

New Zealand : Neo-Nazi terrorist attack on people

Forty-nine people were killed and another 48 injured in a horrifying terrorist attack yesterday afternoon on two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch. The attack is by far the largest mass shooting and the most severe act of terrorism in New Zealand's history, and one of the world's worst in the recent period. Seven people died at Linwood Masjid Mosque and 41 at Masjid Al Noor Mosque next to Hagley Park, near the city centre. Another person died in hospital. It is possible the death toll will rise.

The Central Committee of CPI(ML) pays a humble tribute to those who lost their lives in an attack by white supremacist. The CPI(ML) expresses deep condolences towards their families and wishes a speedy recovery to the wounded. The CPI(ML) condemns the killings a crime against humanity.

Three people have been arrested in connection with the massacre. So far, only one man has been named, 28-year-old Australian citizen Brenton Tarrant, who was produced in court charged with murder.

Although many details are not yet known, it is clear that this was not a random or "senseless" action. According to a 73-page "manifesto" published by Tarrant online, he spent two years planning the attack after spending some time living in Europe.

Entitled "The Great Replacement," the manifesto makes clear that Tarrant was a white supremacist and considered himself a "fascist." The document praised mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik, who killed dozens of young people and children at a Norwegian Labour Party camp in 2011, motivated by anti-Islamist prejudice. Tarrant claimed to have had "brief contact" with Breivik and to have received his "blessing" for the New Zealand attack. Tarrant hailed US President Donald Trump as "a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose." Like Trump, Tarrant described immigrants as "invaders," stating: "We must crush immigration and deport those invaders already living on our soil."

In fact, the attack took place in a definite domestic and international political and economic context characterised by intractable financial crisis of capitalist system, imperialist violence and increasing nationalism, xenophobia and racism. It follows almost two decades of New Zealand and Australian participation in US-led wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, which have killed more than a million people. Troops from New Zealand and Australia have been implicated in multiple massacres and atrocities against civilians in Afghanistan.

Under deteriorating social conditions, growing inequality and poverty, there has been attempts to stock up ultraright sentiments and hatreds in order to divert the growing disenchantment among the people particularly youth in New Zealand and Australia. The atrocity in New Zealand follows not only the mass murder committed by Breivik in Norway, but the 2012 murders carried out by fascists at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin in 2012 and at a Jewish care home in Overland Park, Kansas in 2014; the 2015 massacre of African-American worshippers in Charleston, South Carolina; the 2016 murder of British Labour politician Jo Cox; the 2017 killing of nine people at a mosque in Quebec City, Canada; and the murder in 2018 of 11 Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—to name only some of the right-wing acts of terrorism.

Anti-Islamic sentiment has been deliberately stoked by politicians in Australia and New Zealand. Australia's extreme right-wing Independent Senator Fraser Anning issued a fascistic press release blaming the Christchurch massacre on the victims themselves. He described immigration as the real cause.

The Christchurch attack makes it clear that as the world capitalist system landed into its deepest crisis since the 1930s, atmosphere of insidious national chauvinism, militarism and anti-Muslim xenophobia are being whipped up to legitimise the suppressive and oppressive rule of capital, which can only be repulsed with the class struggle of the proletariat having socialist perspective.
