

**17 March 2023**

**Greetings readers,**

As the people of Swaziland protest the country's upcoming parliamentary elections, the International Transport Workers' Federation conference takes place in South Africa.

We examine the landmark agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran and the truth about who sabotaged the Nord Stream pipeline.

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# Popular Struggles



*Swaziland is the last remaining absolute monarchy in Africa, and its people have been facing brutal repression for resisting the King's rule.*

*Image: People's Dispatch*

## **Why are the people of Swaziland protesting the upcoming parliamentary elections?**

The Communist Party of Swaziland continues to organise actions protesting the upcoming parliamentary elections, which is widely seen as the King's "puppet" with far-ranging restrictions on who can contest and the

parliament members having no power to hold the monarchy accountable.

[People's Dispatch](#)

## **As another ceasefire fails in the DRC, what lies ahead for the Congolese people?**

During a visit to the DRC last week, the UN Security Council stated it “no longer needed to be demonstrated” that Rwanda was backing the M23; the rebel group has continued to make advances in North Kivu as multiple ceasefires mediated by regional mechanisms have failed.

[People's Dispatch](#)

## **Socialist Movement of Ghana welcomes proposed federation of Burkina Faso and Mali**

Commending the proposed idea of a federation, the Socialist Movement of Ghana hopes this unity project

will promote the needs and aspirations of the people; both countries have expelled French military forces as part of efforts to confront their challenges without foreign intrusion.

[\*Socialist Movement of Ghana\*](#)

### **30 migrants are missing as a boat capsizes off coast of Libya**

Migrant aid organisations have blamed Italian authorities for delaying rescue operations despite adequate information and the presence of ships nearby; according to reports, the boat had 47 passengers on board and was travelling from Libya to Italy.

[\*People's Dispatch\*](#)

## **Fight poverty, not the poor!**

Throughout the world the poor are criminalised and, in countries like Brazil, the United States and South Africa, are governed by violence; in the case of the latter, there is deep anxiety about the levels of violence in society and the worsening criminalisation of the poor poses real risks to safety, says Abahlali baseMjondolo General Secretary Thapelo Mohapi.

[\*Daily Maverick\*](#)

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# Culture and Education



*Postage stamps with logos and symbols of multilateral institutions, from the well-known to those being built, revived, and strengthened and those, yet to be created, that are being imagined to further a new world order. Image: Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research*

## **Read**

### **Sovereignty, dignity and regionalism in the new international order**

As the old US-led 'rules-based international order' enters a state of great fragility, a new emerging project seeks to recover the spirit of the 1945 United Nations Charter; produced in collaboration with Cuba's Centre for International Policy Research, this dossier offers a provisional analysis of the realities and possibilities of regionalism to advance a more democratic world order.

[\*Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research\*](#)

### **Creating a socially oriented transport system is now urgent**

The twin evils of austerity and corruption have pulverised public transport, which is increasingly being driven by the desire for private profit, and is often unreliable and unsafe. National Union of Metalworkers

of South Africa (NUMSA) General Secretary Irvin Jim argues that we need to work towards a socially owned and worker-managed transport system operated in the public interest.

[\*Business Day\*](#)

**There's an international media war for the truth about who sabotaged the Nord Stream pipeline**

In response to award winning journalist Seymour Hersh's explosive exposé of the US role in sabotaging the Nord Stream pipelines, Western media outlets are hard at work trying to blame an unknown pro-Ukrainian group.

[\*People's Dispatch\*](#)



## **Eight contradictions of the imperialist rules based order**

Significant global changes have emerged in the years since the Great Financial Crisis of 2008, which can be seen in a new phase of imperialism and the particularities of eight contradictions.

[\*Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research\*](#)

## **US and NATO allies were responsible for nearly 65% of global arms exports in 2018–2022**

The US share in global arms exports increased from 33% to 40% in 2018-22, while its ally France, the third-largest exporter of weapons, was also a significant beneficiary – with its share increasing from roughly 7.1% to 11%.

[\*People's Dispatch\*](#)

## **Landmark agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia**

The normalisation of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, brokered by China, represents a shift in diplomatic leadership towards the Global South, away from US hegemony.

[People's Dispatch](#)

## **Watch**

### **Military brutality in Ghana must stop now!**

On 7 March, military force was exercised against civilians in Ashaiman, Ghana, including beatings, arbitrary detention, and torture; security analyst Adib Saani and Socialist Movement of Ghana General Secretary Kwesi Pratt Jnr discuss how these actions are a violation of international human rights law.

[Pan African Television](#)

Read the statement from the Socialist Movement of Ghana Accra Collective [here](#).

## **French military kicked out: Explosion of Anti-colonial sentiment in Africa**

Africa's Sahel region is experiencing historic shifts as anti-colonial sentiment sweeps across the region, with the French military being kicked out of one country after another after failing to rout insurgencies fueled by their own policies.

[Breakthrough News](#)

## **Progressive woman show: Embracing equity**

On International Women's Day, under the theme 'Embracing equity', Ama Pratt was in conversation with the Ambassador of Cuba to Ghana, Anette Chao Garcia, the South African High Commissioner to Ghana Grace Jeanet Mason, and the High Commissioner of

Sierra Leone to Ghana, Mrs. Frances Virginia Anderson on the matter.

[\*Pan African Television\*](#)

## **Foreign policy for sale: Think tanks and the war machine**

Amanda Yee, Editor of Liberation News, explains the central role think tanks play in creating foreign policy, as well as shaping public opinion and consent for US foreign policy objectives, all to serve the interests of the US military and its defence contractors.

[\*Breakthrough News\*](#)

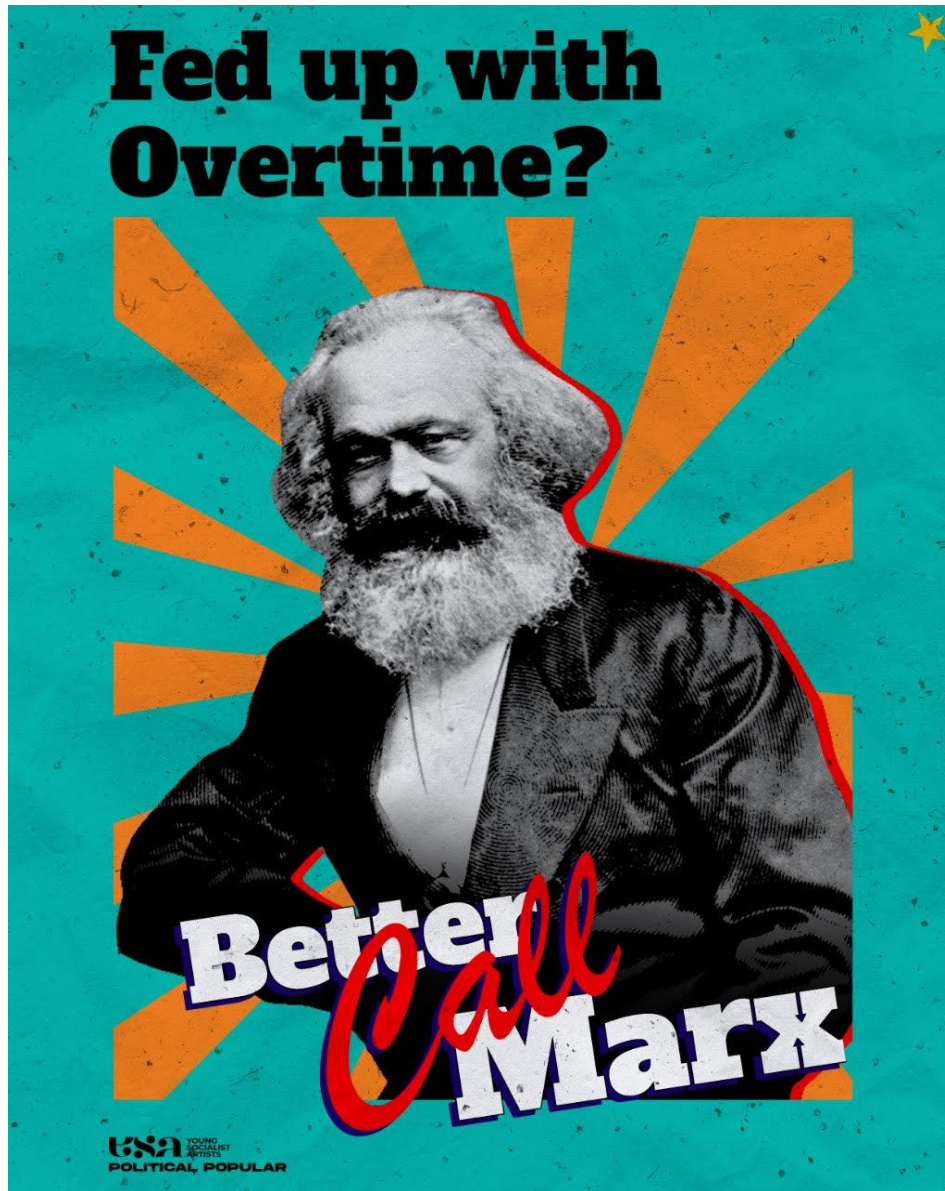
## **Listen**

### **Swift Africa: Pan African Music**

Following International Women's Day – commemorated on 8 March – we celebrate music created by African

women, in a fun mix of dance songs together with newly released hits from across Africa.

[Pan African Television](#)



*On 14 March, many read the work of Karl Marx in commemoration of his passing on that day in 1884. Image: Young Socialist Artists (India)*

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# Solidarity Campaigns



*NUMSA and SRWP marched to the US embassy in Pretoria, South Africa to demand freedom for US political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, 10 March. Image: NUMSA*

## **Free all political prisoners**

### **Global campaign demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal intensifies**

On 10 March, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) and the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP) marched to the US embassy in Pretoria to demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal, a political prisoner incarcerated for over 40 years in the United States.

[People's Dispatch](#)

## **End Zionism**

### **Israeli parliament passes first reading of amendments to 2005 Disengagement law**

In yet another assault on Palestinians in the occupied territories, the proposed law will allow illegal settlers to rebuild and re-occupy settlements in the occupied West

Bank that were dismantled in 2005 as a part of Israel's so-called unilateral Disengagement plan.

[People's Dispatch](#)

## **South Asia update**

### **Thousands of workers observe nationwide strike against increased taxation**

On 15 March more than 40 trade unions in Sri Lanka called for a nationwide strike against the increased taxes imposed in the country as a precondition for a bailout by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

[People's Dispatch](#)

## **Latin America update**

### **An army of women is building Venezuela's housing revolution**

In contrast to commodified housing, shantytowns, evictions and homelessness worldwide, Venezuela's



Great Housing Mission has built over 4,4 million houses for working-class families since 2011 and an army of self-trained women are working to build their homes while they transform the reality around them.

[Venezuela Analysis](#)

## **Marielle Franco's family continues to demand justice**

Five years since her murder, those behind the crime and their motives remain unknown. Franco, a Black lesbian human rights activist and councilwoman in Rio de Janeiro, was shot dead on 14 March 2018.

[People's Dispatch](#)

## **Colombian government and ELN conclude second round of peace talks**

The Colombian government and leftist guerilla group, the National Liberation Army (ELN) agreed on a

definitive agenda that will guide the following stages of the negotiation process to achieve true and lasting peace in the country.

[People's Dispatch](#)



*The Colombian government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) concluded the second round of peace talks on 10 March in Mexico.*

*Image: Francia Márquez/Twitter*

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***For more news and analysis from our friends:***

- [Birth Again the Dream of Global Peace and Mutual Respect](#): The Eleventh Newsletter (2023) from Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research
  - [News on China, No. 138](#) | 11.03.2023
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