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Communist Party of Sudan calls for end to civil war

By Gary Bono

The new nation of South Sudan has become embroiled in a civil war. While many have heard of the conflicts in the notorious Darfur region in the North, the post-independence conflict in the South has been less widely covered.

In an interview conducted in Cyprus in early June, Luciano Dojack, secretary for external relations of the Communist Party of South Sudan, spoke about the creation of the new state and the civil war.

South Sudan was founded in 2011 as a consequence of the division of Sudan between North and South.

Before the split, Sudan was the third largest country in Africa. Its communist party, the Communist Party of Sudan, has a storied history. Founded in 1946, it quickly became, along with the Iraqi Communist Party, one of the major communist parties in that part of the world. In the early 1970s, however, it suffered severe repression at the hands of Sudan's military dictator Gafar Nimeiry. Nimeiry was viewed by many as an imperialist agent, and many of the party's leaders were executed.

The Communist Party of Sudan initially did not support the secession of South Sudan, but divisive Islamism in the North and separatist moves



in the South impeded efforts to maintain a unified state. In the end, the party acceded to the creation of a separate state in the South. Its members there became the Communist Party of South Sudan, which works cooperatively with the Communist Party of Sudan.

Dojack said that fundamentally the current civil war in South Sudan is between factions within the ruling party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). This is the party that had orig-

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inally championed the independence movement. The original leader of the SPLM was Dr. John Garang. Garang was very progressive, a Marxist, but he died in a plane crash in 2005. His vice president, Salva Kiir, took over and is now president.

Under Kiir, the country has moved to the

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right, Dojack said, and Kiir himself has become more and more dictatorial. In 2013, Kiir's vice president, Dr. Riek Machar, announced that he would run in the 2015 election for president against Kiir. According to Dojack, Kiir dismissed Machar and began to arrest his supporters, accusing them of planning a coup.

The civil war has grown out of this, Dojack said, with the general population originally lining up behind either Kiir or Machar. The war has taken on ethnic dimensions. South Sudan, with a population of 8 to 10 million, is made up of a number of ethnic groups. The two biggest are the Dinka, about 15 percent of the population, and the Nuer, about 10 percent.

The regular army, primarily composed of Nuer people, is supporting Machar. The Republican Guard is made up of Nuer and Dinka people and has split, with the Nuer supporting Machar and the Dinka supporting Kiir. Kiir, however, has the support of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which was originally the military wing of the SPLM but has now become, essentially, a pro-Kiir militia and is accused of carrying out

atrocities against Kiir's opponents and the general population.

A third important ethnic group, the Shilluk people, had been neutral but have been attacked by Kiir supporters. Reports say both government and opposition forces have committed atrocities such as burning villages and killing civilians because of their ethnicity.

Dojack said that all parties to the conflict give lip service to reunifying the SPLM but this is likely futile. The last talks between the sides were in March and no new talks are scheduled.

The Communist Party of South Sudan is calling for inclusive negotiations which bring together all parties, factions and groups affected by this civil war.



Gary Bono is a New York transit worker.

Labor board tackles another joint-employer issue, involving temps

By Mark Gruenberg

The National Labor Relations Board is tackling another big joint-employer issue: If an employer gets workers from a temp agency and the union wants to organize them, must it first get an OK from both the employer and the temp agency?

In 2000, the NLRB said "no." In 2004, the GOP board majority reversed that and said "yes" on a 3-2 party-line vote. Now, in a July 6 call for briefs, the board is reopening the topic.

The issue is important to workers and unions nationwide. Temps are a large and growing share of the workforce, and a part of what might be called the "on-demand" workforce - temps, "independent contractors," telecommuters, and similar workers - who some economists predict could be half of the U.S. workforce within a few decades.

They are also difficult to organize because of the nature of the work and because of the legal obstacle the NLRB, voting on partisan lines, erected. In the 2004 Oakwood Care Center case, it said both the employer and the temp agency must

agree to the union's organizing drive.

Now the board is using a case involving a 2012 organizing drive by Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 among workers in Pennsylvania projects of Miller & Anderson, a Virginia-based electrical contractor, to reopen the issue of who, if anyone, must agree to the drive.

The board's regional director for Pennsylvania, citing Oakwood, turned down the local's petition. The local's attorney, Martin Milz of the Philadelphia firm of Spear, Wildman, appealed.

The Nation Labor Relations Act "does not exclude them from protection. Only the misguided rulings" of past NLRBs "deny them their Section 7 rights" to organize and bargain, Milz said. Now the full Board is taking up the case.

The National Labor Relations Board wants briefs on "how, if at all, have the Section 7 rights of employees been affected by" the 2004 Oakwood ruling requiring both employers' OK. Or, the NLRB wants to know, should it construct some alternative arrangement?

Temps are also routinely exploited, since labor laws don't cover most of them.

Bush suggests workers work more, faces backlash

By John Wojcik

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's remarks that the economy could achieve a steady four percent annual growth rate if Americans would work longer hours have fueled a firestorm of negative reaction from fair pay advocates.

"People need to work longer hours," Bush said in response to questions about how he would boost economic growth in America.

"It may be easy for Jeb to sit extra hours at his many corporate board meetings, but the average American worker - many of whom are doing physically demanding jobs - already clocks in 47 hours a week while wages remain stagnant," said Brad Woodhouse in a statement for Americans United for Change.

Some are comparing the statement by Bush to the out-of-touch remarks about the 47 percent that Mitt Romney made when he was running for president. In a speech to wealthy contributors, Romney essentially said that 47 percent of the U.S. population was lazy and content to do as little work as possible and that they would never vote for him.

"There is always a moment during presidential elections when we get a clear glimpse into who a candidate truly is," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka following the Jeb Bush remarks. "Jeb Bush let us know he doesn't have the faintest idea what



it's like to work hard for a living. To get that idea," Trumka said, "he's the one who has to work longer - at listening, at having at least a passing connection to reality in America."

"American workers don't need to work longer hours," Trumka said. "They need to be paid better for their extremely hard work and long hours they already contribute to our economy."

The Bush remarks are seen as especially hypocritical in view of his and his Republican Party's lack of support for President Obama's plan to fix the overtime rule for millions of Americans making just over \$23,660 a year who put in 60 or more hours a week with no extra pay.

Bush and the GOP have also refused to support ending another ploy used by bosses to cheat workers out of overtime - the scheme that misclassifies salaried workers as supervisors.

Research shows that Americans already work well over 40 hours per week. According to ABC News, a 2014 Gallup poll found Americans employed full-time report working, on average, 47 hours a week, while nearly four in 10 say they work at least 50 hours a week.

Workers need to be paid better for the extremely hard work and long hours they already contribute to our economy.

Apache community fights mining giant

By Albert Bender

The San Carlos Apache community association, Apache Stronghold, held a rally on June 30 in Tucson, Ariz., to save Oak Flat, a sacred site in the Tonto National Forest that is endangered by a planned copper mine of a go-liath mining company.

The mining villain has admitted that Oak Flat will be “damaged” by the mine. “Damaged” is an understatement as Resolution Copper foresees a two mile wide, 1,000 foot deep crater will result from the mining. Oak Flat, Chi’ Bildagoteel, will be utterly destroyed.

The opposition of the San Carlos Apache Tribe to the land exchange is based on the following objections:

First, the planned copper mine, which would be nearly two miles beneath the earth’s surface would destroy the tribe’s place of worship and its traditional way of life.

Second, the copper mine would deplete the entire region’s water supply.

And third, the exchange would be a give-away of tens of billions of dollars of U.S. resources to foreign mining corporations.

Los buitres neoliberales

Emir Sader, La Jornada

Desde que han surgido, con la primera elección de Hugo Chavez, en 1998, se ha empezado a anunciar el agotamiento de los gobiernos pos neoliberales. Buitres de derecha y de ultraizquierda dijeron que no iban a funcionar, que iban a durar poco, que llevarían a los países al caos y dejarían una pesada herencia por su populismo, etcétera.

Fueron pasando los años y nada de eso pasó. Nunca como en estos años de gobiernos pos neoliberales —a pesar de las duras herencias recibidas del neoliberalismo— han disminuido tanto las desigualdades, la exclusión social, la pobreza y la miseria. La integración regional, como alternativa a los tratados de libre comercio con Estados Unidos, ha avanzado con la ampliación del Mercosur, la construcción de Unasur, del Banco del Sur, del Consejo Suramericano de Defensa y de la Celac, entre otros organismos.

Al lado de esos avances se han intensificado los intercambios económicos regionales, así como los que se han creado en el resto del mundo, particularmente con China y con Rusia.

La constitución del BRICS, con su Banco de Desarrollo y su fondo de divisas, a su vez, permite que América Latina puede tener opciones.

Esos gobiernos han logrado superar las recesiones heredadas de los gobiernos neoliberales, han recompuesto los Estados, recuperado los niveles de formalización de los contratos de trabajo. Se han afirmado como el gran polo antineoliberal en el mundo, a contramano de las políticas de centralidad del mercado.

Sin embargo, así como surgieron problemas para dar continuidad a sus políticas, los buitres también levantan cabeza en Ecuador, en Venezuela, en Brasil, en Argentina, en Uruguay, en Bolivia, al volver a anunciar el fin del kirchnerismo, del lulismo, del chavismo, de Rafael Correa, de Evo Morales, del Frente Amplio. Se trata de voces de la derecha tradicional y de la ultraizquierda.

¿Y que es lo que ofrecen como alternativa? La derecha ofrece su modelo neoliberal. Los candidatos que enarbolan el retorno a esos nefastos gobiernos son la opción en esos países, porque la ultraizquierda no tiene nada que ofrecer, salvo palabras, haciendo que la alternativa a los gobiernos pos neoliberales sea el retorno de la derecha.

El fin de un ciclo fue el agotamiento de los gobiernos neoliberales, seguido por la elección de los gobiernos pos neoliberales en la región. En caso de que estuvieran agotados, habría en el horizonte alternativas para su superación y no solamente de retroceso. Pero lo que se ve, son dificultades internas y externas afectando a esos gobiernos y amenazas de recomposiciones conservadoras, que prometen retorno al modelo agotado del pasado.

Ni la derecha ni la ultraizquierda fueron capaces de construir alternativas a esos gobiernos, cuyas disyuntivas miran siempre hacia el horizonte del futuro, de la superación definitiva del neoliberalismo.