

Condemn Terrorist Bombings in Brussels

The Class Struggle strongly condemns the bombings that took place on March 22 in Brussels, capital of Belgium, at Zaventem airport and Maelbeek metro station that killed 35 people and injured 340. It expresses its deep sorrow and condolences to the bereaved families. In a statement Islamic state in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) claimed responsibility for these bombings.

This terror attack targeted innocent people who are in no way responsible for the holocaust wrought by the imperialism in the Middle East Asia or the aims of the ISIS. It only plays into the hands of those reactionary forces that mired the Middle East into turmoil and war to enforce their designs of exploitation, domination and oppression.

The bourgeois leaders of the European countries vociferously condemned this violence. But, in fact, they welcome it as pretext provided by such crimes to intensify exploitation of and to expand suppressive measures on the working class, while at the same time raking up anti-Muslim hatred to divide the workers.

Their condemnation of terrorism is hypocritical. The European and American imperialist leaders have never condemned the violence committed by the terrorists when it suited their hegemonic designs. For example, in Syria, Islamic militia resorted to terror bombings in the capital Damascus – there were 44 killed and 160 injured in December 2011 attack; there were 44 killed and 166 injured in May 2012 attack and 60 killed and 250 injured in February 2013. Instead of condemning these attacks, they backed these Islamic militias in their attempt to topple Syrian president Bashar al Assad regime. This gave birth to the ISIS which was supported by the US and NATO until ISIS attacked *Charlie Hebdo* in November 2015 in Paris.

The ISIS and other Islamic militias are themselves products of imperialist wars in the Middle East Asia; invasion of Iraq in 2003, aggression on Libya in 2009 and attempting to regime change in Syria since 2010. The Imperialists, particularly the US, created and supported the Islamic militias like Taliban, Al Qaeda, ISIS and others financing and arming them through their client states like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen and so on.

The Guardian reported that a senior Turkish security official complained that European intelligence agencies did not help Ankara track European Islamists arriving in Turkey to go to Syria and even helped Islamist fighters deported from Turkey by issuing new passports and allow them to travel back to Turkey. "Europe knows exactly what was happening, but they started a blame game and said the entire problem was on the Turkish-Syrian border" said the official.

Until now the victims of such terrorist attacks, abetted by the policy of US imperialism and its allies are innocent civilians across Middle East Asia and North Africa. Now this violence came back to Europe killing innocent Europeans.

Western media estimated that approximately 30,000 foreign fighters travelled to Syria, with the knowledge and complicity of the European intelligence agencies. According to *Financial Times*, "well over 1200 returnees are in Europe". It is the European imperialist rulers that created conditions for terrorist attacks in their own countries. As their role in organizing terrorist attacks is getting exposed, the bourgeois leaders of all hues and territories are diverting the people's attention by inciting fear and hatred against Muslim population in Europe. The Belgian government cancelled a demonstration called "The march against Fear" organized by the Socialist Party with the spurious plea of lack of sufficient police personnel. The same day it allowed the far right neo Nazi organization to move from railway station to the square where the "March against the Fear" was to be organized, with anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant slogans. The Belgian Prime minister declared that "for us there will be before and after". It decided to pressurize the senate to allow amendment to declare emergency situation that tramples the democratic rights of the Belgian people. In France, which declared state of emergency after November 13 terrorist attacks, the socialist party government pressurizing its parliament to include the authority of declare the state of emergency permanently in the constitution.

With each terrorist attack, the imperialists are building up police state powers for more draconian attacks on the working class and democratic rights. They are further escalating the military interventions and wars spreading the violence. This spiral of violence can only be stopped by opposing the imperialist wars and imperialism itself and struggle for socialism.