



Socialist Bulletin

A Monthly Publication from Socialist Labour

EMAIL: SOCIALISTLABOUR.NG@GMAIL.COM

TWITTER @SOCIALISTLABNG

FACEBOOK @SOCIALISTLABOURNG

Trade Unions in the States have to fight for their pay & Pension **Page 2**

Direct Sale Direct Purchase Program & Spurious Fuel Subsidy claims **Page 3**

Ongoing UAW Strike Against US automaker **Page 4**

Summary of workers strikes-October 2023 **Page 10**

WE CAN DEFEAT TINUBU WITH ACTIVE STRIKES AND MORE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS

The poor majority have suffered major attacks on their living standards in the last few months. The price of petrol tripled, transport costs doubled and officially food inflation was over 30% over the year to the end of September. However, the trades unions have so far failed to provide the necessary robust response need to these attacks.

The strength of the trade unions depends on their collective action. However, good the trade union leaders are, their power resides in our mass support. We need to organise a rank and file trade union movement to organise this power. We need to support the leaders who lead robust strike action and criticise those who fail to respond adequately to the employer's (government and private sector) attacks.

We also need to improve the quality of democracy in the trade unions. To be effective we need greater bottom up democracy. As much as possible, decisions should be taken by mass meetings or committees. We cannot afford to leave key decisions to be taken by our leaders. This makes it too easy for them to succumb to pressure or be settled or perceived to be settled.

We need to build and organise a rank and file movement across the labour movement in Nigeria. This is necessary to ensure that all the trade unions and their branches are as effective and democratic as possible.

The movement has to be led by individual trade union members in their individual capacity even where they are local or national officers of a trade unions. We need comrades in each state and in each trade union to build and lead the movement. Please contact us if you are able to help.



Together we can win the following demands, we are many they are few:

- A decent minimum wage for all with annual increments!
- Reversal of all hikes in tertiary level tuition fees!
- Reversal of recent fuel price increases back to the last regulated price!
- Payment of arrears of salary and pensions in relevant states!
- End, of "no work – no pay"; pay the ASUU strikers & others from last year!

The following pamphlet provides more details on how to make our trade unions more effective and how they can win strikes. It is available for free download:

<https://ivavalleybooks.com/2023/04/06/unity-and-solidarity-how-we-can-win-strikes/>

Visit: socialistlabour.com.ng

Resolute Action Needed from the NLC/TUC As Government Reneges on its Promise!

Half Way Through the NLC/TUCs 30 day suspension of its strike the Federal Government appeared to have reneged on its promise to pay all Federal workers N35,000. The trade unions should seek clarification on this issue. Then the NLC/TUC should consider strike action if the Memorandum of Understanding is not to be implemented as agreed.

Days after the news leaked that each member of the National Assembly was to be given an additional vehicle costing around N160 million, it appears that the Government is back tracking on its promised pay award. A letter from the Chair of the National Wages and Salaries Commission dated 19th October, says that:

“Accordingly, the implementation of the N35,000,00 per month wage award for all Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies that are treasury-funded will be funded from the treasury, Non-treasury funded Federal Government agencies are to implement same from their internally generated revenue (IGR) or statutory allocations.”

So only core ministries will have the award funded. Any organisation that is funded from a ministry other than the Accountant General will not be funded and the workers will have to fight their management to receive the award.

In contrast, the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Federal Government and the NLC/TUC clearly stated that:

“The Federal Government grants a wage award of N35,000 (thirty-five thousand Naira) only to all Federal Government workers beginning from the month of September pending when a new national minimum wage is expected to have been signed into law.”

Clearly this is a dishonest Government that cannot be trusted. Any strike action should not be suspended until all workers receive their bank alert to confirm that the full pay award has been paid into their bank account.

The full press release on this topic from Socialist Labour can be found at:

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/10/26/resolute-action-needed-from-the-nlc-tuc-as-government-reneges-on-its-promise/>

TRADE UNIONS IN THE STATES WILL HAVE TO FIGHT TO WIN THE PAY INCREASES THEY DESERVE



In January, 2023, workers in Federal Government budget funded bodies were given a 40% pay increase. As a result of the agreement to suspend strike action by the NLC/TUC in early October Federal workers were awarded another increase of N35,000 a month (at least for those funded by the Treasury). However, these increases do not yet apply to state or local government workers (and many others, for example, teachers, nurses, lecturers, doctors).

The Federal Government merely agreed to urge state Governors to implement a similar pay award for state and local government workers. Will this be enough for these workers to receive this pay increment?

At least 11 states have not yet fully implemented the minimum wage and many more have arrears of salaries and/or pensions. It is not lack of money in the states, it is the greed of the Governors. It is difficult for them to loot from payroll so they do not like to pay it.

In some states, the NLC/TUC may be prepared to lead a fight, in others it will be down to the main trade unions. All comrades should be asking the officers of their branches what can be done so that we can all afford to live. <https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/10/23/trade-unions-in-the-states-will-have-to-fight-to-win-pay-increases/>

CAC TRADE UNION WINS DISMISSAL OF DICTATORIAL REGISTRAR-GENERAL

This victory provides important lessons for all trade unionists. We may suffer dictatorial bosses/ogas, but if we are united, we will be victorious in the end. That is why we say “The workers united will never be defeated!” If you have a high-handed manager in your office/workplace then if you get properly organized, the lesson from the workers at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) is that you can also win the removal of that dictator!

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/10/20/cac-trade-union-win-dismissal-of-dictatorial-registrar-general/>

Direct Sale Direct Purchase Program and Spurious Fuel Subsidy Claims -by Izielen Agbon

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) released its 2021 annual report in September 2023. The report provided the monthly volumes of crude oil exported and the petrol received under the NNPC's Direct Sales Direct Purchase (DSDP) program in 2021. Under this program, NNPC delivered crude oil to suppliers who then delivered petroleum products of a standard specification to designated ports in Nigeria. The petroleum products delivered were equivalent in value to the crude oil received from NNPC.

There were 16 suppliers during the 2021-2023 period. The DSDP partners made their profit from the sale of the other petroleum products that were not provided to the NNPC. The NNPC did not pay them any money, but recovered the cost of the crude oil by selling the delivered petroleum products to the marketers who then sold the petroleum products to consumers in Nigeria. The petroleum products were sold at government fixed prices.

The NNPC should only have claimed fuel subsidy when there was an overall loss or under-recovery for this scheme. Under the DSDP program, under recovery is the difference between the value of the domestic crude oil exported and the revenue obtained from the sale of imported petrol. The NNPC actually made a profit of just over \$2 billion from the DSDP program in 2021. Despite this, the NNPC made spurious subsidy claims of almost \$3 billion for the year.

The total domestic allocation to the DSDP scheme in 2021 was just over 94 million barrels of crude oil. All the crude volume was lifted by consortia companies or DSDP partners. The cost of the exported crude oil was nearly \$7 billion. The total PMS import volume of petrol received by NNPC was just over 16 million tonnes with a reported value of nearly \$12 billion. This value was nearly \$5 billion higher than the expected contract PMS value of nearly \$7 billion.

NNPC could not give a reason for this variance. This is a good example of "Figure don't lie. But Liars do figure" - Mark Twain. It is corruption under the cover of "under recovery" or "fuel subsidy".

Fortunately, the National Bureau Statistics published the average monthly petrol price per litre in 2021. The sum of the products of the monthly volumes and prices will give us the annual revenue generated from the sales of the imported DSDP petrol. Therefore, we can examine the DSDP program in 2021 with these figures to determine if there was really any subsidy.

The 16 million tonnes of petrol imported in 2021 was sold in the Nigerian market for nearly \$9 billion according to the NBS prices. This gives a profit of just over \$2 billion for the DSDP program in 2021.

Yet, the NNPC collected N1,159,183,273,072 Naira (nearly \$3 billion) as fuel subsidy for 2021. A total of N1.78 trillion Naira was actually approved by the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC), but only N1.159 trillion was deducted at FAAC.

Who deducted this money? Who was this money paid to? What has the Federal government and EFCC done about these spurious subsidy claims? These are basic questions which the Tinubu administration must answer before it asks Nigerian citizens to make sacrifices while each and every National Assembly member is given more petrol guzzling Prado jeeps.

The full analysis that this summary is based on is available from:

<https://www.nationalrecord.com.ng/the-2021-direct-sale-direct-purchase-program-and-spurious-subsidy-claims/>

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/

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

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KiOyN3OKGBllvtuh0ycDaU>

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.

Ongoing UAW Strike Against US Automakers-by James Uanhoro



The United Auto Workers (UAW) went on strike on September 15 to win “record contracts” at the Big Three automakers, Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis. Guided by a resolute rank-and-file movement, this strike has become a beacon of hope for the US working class and has already secured monumental victories for workers.

Background to the current struggle:

- Autoworkers have generated record profits for their employers. The Big Three already made \$20 billion in profits in the first six months of 2023.
- Concessionary Contracts: During the 2008/09 global recession, autoworkers “sacrificed” for the Big Three by accepting highly unfavourable contracts to “ensure the companies’ survival.” But as the Big Three have flourished, workers’ contracts have barely improved. Insidious practices have become a staple in recent contracts. This includes wage tiers (different pay for the same work), permanent “temporary” workers who have lesser benefits, and weak cost of living adjustments (COLA).
- Rise of the rank-and-file movement: UAW for Democracy (UAWD) recently won direct democracy within the union. Shawn Fain won the presidency. He is a militant labour leader and has described the current negotiations as a battle for all of the working class.

UAW has used a rolling strike strategy, which they have named the “Stand Up” Strike:

- The President, Fain has weekly broadcasts discussing progress on negotiations. During these broadcasts, he also announces new plants that will join the strike. At the moment, about 45,000 workers are on strike out of a total of 130,000 workers.
- Strategic Uncertainty: By keeping the Big Three guessing which plant will shut down next, the UAW has disrupted the ability of the Big Three to plan around the strike. This strategy has also kept the strike in the mainstream newspapers.
- Leveraging Profitable Plants: Each of the Big Three has major profit-making plants. Sometimes, the UAW leaks that one of these plants will go on strike, and the company responds with significant concessions to stop the escalation.
- Shop floor creativity: Although not all workers are on strike, those who remain working are “working to rule” and engaging in other forms of shop floor creativity.
- Financial Impact: The strike has cost the Big Three an estimated \$4 billion in losses. Workers create wealth, and workers’ ability to withdraw that labour forces capitalists to make concessions.

While negotiations with GM and Stellantis are ongoing, the UAW has now secured a tentative agreement with Ford, and members will have to ratify the contract. Below are some of the significant wins in the tentative agreement with Ford:

- Enhanced Benefits: The agreement secures superior benefits each year compared to the entirety of the previous contract.
- Wage Increases in the next 4.5 years of the contract will surpass the cumulative wage increases of the last 22 years. Some of the lowest-paid workers will have an 85% wage increase on ratification.
- 3-year progression from entry to top wages
- Stronger COLA – Cost of Living Adjustments
- Right to Strike Over Plant Closures
- Current “permanent temps” raised to full-term employees
- Elimination of wage tiers at certain plants

Unionizing beyond the Big Three

The US auto industry is undergoing a shift toward electric vehicles, and the majority of these plants are non-union. The UAW’s successes in contract negotiations with the Big Three has demonstrated the concrete advantages of union membership to workers in non-union plants. These wins will aid the UAW in its unionizing drive at these plants.

Finally, some lessons for the Nigerian trade unionists:

1. The promise of rank-and-file strategy and union democracy: For the trade union movement to win significant concessions from capitalists and the government, rank-and-file unionists must take control of their trade unions and extend democracy.
2. Effective use of the Internet. Platforms like Facebook Live allow militant labour leaders to speak directly with the rank and file.
3. It is essential for union members interested in reforming the trade union movement to come together, share notes and learn from each other how to reform their trade unions.
4. Rolling strikes offer a pathway for escalation within the union, especially when solidarity from the labour centres is not guaranteed.

States Have Plenty of Money to Pay Salaries and Pensions

State and Federal governments have plenty of money. At the October FAAC meeting N903 million was shared. This means that in the last four months the average FAAC income was 26%, or more than a quarter, more than the average for the first six months of this year. Crude oil price is now nearly back to \$100 a barrel and production is back to 1.7 million barrels a day so income will increase further in coming months. In addition, each time the naira is devalued the price the FAAC oil income increases.



No work – no pay – a massive attack on the labour movement



The President has agreed to pay ASUU and the other education unions four months salary for the eight months that they were on strike last year. However, there is a mandatory condition that “the Federal Ministry of Education and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment must secure a Document of Understanding (DoU) establishing that this exceptional waiver granted by the President will be the last one to be granted to the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and all other Education Sector Unions.” The education unions are not happy with this condition and have yet to make their position known. A similar waiver was given to the doctors of NARD over their 17 day strike in July and August last year, but this was without conditions.

Dr Anderson Ezeibe, the president of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics, said no union will sign the proposed document of understanding.

Dr Smart Olugbeko, the chair of the Colleges of Education Association Staff Union, said he was disappointed by the statement of the president, who was expected to make a positive change in higher education. Olugbeko noted that the “presidential prerogative of mercy” is anti-union and ill-advised and shows that the government has not come to terms with the sad realities in the educational system.

Air Force Endangering More Lives

Across the country, from Zamfara and Borno to Rivers states, the Nigerian Air Force is massacring the poor. Using the Air Force against so called ‘terrorists’ is likely to lead to further innocent lives being lost. Is it really necessary to use the Air Force against those trying to refine crude oil locally, especially so close to the major city of Port Harcourt? We need to campaign against such state violence being used against poor people.

<https://www.channelstv.com/?p=776769>

FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE: NIGERIA PENSION REFORM JOURNEY -

Aisha Dahir-Umar

A review by Ivor Takor

The author of the book is the current Director General of the National Pension Commission (PenCom). It is a chronicle of the fights for the future of Nigerian workers. The fight to help them maintain a standard of living in retirement that is close to what they enjoyed during their working life. A fight that still aims to ensure that workers do not spend their later days in poverty and destitution.

The Pension Reform Act 2004 forms the basis of the reforms. It established a Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and the National Pension Commission (PenCom) giving coverage to employees of the Public Service of the Federation, Federal Capital Territory and the private sector (so the states and local government workers were excluded). This law was amended with the Pension Reform Act, 2014.

The majority of state governments are yet to enact pension laws for their employees and those that have enacted, with the exception of about seven, are operating the laws in default. These include delays in payment of pensions on retirement; the non-implementation of the minimum guarantee pension and review of pensions in line with the provisions of the Constitution, among others. In some states, state governments are only remitting employees contributions without making employers contributions as provided in their own state laws.

The private financial sector is the principal beneficiary of these reforms. They benefit from managing accumulated pension assets of N15.45 trillion by February, 2023. Most Pension Fund Administrators and all Pension Fund Custodians are subsidiaries of banks. The life insurance and annuity branches of insurance sub sector, which were relatively unknown by most Nigerians are now thriving businesses.

The previous Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) was largely unfunded (so there were no pension funds to loot) and non-contributory (so deductions were not made from workers salaries). As now, employers paid their pensioners a lump sum gratuity and a monthly pension. Previously, the amount an employee was paid as a pension is mainly based on the number of years of service and the employee's grade level at the point of retirement.

According to the author, some individuals believe the CPS reduces their take home pay. I can confirm this is true. Speaking from the stand point of a pensioner under the CPS, who has colleagues who retired years before me under the previous scheme on the same salary grade level and number of years of service, I state here emphatically that it is not a matter of belief. It is a fact and a stark reality.

Some senior public sector managers have been protected from these reforms. President Buhari excluded the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation and Permanent Secretaries and assented to the bill excluding National Assembly Services.

The purpose of this review is to give a helicopter view of the book to all those who ought to read it, especially Nigerian workers, trade unionist and those advocating for the welfare of workers in the belief that it will provoke them to read it. There have been several articles in journals, newspapers and online on pension with majority being lamentations on the plight of pensioners. This book is the first comprehensive book on current Nigeria pension law, administration, supervision and regulation. The book should be of interest to trade unionist, their leaders, workers and academicians.

Ivor Takor as written widely on pension issues and has documented the position in each state in a series of articles in the National Record. The full version of this review: <https://www.nationalrecord.com.ng/for-workers-future-in-comfort-a-review-of-dahir-umars-book-by-ivor-takor/>

The full book is available for free download from:

<https://www.pencom.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Nigerias-Pension-Reform-Journey-Aisha-Dahir-Umar.pdf>

Students Solidarity Group Against Fee Hike

– a review of the campaign so far

The resounding voices of students have echoed continuously over the past three months, calling for a reversal of the recent fee hike from University of Lagos and other institutions.

One of the results of this was the tokenist reduction implemented by the UNILAG management.

All the victories and concessions we have recorded thus far, and most especially the reduction and promise to restore the University of Lagos Students' Union (ULSU) were not out of any benevolence of the management. They were products of intense struggle by the students.

The struggle is far from ending. We remain committed to fighting for a democratic and fair resolution that upholds the value of accessible and affordable education.

#jointheresistance

State of the Struggle

The demands of the #FeesMustFall movement remain sacrosanct. We maintain that the government has the resources to fund quality and affordable education. The major constraint is the government's neoliberal policies. These do not prioritize investments in social services such as education and health of the people, but finds it 'economically wise' to procure 160 million Naira SUVs for 469 members of the parliament, among a litany of wastages.

Thousands of our students are on the verge of dropping out as they can still not afford the reduced fees. The palliatives are half measures that have not translated into concrete and workable actions. As we approach the commencement of academic activities in just four days, this inefficiency leaves many students in a state of uncertainty, which is unacceptable by the masses of students.

Many of these hostels are now being privatized; the implication being that the fees will be jerked up astronomically. We stand against the privatization of hostel accommodation on campus. It is the responsibility of government to improve the living, teaching and learning conditions of students and staffers and not to commercialize these conditions.

"AS WE RESUME" AND THE NEXT LINE OF ACTIONS

We will continue to mobilize until education becomes affordable to all. In the coming weeks, we shall be reeling out activities of resistance in line with the demands of the #FeesMustFall movement:

1. A physical Congress on campus will be called in the coming days upon resumption to discuss all welfare issues including the hiked fees and actions that are needed to be taken to safeguard our interests as students.
2. The Congress shall take into cognizance the importance of organizing for a vibrant Students' Union. We wish to state that we will not wait for the management to 'teleguide' our Union. It is called a Students' Union and not Management Union, for a reason.
3. Solidarity meetings with Staff Unions shall be duly held.
4. Solidarity meetings with civil society organizations, to further deepen the struggle will also take place.

We need more students at UNILAG and other tertiary institutions to join this vital struggle. Please contact the secretariat of the Students' Solidarity Group - resolutessg@gmail.com or via WhatsApp on 0818 782 1406

This is an extract from the press release issued by the "Students Solidarity Group Against Fee Hike" on 26th October. The full press release is available from:

<https://www.nationalrecord.com.ng/unilag-fees-hike-thousands-of-students-on-verge-of-dropping-out-students-solidarity-group-cries-out/>

Five years since the Shi'ite massacre in Abuja

Five years ago on Monday, 29th October, 2018 the security forces massacred at least 42 Shi'ites in Abuja. They were peacefully marching along the road by the army road block on the road from Nyanya to Abuja by Karu Bridge as part of a religious procession.

This is just one example of lethal attacks by the police and army on the Shia Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) that took place before and since. These attacks also occurred in Zaria in 2015 (nearly 350 dead), but also Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Yobe, Plateau, and Sokoto states. Sheikh El Zakzaky and his wife were held illegally for several years. In March 2023, a court failed to demand that the DSS should return their passports. Many other Shi'ite members remain in detention. We may not agree with the aims of the IMN, but we all risk suffering if their legal rights are not protected. For more details see:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/12/12/nigeria-end-impunity-killings-shia>

Solidarity with the Palestinians

Since the end of the second world war, the Zionist settlers have been taking more and more of the Palestinian land. Especially with the Nakbah in 1948 as the State of Israel took control of the country after the British colonialists left.

The following maps shows this dramatic historical development:



Socialists and the National Interest– Alex Batubo

The most commonly used argument against the working-class taking action is that it will undermine the national interest. This is strongest in the case of war. So the second socialist international fell apart when each of the national sections supported the government at the outbreak of the First World War.

Socialists always need to argue that it is the working class interests that must come first, not the national interest, which is invariably the interests of the ruling class. The pull of nationalism is extremely strong and appears to be common sense.

Socialists have to be extremely careful not to use this argument. Repeatedly in history the working-class in different countries have suffered terrible defeats because they sided with the national ruling class rather than organising independently and pushing their own interests.

So across sub-Saharan Africa, the trade unions and other working-class organisations joined the national struggle against colonialism without clearly identifying their own objectives. As a result independence was achieved, but national leaders took over the colonial state and used it for their own interests and that of the emerging national ruling class.

It was the strength and influence of the Stalinist groups in each African country which helped to win this argument. This was the stages theory, which the ANC used most recently in South Africa. First we have to overflow apartheid, then we have to build up a national economy and sometime in the far distant future we can fight for socialism. As a result, first we have to gun down of the Marikana strikers, whilst the flight for socialism is postponed until the indefinite future.

Perhaps to a lesser extent, the trade unions and other progressive organisations joined with nationalist politicians to end the military era in Nigeria. Again, the result was the same, the bourgeois politicians came to power and have been amazingly successful in achieving their own objectives over the last 25 years. The corrupt elite in Nigeria are now massively wealthier than they were in 2000. They are now richer than in their wildest dreams. Whilst the poor majority have seen their living standards decline, year by year and decade by decade.

The trade unions in Niger recently fell into the same trap. In the face of a possible (but unlikely) threatened invasion by France or by ECOWAS, they dropped their own demands and gave unconditional support to the military junta. As socialists and internationalists, our position in Niger, should have been to say to the military junta that they needed to distinguish themselves from the previous regime. If the junta had had implemented the long-standing demands of the trade unions, then, and only then, would the trade unions give their support to the military government.

We need to recognise that the major problem for the Nigerien working-class is the huge inequality within the country and so the low living standards for most people. The presence of 1500 French troops in the country and membership of the CFA franc arrangement could only have a secondary impact on the lives of the majority of people in Niger.

Ideologically, the main argument that we face is between nationalism and Marxism, or the primacy of the interests of the working-class. We have to be clear that we always put first the material interests of the working-class, and so the majority of people.

Our priority is to make Nigeria a less unequal society, rather than worrying about the development of the Nigerian economy. This morning an NLC official justified the surrender and suspension of the general strike to me by saying that the strike would have weakened the Nigerian economy when it was suffering difficulties. This shows that the nationalist or socialist approach is extremely important.

We have to make particular efforts to overcome the dominant view that we have to develop Nigeria. We have to be less interested about the size of the cake and concentrate on the crumbs that most people are having to survive on.

IT MIGHT SEEM WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED BUT REALITY IS OFTEN DIFFERENT

The country's constitution safeguards against discrimination on the basis of gender, and Nigeria is a signatory to many international conventions that seek to establish progress for women's rights.

But today, Nigerian women and girls continue to face the reality of widespread discrimination, violence and injustice. While constitutions and conventions matter, gender discrimination can often be deep-rooted, requiring a focused approach to bring about real change.

If you want to see this real change then join Socialist Labour and let's work together in our trade unions to achieve the change we want to see.

For details of the pain, suffering and discrimination that women suffer see:

<https://womenforwomen.org.uk/blog/empowering-nigerian-women>

#jointheresistance

Release the #EndSARS detainees

Over three years after the massacre of #EndSARS protesters against police brutality, perhaps 36 protesters arrested in 2020, are still being arbitrarily detained – the majority of them without trial in Kirikiri and Ikoyi prisons in Lagos.

If you have any further details please submit them. We need trade union branches to adopt such prisoners and seek their release.

Seven #EndSARS protesters – Daniel Joy-Igbo, Sodiq Adigun, Sunday Okoro, Olumide Fatai, Oluwole Isa, Shehu Anas, and Akiniran Oyetakin – arrested in Lagos in 2020, are being arbitrarily held in Kirikiri Medium Correctional Centre.

Eight #EndSARS protesters – Segun Adeniyi, Onuorah Odih, Jeremiah Lucky, Gideon Ikwujomah, Irinyemi Olorunwanbe, Quadri Azeez, Olamide Lekan and Sadiq Riliwan – have been detained without trial in Ikoyi Medium Security Correctional Centre in Lagos.

Others include: Jamiu Sani, Ogidi Joseph, Marcus Joseph, Joseph Oyebowale, Muyiwa Onikoyi, Taiwo Fagbemi, Ibrahim Adesanya, Dare Williams, Sunday Ikorodu, Yusuf Rafiu, Shehu Anas, Yakubu Olayiwola, Ismail Muftao, Bethel Chukwuocha, Haruna Adekunjo, Irinyemi Oluwanbe, Joshua Adeleke, Kabiru Ajetunmobi, Moses Ofoke, Quadri Azeez, Idris Lawus, Charles and Godstine Adele.

For more details see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/nigeria-three-years-after-endsars-at-least-15-protesters-languish-in-lagos-jail/>



Chad: one year after “Black Thursday”, the opposition is still repressed

On October 20, 2022, thousands of Chadians took to the streets to protest against the extension of the transition to civilian rule by two years. Many people were killed by police and soldiers in N'Djamena. The Government has accepted that around 50 were killed, but the National Commission on Human Rights says that 128 were killed.

Huge raids also targeted youth and opposition leaders, most of whom fled into exile. The government admitted to the arrest of 621 young people. They were all taken to a penal colony in Koro Toro, in the middle of the desert 600 kilometres from the capital. They were tried a month and a half later behind closed doors, without lawyers, and most of them sentenced to prison.

The repression continues, any gathering is systematically prohibited. This is as the Government prepares for a constitutional referendum of December 17. Presidential elections are planned for 2024.

Two and a half years ago, on April 20, 2021, the young general Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno was proclaimed as transitional president. This was after the death of his father, Idriss Déby Itno, who led the country with an iron fist for thirty years.

Chad is not a member of ECOWAS, but its military president attended some of its key meetings on the coup in neighbouring Niger and travelled to Niamey to deliver messages soon after the coup in late July. The capital of Chad, N'Djamena is now the main base for French troops in West Africa and its military forces in Niger are being evacuated there by the end of this year.

Free Pamphlet on Palestine

More than seventy years have passed since Zionist militias began the process of ethnic cleansing which would force over 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and clear the way for the construction of the state of Israel. This process continues today with the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip. The pamphlet provides the background to the formation and current politics around the state of Israel:

<https://ivavalleybooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/palestine-pamphlet.pdf>

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Summary of Workers Strikes - October 2023

We need your assistance to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes in your state or community to drewpovey@btinternet.com. All these strikes 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 Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) directed its members to work only two days a week from 19th July. COEASU is demanding a 200 percent increase in the salary of its members.

Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN) started an indefinite national strike on 20th October, closing the Houses of Assembly in each state. This action is over the failure of the states to implement legislative autonomy over the last two years since the three month strike by PASAN was suspended in June 2021.

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

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The account is only used for Socialist Labour purposes.

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