

The 61st International Antiwar Assembly

August 6th 2023

The Executive Committee for the 61st International Antiwar Assembly

All-Japan Federation of Students' Self-Governing Associations [Zengakuren]

Antiwar Youth Committee

Japan Revolutionary Communist League (Revolutionary Marxist Faction) [JRCL (RMF)]

Overseas Appeal for the 61st International Antiwar Assembly

**Create an antiwar struggle
to break through the crisis of nuclear war
erupting amid the clash between the US and
China/Russia!
Now is the time to smash *Putin's war*!**

July 3rd, 2023

Workers, students and intellectuals all over the world!

A year and four months after the start of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Vladimir Putin's detestable regime and its invading army have begun to crumble from within under the pressure of the resolute counteroffensive launched by the Armed Forces of Ukraine in unity with the toiling masses.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the 'private military company' Wagner, moved his armed mercenaries to occupy the headquarters of Russian's Southern Military District on June 23rd and pressed Putin to dismiss Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov. Further, at his command, Wagner soldiers began marching towards Moscow and reached within 200 km of the capital. At first, he had plotted the detention of Shoigu and Gerasimov, but changed it to the 'marching' immediately after he perceived his initial plot to have been leaked by someone to the FSB (Federal Security Service). Prigozhin cried out that the reasons for the so-called 'Special Military Operations', such as the 'threat of NATO' and the 'defence of Donbass people from Ukrainian neo-Nazis', are fakes and that 'We are against bureaucratism and corruption'. Putin was startled at this 'treason' committed by his dog Prigozhin, who now went so far as to openly deny the 'reasons' for the invasion of Ukraine. Terrified by thousands of Wagner troops closing in on Moscow, he declared a state of emergency in the capital.

By this 'rebellion' perpetrated by the chief of those mercenaries Putin nurtured, the FSB-helmed authoritarian ruling system of Russia is being shaken to its foundation.

Workers and students! Now is the time to finally defeat *Putin's war*.

The Russian invading army is losing its morale as the internal conflicts of its headquarters were laid bare. Against the Russian troops, Ukrainian Armed Forces, together with Territorial Defence Forces, are advancing day by day under the slogan 'Recover the occupied territories!' In reaction to this, the Russian army is shooting missiles day after day into Kyiv, Kramatorsk and other cities, thereby indiscriminately murdering Ukrainians. Early in June, war-crazy Putin made special operative units blow up the Kakhovka dam and caused a disastrous flood. In their death agonies, Putin and the Siloviks could blast the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, and could even use tactical nuclear weapons.

Workers, students and intellectuals all over the world!

Putin, a 'Hitler of the 21st century', has plunged people into bloodbaths in Bucha, Mariupol and everywhere in Ukraine. Never let this criminal commit another crime! Let us create a gigantic struggle all over the world against Russia's aggression in Ukraine right now.

With Ukraine as a flashpoint, today's world, where the US and China / Russia are clashing head-on, is on the verge of a thermonuclear war.

In East Asia, Xi Jinping-led China, which is burning with an ambition to absorb Taiwan, is repeatedly carrying out domineering actions by surrounding Taiwan with aerial and naval forces. In opposition to this, US and Japanese forces, together with forces from NATO allies, are now jointly carrying out the biggest ever military exercise in history. Kim Jong Un-led North Korea is also hell-bent on experimental launches of nuclear missiles, fully backed by Russia.

In the middle of this hair-triggering situation, the Fumio Kishida-led government of Japanese imperialism, in cooperation with the Biden-led US administration, is frantic to reinforce the US-Japan military alliance as a global defensive and offensive alliance against China and Russia. For this purpose, the Kishida government is rushing headlong to an unprecedented military build-up, which will boost Japan into the world's third strongest military power, as well as the reactionary revision of the Constitution.

Against the Kishida government's offensives to expand armaments and build up a pre-emptive attack system, we, Zengakuren, the Antiwar Youth Committee and the JRCL-RMF, are leading struggles in the van of Japanese working people. Furthermore, we have been appealing to the world, 'Crush *Putin's war!*' and 'Solidarity with Ukrainian people!' We have been building up a surge of the Ukraine antiwar struggle from workplaces and campuses across the country, while most of Japanese leftists have abandoned the struggle.

We are holding the 61st international Antiwar Assemblies on August 6th in Tokyo and six other cities in Japan. We call on working people all over the world to raise outcries together with us for an antiwar struggle to break through the danger of the outbreak of a nuclear war.

Create a surge of Ukraine antiwar struggles all over the world!

Faced with the counteroffensive of the Ukrainian Forces closing in, Russian troops on frontlines are leaving their trenches one after another, while planting mines everywhere. Armed Forces of Ukraine and Territorial Defence Forces are steadily recovering occupied towns and villages one by one.

Forced into a retreat, the invading troops are now concentrating their missile and drone attacks on Kyiv, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Kramatorsk, and other major cities, and brutally massacring Ukrainians. They are deliberately targeting populated areas away from frontlines, with the aim of hindering Ukrainian forces from redeploying their surface-to-air missiles to frontlines. We denounce these indiscriminate massacres!

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is requesting the US and European governments to supply stronger air-defence systems against Russian missile attacks and additional armaments for the counteroffensive. Western rulers, however, have supplied far less than his request both in scale and tempo. They are granting only limited armaments so as not to bring Ukraine an 'excessive victory', for fear that it might draw Russia's counterattack upon their own countries. Right now they are rather interested in making a good thing out of 'special procurement orders for post-war reconstruction'.

In these circumstances, Ukrainian forces, together with toiling people, have courageously put up their resistance despite the overwhelming armaments of Russian forces and beat back the invading troops successively. And now, at last, they have driven the FSB-helmed authoritarian ruling system with Putin at its head into an unconcealed internal division.

Workers, students and intellectuals across the world!

Although Putin-led Russia has been inflicting utmost brutalities on Ukrainian people for more than a year and is now even resorting to a nuclear threat, quite a few people who style themselves 'leftists' haven't expressed an iota of denunciation. That's utterly unpardonable!

There are some 'leftists' who are crying out for an 'immediate cease-fire and talks'. That is tantamount to pressing Ukrainians to surrender the occupied territories to Russia. But, if they call themselves 'leftists', they should, first and foremost, stand by the side of those people who are waging a life-risking battle against the invading army.

There are also some who say that this is 'a proxy war between NATO and Russia' and that 'both are to blame'. We must say those people who utter such words do not even face up to the reality that the invader is Putin-led Russia while those

who are fighting against this invasion are Ukrainian working people.

Those self-styled leftists are trapped in a feeling that 'Russia, which was formerly a socialist country, is better than imperialism'. Fundamentally, this is because they have totally abandoned an honest confrontation with the anti-working class crimes that were repeated by the Stalinist Soviet Union, which proclaimed itself 'socialist'.

This war is a war of aggression, in the first place, which Putin, a 'scion of Stalin', launched with the aim of exterminating the state of Ukraine and its nation altogether and incorporating it into the Russian Federation. Yielding to this aggression means, to the Ukrainians, being plunged again into tyranny and poverty like those in Stalin's USSR. And that is why they are putting up resistance at the risk of their lives.

The autocratic state under the Stalinist bureaucracy called 'Socialist Soviet Union' had imposed brutal oppression and expropriation upon the toiling masses, thus becoming the target of their hatred. That was why it underwent self-destruction in 1991. Giving no reflection to this, Putin merely deplorably regards it as the 'greatest geopolitical catastrophe in the 20th century' and develops his ambition to restore the territories of the former Soviet Union (which were also those of the Russian Empire). Burning with such an insatiable ambition, this man launched aggression against Ukraine. This as such is a gravest crime of the century committed by the Great Russian chauvinist, a 'scion of Stalin' and at the same time 'today's tsar'.

We fight in solidarity with Ukrainian people battling indomitably to drive out the Russian invading army.

We appeal to Russian working people. Now is the time to rise in *a struggle to oppose the aggressive war against Ukraine and at the same time to overthrow the FSB-helmed authoritarian ruling system!*

We appeal to you, working people all over the world. Create Ukraine antiwar struggles across the world and besiege Putin, the bloodthirsty invader, with a surge of struggle of working people across the world. Now is the time to finally defeat *Putin's war!*

Oppose the global nuclear military alliance against China and Russia! Oppose China's intimidating military actions!

Here in East Asia, too, the clash between the US with Japan and China with Russia is causing a crisis of war.

The Xi-led neo-Stalinist state of China, which defines the absorption of Taiwan (or their so-called 'unification of the motherland') as 'the most crucial interest of all', is hell-bent on building up a military system to achieve it. In order to prevent the US military intervention, this regime has deployed intermediate-range missiles targeted at Taiwan like a line of spears. Its successive sabre-rattling actions, including drills for landing on the Taiwan Island, are nothing but intimidation of Taiwanese people, 'Unification, otherwise war'!

In reaction to this, the Biden administration is increasing military and political support to the Tsai Ing-wen-led Democratic Progressive Party government, which longs for Taiwan's independence. This administration is frequently sending US war vessels to transit the Taiwan Strait in the name of 'freedom of navigation'. Early June, a Chinese navy ship navigated right in front of an American destroyer to cut across its path. A volatile situation is brewing around Taiwan.

The Xi leadership of China, which is intent on achieving the state goal of building a 'great contemporary socialist country' that surpasses the United States by the year of 2049, is stepping up its challenge to US imperialism in all respects - military, political, economic and technological.

The Biden administration of the declining imperialist power, which can no longer contain China by its own power alone, is frantic to build up a global-scale nuclear military alliance against China and Russia, by integrating the triangular military alliance between the US, Japan and South Korea, together with AUKUS comprised of the US, the UK and Australia, with the North Atlantic alliance, NATO.

The G-7 summit meeting held in Hiroshima this May became the occasion where imperialist rulers all agreed to build a global military alliance against China and Russia. We denounce, with indignation, those rulers of the G-7 states for arrogantly declaring, in the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, that nuclear weapons are needed to prevent the use of nuclear weapons.

Japanese Prime Minister Kishida, who presided over the summit, is now playing a leading role in forming the anti-Chinese, anti-Russian global alliance. Kishida has invited NATO to establish its liaison office in Tokyo. The Japanese ruling class and its government, which are actively responding to demands from US imperialist rulers, are intent on building a strong military power that can actually conduct a war against China (and Russia). For that purpose, they are rushing headlong to a tremendous military build-up, which will boost Japan into the world's third strongest military power by expending 43

trillion yen in five years. In Okinawa and other Southwest Islands, they are constructing a huge US military base in Henoko and deploying Japanese forces' missiles by trampling down people's strong protest movements with the use of police violence. Moreover, they are moving towards a reactionary revision of the Constitution of Japan aimed to nullify its Article 9, which states the 'renunciation of the right of belligerency of the state' and 'non-possession of war potentials', and to add an 'emergency clause' closely akin to the Nazi's Enabling Act. These comprise a historic reactionary offensive by which to realize at once all the schemes that the successive Liberal Democratic Party cabinets have not been able to achieve for 78 years since Japan's defeat in the Second World War.

Those labour aristocrats who control Rengo (JTUC), the largest national centre of trade unions, are giving a helping hand to Kishida's ultra-reactionary offensives, including the military build-up and the constitutional revision. The central leadership of the converted Stalinist party, which calls itself the Japanese Communist Party, has totally abandoned the organizing of mass antiwar struggles. Denouncing such unpardonable degeneration of the existing leaderships, we the revolutionary left are fighting resolutely against the massive military build-up and advancing towards the overthrow of the Kishida-led neo-fascist government of Japan.

We call on working people all over the world to create a powerful antiwar struggle, arm in arm with us, to break through the danger of a nuclear war arising from the head-on clash between the US and China with Russia.

Let us oppose the building of a global nuclear military alliance against China and Russia.

Let us oppose the intimidating military actions conducted by the Xi-led Chinese government.

Fight back against the imposition of war, oppression, poverty and environmental destruction!

At this moment in time, in Syria, Palestine, Myanmar, Sudan and everywhere in the world, the toiling masses are plunged in the fires of war and being murdered in bloody repression by authoritarian rulers who deserve to be called 'petty Hitlers'.

In many developing and emerging countries, hundreds of millions of people are suffering from dire poverty and verging on starvation due to harsh exploitation and expropriation perpetrated by the US, European and Japanese imperialist bourgeoisie, and due to still more unscrupulous expropriation by neo-Stalinist China, a Chinese version of neo-colonialism, so to speak, in which the Chinese government entices power holders into the economic sphere of 'One Belt One Road' by the attractive bait of money and finally takes control of their countries. A vast number people are thus leaving their homelands and becoming economic refugees. This is not all. Because of environmental destruction, such as forest destruction and unrestrained land development, as well as droughts and floods caused by climatic changes, numerous people have to leave their dwelling places to become environmental refugees. -- While the number of those refugees has exceeded a hundred million across the world, the US, European and Japanese governments, as well as far-right fascists, are taking ruthless actions to expel them by agitating for 'stricter public security' and 'My country first'.

What is more, the toiling masses of all countries are suffering great hardships in life due to skyrocketing price rises with the impetus of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

In France, Britain and other countries, the working class is demanding wage raises by means of strikes and fighting back against cuts in pension and other social welfare services. Imperialist rulers are hell-bent on suppressing their struggles with authoritarian repression.

The Xi-led Chinese government is oppressing poverty-stricken workers, peasant-workers and peasants under the authoritarian rule of neo-Stalinist bureaucracy, while ruthlessly applying bloody repression to Uighur and Hong Kong people.

US, European and Japanese imperialist rulers, Chinese neo-Stalinist rulers and Russian rulers of the FSB-helmed authoritarian state are all plunging their people into the depth of poverty at home, while externally, they are hell-bent on strengthening their nuclear military capabilities for launching another war of aggression. The cornered Russian regime with Putin at the top is about to blast a nuclear plant and further to put the finger on the nuclear button.

Workers, students and intellectuals all over the world!

Amid the head-on clash between the US and China / Russia, today's world is on the verge of the outbreak of a thermonuclear war. Let us unite beyond borders and create a tidal surge of antiwar struggles to break through the danger of a nuclear war erupting amid the clash between the US and China / Russia!

