

Persecution of Immigrants – Monopoly Capital’s Policy

The US imperialism boasts of American democracy and poses itself as the champion of human rights. Yet a spate of recent news reports revealed that thousands of children of immigrants are being separated from their parents and are being put into cages in tents erected in deserts. These children do not know where their parents are and they are not allowed to speak to their parents.

That each day 250 more immigrant children are being detained shows the extent of this cruelty being perpetuated by the US government. The jails are filled with detained children and their frightened cries. Across the US more tents and camps are coming up; some of them in deserts that record over 100 degrees centigrade. Many reports say that guards are subjecting the children to verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

The American Academy of Pediatrics calls this “child abuse”. Amnesty International says it is “nothing short of torture” and the UN denounces it as “despicable”. The adamancy of US government can be seen in its withdrawal from United Nations Human Rights Commission stating that the commission is not branding those whom the US recommended as terrorists. This is the real face of the so-called bulwark of the human rights.

This is not a new policy that is being pursued by the US imperialism. Persecution of immigrants is a policy that is part and parcel of US imperialist policy of suppression. The jailing of fugitive slaves, the deportation of radicals after the First World War and the confinement of Japanese-Americans during the Second World War are only some of the notorious.

The problem of immigration is the creation of imperialist system. It needs immigrants as cheap labour to earn super profits. It devastated the natural economies in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, so that the people of these countries migrate to imperialist countries. The continuous war of aggression being waged by the imperialist countries forces the people to flee from their countries.

During 1970s and 1980s, US backed dictatorships in Central America ruined the entire societies, and the death squads tortured and murdered thousands of people. The US imperialism killed 3 million people in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in the 1960s and 70s. The western imperialists ruined the national economies and environment in North and Central Africa countries in their greed to grab the mineral resources and still destroying them in land grabs. For the last quarter of a century, the Middle East is suffering under the US aggression causing death of millions of people. The present immigration problem is the result of the imperialist policy of exploitation and oppression as well as the crisis of imperialist system.

US President Trump’s reaction reveals the ruthlessness of the policy. He called the immigrants as “child smugglers”. He tweeted that “I am 100 % correct. I don’t want judges; I don’t want to try people; I never get these bad people in”.

The persecution of immigrants is not confined to US imperialism only. It is being pursued in all the imperialist countries. In UK, workers from Caribbean, who have lived, worked and raised their families for decades here, have been threatened with deportation and denied housing, medical treatment, work and pensions. The government admitted that an “hostile environment” is being imposed against migrants.

In Germany, almost all the politicians talk openly of a “final solution to the refugee issue” and the Chancellor Merkel speaks in the language of neo-Nazi party AfD, blaming the refugees for causing economic hardships and division in the country.

In France, last month the Macron government passed a draconian law restricting the right to asylum. Macron pompously declared, “we cannot take in all the misery of the world”. Thus conveniently side tracking the very misery is the creation of imperialist system.

In Italy, the Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has called for a national registry of the entire Roma people. The right wing’s demand for deportation of 500,000 immigrants has created an atmosphere in which violent attacks on immigrants are frequent.

What is now being described as the “refugee Problem” is created by the imperialism itself. The Western imperialist powers bombed Syria and escalated its military intervention in the Middle East and Africa leading mounting number of refugees. Most of them are trapped in the countries which are victims of imperialist intrigue such as Lebanon, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Iran and Turkey. 3.5 million Syrians are now in Turkey which acts as a shield for European Union stopping the migrants from entering Europe.

Poverty, unemployment and wars are the causes of migration. All these causes are the creation – directly or indirectly- of the world capitalist system. Nearly 250 million are classed as international migrants – forced to leave their homes and families in search of work.

The working class in the imperialist countries experienced, particularly after 2008, a drastic fall in their living standards while the world's richest 1 per cent has been growing their wealth at 6 per cent every year. Just 43 persons own the same amount of wealth as the 50 per cent of the poorest in the world. The working people and their discontent and resentment is growing. To divert the anger of working people, the ruling classes of the imperialist countries are whipping up racism and national chauvinism to create judicial and political framework to repress the working people, and to weaken the working class and their anti-war feelings by pitting the workers against each other based on race and nationality.

The anti-immigrant measures and the attacks on the working class are the two sides of the same imperialist policy.

The 'Class Struggle' condemns the persecution of immigrants by the imperialist countries and call upon the working people to unite and firmly defend the rights of the immigrants. Here what Karl Marx said at the Inaugural Session of the First International in 1864 is very relevant:

"Past experience has shown how disregard of that bond of brotherhood which ought to exist between the workmen of different countries, and incites them to stand firmly by each other in all their struggles for emancipation, will be chastised by the common discomfiture of their incoherent efforts".
