

Support the Canadian Truckers of the “Freedom Convoy”!



Since late January, thousands of Canadian truckers have formed a convoy in Ottawa, the Canadian capital, to protest mandatory vaccination of drivers crossing the Canadian-U.S. border. Other demonstrations took place in Toronto, Hamilton, Quebec City, Vancouver and other cities. A group of truckers is also blocking the Ambassador Bridge between Windsor, Ontario, in Canada and Detroit in the U.S., as well as between Manitoba and North Dakota and at Coats in Alberta. The chair of the Ottawa police board called it a “nationwide insurrection,” and the Ottawa Mayor announced a “state of emergency.” Since then, the truckers demands have increased to dropping all Covid restrictions.. This is one of the strongest protests against the lockdowns and restrictions in the Western Hemisphere.

The Convoy is not made up only of anti-vaxers. It includes both vaxed and non-vaxed. Regardless of ones views on the Covid vaccine, it should be clear that the restrictions are being used against the

working class. As of February 11, thousands of New York City municipal workers have been fired (not just put on unpaid leave) if they are not fully vaxed. All progressive people should stand up against these anti-working-class measures.

Opposition to the Convoy Makes Strange Bedfellows

The Canadian and U.S. ruling class clearly opposes the convoy. Not only Trudeau in Canada, but U.S. officials, spoke out against the convoy.¹ They even confiscated the money contributed to the convoy through a GoFundMe campaign, claiming that they would either give the money back to the donors or hand it over to other “credible and established charities.”

But it is not only the ruling class that opposes the convoy. On February 6, the group Struggle for

¹ “On Thursday, the US Secretaries of Homeland Security and Transportation spoke to their Canadian counterparts ‘urging them to use federal powers to resolve this situation at our joint border and offering the

full support of our Homeland Security and Transportation departments’, a White House official said.” See <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-60342800>

Socialism – Lucha por el Socialismo² reprinted an article from the revisionist Communist Party of Canada, attacking the truckers and thus supporting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. They claimed that the convoy was “useful for the ruling class” and that the convoy was “filled with” Nazi and Confederate flags. But if one looks at videos of the convoy,³ the main symbol flown everywhere is only the Canadian flag.⁴

Also on February 10, General President of the Teamsters, the bureaucrat Jim Hoffa, put out a press release opposing the convoy and particularly the blockade of the border, saying it would “hurt workers and negatively impact our economy.”⁵ Imagine a genuinely progressive trade union leader opposing a strike because it would “hurt workers”!

Contradictions in the Movement against Forced Vaccinations

Among those declaring “support” is former President Donald Trump. But he is a racist demagogue who would claim support for any group that he thinks could win over to him. There is no doubt that there are many people with backward, even reactionary, views in this movement. Some are anti-communist because they think that measures imposed by **any** state are “communist.” But it does not help that groups which consider themselves socialist or communist support the imposition of such measures.

The primary viewpoint of those who oppose forced vaccinations is libertarianism.⁶ In the U.S., they believe that the height of progressive movements was in 1776, with freedom of speech, of assembly and the implied right to control one’s own body. As Marxist-Leninists, we support these rights, though we do

not consider them absolute. That is why we reprinted Engels’ *On Authority*⁷.

However, this does not mean that an imperialist state has the right of to impose measures, most of which have no effect on, and are not even meant to control, Covid. These measures are meant to control the population, and in particular to prevent a fight-back against the ongoing depression.

We should remember what Stalin said in 1952 at the 19th Congress of the CPSU: “Formerly, the bourgeoisie could afford to play the liberal, to uphold the bourgeois-democratic liberties, and thus gain popularity with the people. Now not a trace remains of this liberalism.... The banner of bourgeois-democratic liberties has been thrown overboard. I think that it is you, the representatives of the communist and democratic parties, who will have to raise this banner and carry it forward, if you want to gather around you the majority of the people.”⁸

Meanwhile, there are discussions for organizing similar convoys in the United States, tentatively planned for early March. Of course, these plans have been denounced as extremists by groups associated with the “mainstream” (bourgeois) media,⁹ and other socialist groups in the U.S. continue to attack the Canadian convoy. These groups should be embarrassed by the fact that some of the bourgeois media (for example see the nbcnews footnote below) blame “over-seas content mills” as being behind these “conspiracies” and compared these to their lies about Russian “interference” in the 2016 U.S. election.

However, those of us who do not trust either the U.S. government or its medical hacks will continue to support these protests.

² See <https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2022/02/06/freedom-convoy-a-dangerous-movement-for-the-working-class-but-useful-for-the-ruling-class/>. This criticism is not meant as an attack on this group as such, which takes many anti-imperialist and pro-socialist positions, but simply on their position on the convoy.

³ See, for example, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/02/05/canada-ottawa-trucker-vaccine-mandate-protest/>

⁴ If one attacked any demonstration that included reactionary elements, would one then attack the recent demonstrations against war with Russia because, at least in New York City, they included several members of the neo-fascist LaRouchites?

⁵ <https://teamster.org/2022/02/teamsters-denounce-freedom-convoy-blockade-at-canadian-border/>

⁶ According to Wikipedia: “Libertarianism is a political philosophy that upholds liberty as a core principle. Libertarians seek to maximize autonomy and political freedom, minimize the state; emphasizing free association, freedom of choice, individualism and voluntary association.”

⁷ See redstarpublishers.org/TMLUv2n5.pdf

⁸ See marx2mao.com/Stalin/SNPC52.html

⁹ See, for example, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/internet/us-trucker-convoy-picks-momentum-foreign-meddling-adds-fray-rcna15932>