's contribution to politics and decision-making, women have continued to record low representation at all tiers and levels of governance

<https://observatoryng.org/2023/04/20/nbs/>

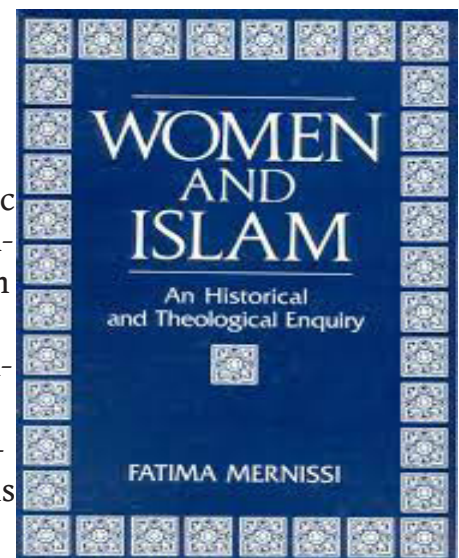
Gains for Women in Socialist Russia

One of the first political changes that the communist leadership introduced when it took power in Russia was to put women on an equal legal footing with men... In 1917, all women were given the right to vote, a year before any women in Britain, and three years before any in the United States. Civil marriage replaced religious marriage. Divorce was made easier and cheaper. In 1920, Soviet Russia became the first country in the world to legalize abortion.

"Gains in women's equality were precarious, however, as they were everywhere. [After the counter revolution,] The Soviet Union under Stalin would make abortion illegal in 1936... before legalizing it again in 1955 after Stalin had died." (page 178, *The Patriarchs - the origins of inequality* by Angela Saini - e-copy available).

Women and Islam: An Historical and Theological Enquiry - Fatima Mernissi

"Those who entrust their affairs to a woman will never know prosperity." This saying is attributed to the Prophet Mohammed. However, as Mernissi shows, the position of women in Islamic societies is far from unambiguous. She argues that the Prophet Mohammed, far from being the oppressor of women which many assume him to have been, upheld the equality of all true believers. She finds among the literary evidence pertaining to the Prophet instances of his wives discussing politics with him and even going into battle. The book aims to reconcile the teachings of Islam with feminism. An e-version of this book is available on request.



In May the Federal Government admitted that there were over 4,000 people in prison for not paying a fine of less than N1 million. [by reducing the size of the gap between articles]

Cameroon: UNITED AGAINST HIGH COST OF LIVING!

For two months, Stand Up For Cameroon has been working with teachers' unions and informal workers' organizations on the theme "No to the high cost of living!". We had meetings, did some field work and decided to mark Labour Day 2023 with a big meeting of a cross section of workers from all over Cameroon.

Present were: teachers, market traders, restaurateurs, cosmetic shop owners, unemployed youths, drivers and more, from Doula, Yaoundé, Bafia, Limbe, Bafut, Bamenda and Edea.

Discussion Highlights:

The workers spoke of the following demands for the government, among others:

- ▶ The Anglophone crisis should be resolved to improve working conditions across Cameroon.
- ▶ Teachers say overcrowding has increased with the arrival of displaced families.
- ▶ Market traders say inflation is partly due to poor production and supply of food products in the North West and
- ▶ Social impacts such as overcrowding in homes and neighborhoods, human trafficking for labor and sex, and increased prostitution, including child prostitution
- ▶ Fuel prices should be reduced as they have a huge impact on inflation and contribute to price hikes in all sectors.
- ▶ Both rural and urban road construction. The lack of roads contributes to rising food prices as well as insecurity across the country.
- ▶ The salaries of civil servants and formal sector workers should be increased because they represent the majority of consumers and without their purchasing power all sectors suffer. This claim was made by market traders.
- ▶ The government must ensure safety in the streets, in the classrooms and in the markets. Insecurity is extremely high everywhere and no one is safe anywhere.
- ▶ The government must develop a strategy to fight against drug use, especially Tramadol which is consumed by young people all over the country. This contributes to insecurity.
- ▶ Address key issues facing youth and children including: unemployment for those who have completed their education, school fees for school-aged children.

All the workers present resolved to continue the work that had begun and to:

- ▶ Banish fear.
- ▶ Working Together
- ▶ Communicate widely to build this momentum and get more workers to join the movement.
- ▶ Carry out non-violent actions to ensure that their voice is heard by the government.

#StandUpForCameroon.

Labouring people in Nigeria and Cameroon have the same challenges and demands.



People queue at the fueling station as a result of Tinubu's subsidy removal pronouncement

Summary of Workers Strikes - May 2023

We need your assistance to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes or other protests in your state or community to drewpovey@btinternet.com. All these strikes and protests need our support and solidarity. We call on all trade union branches to send messages of support and to organise solidarity visits to any strikes in their localities.

NLC, Abia State resumed its indefinite strike, suspended in early March, on 6th May. The strike is over at least three months unpaid salaries and 36 months of pension arrears and 22 years of gratuity. In addition, the N30,000 minimum wage has yet to be implemented. It previously held a five day strike from 28th February suspended after an agreement was signed with the State. The Chairperson of the NLC in Abia State, Pascal Nweke, said that the workers would only resume negotiations with the government whenever they begin to receive their salaries. The NLC President, Joe Ajaero, in a statement before the commencement of the most recent strike, stated, "The NLC is angry over no less than six months' salary and pension arrears owed core civil servants and over 30 months' salary and pension arrears to other public workers in the state." The strike was again suspended by a meeting of the State Executive Committee of NLC on 27th May.

Doctors in Abia State embarked on strike on December 8, 2022, to demand payment of salary arrears. Doctors at the State teaching hospital are owed two years salaries going back to 2019. The strike continues in late May 2023.

The Joint Negotiating Council chapter of Plateau State and the leadership of the Nigerian Labour Congress/Trade Union Congress called an indefinite strike from 11th May. The strike over salary arrears and other issues. They had previously held a five day warning strike in early December last year. The workers are owed three months' salaries. They are also suffering from lack of promotion, non-implementation of existing salary structure, and third-party deductions as part of the issues.

NLC/TUC started a comprehensive shutdown of Imo State from 3rd May. This was primarily over the violent disruption of their May Day celebrations in Onitsha. The Governor had demanded that all workers attended a fake rally organised by his clone of a state executive of NLC & TUC. The strike was suspended after an agreement was signed with the state on 7th May. The agreement only requires a committee to be established "to look into areas of disagreement and or misunderstanding between the government and labour and resolve same."

A previous strike was held for a week in early March over an attack on the NLC State delegate conference and arrears of salaries and pensions.

For more details on the back ground on this strike see: <https://nationalrecord.com.ng/why-trade-unions-should-change-their-approach-the-case-of-imo-state-by-alex-batubo/>

Nigerians doctors of the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) began a five-day warning strike from Wednesday 17th May. The doctors, amongst other issues, are demanding tangible steps on the "upward review" of the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS), the immediate payment of the 2023 Medical Residency Training Fund (MRTF) and payment of all salary arrears owed its members from 2015. The doctors also want an increase in funding for public health to meet the 15% of budget international target, the payment of arrears of the consequential adjustment for the N30,000 minimum wage and the withdrawal of the bill stopping doctors working abroad. Resident doctors make up the bulk of the doctors in Nigeria's tertiary hospitals.

The Association of Resident Doctors in the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, UNTH, Ituku-Ozalla, Enugu State, declared a one-week warning strike from 3rd May. Their demands included payment of January salary, hazard allowance arrears and migration to IPPIS as members were had been treated as casual workers on locum status for over two years. They were also complaining about their poor working environment. Member had not received their January salary, nor nine and half months hazard allowance arrears nor their Medical Residency Training Fund (MRTF).

Medical and Dental Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), Ladoké Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, Oyo State, were on strike from 10th May. Demands include: adequate and proper funding of the institution; recruitment of doctors and other staff; and immediate payment of all the 2016 to 2017 salary arrears.

The Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Abia State, started indefinite strike on 11th April and this continued into May. The demand for the acting Chief Judge, Lilian Abai, to be sworn in, was implemented on 5th May. JUSUN are also demanding for their members to receive leave allowance payments an-

nounced by the State Government in March 2023; salary arrears; and financial autonomy for the state judiciary. The election petition tribunal had to relocate to a hotel.

Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Cross River State started an indefinite strike on 3rd May over financial autonomy for the state judiciary and arrears from the new salary scale, CONJUSS, not fully implemented since 2015. They also have other demands including non-payment of pension gratuities, delayed promotions and non-payment of various judiciary workers. An agreement was reached with the State and the strike was suspended after two weeks from 15th May.

The Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) in the Ebonyi State University (EBSU) started an indefinite strike from 11th May, following the alleged refusal of the school management and the state government to pay their salaries for March and April. They are also demanding the salary arrears from 10 months of 20 per cent COVID-19 deductions.

Health workers, members of JOHESU (Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria, Nigerian Union of Allied Health Professionals, Senior Staff Association of Universities, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes and Associated Institutions and Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions) and the Assembly of Healthcare Professional Associations (AHPA) start an indefinite strike in Federal medical institutions from 25th May. The strike has the following key demands: adjustment to the health workers salary structure, payment of allowances and salary arrears and increasing the retirement age to at least 65 years. JOHESU suspended its last strike on these issues in September 2021. Their salary scale, CONHESS was last adjusted in 2010.

Socialist Labour-JOIN US

The economic, environmental and Covid-19 crises have made clear that society is a conflict between two classes: the vast majority who create the wealth, and a tiny minority who profit from it. Attempts to reform this have failed: the only solution is to replace it with a truly democratic socialist society. The corrupt elite will only give up their power if forced to do so. We need a mass democratic movement to bring about socialism. Events, such as Russia in 1917, the January 2012 protests in Nigeria and the mass uprisings in Sudan and Algeria in 2019, show what we need.

For more details of the basic ideas and policies of Socialist Labour see:

www.socialistlabour.com.ng/about-us/

Join the Socialist Labour supporters WhatsApp group by clicking this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KiOyN3OKGBIIvtuh0ycDaU>

We would love to receive letters, comments or suggestions from our readers. We want to hear from you with suggestions for articles for our future editions or questions on any articles in this issue.

We especially welcome news about protests and strikes in your community or town.

Please join Socialist Labour, by submitting the following details:

Name: Email: WhatsApp number:

State:

Workplace address/university/school:

Trade union:

Minimum suggested monthly subscription levels are:

Employed – N1,000

Well paid – N5,000

Unemployed/student – N500

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FACEBOOK @socialistlabourng