MASSACRES IN PARIS, BEIRUT
SOLIDARITY AGAINST BARBARISM

On 12 November, Daesh (“Islamic State”) killed 43 civilians in bombings in Beirut. And now it has claimed 129 people killed in Paris on the evening of 13 November.

In Paris, gunmen opened fire in many crowded cafes, dance halls, and stadiums. The latest count is 352 injured, 99 critically. The suspected ringleader, a Belgian national, has been killed in a police raid.

Daesh runs a bloodthirsty “caliphate” in territory stretching across northern Iraq and eastern Syria, along the Euphrates valley, from almost the border of Iran to almost the border of Turkey.

It has massacred thousands in that territory, just for differing with its obscurantist doctrines, and taken women into slavery.

*Tubeworker* extends solidarity to the victims of all these atrocities, and their families.

As well as causing death and destruction, a further aim of such attacks, particularly in the west, is to stoke up anti-Muslim racism and strengthen the hand of warmongers in western governments, which Daesh hopes will help it build support. Racist abuse of Muslims is totally unjustified and divides working people at a time when we need to unite.

Already, countries are talking about shutting their doors to Syrian refugees in response - an obscene position, given that, far from being Daesh militants, Syrian refugees are fleeing carnage for which Daesh is at least partially responsible! Shutting them out would only lead to more deaths at Daesh’s hands. Britain should also open its borders to Syrian and other refugees and migrants.

French president Francois Hollande has declared France is “at war”, stepped up bombing in Syria, and declared a state of emergency in France. David Cameron has suggested that he will try again to get a parliamentary majority for Britain to bomb targets in Syria.

Bombing in Syria is no more likely to bring progress than the US military action in Afghanistan, launched in a similar wave of retaliation after the Al Qaeda atrocity in New York on 11 September 2001.

After 14 years of US military action, the Taliban is stronger than it was when Afghan forces allied with the US drove it out of Kabul in November 2001. If western states want to support effective military resistance to Daesh, they should arm the Kurdish fighters pushing them back in cities like Kobane and Sinjar, and end alliances with Saudi Arabia, a brutal theocracy which propagates clerical-fascism, and Turkey, an authoritarian state which oppresses the Kurds and undermines their struggle against Daesh.

European states may also use the massacre in Paris as a pretext for clamping down on civil liberties in the name of “security”. But as the 2015 killing of Jean Charles De Menezes at Stockwell station, and repeated deaths in America, show, “shoot-to-kill” policies and armed police forces also claim innocent lives. A force like Daesh cannot be policed out of existence, it can only be defeated by the growth of progressive, democratic movements in the Middle East.

Solidarity - standing together on the basis of our shared interests as working-class people, whatever our nationality, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof) - is our best weapon against the barbarism of Daesh, and the racism and wars they hope to provoke.

From the archives:
*Tubeworker’s special edition from the time of the 7/7 bombings* - bit.ly/tw-7-7

Around 2,000 frontline staff posts have been lost from London Underground since then. Is that good for safety?

NEW PAY OFFER IS AN INSULT: TIME TO ACT!

So, with Night Tube in the long grass, LUL has sent us a repackaged offer on pay. Here are a few reasons why it is rubbish:

- Its closeness to the RPI increase means it contains very little increase in real terms.
- National Insurance rules change in April, with us paying 1% more (and the employer paying less). So that’s the pay rise wiped out, making it a pay cut in real terms.
- A four-year deal ties our hands for the next four years, while the bosses can continue cutting jobs and attacking pensions.
- Managers are giving themselves far bigger pay rises than the one they are offering us.
- Meanwhile, our claim for a 32-hour, 4-day week is dismissed yet again. And the B-plan of compressing hours means excessively long shifts and undermining agreements by letting individuals opt to alter them.
- “Long term commitment to improving work life balance” is waffle - we know from years of bitter experience that “commitments” that contain no detail and no actual improvements that commitments never come to anything.

While the company says that this is a “final offer”, it is only the final offer if we let it be! If we are prepared to fight for more, and better, it won’t be so final after all.

PREPARE TO STRIKE FOR GLEN HART

Station Supervisor and RMT activist Glen Hart is being disciplined on trumped-up charges, relating to his role in industrial action in 2014.

RMT has said it will ballot all members if LU disciplines Glen. Other unions should support them.

Background info: bit.ly/defend-glen
VS MESS
LU has been seriously messing around the staff who’ve applied for VS, keeping them in the dark about when they’ll actually be able to leave.

Tubeworker opposes the VS scheme, as it encourages workers to sell our jobs, but we believe LU should honour its commitments to those staff.

And doesn’t the fact that they may have to keep them on longer than anticipated show that those jobs are needed?

Let the VSers have their VS... and then fill the posts!

A NEW LOW
LU’s obsession with profit and increasing private revenue streams on stations reached new lows recently when a self-service currency exchange machine was installed at King’s Cross St. Pancras, effectively obscuring the 7/7 memorial plaque.

A swift response from local union reps plus a national press release from RMT had management scurrying to make amends, and looking around for someone to blame. The monstrosity was soon removed.

LU would have us believe that our stations don’t need ticket offices, but they do need this.

In LU’s money-driven, profit-seeking worldview, a memorial to the victims of a terrorist atrocity is apparently just wasted rentable space.

WHERE DO WE WORK?
With the ticket office at Marylebone now shut, staff are expected to serve passengers at the POMs... which are off the station!

This means there’s a gateline between staff and their place of safety. This is just one example of how ticket office closures create logistical problems on stations.

It’s also hit passengers, as there are only three POMs (only one of which takes cash), so ticket selling capacity has been reduced by nearly 50%.

TAKE LABOUR FOR LONDON MAYOR
In May 2016, Londoners will have the chance to elect our Mayor and Assembly members.

This is a rare opportunity for LU workers; not many people get to elect their boss!

Labour’s Sadiq Khan is not perfect, but is the only candidate who can defeat the Tories, and with the sea-change now taking place in the Labour Party still ongoing, we can push him and Labour’s GLA candidates to the left. We should demand their campaigns reflect union policies, including re-opening ticket offices and reversing staff cuts.

Vote Labour, kick out the Tories!

SOLID STRIKE SHUTS DOWN DLR
DLR workers struck against disciplinarian and casualising management practises for 48 hours from 3 November, leading to an almost total shutdown.

The action is all the more effective because nearly all DLR staff are union members, and are in one union - RMT - rather than being divided into several.

Oh, and you know the right-wing’s plan to defeat Tube strikes by bringing in driverless trains? That looked rather silly as the driverless DLR trains sat idle in depots.

HATE TO SAY WE TOLD YOU SO...
An Evening Standard article picking up on research by TSSA revealed that passengers at some Zone 1 stations where ticket offices have closed now face queuing times of up to an hour.

Could the company not have seen this coming? Workers, passengers, and campaigners all did.

This is not what “world-class customer service” looks like.

What is Tubeworker?
Tubeworker is a rank-and-file socialist bulletin, published at least monthly, written by Tube workers, for Tube workers. It is published by the socialist group Workers’ Liberty, but is produced in editorial meetings open to all workers. Supporters from outside London Underground can help with public distribution.

Email us at tubeworker@workersliberty.org

Send us your address along with a tenner (cheques payable to WL Bulletins)

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER, 15:00, INTERSERVE HQ 1-3 COLLEGE HILL, EC4R 2RA. More: bit.ly/interserve-demo

An exclusive new collaboration between Apple and London Underground...

Paul Okoro reinstated
A sustained union campaign, including a strike ballot amongst Piccadilly Line drivers, has secured the reinstatement of sacked worker Paul Okoro.

Paul was sacked for allegedly answering his phone while in the cab, even though witnesses attest that he handed over control of the train before doing so.

Paul, who has been out of work since May, has been reinstated as a CSA. London Underground had previously insisted that reinstatement was out of the question; another example of how union pressure can force management’s hand. What was once impossible suddenly becomes possible.

RMT drivers are still in dispute with Piccadilly Line management around a variety of issues and may still take action.

Paul’s reinstatement should provide inspiration for a number of other ongoing reinstatement struggles across the job.

Solidarity wins!

What is Workers’ Liberty?
Workers’ Liberty is a rank-and-file socialist organisation of Tube workers. We campaign to keep them on longer than anticipated, to keep them safe at work, and to keep them in the Dark about when they’ll actually be able to leave.

Workers’ Liberty campaigns reflect union policies, including re-opening ticket offices and reversing staff cuts.

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