



# Socialist Bulletin

*A Monthly Publication from Socialist Labour*

EMAIL: SOCIALISTLABOUR.NG@GMAIL.COM

TWITTER @SOCIALISTLABNG

FACEBOOK @SOCIALISTLABOURNG

**Mass resistance  
against direct  
taxation?**  
Page 2

**Public Education  
under Attack-**  
Page 3

**What Should  
Trade Unions do  
About Court In-  
junctions?** Page 5

**Summary of  
workers strikes**  
Page 9

**WITH UNITY AND SOLIDARITY THE  
LABOUR MOVEMENT CAN DEFEAT TINUBU!**

The increased price of transport is costing some people up to N30,000 a month. We have taken a tremendous battering and another major attack on our living standards. But with unity and solidarity we can still defeat Tinubu. We can win a reversal in the cost of petrol and a decent minimum wage with annual increments in line with inflation.

Unlike the claims by some, Tinubu is not a strong or talented politician. He is an old and weak man. He has already backed down over the plans to distribute N8,000 each month. Despite claims to have been the national leader of the APC over the last decade, he has just lost the national secretary, chair and vice chair. He cannot bury rumours around his origins, education or involvement in the Chicago drug trade. Few people believe he really won the last election. He only won the APC presidential nomination by settling the delegates rather than winning their political support.

With resolute and united action we can still win an improvement in the lives of the mass of the people. But this requires the NLC to provide brave leadership and maximum unity of the labour movement and civil society.

Antonio Gramsci famously called for: "Pessimism of the intellect, optimism of the will." In other words, we have to see the world as it really is, warts and all, but still forge ahead with courage, tenacity, persistence, and solidarity. Our collective will can overcome many challenges, if hope remains alive. We still have to act in a way that raises the confidence of the masses. We can win this strike - we just have to try!

The Government is illegally detaining the former Chair of the EFCC and the former Governor of the Central Bank. Many states have illegally refused to fully implement the N30,000 minimum wage – over four years after the law was passed. If they are refusing to comply with their own courts and laws, why should the trade unions have to comply with their court orders? Our collective power is stronger than their courts (see article on page 5 of this Bulletin).

We do not need social dialogue or committee meetings – they do not pay for garri. The trade union movement has a proud history of victorious struggles. To give just two examples, in January 2012 we reduced the threatened fuel price increase from N140 a litre to only N97. This was won in only eight-days of strike and protest. In May 2021, we brought one of the most powerful governors to their knees in only three days of action in Kaduna.

This is what we need to win - unity of the labour movement and solidarity with civil society. We all need to play our role in providing confidence to the trade union leaders and shaking Aso Rock to its foundations. Make sure your views are known to the officers of your local trade union branch and these are transmitted to the state and national leaderships.

Visit: [socialistlabour.com.ng](http://socialistlabour.com.ng)

## OYO STATE WORKERS PREPARE AHEAD OF NLC 7-DAY ULTIMATUM

*Femi Aborisade*

A joint general meeting of representatives of workers and pensioners in Oyo State chapters of NLC and TUC held today, 27th July 2023, at NLC House, Yidi, Ibadan, in preparation for the 7-day ultimatum issued by the NLC national headquarters. About 1,000 workers and pensioners were in attendance.

However, the meeting was also devoted to resisting an avalanche of deprivations suffered in the hands of the Oyo State government. These deprivations included rejection of payment of portions of monthly salary instead of full pay, denial of promotion, non-remittance of deductions into cooperative societies, and other types of unremitted deductions.

A clear mood of anger and determination was displayed throughout the meeting. The workers asked the leaderships of the NLC and TUC in the State to vow never to betray the workers and the leaders did. Similarly,



the leadership also took undertakings from the workers who pledged never to abandon the leaderships in the course of the struggle.

As a starting point of action, it was unanimously agreed that on Monday, 31st July 2023 all Oyo state workers and pensioners would converge at the Oyo State Government Secretariat to have a mass dialogue with Governor Seyi Makinde over their deprivations.

Representatives of pro-labour organizations also attended and addressed the meeting in solidarity. They included Socialist Labour, Joint Action Front, Revolution Now, and some human rights of organizations.

The coast is this clear to make the forthcoming NLC massive protests against hike in fuel price a resounding success in Oyo State.

## MASS RESISTANCE AGAINST DIRECT TAXATION IN NIGERIA, 1927-1928

*Izielen Agbon*

*“If you do not know history, then you do not know anything. You are a leaf that does not know it is part of a tree.” African proverb*

The Tinubu government plans to tax market traders and others in the informal sector through FIRS by working with the Market Traders Association of Nigeria (MATAN) in a program called the VAT Direct Initiative. MATAN members will each receive an ID card upon enumeration, which would contain their Tax Identification Number (TIN) and other personal details. It is not clear if Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) and the Cocoa Farmers Association of Nigeria (CFAN) are also included in the VAT Direct Initiative and their members given ID cards, TIN and taxed. The Tinubu government has chosen to ignore the historical capacity of the Nigerian peasants to organize and resist government attempts to reduce their household income by increased taxation.

In 1927, the colonial State decided to introduce direct taxation in Nigeria to generate more revenue. The direct taxation bill was to be published in February 1927 and enacted in April of that year.

The peasants' response was to agitate, mobilize and resist. The Resident of the Warri province reported, “In August 1927, an anti-tax agitation sprang up in the Warri province. Overt acts of lawlessness occurred in the Warri and Kwale divisions. On the 30th of September, a turbulent demonstration against the officer administering the Government ended in a riot in which police were forced to fire on the crowd. The Warri province was declared a proclaimed district under the Peace Preservation Ordinance by a proclamation dated the 30th of November. By the end of the year, the ring leaders of the agitation had been brought to trial, conditions in the provinces became normal and the proclamation of the 30th of November was cancelled on the 29th of December.”

To read the full article go to: <https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/07/27/mass-resistance-against-direct-taxation-in-nigeria-1927-1928/>

#jointheresistance

## PUBLIC EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK: Students Rise Against Fee Hikes

Oyelumade Oluwakemi

Many federal universities across the country have announced over 200 per cent hike in registration and tuition fees for students for the coming year. The government's so-called Students' Loans Scheme may appear to be a lifeline, but it is nothing more than a hollow promise. It has been condemned by ASUU and ASUP the lecturer's trade unions. Burdening students with debt is not a solution. Education should be regarded as a right, as a social investment, and not a business.

*Below Kemi provides an outline of the campaign at UniLag.*

Students at the University of Lagos (UniLag) have commenced organising to rally students against the astronomical hike in undergraduate fees imposed by the University management. This is an initiative of the Students' Solidarity Group Against Fee Hike.

The group which constitutes undergraduate students and non-students as well as experienced activists from civil society organisations has hosted multiple Twitter spaces since 22nd July, 2023. The organising committee holds meetings on Google Meet and WhatsApp to deliberate on strategy and the best course of action. The group also created a WhatsApp community to pass important messages and updates to keep members well informed. The WhatsApp community has over 2,500 members and continues to grow. It has proved successful in mobilising students for online demonstrations such as the hashtag movement [#SaveUnilagStudents](#) which topped the Twitter trend table for hours on Tuesday the 25th of July, 2023.

The Students' Solidarity Group has organised a symposium slated for the 28th of July, 2023 to draw on the vast wealth of experience from guest speakers such as Juwon Sanyaolu (National coordinator of Take It Back movement), Olorunfemi Adeyeye (Co-convener of Fund Education Coalition), Dr Dele Ashiru (Chair of ASUU, Unilag Chapter) and many others. The symposium serves as a public enlightenment programme to raise awareness over pertinent issues relating to the hike in fees. It is also an opportunity for students to draw inspiration for mounting a successful resistance against the hike in fees.

## THIS VERY LORD CANNOT BE OUR SHEPHERD

Boney Akaeze

In the light of the prevailing socio-economic crisis besetting the poor of Nigeria and the concomitant poor living conditions into which the average people of the country have been thrown, can the present Federal Government be trusted to improve the lot of the common people?

To answer this question, history rather than partisan interests should be our guide. This is because we can trace the characteristic tendencies of those currently at the helm of the country, as well as the socio-political development trajectory of the country from her beginning as a macro-polity. This will no doubt furnish us with a good understanding of the social setting we have to contend with as citizens.

First and foremost, let us understand that we live in a world of globalized capitalism. Neo-colonial states are tied to the apron strings of the big imperialist powers. These global power players adopt many techniques in the promotion and sustenance of their capitalist and imperialist agenda. This includes the tacit use of military and security strategies, as well as the covert manipulation of national elections, especially in the neo-colonial territories, to install governments that will be predisposed to their objectives...

As long as we have a government driven by capitalist motives, a government as pictured by Robert A. Brady which instead of putting enterprises under state control to achieve our common ends, is conquered by enterprises and reduced to an instrument of their control. As long as we are governed by remorseless Tammany Hall politicians, rapacious business tyrants and bands of plundering jobbers, the best we can look forward to is Pareto efficiency where affluence and pauperism cohabits. Any leader who superintends over such an iniquitous system in which the minority class economic interests exploit the majority class laxity and weakness to advance its course and cloth it with the gab of democracy cannot be trusted as a shepherd of the citizens that a national leaders ought to be.

The full version of the above article is available from:

<https://www.nationalrecord.com.ng/can-this-very-lord-be-our-shepherd-by-boney-akaeze/>

## PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT SPENDING AS PALLIATIVES FOR THE POOR

Idris Sulaiman Shanono

The money the Federal Government has saved from the fuel subsidy should be spent as follows:

- 1 Education: fund our educational sector, for example, give revitalization funds to all our public schools from primary to tertiary institutions. You can't start building without good, solid and concrete foundations. Banning fees at all levels provides savings for all families and reduces leakage from fee collection.
- 2 Health: our health services at all levels have to be free of charge. Currently citizens die in Federal, state and local government hospitals and health centres from lack of money to pay fees. Many people also suffer huge loans to cover essential healthcare.
- 3 Provide town service and inter-state buses to transport people at subsidized rate. Transport costs have doubled or even tripled this year. We can no longer afford to travel to work every day.
- 4 Resuscitation of our railway transportation: this is the easiest and most affordable means of transportation. This idea would reduce total dependency on motors and other vehicles.
- 5 Introducing real and meaningful skills acquisition programs: governments at all levels have to introduce skills acquisition programs. This would reduce crime and all forms of terrorism among the youth and wider peoples.
- 6 The Federal Government state of emergency on food: there is need for government to distribute food items directly to the citizens through government cooperative shops. This happened in 1984 - 1985 during the first Buhari Administration.
- 7 Agriculture mechanization: governments have to distribute fertilizer and other inputs directly to farmers as happened during the Jonathan administration.
- 8 Distribution of eight thousand naira: Tinubu is supposed to respect the majority opinion that vehemently rejected this deceitful idea. Can you remember how many billions of naira were disbursed by Jonathan and Buhari administrations? Who were the major beneficiaries ordinary citizens or politicians and public office holders?
- 9 The Federal Government should ensure that our public refineries are properly repaired. This should reduce the current artificial and concocted price hike of petroleum products which is encouraged by foreign financial Institutions. The House of Representatives found that over N11 trillion had allegedly been spent on turn around maintenance (TAM) of the public refineries in the decade from 2010.
- 10 We want know how many billions of naira generated by the NNPC were remitted to the Federation Account from 1999 to 2023? Annual audits of the NNPC should be published promptly each year. If not, legal action should be taken?

## COMRADE OLAOYE SANDA: AN OUTSTANDING SOCIALIST ACTIVIST

Tokunbo Oke

It is with a heavy heart and a great sense of loss that we write this tribute to our Comrade, Olaoye Sanda. Comrade Sanda was an oak, an Iroko tree in the Socialist and pro-people Movement in Nigeria,



Comrade Laoye Sanda lives

inspiring thousands by personal example to immerse themselves in the noble cause to transform

Nigeria in the interests of the working, poor and oppressed peoples.

To his family, we offer our most sincere condolences as they have lost a father, grandfather, uncle,

brother etc. To these Comrades, they have lost a wise counsel, clear in thought and steady in

execution. To the working people, they have lost a class fighter, a tribune of the people always at the

ready to take up cudgels against any injustice meted out against them by those that control this vampire-like social system that resembles that pagan idol that would only drink nectar from the skulls of the slain. Continue with the link below:

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/07/31/comrade-olaoye-sanda-an-outstanding-socialist-activist/>

## WHAT SHOULD TRADE UNIONS DO ABOUT COURT INJUNCTIONS?

Alex Batubo

Every major strike in recent years has had a court order issued against it. The National Industrial Court regularly grants injunctions to stop strikes, but it has no impact when it is resolutely ignored by trade union leaders. The first defence is often for the relevant union to avoid being served the order. Over the last five years no trade union leader has been punished for ignoring court orders.

In early May 2023 the Court issued an injunction against the NLC in Imo State, but this did not stop the strike. Similarly, with the ASUU strike issued with an injunction in September last year (2022). This did not stop the strike, but may have contributed to its ending a month later after eight months.

The National Industrial Court, Abuja, in mid-September 2021, ordered members of the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) to suspend their 46-day-old strike and return to work immediately. The strike was not suspended until 6th October, 2021.

The NLC planned general strike in September 2020 had a court order issued against it on 24th, but the strike was not suspended until the 28th on the eve of the strike. This was over a fuel increase from N148/litre to N162/litre – a less than 10% increase compared to over 200% recently.

In May 2016, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) called off the nearly week-long strike over an increase in fuel prices of 68%. A court injunction had been issued before the strike started. This strike was not supported by the Joe Ajaero faction of the NLC.

We should remember that the National Industrial Relations Court is really part of the Government and its leading judges are appointed by the President. Hence this court is not neutral, but its role is to subdue any trade union taking effective action. As a result, any trade union served with an injunction from this court should see it as a badge of honour. The injunction should be taken as recognition that the Government recognises the seriousness of the strike. So the trade unions should continue to organise the strike with renewed vigour and refuse to recognise the court injunction.

For the full version of the above article see:

<https://www.nationalrecord.com.ng/what-should-trade-unions-do-about-court-injunctions-by-alex-batubo/>



A Lagos-based lawyer, Mr Bayo Akinlade, the Convener of Duty Solicitors Network (DSN), stated that the NLC has the right to embark on the strike if their demands are not met by the government.

“I think they agreed to suspend their strike to allow the government to meet their demands... If the demands are not met by 2nd August, then they have every right to go on strike,” he said.

Femi Aborisade, a human rights lawyer said that the planned strike is the most welcome development that gladdens his heart.

“I will participate in it, plan for it and mobilise for it. It is welcome and we thank the leadership of the NLC for being responsive to the yearning and aspirations of the Nigerian people who are ready to shake off this unprecedented hike in fuel. “There is a relationship between the price of fuel and prices of all other goods and services, as the price of fuel goes up, so also the prices of all other goods and services automatically go up, therefore the masses are desirous of resisting and they are looking up to the leadership of the NLC. As a matter of fact, the masses have been expecting this resolution of the NLC for a long time but it is better late than never,” he added.

## WHAT DOES MASS PROTEST LOOK LIKE?

The following video link reminds us what mass protest looks like. This was the last time we saw a major national general strike. Goodluck Johnathan threatened to increase the price of fuel from N65 to N200 in early 2012. The eight-day general strike resulted in the fuel price being increased by less than 50 percent. If we now help to organise similar protests, we can win a reversal of the recent prices of petrol, a decent minimum wage that is increased each year in line with inflation and an end to exorbitant tuition fees.

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/07/27/what-does-a-mass-protest-look-like/>

## #ENDSARS OCTOBER 2020 – REMINDER OF A MASSACRE

Amnesty International at the time said 12 protesters were massacred at Lekki and Alausa. The #EndSARS Judicial Panel of Inquiry report said only three out of 99 dead bodies of the protesters were claimed; and this is because the three bodies were identified when deposited. The Government now admits the massacres by army and police were far worse! 103 unidentified corpses! The police and army do not protect us - they kill us to protect the property of the corrupt elite.



EndSARS Protest at Lekki Tollgate, October 2020

## LAGOS STATE JUDICIAL PANEL OF INQUIRY ON RESTITUTION FOR VICTIMS OF SARS RELATED ABUSES AND OTHER MATTERS

### Report of Lekki Incident Investigation of 20th October 2020

The Panel thus made the following key findings:

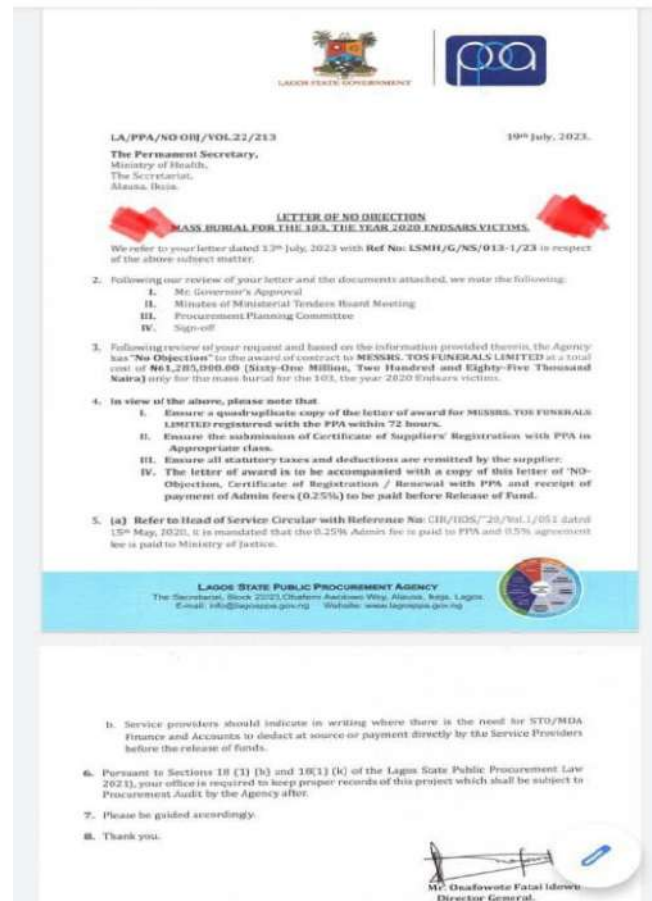
1. That the Nigerian Army was invited for intervention in the State and was deployed to Lekki Toll Gate on the 20th of October 2020. At the Lekki Toll Gate, officers of the Nigerian Army shot, injured and killed unarmed helpless and defenseless protesters, without provocation or justification, while they were waving the Nigerian Flag and singing the National Anthem and the manner of assault and killing could in context be described as a massacre. The Panel also found that the conduct of the Nigerian Army was exacerbated by its refusal to allow ambulances render medical assistance to victims who required such assistance. The Army was also found not to adhered to its own Rules of Engagement.

2. The panel found that the Nigerian Police Force deployed its offices to the Lekki Toll Gate on the night of the 20th of October, 2020 and between the night and the morning of the 21st of October, 2020, its officer shot at, assaulted and battered unknown protesters, which led to injuries and deaths. The police officers also tried to cover up their actions by picking up bullets.

3. The panel found that LCC hampered the Panel’s investigation by refusing to turn over some useful and vital information/evidence as requested by the Panel and the forensic expert engaged by the panel, even where such information and evidence was by the companies admission, available. It manipulated the incomplete CCTV video footage of the Lekki Toll Gate on the night of the 20th of October 2020, which it tendered before the Panel.

4. The Panel found that there was an invitation of the Nigerian army to Lagos State made by the Logos State Government through the Governor before the hierarchy of the Nigerian Army deployed soldiers to the Lekki tollgate on the night of the 20th of October.

5. The Panel found that there was an attempt to cover up the Incident of the 20th of October by the cleaning of the Lekki Toll Gate and the failure to preserve the scene ahead of potential investigations.



## The Women's Revolution – Russia 1905 – 1917 – Judy Cox (2017)

For most people the leading Russian socialists were Lenin and Trotsky. This book provides an outline of the events that led to the first socialist state in October 1917. But more importantly, it describes the roles played by all the popular people, women as well as the men.

The book introduces many people to the other Bolshevik leaders. These included Nadezhda Krupskaya, Lenin's wife, Inessa Armand, Alexandra Kollontai (all having key roles in the initial Bolshevik Government) and Lenin's two sisters Anna and Maria Ulyanova. "The first ever woman to lead a national government in modern Europe was Bolshevik Eugenia Bosh, who was leader of the soviet government of Ukraine in 1917." As this book makes clear, these women were all leading Bolsheviks in their own right.

As Judy says, "Women had to throw off centuries of oppression to claim their place in the revolution. They had to face down Kossacks armed with whips, the ingrained sexism and prejudice of male workers, and their own lack of confidence and experience. The fact that some women achieved this is testimony to the potential of self-emancipation of the working class to win women's liberation." The socialist transformation process began on International Women's Day in February 1905. The women went from the factory to factory pulling the men out on strike. It needed action by the socialist government, but also mass campaigns to fundamentally change a feudal society that had been run by the Romanov family for 300 years.

Within a few years, women were more liberated than in any western industrial country. Women had already won the right to vote before the workers seized power. "After a 40,000-strong protest march, the government eventually granted universal women's suffrage in July 1917. Women over the age of 30 were granted the right to vote in England the following year. English women did not win universal suffrage until 1928."

"The Code on Marriage, the Family, and Guardianship was ratified in October 1918. It allowed both spouses to retain rights to their own property and earnings, abolished all distinctions between legitimate and illegitimate children, and made divorce available upon request."

But also: "They established crèches and schools to free women from childcare and enable them to participate in the workforce. By 1919, some 90 percent of Petrograd's population had access to public restaurants, washing facilities and childcare." "The principle of 'equal pay for equal work' was enshrined in law. By 1920, Russian women had the right to abortion – 53 years before the USA and 47 years before Britain."

This book is a wonderful introduction to what we mean by socialism, as self-emancipation, but also what we mean by feminism. We need to organise as women and men to achieve both women's liberation and socialism. We need far more people to read this book and join us in the twin struggles for our liberation from the corrupt elite and patriarchy.

For a free download of this book, please visit Iva Valley Books website: <https://ivavalleybooks.com/2023/07/11/the-womens-revolution-russia-1905-1917judy-cox/>



## SOCIALISTS AND ELECTIONS

The most recent issue of International Socialism, the theoretical Journal of the SWP in Britain includes a useful article on the experience of socialists in Europe and their involvement in electoral politics in recent decades. In the main this has not been a successful experience and mainly we are left with learning from their mistakes. However, in Ireland, socialist members of parliament are able to use it to raise important issues. In France a group to the left of the traditional Socialist Party (social democracy/labour party) have a strong parliamentary presence being the second party to the ruling party.

The recent elections in Nigeria saw the left split in three directions. Some of the left, gave critical support to the Labour Party and Peter Obi. Others supported the candidate

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of Sowore with an alliance between the African Action Congress and one wing of the PRP. A third group tried to stand and then organise socialists not on the ballot.

Peter Obi was the only credible alternative to the PDP/APC and had a soft alliance with the NLC. In the end, elections are about who can win. It was only Peter Obi who had a chance of defeating the PDP/APC and many of his supporters still believe he did. It was important that we tried and continue to relate to the many Obidians.

This article is an important read. Why do socialists stand in elections? What is the experience across Europe? And more importantly, how do we translate this experience to our action in Nigeria? We do not generally concentrate on elections, and when we do, we want to use them to build our organisation and the wider left and the trade union movement.

The elections may be mainly over for another four years, but the arguments will return and we need to be better informed by history for 2027. It would be good to hear other comrades' views of this article that is available for free download from: <http://isj.org.uk/revolutionaries-and-elections/>

## DISORDER REIGNS IN KHARTOUM -

Anne Alexander

The current issue of International Socialism also provides a useful analysis of the situation in Sudan. "Sudan is no stranger to war, but the conflict that erupted on 15 April 2023 between the two generals who earlier led the military coup of October 2021 has shattered the capital city and thrown –millions of people into crisis. Hospitals and schools lie in ruins; around 1.3 –million people have fled the fighting; millions more lack essentials such as water, electricity and food; and thousands have been killed and injured."

This is a shattering blow after the hopes from mass protests over the last five years. This was especially so with the Resistance Committees that provided hope for change from below. In many cases these have transformed into Emergency Committees and are providing skeletal state services.

Anne ends her in depth analysis by saying: "The vision of the people as a "third side", capable of acting as a counterweight to both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, has been tantalisingly close to the surface at times but has never quite broken through. As long as the state remained on its pedestal as the ultimate arbiter in all disputes, and the "national army" as the guardian of the political order, this counterpower could never fully emerge. Recognising this was an organisational task as much as a political one. It did not require the majority of ordinary people in Sudan to be convinced of it, but the lack of any organised force capable of fighting for this perspective remains a major obstacle to the realisation of popular power."

The full article is available for free download from:

<http://isj.org.uk/disorder-reigns-in-khartoum/>

## PROTESTS IN KENYA

People in Kenya have been protesting since March over the high cost of living. They have taken to the streets in nine days of protests over the end of subsidies and rising taxes. Some of the protests were led by the leader of the opposition, Raila Odinga, others by the Azimio Alliance.

The police response has been harsh with at least 30 protesters being killed in July and hundreds injured and arrested. Preliminary investigations by Amnesty International have revealed that the police have used beatings, arbitrary arrests and detention of protestors, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of tear gas and water cannons, and other serious rights violations to police the protests.

In April, hundreds of thousands of Kenyan health care workers and civil servants threatened strike action. The Kenyan government of billionaire William Ruto delayed salary payments of government and parastatal workers, save for some education workers and police, while imposing International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity measures and privatisations. Health care workers again suspended a promised strike in July.







## THE MESSAGE

- FUEL PRICE INCREASE & NAIRA DEVALUATION  
KILLING LOCAL INDUSTRIES & JOBS
- END HIGH COST OF TRANSPORTATION.  
GIVE US CNG BUSES
- LET THE POOR BREATHE  
STOP RECKLESS PRICE INCREASES  
PAY LIVING WAGE  
SUPPORT INFORMAL WORKERS
- EDUCATION IS OUR RIGHT,  
STOP THE INCREASE IN SCHOOL FEES!!
- PAY UNIVERSITY WORKERS  
8 MONTHS SALARY ARREARS
- NIGERIANS ARE SUFFOCATING  
TINUBU LET NIGERIANS BREATHE!
- TINUBU, LISTEN TO NIGERIANS,  
NOT IMF & WORLD BANK!!!

JOIN US AT UNITY FOUNTAIN ON WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2023  
AT 7:00AM



## BACK

- STOP SUBSIDIZING THE RICH  
IT'S TIME TO TAX THE RICH & SUPPORT THE POOR
- FUEL PRICE INCREASE & NAIRA DEVALUATION = INSECURITY &  
POVERTY
- DON'T SUFFOCATE THE POOR  
END FUEL PRICE INCREASE,  
FIX LOCAL REFINERIES!!!
- STOP NAIRA DEVALUATION  
SUPPORT LOCAL MANUFACTURING
- EDUCATION IS OUR RIGHT,  
STOP THE INCREASE IN SCHOOL FEES!!
- END CORRUPTION NOW  
RECOVER THE LOOTS  
JAIL CULPRITS  
POOR NIGERIANS MUST BREATHE
- NO MONEY FOR FUEL  
NO MONEY FOR TRANSPORT  
GIVE US CNG BUSES

JOIN US AT UNITY FOUNTAIN ON WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2023  
AT 7:00AM

# Summary of Workers Strikes - July 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](mailto: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.*

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. The strike was suspended from 17th July, but salaries are still owed for April – July and the Government insisted on a screening exercise.

The **lecturers of the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, Ondo State** commenced strike action to protest against non-payment of their 13 months' salary on 9th June. Members of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic, RUGIPO chapter, also vowed not to participate in the first semester examinations of the school, on 13th June.

The **Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU)** has directed union members to go to work twice a week from 19th July in view of the current hike in petrol prices occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy. COEASU is demanding a 200 percent increase in salary of its members. They suspended their last two month strike on 10th August 2022.

**Resident doctors of NARD** started a total and indefinite strike from early on 26th July. The major demands are:

1. immediate payment of the 2023 Medical Residency Training Fund
2. immediate release of the circular on one-for-one replacement
3. payment of skipping arrears
4. upward review of CONMESS in line with full salary restoration to the 2014 value of CONMESS
5. payment of 2014, 2015, and 2016 salary arrears, hazard allowance arrears as well as arrears of the consequential adjustment of the minimum wage.

## Socialist Labour-JOIN US

The economic, environmental and Covid-19 crises show that society is a conflict between two classes: the vast majority who create the wealth, and a tiny minority who profit from our work. Reform attempts have failed: the only solution is 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 from 2019, begin to show what we need.

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

[www.socialistlabour.com.ng/about-us/](http://www.socialistlabour.com.ng/about-us/)

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

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KiOyN3OKGBIvtuh0ycDaU>

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. Please contact us via WhatsApp of 0916 693 3998

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

## Socialist Labour Depends on its Supporters for Finances

*Socialist Labour depends on its members and supporters for funds. We need more financial support so that we can be more active, expand and grow. If you are able to make a modest financial contribution that would be really helpful. We would also like all readers of this Bulletin to consider fully joining Socialist Labour by paying monthly subscriptions.*

*The standard rate is N1,000 a month, with a lower rate of N500 for students or unemployed and N5,000 for higher paid comrades. We can all afford something - every little helps.*

*Please make your contributions to the following bank account:*

**First Bank Nig. Ltd. Account No. 3158880328**

**Account Name: Aborisade Albert Femi**

*The account is only used for Socialist Labour purposes.*

**Please join Socialist Labour, by submitting the following details:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **WhatsApp number:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Minimum suggested monthly subscription levels are:**

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**EMAIL: [socialistlabour.ng@gmail.com](mailto:socialistlabour.ng@gmail.com)**

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