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TRAGEDY**



PROFITEERS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

The terrible tragedy that happened at the Railway Station in Novi Sad triggered an avalanche of reactions, emotions, repeated traumas after last year's mass murders and raised the temperature in the whole society.

We believe that this is the most normal reaction, and that the magnitude and senselessness of this tragedy led to question the causes that led to it and to search the possibilities on how to forearm similar scenarios in the future.

Unfortunately, as far as undertaking anything effective is concerned, it is very difficult to expect deep essential changes. This is because in a capitalist system, ultimately, the interest of capital will always outweigh all other essential elements in a process.

If we look carefully, we will see that terrible tragedies with a large number of victims continue to happen - let's remember the train accident in Greece the previous year in which more than a fifty male and female passengers lost their lives, We can see the same scheme in other countries with the demolition of bridges (Germany and Italy), buildings (Spain, Turkey...), fires (London) and so on, and in which accidents were preceded by political decisions and measures to ensure profits for certain capitalists.

Although it is about the nature of global capitalism, in each individual case not only immediate decision makers, but all those who profit in any way in any of these jobs after which tragedies occur, should be held accountable for it. The reasons for that are not only human, but also legal, because in each of these cases, some of the responsible instances in the process in the interest of certain people does something wrong from the perspective of existing laws.

In this particular tragedy, we have a case of political profiteering that followed the entire story of the ruling cliques in Serbia about the construction of the railway, renovation of the station and work on infrastructure in general.

Just as they all made statements and collected points at the openings of such facilities, they all should pay for it as well.

Of course, the aforementioned ruling clique knows this very well and has been trying to find a way from the first hour how to remove the responsibility from temself, which by all human standards simply should not be possible. Because if they are already trying to profit politically and monopolize everything that is being built in this country, then of course they should bear political and, if necessary, criminal responsibility.

The government's defense strategy at this time is to completely make crazy the entire



public; at first trying to push the fact that everything was renovated except the canopy that collapsed, despite tens of thousands witnesses who saw the construction works on it and countless media reports about the opening of the renovated station just few months ago, plus the existing documentation that surfaces and shows approval for the execution of works.

There are even such defenders of the authorities who are ready to blame the period of the SFRY, when the building was made, completely ignoring the fact that the building had been operating for 60 years without any human victims, so that after the renovation under the current government, after a single-digit number of months, it would take two-digit number of lives.

Behind that smoke screen and attempts at media spin, behind-the-scenes actions take place as accelerated deletion of data from the Agency for Economic Registers and dispatch of the police to the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monument in Novi Sad, to which the state government is now trying to direct attention of the whole public.

All this indicates that those in power are aware that they have to pay, but it is not even the last of their intentions, but rather they don't choose the means the means to remove as much responsibility as possible from themselves, thereby insulting the victims, insulting all those who mourn, and ultimately common sense and a sense of justice.

Yes, such tragedies are a consequence of the corruption of the system. Yes, the system needs to change. But, above all, those responsible need to be held accountable.



STUDENT'S BLOCKADES AND TASKS OF COMMUNISTS

With the beginning of student protests and blockades of universities throughout Serbia, the first government crisis since the establishment of the Vučić regime occurred. This is the greatest success of the mass movements so far, which would have begun as spontaneous outpourings of discontent over which during the process control would be established by a group of civic parties that both the regime and the so-called opposition media want to impose as the only opposition and were ending as demotivated civil protests.

The spread of protests from colleges to individual high schools is the next success that this movement has achieved so far. Also, we should add the employees in education and the education unions, who, along with supporting the student's movement, have their own reasons for the strike. For now, that's how far have things gotten.

What characterizes the current phase of the protest is its wideness and massiveness. The government's previous techniques for disqualifying opponents, such as a combination of public banning of participants, repeating the thesis about foreign mercenaries and insisting that any opposition to the government is "overthrowing of the state" do not produce the expected results.

That massiveness and wideness, as now the strongest assets of the new movement against the government, are at the same time its limiting factor. Gathering on the topic of seeking justice for the victims and calling the authorities to account enabled the movement to engage individuals and groups of the most diverse ideological orientations and political opinions. However, this is also the reason for the beginning of its stagnation, because in an attempt to maintain mass, it avoids ideological differentiation, which means that the political line of the entire movement remains blurred and diluted. Without ideological solidity, the movement does not have the strength for a real change in society that would concern the majority who live increasingly difficult lives.

It is important to understand that despite all the shortcomings and self-limiting capacities, the very existence of the student rebellion and its results so far were necessary to shake the illusion of omnipotence of the ruling clique. The student blockade raised the morale of the trade union membership, which was getting smaller and smaller, disillusioned with the compromise and fundamentally anti-worker policy of the trade unions headquarters.

As for doubts about the activities of foreign intelligence services, you should know the following: in a heated situation on the global level, at the time of the struggle of



imperial clans for influence in the Balkans, there should be no doubt at all that in every gathering there are interested agents of at least one secret service or power center.

This, of course, primarily refers to the local secret police, which also takes part in all gatherings, but that does not automatically make them police or government gatherings. This is about a struggle, and in a time when states, in the name of capital, are trying to establish control over all segments of life, and some of the main levers for this are the media and the repressive apparatus, among others.

Therefore, the presence of various secret services is understood, because they are all in the service of maintaining the system and at the same time act in favor of interests of power centers, political subjects, parts of capital and so on. All of them are long-term enemies of the working people and the broadest masses, and as far as we are concerned, they should be treated as one opponent.

Due to the aforementioned vague political line of the movement as a whole, the pro-Western political grouping of parties with the help of its media and financial power is trying to impose its dogmas and interests and thus take over the masses, which is its only goal. First of all, through its media services, it is trying to impose a thesis about this protest as a continuation of the one from 1996-97. year.

That thesis is simply not correct, and the difference between these two movements could best be explained by Čedomir Antić, former politician, current professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, who was one of the leaders and most praised leaders of the aforementioned protest in the nineties, and who is now fiercely opposed to the rebellion and even tried to break through the blockade by not canceling his lecture.

In such a situation, the task of communists and all progressive political entities is to be active in the masses; that they always influence the strengthening of ideological work with young people, that class consciousness and the spirit of rebellion return to the everyday life of all those for whom only rebellion and essential changes can improve their position. And that, of course in capitalism, which is sinking into a deeper and deeper crisis, refers to the majority of students, to that unprivileged part that can only overcome the difficulties of increasingly difficult living conditions with hard work.

Against the idea of a transitional government! Long live revolutionary ideas!

Students, male and female students, male and female workers, honest and impoverished people of Serbia and the Balkans - side by side in the fight against state crime, against capitalism and inequality!



BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SRETENJE RALLY

On February 15, Kragujevac hosted the most attended rally since the beginning of the protests after the tragedy at the Novi Sad train station. The media reported in detail about the meeting itself, its attendance, the atmosphere and the entire route of the student pedestrian columns, so we will not deal with that here. At this point, we are interested in the content, character and perspective of a movement that is still on its upward trajectory.

First of all, this rally won in a certain way even before it started; namely, the idea of organizing it was to have a close meeting with the top of the government, which it was reasonable to assume would be in Kragujevac that day, because until now the commemoration of the adoption of the Sretenje Constitution ("Candlemas Constitution", the first constitution of the Principality of Serbia, adopted in Kragujevac in 1835.), was held at the place where it was voted - in the gate of the Old Church in Kragujevac. Also, it is a "round" anniversary - 190 years, which made that assumption even more grounded.

The frightened regime fled, first to Bosnia and Herzegovina to Dodik, a devious politician who previously supported Tadić like he is now supporting Vučić, and afterwards to Sremska Mitrovica. In Kragujevac itself, literally everything was canceled by the authorities, there were no local official manifestations, not even announcements.

With success assured in advance, the meeting in Kragujevac could be one festival meeting of a huge and necessarily motley mass of everything that is in any way oppositional to the ruling regime. The atmosphere for mass political mobilization, heated for days and weeks, culminated on a cold February day when an undetermined, but certainly three-digit number of thousands of people could feel the changed political atmosphere and the new balance of power that was being established.

The previous gathering in Novi Sad was marked by an attempt of the so-called pro-European forces to impose themselves as a leading force, which failed. That is why in Kragujevac there were no such visible attempts by the liberals, but on the contrary the pro-Chetnik elements were very visible. Especially in the first, during the pre-dawn part of the protest, a paramilitary detachment of Chetnik third-callers was formed, who marched in from the nearby Old Church.

Also, during the way of the pedestrian columns towards Kragujevac, while the cameras were on, it was difficult to avoid the physiognomies with cockades (srp. kokarde, chetnik's trademark) pushing themselves in front of the cameras. Also, while



the mass gathering was still going on, three people with Ljotić signs pushed themselves in front of the correspondents' cameras while live transmission were going on. However, the mass during the day completely covered and marginalized these attempts.

Also, in addition to many banners and flags, church flags could also be seen, as well as the well-known slogans "no surrender" (srp. Nema predaje, referring to Kosovo). The right wing took good care of its visibility.

Among other things, within these protests, one can see a kind of church struggle for power, because everyone with ecclesiastical characteristics is actually demonstrating against the position of their patriarch and the greater part of the church hierarchy.

The point is, among other things, that all previous anti-Vučić protests were merged into this one, around the students, so that everything that was contained in those protests, from anti-quarantine during the corona, through environmental movements against mini hydroelectric power plants (MHE) and lithium mining, to classical walking protests, are now contained in this current one, further reinforced by elements that were not active in protests until now.

For the sake of truth, it should be said that there were also communist features, and it would have been better if there were more of them. The reason for this could be that the majority of groups and individuals whose members are involved in the protests do not want to give the impression that they are sectarian and respect the plenum's wish not to display party symbols.

The large presence of right-wing symbolism is another indicator of the right-leaning of the entire political scene, because Chetnik cockades are perceived more as folklore than as a political symbol.

Also, it is time to understand that the icons on the flags, as well as the Zealot yellow flags with a black eagle at a political rally, are not religious, but political symbols.

However, regardless of the attempt of the right to somehow impose itself like the liberals in Novi Sad, for now that attempt has not succeeded. This movement, due to its decentralized nature, successfully cushions those attempts for now. But also, due to its massiveness, it will be an endless training ground for various political and politician brokers and profiteers.

To superficial observers, the political scene in Serbia has seemed sleepy and numb ever since the establishment of the progressive government. We say "superficial observers" because the fights happened every day, but to those who look at politics



exclusively through the prism of the current rulers or the election results, the lack of opposition seemed to be a sign of the complete downfall of "this nation", as they liked to insult it in the most derogatory terms.

The rally in Kragujevac is the winning battle of this movement over the government. It will inevitably affect the balance of power in the period immediately ahead of us. The crisis of the government will not be stopped by propaganda actions. From repression and beating methods that were used against several waves, the state apparatus has given up on protests for the time being.

The crisis of the government can be seen from the fact that all the right wing that is not directly involved in the government apparatus is trying to act as an opposition through this movement, trying to expand its ideological hegemony that it already has in the state apparatus. We specifically mean organizations such as monarchist or paramilitary groups gathered in various veteran and "patriotic" associations.

Also, as we pointed out in earlier analyses, this size of mass is a great challenge for all political gray eminences, power centers and famous secret services, and it is inevitable to avoid their actions and their attempts. The best protection against these enemies of the people is the decentralization of power within the movement. What makes it easier for political and politician brokers, makes it easier for those traditional power centers that operate through deals, pressure or bribery and blackmail.

In our opinion, the progressive, above all the communist forces that chose to be with the masses and in the masses, should act more energetically and more organized. To better neutralize and if possible completely remove the reactionary nationalist elements that are trying to infiltrate.

Therefore, apart from propaganda actions, the authorities have at their disposal the possibility of intensifying repression, which should be ruled out in the immediate future because of the counter-effect it produces, and another possibility is elections, which would be logical considering that the government is resigning. The elections, however, will hardly calm the situation, rather we can expect an attempt at a new wave of protests reinforced by stories about electoral theft.

In short, we are witnessing one of the echoes of the crisis of capitalism in which a stableocratic semi-mafia structure has reached the limit of its powers to manage the crisis it is facing, but also that it is generating.

As an organization, we stand for the continuation of pressure on the government, as well as for unifying the struggles of farmers, workers, education, and environmental



organizations. However, we should not expect a serious breakthrough towards socialism just after the fall of this government, however it happens.

It is up to us now, in an atmosphere of high politicization, to work on spreading our liberating ideas, working on the fight for socialism, which is the only real change of the system and the fight against it.

But, before that, all those responsible for malfeasance and tragedies that happened due to the actions of current political actors and authorities should be brought before the people who demand their responsibility.



STATE TERROR - A NEW FAILED RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS OF AUTHORITY

On Saturday, March 15, the largest demonstrations in the history of Serbia took place. The so far undetermined number of people present at the gathering called "15 for 15" certainly surpassed all previous mass political gatherings.

That's no surprise. The current political moment in Serbia is marked by a specific popular movement led by students. The mobilization they carried out affected both urban centers and rural areas throughout the country.

Expectations from this day were high. The tension was raised, first of all and to the greatest extent, by the authorities, but certain voices from the ranks of political forces who are trying to redirect the protest in the direction of certain ideas that do not have broad popular support also contributed to them.

Both of these factions from the so-called big political scene wanted to present this day as crucial and decisive. Even a part of those forces that sometimes sing the praises of the student movement in a pathetic tone, tried to impose the idea of "D-Day", despite the position of the student plenums themselves, which was clearly presented to the public.

In short, on that day, with great maneuverability, violence was avoided for which the state and its repressive apparatus had been preparing the ground for weeks; an improvised camp in Pionirski Park, the mobilization of parts of the hooligan and mafia structure related to various domestic services and interest groups, the media heating up the atmosphere of some kind of final showdown and so on.

The so-called secret police, under the current name of the BIA, put pressure on transportation companies by threatening to remove license plates, conduct extraordinary technical inspections of vehicles if they drive protesters, and some of them also talked about threats to confiscate their vehicles.

The day before the demonstrations began, it was clear that this pressure operation, which includes the declaration of a working Saturday in state-owned enterprises that normally do not work on Saturdays and similar creative attempts, had completely failed. If they managed to stop someone, it was not possible to see it on the streets of Belgrade because the number of people who arrived was unprecedented.

Therefore, the state apparatus resorted to an atmosphere of spreading fear and terror, which in the first phase did not produce any results, because the course of the political process is now turned against the greedy, cynical, unscrupulous and above all thieving



government.

In the end, the historical character of the meeting was marked by an incident that will be talked about for a long time: during the fifteen-minute silence to honor the victims, an unknown weapon was used, which some claim is a so-called "sound cannon" and there were opinions that it was also some kind of "air cannon".

The higher public prosecutor's office, which is one of the most notorious institutions due to many omissions made in order to protect the interests of the most powerful, and which, among other things, is the subject of a student rebellion because for months they have not been able to determine who attacked the students with a car in New Belgrade, announced in the strongest possible terms that all those who spread this news will be prosecuted urgently for disinformation and spreading panic.

It must be said - these are acts of state terror. At this stage of the government's crisis, that government responds with terrorism. The use of the means that were used, whatever they were, with the aim of causing panic, stampede and ultimately police intervention and open violence is a special operation whose goal is to induce fear, that is, terror.

That plan failed, that's obvious. Open provocation of force and injustice, open terror to which a huge number of people are exposed are always the moves of the desperate. The masses were not afraid, on the contrary. The impression is that precisely these kinds of moves are drawing more and more people into the fight.

As for the participation of our collective in that gathering, it was marked by the fact that we performed most openly under open revolutionary and communist symbols. So far, we have disciplined in following the recommendations of the organizers not to emphasize the characteristics of our collective. However, we also couldn't help but notice the intrusiveness of people with cockades on their shirts, as well as the numerous religious flags that have been normalized as "neutral" in the meantime.

We have looked critically at the tolerance of extreme right-wing, which we hope will be put in its place, primarily by more active and subtle action of progressive forces. We do not break unity if we act under the symbols of brotherhood and sisterhood, if our slogans are more correct and accurate, if we are simply more visible, because that is what we should be.

Religious symbols, which include the bearers of church banners, flags with the image of Jesus or icons and other church symbols, lead the fight for the further penetration of religious conservative politics in society, but also the fight against the church



leadership, which they want to present as general. Wearing church symbols at this hour represents a rebellion against Patriarch Porfirije and the largest number of bishops who have declared against the protest.

We are fighting for secularism and we believe that the church should not interfere even to this extent, let alone more, in social life. We also believe that those for power within the church structure should fight in the designated places, where that church structure is active. More precisely, the struggle for power in the Church should be fought on the territory of the Church and among its flock, and not outside of it.

We must state that the directly democratic character of the student rebellion which introduces a new quality into the political life of Serbia. The politics of the rich parliamentary parties was alienated from the masses. Now the masses are creating it, and the political parties are galloping after them, trying to use the old traditional techniques - media and manipulation - to turn the flow of the process to their mill.

So far they have not succeeded, thanks to the complexity of the plenum organization. Also, it is clear that, despite the terror that is currently being used, the government will have to resort to elections, because it does not really have the strength for an open dictatorship despite the oversized (and obviously equipped with secret weapons) police apparatus.

There is an opportunity for everyone who now wants to come to power or at least close to it to actually get involved. If they believe in parliamentary democracy, they'd better prepare for what's coming instead of trying to redirect and take over a protest that clearly doesn't want them as leaders.

In the end - the Belgrade meeting, despite the apparent anticlimax, represents a new phase in this struggle. Now the terror of a group of comprador and entrepreneurial-criminal bourgeoisie, which is against the movement that brings progress in political life and struggle in Serbian society, needs to be broken.

We as a political collective do not participate in the struggle for power in this process. Our goal is to strengthen progressive elements, help their organization and keep criticism of capitalism in a prominent place, because the essential character of capitalism is the production of such tragedies, such as the one that happened in Novi Sad or now in Kočani.

Our struggle goes beyond the change of one government within the same legal and political order. It goes beyond politics in just one country. It refers to all those who fall as victims every day in Serbia, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, in all parts of the world,



and at the root of which are the contradictions of capitalism.

We are fighting for justice that is not pronounced in the courts.

In this hour - against the terror of the government!

