

EGYPT: WHAT NEXT AFTER THE OVERTHROW OF MUBARAK?



Following the dramatic overthrow of both the Tunisian and Egyptian dictators, protest movements have spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa as the working and poor masses seek to remove repressive regimes. In Iran, Bahrain, Algeria

and elsewhere, as well as across the world, workers and youth are drawing lessons and ideas from the events. Mubarak's removal, and the attempt by the military high command to safeguard the essence of both the old system and capitalism,

has naturally sparked off a lively debate in Egypt on what should happen next. In these discussions the Committee for a Workers' International, the world socialist organisation to which the Socialist Party is affiliated, is arguing for:

- No trust in the military chiefs and no participation in any government with leaders or officials of the Mubarak dictatorship.
- Immediate lifting of the state of emergency. Immediate freeing of all political detainees and prisoners. No prosecution or victimisation of activists in the revolution.
- Full political freedom. Freedom to publish and organise. Democratic control over and opening up of state media to publish the views of all political trends supporting the revolution.
- No restriction of the right to strike and take other industrial action. Full freedom to

form trade unions and conduct trade union activity. For democratic, combative trade unions.

- Arrest and trial before popular courts of all those involved in the Mubarak police regime's repression and corruption. Confiscate the assets of the looters and the corrupt elite.
- Urgent formation of democratic committees of action in the workplaces and neighbourhoods – particularly in working-class and poor neighbourhoods – to coordinate removal of all remnants of the old regime, maintain order and supplies and, most importantly, be the basis for a government of workers' and

poor people's representatives.

- Formation of democratic rank and file committees in the armed forces and police to ensure the officers cannot use these forces against the revolution.
- No to rule by the military chiefs or the elite. For a government of the representatives of workers, small farmers and the poor!
- No to a constitution approved or drawn up by the military. For the rapid election of a real democratic parliament, a revolutionary constituent assembly, which not only agrees rules for elections but also a programme to change the conditions of the Egyptian

masses. Such a parliament can only be convened – if it is really to represent the majority of the population – under the control of democratic workplace and neighbourhood committees. Representatives of the workers and poor farmers should form the majority in this parliament or constituent assembly.

- For a genuinely democratic socialist Egypt. For the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy under democratic workers' control and management to enable a socialist plan to be drawn up to raise living standards for the vast majority of Egyptians in the cities and the countryside.

See www.socialistworld.net for updates

what we stand for

The Socialist Party fights for socialist change – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also fight, in our day-to-day campaigning, for every possible improvement for working-class people.

As capitalism dominates the globe, the struggle for genuine socialism must be international.

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), a democratic, socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

Our demands include:

Work & Income

- Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £8 an hour without exemptions as an immediate step towards £10 an hour. For an annual increase in the minimum wage linked to average earnings.
- All workers, including part-timers, temps, casual and migrant workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness and holiday rights from day one of employment.
- An immediate 50% increase in the state retire-

ment pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstating the link with average earnings now.

- Reject 'Welfare to Work'. For the right to decent benefits, education, training, or a job, without compulsion.
- Scrap the anti-trade union laws! For fighting trade unions, democratically controlled by their members. Full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.
- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

Public services

- No to privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Renationalise all privatised utilities and services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.
- Fully fund all services and run them under accountable, democratic committees that include representatives of service workers and users.
- Free, publicly run, good quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees now and introduce a living grant. No to academies!
- A socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs – free at the point of use and under democratic control. Kick out private contractors!

- Keep council housing publicly owned. For a massive building programme of publicly-owned housing, on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide good quality homes with low rents.

Environment

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and unrecycled waste.
- Public ownership of the energy generating industries. No to nuclear power. No to Trident.
- A democratically planned, low fare, publicly-owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.

Rights

- Oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice.
- Repeal all laws that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest! End police harassment.
- Defend abortion rights. For a woman's right to choose when and whether to have children.
- For the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.

New workers' party

- For a new mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-war campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Trade unions to disaffiliate from the Labour Party now and aid the building of a new workers' party!

Socialism and Internationalism

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Iraq and Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the bosses' neo-liberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!