

# To the Central Committee of the Egyptian Communist Party and to the Fighters for Communism Incarcerated in Egyptian Prisons.

The first "national" government of the pseudo-independent Egypt, the government of the "father of the country", Zaghlul Pasha — who abhors the labour movement which has sprung up in Egypt — does not wish to be outdone by its predecessors, the lackeys and agents of British imperialism in its repressive measures against the working class.

Scared by the March strikers in Alexandria and other Egyptian towns, when the workers forcibly took possession of factories and workshops in order to compel the capitalists to make concessions, the government has decided to put an end to the open activity of the Communist Party and of the independent trade unions. Closing of all Party premises, hundreds of raids and arrests of working class leaders, deportation from Egypt of "undesirable" elements, establishment of yellow trade unions — such are the measures being adopted by the present government in its fight against the growing communist movement.

Having failed to frighten you by threats or to make you renegades by the promise of well paid posts, the government has incarcerated you, the leaders of the young Egyptian proletariat, after a trial which was nothing but a farce, as the government not only prohibited the publication of the speeches of the accused, but even the publication of the speech of the official counsel for the defence.

In order to break down your spirit, which did not give way under the brutality of the sentence — three years imprisonment, the government has added insult to injury by classing you together with ordinary criminals.

You have accepted the challenge and, at the risk of your health and of your very life, you have compelled the government by a 23 days' protest hunger strike to change your prison regime.

Zaghlul and his government are posing as the defenders of the Egyptian people and as fighters for the independence of Egypt against British imperialism, and at the same time they inflict terrible hardships on you, who are not only members of the Egyptian Communist Party and the best representatives of the people, but staunch and irreconcilable opponents of imperialism.

Why? Because the government is, of course, trembling for the privileges of landowners and capitalists against whom the Egyptian Communist Party has declared war.

But the hopes of Zaghlul will be nullified. Even by the most brutal persecution of individual communists, he will not succeed in destroying the movement which is deeply rooted in the impoverishment and the exploitation of large sections of workers and peasants. The place of the scores of comrades who have fallen out of the ranks will be soon taken by hundreds and thousands of other fighters as staunch as those who have fallen. Thus the fight will be continued with increased vigour until an end will have been put to the inhuman yoke of capitalists and landowners in Egypt and throughout the world.

It is this faith in our final victory which puts courage into the hearts of the Egyptian fighters and gives them strength to carry on the struggle even behind prison walls.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International is filled with admiration for the struggle carried on by you, our Egyptian comrades.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International welcomes all true fighters for Egyptian independence, and calls upon the workers of Egypt and the Sudan to carry on their heroic fight for emancipation from the yoke of world imperialism with the same energy and courage. We can assure you of the support of the international proletariat.

All honour and glory to the brave fighters now in prison.

Long live the Egyptian Communist Party which has produced such staunch revolutionaries.

Long live the victory of the workers throughout the world.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International.

20. November 1924.