

# WORKERS' fight



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*"The emancipation of the working class will only be achieved by the working class itself" (Karl Marx)*

## YES, WE NEED CHANGE! BUT IT WON'T COME OUT OF NUMBER 10!

After all the melodrama following Labour's election collapse on 7 May, the King's Speech on 13 May, fell flat as a pancake.

You'd think that Starmer might at least have added one or two ear-catching policies, to show he really did "get it" as he'd claimed in his own post-disaster speech. Perhaps he understood it was already too late.

Of course, changing prime ministers is an all-too-familiar game in British politics. During the Conservatives' final 5 years in office they sent 3 different PMs in to bat for them, only to find themselves being bowled out by snake-oil salesman Nigel Farage...

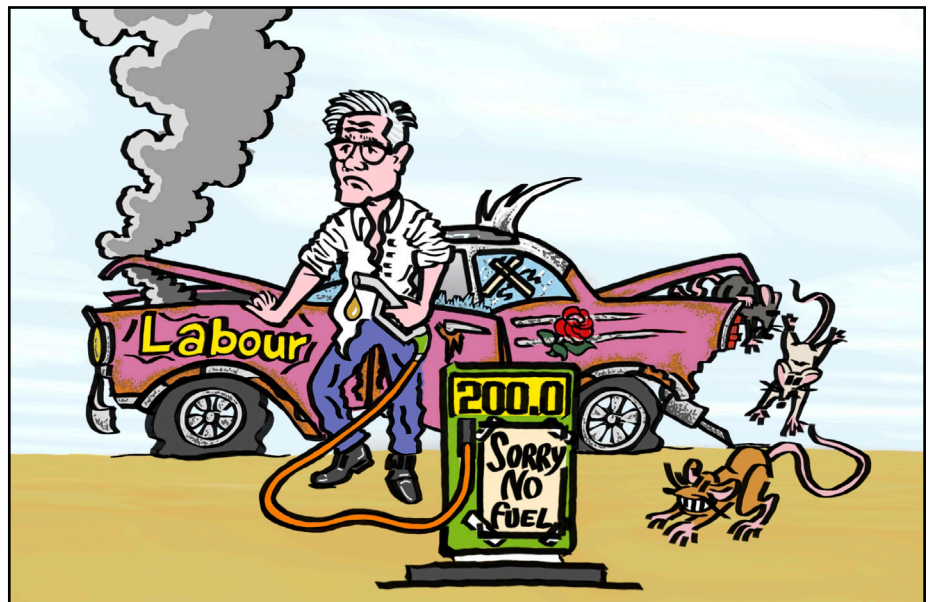
Anyway, who really thinks that "change" is going to come by way of a new PM, a new cabinet, or even a new government? When in power they all dance to the tune of the capitalists and the markets, to keep their decrepit system going.

### **England's forgotten republic**

"Change" say all the politicians, nevertheless, pointing fingers at each other for not delivering! But history proves that only a revolution can change the social and political basis of society. And it's a good 386 years since this country had one. In 1640 the monarchy was overthrown, the bishops and Lords were kicked out and the King's head was chopped off: a secular republic was declared.

But the revolutionaries were a bit ahead of themselves. Society wasn't yet advanced enough for this new system. By 1680, the feudal and religious trappings were restored, although not in full. Parliament now ruled and a King or Queen was thenceforth to remain a figurehead.

Today, we're still stuck in the rut which was dug 4 centuries ago (happy "ground hog day"! ) and so the class system, retained in simplified form under capitalism, is still celebrated



every year with the spectacle of a doddering feudal remnant introducing the latest government programme of legislation!

Of course, it's a con. Any new laws are pre-ordained to maintain the capitalist economy's fundamentals. No matter what, the working class will stay in its place, and the poor will remain poor. Or get poorer, thanks to the latest crisis caused by the King's pal, Donald, his pal, Benjamin - with the closet help of soon-to-be-former PM, "Sir" Keir.

### **This sick system needs overthrowing**

Labour's Secretary to the Treasury was asked why no "Welfare Reform Bill" had been announced by the King. He explained that welfare would be cut in other ways. For instance, by clamping down on those who "claim" to be unable to work. He said the government will ensure that "it never pays to be sick"!

One by one, the rights the working

class has won are being taken away. Workers urgently do need "change", not only here in Britain, but everywhere else in the world - and in many places (like Gaza, Yemen or Sudan) even more so.

So, if there's to be any progress, it will be necessary to harness all of the world's resources for the benefit of the whole of its population and to plan production on an international scale, according to need. There'd be no profits. This is the only way that we'll be able to say goodbye to the class system and workers' exploitation for good!

It will need a revolution. It will require the energy of all those who operate the cogs and wheels of this society. We will need everyone's talents to build an entirely new social and economic system, not for the sake of the "British people", nor under any national flag, but for the sake of the whole of our rich and diverse human race - the one and only race which exists on this planet. □

## International

### Yemen's Houthis: steadfast resistance against imperialism's iron fist

On 7 May, Houthi commander, Abdu Jiash, was killed in an air strike by the National Resistance Forces (NRF) - a UAE/Saudi-backed alliance of tribal militias. In fact, beyond the Houthi-controlled territory in the North-West of Yemen, which includes the capital Sanaa, the rest of Yemen is occupied by a patchwork of 7 militia alliances, funded and armed by Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

In January, Saudi's militias defeated the UAE's main force in South Yemen, the Southern Transitional Council (STC). So today, all these militias are united under a Supreme Military Committee (SMC), under the authority of the Saudi-controlled "internationally recognised government"... which pays the wages of this 100,000-strong anti-Houthi force.

SMC forces are equipped with modern mine-resistant armoured vehicles, precision-guided missiles and mine-sweepers supplied by the US and Britain. They have backing from the imperialist bases in the Gulf as well as Oman, Djibouti and Cyprus.

#### Facing 20 years of war

In May 2025, "Rough Rider" air raids by a US/British/Israeli alliance destroyed two international airports in North-West Yemen, the major power station in Sanaa, and the main port in Ras Isa; i.e., the population's sources of electricity, fuel, and food. US army Central Command claimed to have killed hundreds of Houthi fighters. But they also killed hundreds of civilians.

The Houthis on the other hand, while possessing smuggled Iranian drones and ballistic missiles - as so widely reported



by the Western press - often don't have uniforms and carry Soviet-era AK-47s. The media doesn't speak about the 20 years of relentless war they've faced, that has left 360,000 dead, 5 million people displaced, and 24 million facing famine, ~80% of the population!

Nevertheless the Houthis continue their resistance against the IDF and its US/British imperialist backers. In March, just after the launch of the war on Iran, they sent missiles into Israel. And ever since the war on Gaza began, they've been striking Israel and disrupting Israeli shipping in the Red Sea to support the Palestinians. They've also recruited hundreds of fighters, from among the refugees who reach Yemen's shores, fleeing Sudan's civil war between Saudi-backed SAF and UAE-backed RSF.

#### Against Sunni fundamentalism

The Houthis are part of the so-called "Axis of Resistance" along with Hamas, Hezbollah and the Iranians, having

originated in a Shia movement inspired by the 1979 Iranian revolution and opposing Saudi-promoted Salafism in the 1990s. The then President of Yemen, Abdullah Saleh, sought to crush them, fully backed by the West as part of its "war on terror", implementing a "scorched earth" policy, levelling entire areas, as tanks destroyed hospitals, burnt farms (only 2% of land in Yemen is arable!) and bombed camps of displaced civilians... This was the Houthis' "baptism of fire".

It was therefore the Houthis who then spearheaded Yemen's 2011 "Arab Spring", rallying support across the country, and by 2014, seizing Sanaa and forcing Saleh into exile. Today, they continue to withstand lethal bombing by the imperialists and their Israeli proxy, and along with Hezbollah and the Palestinians continue to defend the Palestinians in deeds, not just words. Whether one agrees with them or not, they show courage and resilience against overwhelming odds. □

### Oil wars and blockades: big money for the bosses...

Shares in big oil companies have soared to record highs since the war in Iran began, triggering historic price rises across global oil and gas markets. The combined market value of the six stock market-listed western "super majors" - ExxonMobil, Shell, TotalEnergies, BP, Chevron, and Eni - rose by more than £95bn in the two weeks following the first US-Israeli attacks on Iran. For the British companies, first-quarter profits were huge: for BP, they more than doubled compared with last year, exceeding £2.3 billion, beating expectations by 20%; Shell reported profits of over \$5 billion, more than double compared to the previous three months.

#### ...but why should we foot the bill?

Of course the populations are paying for these super-profits. And if things are bad in "rich" countries, people in South

Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia have it much, much, worse: they face much higher fuel prices, shortages of cooking fuel, and expensive fertilizer. People queue for hours for petrol, diesel, or cooking gas, with no guarantee they will get any. By mid-March, the Philippines had declared an energy emergency; India had powered down factories; Bangladesh was rationing fuel; Pakistan had closed schools...

#### ...all the more reason to fight back!

People are getting angry. There have been widespread protests and even strikes. On 26 March, hundreds of transport workers in the Philippines' capital Manila went on strike for 2 days. Diesel and petrol prices had more than doubled since the Iran war broke out. President Marcos was one of the first in the region to call a state of emergency - the country had been relying on supplies

that pass through the Strait of Hormuz for 98% of its needs. And now he has intervened to freeze fuel prices.

In India the government has so far tried to shield the working class from the impact of the price rises, fearing a reaction. So its state-owned oil marketing companies have "taken the hit". But by early May the cost (already £776.7 million) of keeping petrol and diesel retail prices unchanged at the pump was likely to result in an about-turn.

In Pakistan, violent protests led the government to try to calm things down by announcing a month of free travel in Islamabad and the Punjab province. And of course here in Europe, farmers driving tractors, trucks, buses, and other vehicles staged slow-moving convoys on motorways in protest.

The working class will have to fight against the bosses profiting from war as a first step in its fight against imperialism.

**The elections**

**A predictable election result for Labour and its PM on 7 May**

Labour's losses in the 7 May elections were a foregone conclusion. Not just because sitting governments always do badly in local elections. Opinion polls (for what they're worth!) had already rated Starmer "the most unpopular prime minister in history" and it was already predicted he'd be under pressure to stand down as PM as soon as these elections were over.

Starmer, in his "I am fighting on" speech on the 11 May, told the audience of a few loyalists and the press, that he was doing fine and that the "fundamentals [of the economy] were strong". But if Wes Streeting, or others vying for his position, stab him in the back, it will be fitting payback for someone who did the same to Jeremy Corbyn in 2020 when he falsely accused him of "anti-Semitism".

Anyway, Labour was bound to lose on 7 May - it had only won by default in the general election in 2024, because the Tories were so despised. The highest share of

votes (only 26%) was won by the Tory's surrogate party, Nigel Farage's Reform UK. The Greens, who now occupy Labour's territory on the "left", got the second highest share, with 18%. Labour and the Tories were both relegated to 3rd with 17%, while the traditional 3rd party, the Lib Dems came 4th, with 16%.

**Getting their just deserts**

The worst result for Labour was in the Welsh Senedd, which it had led since formal devolution in 2019/20. It lost 21 seats and is left with only 9, beaten into 3rd place by the nationalist Plaid Cymru with 43 seats (from 13 in 2022) and Reform which now has 34 seats. In Scotland, the nationalist SNP retained a large majority, with 58 seats out of 96. Reform and Labour got 17 seats each. The Scottish Greens won a record 15.

In the English local elections, where 136 councils were up for election, it was a

similar picture. Labour was wiped out in 38 councils losing 1,498 seats and retaining only 28 of the 66 councils it previously controlled. Reform won 14 councils and the Greens 4. There are now Green mayors in London's Lewisham and Hackney. Where the electorate had supported Brexit in 2016 - like in Sunderland, Reform took over.

However, as is usually the case these days, it was non-voters who had the "majority" almost everywhere. Average turnout was between 40% and 50% and in some places it was in the low 30 percents, or less.

**...and so, it's up to revolutionary workers!**

Despite - or because of - a concerted smear campaign by Labour against their new young leader Zack Polanski, the Greens picked up the anti-establishment youth vote - and also the vote of disillusioned former Labour voters, with their call for more social homes, "workers first", a rent freeze, cuts in bus and train fares, cheaper energy, etc... and their unequivocal support for the Palestinians.

In the end, of course, the capitalist class doesn't really care which party is in power as long as it rules in its interests. If the Tories were the capitalists' "natural" party yesterday, Reform can fit their bill tomorrow. A party representing the true interests of the working class can't and won't win elections. To do so, it would have to overthrow the class system and all its trappings; and replace capitalism with socialism. The revolutionary party which can achieve this doesn't exist yet. It needs to be built as a matter of urgency. □



**Are politicians scared that we'll march against them?**

The stabbing of two Jewish men in Golders Green in late April prompted politicians from across the spectrum to

blame pro-Palestinian, anti-war marches for a rise in antisemitism and call for them to be banned.

This is a deliberate distortion of the truth. An increase in attacks on Jewish people ever since this war began was entirely predictable - due to the war itself and its prominence in the news. And while the attacks here in Britain seem mostly to have been by mentally disturbed lone actors (not "terrorists!") it's the case that there have always been those who share the nationality or religion of a mass murderer with simplistically conflate the countrymen and countrywomen of a mass murderer with the mass murderer himself.

**A crisis of psychiatric services?**

Quite obviously, right-thinking people including many Jewish workers oppose the Israeli government and its terrorist wars. Just before his random stabbing spree in Golders Green the mentally ill perpetrator had stabbed his "friend", a fellow Muslim. Nevertheless, Starmer

proclaimed a "a crisis of Anti-Semitism" - which affects "all of us" and announced £27 million in funding for policing and protection of Jewish communities.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood has joined in. She calls the stabbing of two Jewish men in Golders Green "vile acts of terrorism". Her "terrorism advisor" adds that attacks on Jewish people are "the biggest national security emergency in almost a decade".

**Anti-Semitic Times**

When Green Party leader Zack Polanski (himself Jewish) dared to point out the suspect's mental health state and criticised the police's heavy response, the British establishment's Times newspaper responded by publishing an evil-looking caricature of him which looked exactly like the over-emphasised "Semitic" portraits of Jewish people produced by the Nazi Regime in Germany in the 1930s. The Times hasn't apologised for its irrefutable anti-Semitism!

**Class Struggle n° 127**

Spring/Summer 2026

- After the 7 May elections, the cat(s) among the pigeons!
- Is Britain's far right growing beyond its traditional strongholds?
- On the 100th anniversary of the General Strike
- United States "vs" Europe: the rivalries of the imperialist gangsters

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## Their society

### The cost of living crisis and the fightback needed!

The cost-of-living crisis is getting worse - much worse! While the "official" Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March shows a 3.3% rise in 12 months, the increase over 5 years is 30%! And basic foodstuffs have already gone up even more compared with 2021: beef by 64%, eggs by 59%, chocolate by 58%, and frozen vegetables by 55%! The price of olive oil has more than doubled! On top of this, the lifting of the energy price cap in July, will push bills up by 18% for a typical household. Compared with 5 years ago, average energy costs are around 87% higher!

And since the privatised water companies - despite pouring sewage into rivers and the sea - are allowed by the regulator Ofwat to increase bills, they've gone up 6% on average this year and are now about 50% higher than in 2021. As for rents, they've almost doubled!

#### Wage "un-growth"

The government's Office for National Statistics says pay increased by 3.6% between December and February. But after adjusting for CPI inflation, real wage growth falls to just 0.4%. And no wonder, when union leaders have agreed pay deals well below inflation across most sectors: 3% for postal workers, 3.3% for NHS staff, 6.5% over three years for teachers, 3-4% in the car industry...



True, the National Living Wage was increased from £12.21 to £12.71/hour, but it remains well below the minimum set by the Living Wage Foundation, of £14.80/hour for London and £13.48/hour outside London. This means that in real terms, workers are earning less today than in 2021!

The government said the Employment Rights Bill would improve workers' conditions. In fact, it contains multiple loopholes for the bosses and relies on secondary legislation, so its minimal reforms won't become law anytime soon.

#### Warfare vs welfare

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Tory leader Kemi Badenoch argue

over how to cut welfare spending while increasing defence spending. The government has already tightened eligibility for disability benefits and is reducing unemployment benefit claims by imposing stricter rules for "job-seekers".

At the same time, Ministry of Defence spending is set to rise from £60bn in 2024/25 to £73.5bn by 2028/29. Unsurprisingly, the weapons industry has seen profits surge over the past year - by 12% for BAE Systems and 40% for Rolls-Royce - generating around £7bn in combined operating profits for these two companies alone! There is no "cost of living crisis" for these sharks! ☐

## The US-British "special relationship": still partners in crime

It was without a trace of irony that the media reported on the King's visit to the White House on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence - from Britain!

The King skirted politely around the fact that a bloody revolutionary war had been staged by the 13 former Colonies on America's east coast, to kick out the British monarch and institute an independent democratic republic.

Nor did anyone recall the gory details: that 25,324 "revolutionaries" died - of which only 6,824 were killed in combat. Most of the rest - ~18, 500 - died while prisoners of war of the British, mostly in the prison ships in New York Harbour. But at least they won in the end...

#### Oh, but "the British Kingdom" invented democracy!

Charles flattered the US Congress over its democratic US constitution and Bill of Rights. But he also took credit for it - claiming that it was an echo of the Magna Carta of 1215. Even the oft-quoted "no taxation without representation" can supposedly be traced back to the Magna Carta. Yet more proof that these great historic bills of rights were (and are) not worth the paper they're written on!

Indeed, the citizen's rights which the American constitution is supposed

to guarantee, have never been enjoyed by everyone. And how can they be, in the divided, class society that capitalism relies upon?

#### Only special when they agree, of course...

Trump put on a lavish show - and while he wasn't that interested in the content of the King's speech he added a few choice words of his own. For instance, he referred to his and Netanyahu's war with

Iran, saying, "we're never going to let that opponent have a nuclear weapon" - and "Charles agrees with me even more than I do". The rather pacific "Charles" was probably quite surprised to hear that he agreed with the president more than the president agreed with himself!

What was more significant was the background noise. Especially given that this 4-day visit by the royals was supposed to repair the so-called "Special Relationship". Mandelson's replacement as British ambassador, "Sir" Christian Turner was quoted as saying that no diplomat used the term "special relationship" any more when speaking about London-Washington diplomacy anyway. He added that "the only country that has a special relationship with the United States is probably Israel".

Yes indeed, for the working class whether in the USA, in Britain or the Middle East, what stands out was how all this fantastical pomp and circumstance took place against a backdrop of ongoing US-funded Israeli bombing and slaughter in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank and the continued US threat against Iran - all with the collusion and material help of the British military.

That's what makes it all the more sickening. So down with both "Kings" and down with the imperialist policies they represent!



**Our society**

**May Day 2026: tube drivers are still protesting the length of the working day!**

Only 2-3,000 people attended this year's May Day march in London. Unusually, it took place on 4 May, which happened to mark the centenary of the general strike, rather than 1 May, which is designated International Workers' Day.

May Day marches in years (long!) gone by, used to be celebrations led by the trade unions - and workers usually took a holiday for the occasion. In fact if 1 May fell on a week-day there was a de facto "general strike" for the day. Today, however, they have dwindled in size, due to the bankrupt politics of trade union leaders and the degeneration of their formerly large machineries. So it's mainly

small far-left political organisations and the "old" communist parties - and immigrant workers' associations - who still uphold the tradition.

**The fight for the 8-hour day isn't over**

The rally that established May Day as workers' day, took place in Chicago in 1886. Its demand was "An eight-hour day with no cut in pay!". Ever since, the 8-hour day has been a central demand of workers and trade unions. But up until today, it's still not a guaranteed "right". And worse than that, today many workers are doing 12 hour shifts,

which would have been unacceptable in the past - and should be today!

What's more, bosses always add a contractual subclause which says overtime can (or even must!) be worked, allowing them to extend the working day at will. And given that wages are so often barely above the minimum, the bosses know that workers will resort to working longer and longer hours, just to earn a living.

**No to longer shifts!**

London Underground drivers organised by the RMT, are the latest workers under pressure to extend their working hours. Mayor Sadiq Khan wants them to work a 9-hour shift - on weekends and at night - to avoid recruiting more drivers to cover his famous "night tube".

They are on strike and are demanding a 32-hour week. However the ranks are split. The leadership of the other union which organises train drivers, ASLEF, broke ranks and agreed to work the extra hour. This fight continues, nevertheless, along these sectional lines. When the best way to win would be to spread this demand to the rest of the tube workers - if not the whole of the working class! It's time, 140 years later, to revive the demand of May Day 1886! ☐



**100 years since the General Strike: same lessons apply**

One hundred years ago this month, over 2 million workers came out in the only General Strike in British working class history. It was called by the Trades Union Congress, in support of the working class's biggest battalion, its 1m coal miners, against the coal bosses' attempt to cut their wages and lengthen their shifts. When the miners refused, they were locked out of their pits, in an attempt to starve them into submission.

The government and the coal bosses hoped that by defeating the miners, they'd get away with imposing wage cuts on the rest of the working class. Instead, at one minute past midnight on 3 May 1926, they faced the united working class opposition of a general strike.

**Workers' control**

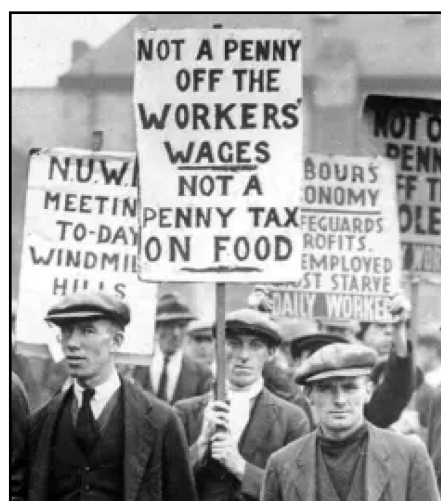
Nearly 2 million workers walked out, chanting "Not a penny off the pay, nor a minute on the day"! For 9 days the strikers de facto controlled the country and the economy. And yet this wasn't even their full force. TUC leaders only called out the "first line of workers" on Day 1; they called the rest out on 12 May - the very same day they capitulated, ending the strike.

Nevertheless this first line, comprising dockers, transport and railway workers, power, print and construction workers,

was so effective that the economy ground to a halt. Many workers who weren't "officially" called out, joined in anyway! Fuel and food distribution was organised by local strike committees. These committees published strike bulletins, printing up to 10,000 copies a day. In some places, strikers formed workers' defence militias.

**A question of leadership**

So why did the strike only last 9 days and end in defeat?



In fact victory might have been assured, had its leadership not been in the hands of union leaders who were terrified that workers' militancy would spin out of their control - as had almost happened in 1914, when the outbreak of war put an end to the huge strikes in the docks and railways. Adding to their fears was the influence of the newly-founded Communist Party.

They need not have worried. By 1926 the Communist Party was already under the influence of Stalin in Moscow, with orders not to rock the boat. It had supported the resolution to give "all power to the General Council", i.e., to leave the strike in the hands of TUC leaders, whose surrender to the bosses and their government was a foregone conclusion.

**We can only rely on ourselves**

Nothing has changed in this respect. For workers to win decisively, they need to organise and control their strikes themselves. This means forming their own strike committees to run the strike day to day. In its first days, the general strike of 1926 already showed workers' capacity to self-organise. What was lacking was a central organisation to make the most of this - but also a workers' revolutionary party. Our class still needs its own party today.

## King's Cross railway station (London)

## The 1926 General Strike: railway workers' power!

When the General Strike began on 4 May 1926, the railway workers were part of the TUC's "first line of defence". Their response was immediate. As the TUC's newspaper reported, the junction at Carlisle, where 7 railway lines met, was paralysed within hours. On the London, Midland & Scottish Railway, only 207 out of more than 15,000 engine drivers reported for work on the first day. Among firemen the figure was even lower: just 62 out of 14,000 turned up. More than 40% of salaried railway staff also came out.

At St Pancras, the response from railwaymen was near 100%. Even the cleaners at King's Cross joined the strike. The railway bosses and the government

soon found that the system could not be kept going by putting volunteers into cabs and signal boxes.

One volunteer driver near Camden ran a train into the catch-points. Elsewhere, two volunteers failed to open the drain cocks before starting a locomotive, causing the cylinder heads to blow. The Flying Scotsman derailed near Newcastle after a volunteer driver ignored warnings that rails had been removed. Worst of all, 3 people were killed when a passenger train hit a goods train between Berwick and Edinburgh. Another passenger died in a crash on the Cambridge-Bishops Stortford line. The volunteers were withdrawn.



This strike could have been won. But the union leaders were more frightened of this mighty demonstration of working-class power than the bosses and government. They called everyone back to work on Day 9 and the strike ended in defeat. So, with this lesson in mind, what about trying for a victory instead, in 2026?

- **No, and no again!**

LNER's proposed pay increase is 3.6% - linked, apparently, to February's RPI, BUT it's only 3.6% if we accept cuts in sickness pay and other hard-won conditions; there'd also be no additional increase for lower-paid workers!! If we reject these strings we'd only get 3%! How dare they call this an "offer"? [Workers' Platform 13/05/26]

- **Not a penny off our pay...**

GN bosses propose 4.4% for drivers.

ASLEF officials tell us that they plan to put this to a ballot. So, will there be any co-ordination this time round, with drivers in all the other companies? And will RMT officials organise a ballot for the rest of us, in step with ASLEF's?! [Workers' Platform 13/05/26]

- **Cost of living shooting up**

We're all in need of an urgent pay rise, across all stations and TOCs, especially the lowest paid in our ranks. Pay rises linked to official inflation indexes are clearly rubbish! Fuel and energy costs

are up by 15%, food is up by 20% and rents for some are up by 30-50%! [Workers' Platform 13/05/26]

- **...Not a minute on the day!**

Because we're paid so little, many of us are routinely doing overtime and working rest days to pay bills! Nobody should have to do this. And if wages went up with prices, we wouldn't have to... What about we demand an extra £300 a week for everyone? For starters? [Workers' Platform 13/05/26]

## Mount Pleasant mail centre (London)

## From our friends in the North

StARBURST, team working, shared vans, slight weight trollies, walk sorted, backless frames, porters, one plan and on and on and on - that's the bosses' and union leaders' latest "agreement". All supposed to make the job better, all in the bin of history. And here we are with "DM26" (Delivery Method 2026), union leaders Dave and Martin's 2026 bloody farce is what it stands for.

The red shirts have told us blue shirts about a line from a song by the Mary

Wallopers - "you can't expect different from the same". That's exactly what we're getting from DM26. It's the organised deluded madness all over again.

Many of us wonder if we're any better off than our brothers and sisters were in 1926. At least they were brave enough to call a general strike and to fight. We need to channel the spirit of '26 to defeat DM26.

One hundred years after workers were failed by trade union leaders - who



did not even call postal workers out - we have today a chance to defeat the union leaders' and bosses' attacks. **We can start by voting NO - and let's boot out DM and DM26!**

- **All in it together**

Union leaders say that the CWU/RM agreement mainly affects Delivery workers. Obviously delivery mates are dead against this deal; many of us in the "pilot" know first hand what RM's Universal Service Obligation cuts mean. As for "equalisation", this deal does not bring new starters onto the same pay or Ts&Cs! But whether in Processing or any other part of RM's ops, we are welded together, not just "technically", but as part of one workforce. We'll all vote "NO" - together! [Workers' Fight bulletin 13/05/26]

- **It's up to us!**

In fact managers know it: on Processing they're using the USO "changes" to impose ridiculous duty patterns, claiming we're "surplus to requirements" ("supernumeraries", but can they pronounce it?!). So they're depleting our ranks through VR or forced medical retirement without replacement. And this has to be stopped - by our collective action, initiated here, on the ground... [Workers' Fight bulletin 13/05/26]

- **Talk about rolling over...**

Our pay "rise" (due in April) will now be paid only on 5th June. CWU officials sent

us a WhatsApp poster trumpeting the 3% pay "rise" - a CUT in real pay! (March RPI was already 4.1%!) Food and petrol costs are ever-climbing, while our pay is ever-shrinking! And theirs? [Workers' Fight bulletin 13/05/26]

- **Are they really so naive?**

The CWU letter to branches says the union leaders didn't even try to negotiate a higher pay rise because they "decided that it was unlikely... that RM would agree to anything above 3%"... We regret to inform them that it's always "unlikely" that bosses will pay up, unless we - the workforce use our "force", and make them. [Workers' Fight bulletin 13/05/26]

**BMW Mini centre (Cowley, Oxford)****An overdue fight to unite us all**

BMW's "pay review", following 0% last year, was due on 1 January. We heard nothing until the end of April. And then, instead of a pay rise, we were offered the "choice" between two new shift patterns, both reducing our basic hours from 37 to 35 per week - in fact, they offered us a cut in our basic pay!

Both options allow BMW to add hours to our Monday-Thursday early and late shifts. They also allow for compulsory extra Friday working on Earlies, on demand, from a minimum of 5 hours to a full 9½! A

week of Earlies with maximum added time increases our working week to 46 hours! And most of those extra hours would be not be paid for by BMW, but would be added to "working time accounts" which are conveniently in "deficit" after the multiple shutdowns.

This affects everyone, whether permanent, agency, or logistics. Yet only permanent BMW workers in the union have a vote. BMW managers, worried that the vote will be "No", are threatening to impose whichever option gets more votes.



The only way to fight them on this, is for all of us to impose our right to reject this turn of the screw - and vote together with our feet. We need to strike. ☐

**• It's up to us!**

We can't expect the union leaders to organise a fight against BMW's latest attempt to turn the screw - they've shown time and again they have no interest in rocking their cosy boat. But we do all know that it's a fight that's needed, or the bosses will keep taking whatever they think they can get away with. We're all angry with BMW, but also with the union leadership who've helped these bosses murder our conditions over the years. So it has to be up to all of us, together, whether in the union or not, to organise to stop them. [Workers' Fight bulletin 05/05/26]

**• Let's act all together!**

Obviously, BMW bosses have more attacks in store for us. Our pay offer is still being discussed behind closed doors, and the latest rumour is that it will be just 2%!! Whatever the actual figure, it won't make up for last years' 0%! And there's a lot more to make up for, with prices still going through the roof! Whether we're contract or agency, we're all in the same boat, with our mates in R&H, G&P etc., against these bosses who want to squeeze whatever they can out of us! [Workers' Fight bulletin 05/05/26]

**• Slimy characters**

We hear that Unipart (which is taking

Logistics from R&H) might try to push our pay offer back to NEXT April, since they'll only take over the contract in June/July. We still expect our pay to be increased AND backdated to January this year! [Workers' Fight bulletin 05/05/26]

**• They'll come running!**

On 7 May, 300 DHL logistics workers at JLR Solihull are meant to be starting an indefinite strike. They rejected a 3% pay rise, which was due in January. Given that Unite officials are dragging their feet here regarding our pay rise, if we join our DHL mates on strike, perhaps they will come running?! [Workers' Fight bulletin 05/05/26]

**Ford Dagenham estate (Essex)****• Welcome to the loony-bin!**

Finally, 50 to 60 Ford temps came to their interviews last week. They had their "test" for assembly as well: managers timed them on using a nutrunner to tighten a few bolts on an engine... And already, those who didn't do it under 60 seconds were told they were "over-cycle"! [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• Same job, same pay**

Apparently, Ford is planning to bring in more than 200 temps in total. Some of them will have their half-a-second-long training before shutdown, but most will be brought in after. Is this a good time to discuss how we're going to get them equal pay for going over-cycle with the rest of us? [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• Let's turn on the light!**

Will temps only be joining us on Darkside and the Den? And what about the Farm? What's the plan for laying eggs beyond 2026? Managers are keeping us in the dark, which could be just their usual cluelessness - or that Ford bosses in Detroit are clueless - or both. [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• We won't risk it**

Years ago, in DDC, we used to be a team of 5 to 6 Lineside workers in the receiving bay. Now we're just 3! And when it gets really busy, it's dangerous to be so few! So if the parts pile up unloaded, so be it. [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• A lesson still to learn**

We hear that Panther engines are falling from transport racks?! That's exactly what was happening on DDC about a year ago! LLL realised at the time that they had to reinstate jobs to check the engine racks... because engines were falling during shipment! Yup, managers have still to learn that in the sea, there are waves... [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• Stoppage from above**

Transport Ops bosses give all sorts of excuses for not filling vacancies... So we're still short of hands. We guess they've no problem with everything grinding to a halt? [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• Vacancy pop-up**

We see, however, that they are advertising for a Rail supervisor. And when and if that job is filled internally



by one of their favourites, there'll be yet another vacancy, somewhere else..! [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• Twisting ford's arm... and neck!**

On Tiger machining, a few senior workers retired - and more will be leaving every 2 weeks until shutdown. Ford was quite clear about not replacing them. But should it get away with this? There's no reason why we can't "fail to agree"! The machining jobs are ready and waiting for new trainees! [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

**• Does ford even know?**

We've noticed that there are fewer Puma and Courier vans going through the Jetty. Apparently Ford Craiova's production has stopped for the whole month of May. As to why, Ford wouldn't spill the beans. We'd better find out for ourselves! ASAP! [Workers' Fight bulletin 06/05/26]

## International

### Sudan war: imperialist vultures still circling

There is no end in sight for the now 4-year-long war in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). And if indeed either of these two rival armies claims victory, the population will find itself facing yet another military dictatorship, only this time - unlike in 2019 when their rebellion overthrew the brutal dictator General Omar Bashir, the context is a devastated country and with millions displaced and entirely dependent on "humanitarian aid".

#### Who's intervening?

Sudan's war may be described as "forgotten" by the mainstream media, but in reality the world's major imperialist powers are waiting to see who the victor in this bloody conflict will be, intending, as always, to reap the benefits of plundering the country's rich mineral resources.

In the meantime, they're putting no pressure at all on their allies in the region to stop fuelling the conflict. The SAF, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, is supported by Egypt, Iran, Qatar, Turkey, and Eritrea, while the RSF's Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (nicknamed Hemedti or "little Mohamed") has the support of the United Arab Emirates.

In fact, the UAE and Egypt are among the top clients of Western arms industries. They are much too valuable pawns in the game the imperialist countries (especially the US) are playing in the region, to risk losing them.



Khartoum North,  
Sudan, after airstrikes

#### The population pays the price

The RSF's brutal attacks in el-Fasher last October-November (which killed over 60,000 civilians), have received a bit more media attention. However, indiscriminate killing and plundering continue daily across the country. The consequences for civilians are more catastrophic by the day: out of a population of about 53.3 million, at least 150,000 have lost their lives since 2023; over 11.5 million have fled the country and over 6.7 million are internally displaced.

Famine has been officially "declared" in different cities over the past two years, however, starvation is the norm across most of the country, where families try to survive on just one scant meal a day, or less. The military factions terrorise: not only do they kill and rape civilians,

but they also prevent food trucks from reaching those in need.

Now the war in the Middle East is also having its consequences - for example, the prices of some medicines has skyrocketed, if they are available at all.

As much as it may provide temporary relief, aid can't provide for the population's needs, just as it cannot provide for any of the peoples caught in the middle of conflict around the world today. Only the overthrow of the circling imperialist vultures and their warmongering profiteers, will. The Sudanese population has shown its ability to organise and mobilise; in the past it had one of the largest Communist parties in Africa. The potential for a new revolutionary movement exists. With the help of the politically-conscious diaspora - it can be built. □

## Open the borders for our working class brothers and sisters!

On 22 April, Britain and France signed a £662 million, 3-year deal, to stop migrant boats crossing the Channel. The number of French police will increase by 42% to 1,400, including a squad trained in "riot and crowd control tactics". Drones, helicopters, thermal cameras, night-vision goggles, the best of high-tech is to be supplied!

Home Secretary Mahmood and French Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez-Belda paraded in front of the cameras near Dunkirk, on 23 April, at the construction site of a new detention centre which can house 140 migrants. But this is political

posturing. As the head of refugee charity Safe Passage International says, "with no accessible safe routes and the government's suspension of refugee family reunion, the only way to reach Britain to ask for protection is across the Channel - punishing people with detention, deportation threats and police violence does not change that"!

Indeed, it just causes them to take greater risks: on 3 May a 16-year old teenage girl and a woman in her 20's - both from war-torn Sudan - were found dead in a boat carrying 82 other refugees, run aground near Boulogne.

Several others were hospitalised due to burns caused by a mix of engine fuels and sea water.

The list of the "top 10" nationalities of the boat-people says it all: Eritrean, Afghan, Iranian, Sudanese, Somali, Ethiopian, Iraqi, Syrian, Vietnamese and Yemeni. They are all fleeing war, repression, religious persecution and starvation. Instead of being offered the safe refuge which Britain owes them, due to its past lethal plunder and present "diplomatic" plunder, their courage is rewarded with violent repression and a potential death warrant.

In addition to this monthly paper, we publish fortnightly bulletins in several large workplaces in the South East, a quarterly journal, "Class Struggle" and the "Internationalist Communist Forums" - a series of pamphlets on topical issues.

If you wish to find out more about our ideas, activities and publications, contact the Workers' Fight activist who sold you this issue of our paper, or write to us either by e-mail, at [contact@w-fight.org](mailto:contact@w-fight.org), or by postal mail at:

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