

The last two years has seen a new wave of struggle from the Indian doctors strike against gender based violence (GBV), to the fightback against Trump's ICE raids in LA, to trans and intersex people fighting back against increasing transphobia, and many many more. The most acute global struggle is undeniably the ongoing genocide and occupation in Palestine, having radicalised a whole new layer of activists with a particularly youthful and combative character. This short document cannot cover all struggles or lessons from them, but discusses three current examples and the trajectory of these struggles.

## **Sharpening struggle**

Whilst there have of course been setbacks, the last few years have seen struggle take on a sharper character, this is particularly exemplified in the global Palestine solidarity movement. As the genocide has continued, instead of tiring the movement against it has only intensified. With state repression getting increasingly worse globally for those who oppose the genocide, this has in reality only emboldened protestors as the bourgeois state has been increasingly exposed for its inability to stand up to the absolute atrocities taking place in occupied Palestine.

In the UK, the proscribing of Palestine Action as a terrorist group has had the opposite effect to its intentions, with a 'I am spartacus' style fightback of protestors (especially retirees) publicly expressing their support for the group. The aim is to show solidarity with Palestinians but also to prove how unworkable the law is, echoing the abortion pill actions in Ireland during the repeal referendum.

Over 500 people were arrested in London on the 9th of August (one of the biggest mass arrests in London's history - and the largest since 1961) with at least a couple of hundred more protestors avoiding arrest and Starmer's government have very embarrassingly had to make appeals to the public to avoid these protests - the reality is that they cannot convict all of those arrested as prisons are already at maximum capacity.

During the first hour of the protest police were pushed back by heavy resistance from the crowds showing the British State's total lack of authority - further proven when defiant arrested activists rejoined the protests once released on bail (the terms of which ban them from attending any future Palestine actions). This is a marked new stage of struggle where individuals are willing to be arrested on mass - showing the anger that exists on the topic and consciousness developing an understanding of the need for more radical action to end the genocide.

Across the world further fightback against repression on Palestine solidarity movements has been fought against. The repression itself is a sign that the West is losing the argument. In Australia their government has pushed through similar draconian anti-protest laws and

attempted to ban their 300,000 strong march which shut down Sydney Harbour Bridge. Despite their attempts it was one of the largest protests in the city's history.

In France over 50,000 took to the streets of Paris with just a few hours notice after Israel hijacked the freedom flotilla and arrested all onboard, they took over La Republique square and refused to follow police orders to evacuate the area. Dock workers in Italy, France, India, Sweden and Greece have successfully blocked arms travelling to Israel. Workers and people's blockades will be key going forward to stop the war machine.

Clearly globally Palestinian solidarity is taking on a new character - far more defiant, and willing to face serious personal consequences. A huge driving force of this is undoubtedly the increasingly barbaric actions of the Israeli state, forcing many who previously would not have considered themselves to be activists into action as a defence of basic humanity. However, the potential this has to hugely boost people's confidence in the strength of organised movements should not be downplayed. We are witnessing global movements on the scale of anti-apartheid struggles which created a generation of socialists, the potential in this case could actually be even larger as multiple world crises present themselves and the intersectionality of the struggles against them become increasingly clearer.

Anti-ICE protests across America have taken on a similarly defiant attitude. Riots, marches and sit-ins have been combatant and have faced police and the national guard head on. Already, the scale of the fightback has forced the Trump administration to stop large-scale raids in favour of individual cases etc. In response to this activists have organised roaming patrols to stop these small-scale deportations, showing the potential for the movement going forward.

There are certainly similarities with the BLM movement following the murder of George Floyd during Trump's first presidency. Whilst a powerful movement, the lack of organisation and political clarity around demands and tactics meant it was unable to become an organised force capable of achieving real change. However, the anti-ICE riots have shown themselves to be organised when thinking on their feet, leaving room for optimism.

In Kenya people, and especially the youth, have taken to the streets to protest state violence, femicide, austerity, unemployment and poverty. The issues are wide ranging and protesters have made natural links between these struggles. Despite facing huge repression, protestors have reported having a "nothing left to lose" mentality. There are echoes of last year's revolutionary summer where president Ruto was pushed back on passing his deeply unpopular finance bill and removed most of his cabinet - this summer's riots started in response to the wave of repression committed on activists following the uprising last year including 16 deaths at the hands of the state.

The movement once again praises itself on being 'leaderless' - however, without a clear path forward, a lack of leadership could lead to a similar crushing of the revolution before it has the chance to really begin. The fact though that so many people are continuing to take to the streets, despite the immediate threat to their lives, is a sign of the sharpening of struggle globally, whereby workers, the oppressed and youth are drawing more far reaching conclusions and willing to put far more 'on the line' in order to fight for a future worth living.

A common theme amongst these struggles is a degree of confused consciousness, all three examples display the seriousness with which people are fighting back - but also reflect confusion about how to get there. The lack of clear leadership in all is a potential concern - however - the spontaneity, and natural forming of organisational structures in the anti-ICE protests seem to be one of its greatest strengths. The ability that people have shown to organise quickly when their communities are under threat is impressive, hopefully this confidence can be built on in the coming period.

Protests have had distinctly youthful characters as well as featured the oppressed. Unconventional methods of struggle have been deployed - especially in relation to the anti-genocide movement. The student encampments in particular have forced forward industrial action on the issue, giving confidence to workers moving into struggle on the issue.

The connections being made in the struggle for Palestinian liberation with wider struggles has been noticeable. For example a large number of Pride and trans pride parades this year blocked pro-genocide politicians and firms profiting from the genocide from attendance. The presence of characters like Greta Thurnberg, known for her climate activism, in the fight back and her connection between these struggles has also made connections clearer in people's minds. People tend to fight on multiple fronts as opposed to campaigning on single issues - reflecting the wider politicisation the genocide has caused across the youth, oppressed layers and the working class.

Unfortunately for the sake of space, this document has covered very little but is intended to begin the discussion not to draw conclusions from it. Some questions for discussion:

1. Can comrades think of examples of struggles they've been involved with in the last year and the character of these?
2. Industrial struggles seem to be going well beyond 'bread and butter issues', notable examples being the doctors strike in India and the blockades by dock workers of arms for Israel, do comrades have any insights into what could be driving this?
3. How has the changing expectations of those engaged in struggle impacted our organisation? For example on issues like safeguarding and CoC.

## **Lessons from Ireland**

This final excerpt provides insights from the active struggles the Irish section have been involved in. We would encourage comrades to provide similar examples in the discussion.