

France:

Seething with Protests of Workers and Youth

France is the fifth global economy, which represents around 20% of the G.D.P of Europe. But due to economic stagnation, the government has started series of attacks on the rights of workers, at the behest of European Union and the troika I.M.F, W.B, and W.T.O. Particularly the reform of French labour code has drawn the ire of the 70% of the population of France.

The reform of French labour code introduces significant changes in the legislation attacking the labour rights, protecting the interests of the big-business. This reform proposes low-cost dismissals, the reduction of paid over-time, the supremacy of collective agreements between employers and workers in relation to law and agreements, fragmentation of the worker's rest time, generalization of temporary contracts, and it allows dismissal if the employers perceive an "economic difficulty".

In France the unemployment levels for the youth is above 25%. More than 30% of the youth doesn't have a permanent contract and no prospects of having it since 90% of signed contract are precarious.

Added to these woes the raising of both Islamophobia and the far-right wing parties spreading xenophobic and racist discourses has become another serious problem to workers and youth.

Resisting the anti-working class reforms, a new form of protest "rise up at night" movement has risen from March 31st. It has brought thousands of people every day, in the "place de la Republique" to discuss political and social issues such as labour code reforms, the refugee crises, the E.U. and global economic crises. It has spread to more than 60 French cities.

Besides this on April 9, a massive protest mobilization of workers and students, more than a million people took to the streets in more than 200 French cities against the 'labour code reform'; which will mean a huge regression for the working class's labour rights in France.

Again April 26, a protest national demonstration was conducted throughout France against labour code reform law introduced in the national assembly.

Thus waves of protests with the unity between workers and students and youth are shaking France.
