

International Call - Pakistan: Release Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, withdraw false police cases

Friday 31 May 2019, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#), [Petition / Sign-on Letter](#) (Date first published: 30 May 2019).

On May 26, 2019 a peaceful procession in the Waziristan region led by Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar, both Members of National Assembly (MNAs), was fired upon by army men, leaving at least 13 dead and over forty injured.

Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar were elected as Members of the National Assembly (MNA) in the general elections held in 2018. They are also leaders of the Pashtun Defence Movement/Pashtun Tahfuz Movement (PTM), a mass social movement that emerged two years ago.

The PTM demands an end to military operations in the region bordering Afghanistan. This region is inhabited by ethnic Pashtuns. Their demands have brought them in conflict with the country's powerful military. For the last two months, the military spokesperson has been passing threats to the PTM. Besides, the media were publicly advised by the military not to give any coverage to the PTM.

These threats and media black out translated into a tragic reality on May 26. On the one hand, the peaceful procession was fired upon. On the other, media unanimously reported that the PTM activists led by Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar attacked a military check post and ensuing violence claimed the lives of three protestors besides injuring three soldiers.

Ironically, video footages ---filmed through mobile phones---have emerged. These videos clearly show that Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar were fired upon from behind. While people were falling to bullets, Ali Wazir, instead of running to safety, went back to help an injured comrade. As he approached his comrade, near the checkpoint, he was arrested by the military.

The next day, he was produced before the Anti-Terrorism-Court and remanded for eight days. Meantime, the entire opposition in the Parliament has demanded his release. He suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure.

There have been unconfirmed allegations of torture as well. In the event, even if he is released for now, his life remains threatened. Like the rest of the PTM leadership, he has been subjected to a vicious hate propaganda. He is being portrayed by the mainstream media and the military as a foreign agent, a traitor, and a terrorist.

Fact of the matter is, the PTM staunchly believes in non-violence while 16 members of Ali Wazir's family, including his siblings and father, were assassinated by the Taliban owing to his family's opposition to the Taliban. He emerged as a symbol of anti-Taliban struggle before the rise of the PTM.

We urge you to sign this petition for these democratic demands:

(1) The urgent release of Ali Wazir, Mohsin Dawar and their PTM comrades

(2) An end to vilification campaign against the PTM leadership

(3) Withdrawal of fake police cases under anti terrorist laws against Ali Wazir, Mohsin Dawar and the PTM members.

First signatures:

Serge Aberdam, historian, France

Fernando Acenio, Direção SEPE, Itaocara Teachers Union; Richard Clayton, Direção do SEPE-RJ Teachers Union; Felipe Duque, Direção do SEPE-RJ Teachers Union; Armino Lajes - Direção do SEPE-RJ Teachers Union, Rodrigo Teixeira, Direção do SEPE-RJ Teachers Union; Thaís Coutinho, Direção do SEPE, Regional III Teachers Union; Telma Luzemi, Direção do SEPE, Regional III Teachers Union; Rose Pinto, Direção SEPE, Petrópolis Teachers Union; Mara Cotinho, SEPE Porciúncula Teachers Union; Juliana Santos, SEPE Valença Teachers Union; Valdir Vicente, SEPE Nova Iguaçu Teachers Union; João Silva, SEPE Cabo Frio Teachers Union; Brazil

Gilbert Achcar, Professor, SOAS University of London, Britain

Ricardo Acuña and Marcela Miño, Board of Directors of the CTA Autónoma of San Migue, Argentina

Abdul Moiz Aftab, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

Rocío Agüero, delegate of the Sports Department of the UNLA, Argentina

Wanderleia Aguiar, coordenação Emancipar RJ Net of Popular School; Yure Marx, Coordenador geral do Emancipa Pádua/Itaocara Net of Popular School; Juliano Teixeira, coordenação Emancipar RJ. Net of Popular School, Brazil

Manuel Aguilar Mora, Liga de Unidad Socialista (LUS), Mexico

Umair Ahmad, Youth for Human Rights, Pakistan

Saeed Ahmed, Pakistan Trade Union Defense Campaign, Pakistan

Sofía Ahun, Secretary of the UTS, Argentina

Badrul Alam, Communist Party of Bangladesh-ML(CPBML), Bangladesh

Greg Albo, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, York University, Canada

Aabida Ali, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan

Farman Ali, Secretary Information, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan

Karamat Ali, Secretary, National Labour Council, Pakistan

Sohnia Karamat Ali, Montreal, Quebec

Raja M. Ali Saleem, Associate Professor, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

Wolfgang Alles, Trade unionist (IG Metall), Mannheim, Germany

Alejandra Almada, Secretary of the Student Center, Mauricio Ruisoto, Sociology Council member, Federico Quintana, Communication Council member, Lorella Morselli, Social Work Council member, UJS-PO, Faculty of Social Sciences (UBA), Argentina

Jorge Almagro, activist MOTOARG, Argentina

Yamile Almeida, ATE Ministry of Social Development of the Province of Buenos Aires Local Board, Argentina

Guillermo Almeyra, periodista y ex profesor universitario, Mexico-Argentina

Aymen Aloui, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Martín Álvarez, Board of Directors of SUTEP, Union of Workers of Public Spectacles, Córdoba, Argentina

Victor Amarilla, Socialist Convergence (La Verdad), Buenos Aires, Argentina

Alia Amirali, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan

Amar Amroussia, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Erick Andrade, Nathalie Drumond, Giulia Tadini, PSOL Brasília DF, Brazil

Anna Angus, Kilusang Maraliat sa Kanayunan (Kilos Ka), Mindanao, Philippines

Gilvandro Antunes, Julio Câmara, Bernardo Correa, Camila Goulart, Antônio Neto, Gabi Tolotti, Marcus Vianna, PSOL Porto Alegre RS, Brazil

Roger Aragão, Professor da Unifesspa, Brazil

Tamires Arantes, PSOL São José dos Campos SP, Brazil

Virgilio Arauz, leader of Propuesta Socialista, Panama

Felixberto Arazo, Chairperson, KILOS KA Lanao, Mindanao, Philippines

Valerio Arcary, Resistencia/PSOL, Brazil

Hüsnü Arkan, musician, Turkey

Cinzia Arruzza, Professor New School New York, USA

Shahzad Arshad, Revolutionary Socialist Movement, Pakistan

Saleha Athar, Member federal committee, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan

Gilbert Auguis, Chairperson, LMK - ZamPen, Mindanao, Philippines

Chafik Ayadi, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Uraz Aydin, Indépendant Journalist, Yeniyol (IV. Internationale), Turkey

Lionel Aymard, militant associatif, syndical et politique, France

Mishael Hyat Ayub, student/journalist, Pakistan

Ellahi Bakhsh Baloch, Development Practitioner and Human Rights Activist, Pakistan

Abulcair Balindong, Chairperson, MindanaOne Peoples' Movement (MindanaOne), Peace, Human Rights and National Minority Rights Advocate, Mindanao, Philippines

Ernesto Barbante, Liga ng Makabagong Kabataan (League of Alternative Youth), Mindanao, Philippines

Camila Barbosa, Pedro Maia, Júlio Pontes, Danilo Prisco, Tatiane Ribeiro, PSOL Natal RN, Brazil

Tarek Barrak, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Paweł Bartolik, journalist, translator, Poland

Joao Batista Araujo 'Babá', City council member of Rio de Janeiro y and leader of the Socialist Workers Tendency of the Socialism and Freedom Party (CST-PSOL), Brazil

Zain Baweja, Student, University of Oxford, Oxford/Pakistan

Christiane Baysse, La Riposte, Quincey, France

Bronwen Beechey, Fightback, Australia/New Zealand

Mondher Bel Hadj Ali, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Abdelmoumen Belanes, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Haykel Belgacem, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Pierre Bellenger, Fonctionnaire retraité de la Ville de Paris et syndicaliste CGT, France

Olmedo Beluche, Polo Ciudadano de Panamá, Panama

Ibrahim Ben Sâad, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Raúl Benavidez, General Delegate, Maximiliano Bares, Aeronáutico Local Board, Eva Perón, Local Board, Marta García, del Quemado Local Board, ATE Hospital, Argentina

Yigit Bener, writer, Turkey

Gregor Benton, Emeritus Professor, School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University, Wales, UK

Carlos Bernaldes, periodista, *Perspectivas Anticapitalistas*, Partido Revolucionario de las y los Trabajadores, Peru

Olivier Besancenot, Spokesperson, NPA, France

G rard Billy, trade-unionist (retired), France

Miquel Blanch, union delegate of adult education schools, member of the CCOO union tendency of Girona, LI member, Spain

H kan Blomqvist, Associate Professor, Su de

Sandra Bloodworth, co-editor of *Marxist Left Review*, journal of Socialist Alternative, Australia

Anthony Bobo, member of the NPA, France

Jos  Bodas, Secretary General of the Oil Workers' Unitarian Federation of Venezuela

Pascal Boissel, President of the Union syndicale de la psychiatrie, France

S mia Bomfim, Deputada Federal do PSOL SP, Brazil

Juan Bonatto, Human Rights Secretary of the AJB, Buenos Aires Judicial Association, La Plata Department, Argentina

Marc Bonhomme, Anticapitalist activist from Qu bec solidaire, Quebec

Myriam Boujbel, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Line Boulonne, for the lib ration of Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, France

Peter Boyle, Socialist Alliance, Australia

Tom Bramble, Socialist Alternative, National Tertiary Education Union (Life Member), Australia

Johanna Brenner, Emeritus Professor, Sociology Department, Portland State University, Socialist-Feminist, USA

Rosa Brodersen, Carlos Sacarello, Mar a Ram rez and Yamila Yafar, Delegates of ATE Education, Argentina

Diego Bruno, AGD-FILO, university teacher, Argentina

Ricardo Bruno, ATE Delegate of CNEA (National Atomic Energy Commission), Argentina

Gul Bukhari, freelance journalist, columnist, and human rights activist, U.K.

Marcelo Calvi o, ATE Ministry of Infrastructure Buenos Aires Province Local Board, Argentina

Fernanda Camargo, Dirigente PSOL/Curitiba e ex-candidata   co-governadora, Brazil

David Camfield, Associate Professor, Labour Studies & Sociology, University of Manitoba, Canada

Ivan Canoletto, PSOL Guarulhos SP, Brazil

Orallo Carlos, Socialist Workers Party, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Marcelo Caro, Andrea Segovia and Mart n Leyes, Delegates of SUTEBA La Plata, Claudia Ghergo and Marcela Castro, Delegates of SUTEBA Lomas de Zamora, Germ n G mez, SUTEBA Congress Delegate of San Isidro, Marcelo Iommi, Silvina Carbone and Cristina Santill n, Delegates of SUTEBA

Avellaneda, Liliana Mischoff, Silvia Puca and Gabriela Golletti, Delegates of SUTEBA Lanús, Patricia Ríos, SUTEBA Congress Delegate of La Plata, José Alejandro Zarauza, Lionel Rubén Del Horno, Mariana Aranda, Evelina Naveira, Mónica Baez, Mónica Morales, Mónica Gil, María Julia Ramírez, Grisela Rubies, Glasses Rubies, Emilce Cean, María Polizzotto, Liliana Mischoff, Silvia Puca, Gabriela Golletti, Samantha Rojas, Emilce Cean and Isabel Miszka, Delegates of SUTEBA Lanús, Olga Villarreal, Secretary of Political and Trade Union Training of SUTEBA Quilmes and Diana Thom, Secretary of Social Promotion and Tourism of SUTEBA Quilme, Argentina

Mabel Carumba, Chair, Laban Kababaihan (Women Fight!), Mindanao, Philippines

Gary Cartwright, Publisher, *EU Today*, European Union

Josemar Carvalho, Rede Emancipa de educação popular e dirigente do PSOL, Brazil

Yves Cassuto, teacher, member of FSU Union, Ecole émancipée, France

Jose Castillo, university teacher, AGD union leader, National Directorate of the Socialist Left, Argentina

Edgardo Castro, General Secretary of the ATE Subsecretariat of Labor CABA Local Board, Argentina

Samara Castro, OAB RJ Union LAYERS, Brazil

Romulo Cavalcanti, Presidente do PSOL Angra dos Reis, Brazil

Oktay Çelik, president of the Workers' Democracy Party, Gökem Duru, journalist, editor of Gazete Nisan, Turkey

Daniel Ceriotti, nutricionista, Uruguay

Fathi Chamkhi, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Gérard Chaouat, Emeritus Research Director at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France

Kunal Chattopadhyay, Professor of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, and Radical Socialist, India

Anuradha Chenoy, former dean at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India

Roy Chetty, retired tax auditor, activist for socialism, South Africa

Danielle Cheuton, trade-unionist, France

Orlando Chirino, National coordinator of the C-cura sindical tendency, ex presidential candidate of the Freedom and Socialism Party (PSL), Venezuela

Atakan Çiftçi, Education and science workers' union delegate (Eğitim-Sen), Turkey

Thiago Cocaro, Presidente do PSOL Saquarema, Brazil

Lucrecia Cocha, Luciana Echevarría, Pablo Londero and Néstor Gea, Departmental Delegates of UEPC, (teachers' union of Córdoba), Argentina

Marijke Colle, ecofeminist, SAP-GA, Belgium

Laura Colpachi, Researcher, Political Science, Argentina

Pierron Côme, trade unionist (retired), NPA, France

Terry Conway, Socialist Resistance, Britain

Raymond Coppin, President, Republican Association of Veterans (ARAC, Chenôve 21300) for Friendship, Solidarity, Memory, Antifascism and Peace, France

Philippe Corcuff, universitaire, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lyon, France

Jorge Costa, Member of the Parliament, Left Bloc, Portugal

Maurício Costa, Gabriela Ferro, Guilherme Fregonese, Paula Kaufmann, Julia Machini, Joyce Martins, Evelin Minowa, Pedro Serrano, PSOL São Paulo SP, Brazil

Max Costa, Coordenador da UNIPOP, Brazil

Christian Couverture, teacher trade unionist, France

Eduardo Cuzziol, Giovanna Marcelino, PSOL Campinas SP, Brazil

Randolf S. David, Profesor Emeritus of Sociology, University of the Philippines

Alex De Jong, Co-Director IIRE Amsterdam

Josep Lluís del Alcázar, public education union delegate, LI member, Spain

M. Esther del Alcázar, public education union delegate, LI member, Spain

Erin Dela Cruz, Yapak Cultural Art Group, Mindanao, Philippines

Christian Delarue, altermondialiste, responsable associatif, Rennes, France

José Deswarte, retired teacher, NPA, France

Sushovan Dhar, Radical Socialist, India

Leandro Dias, Presidente PSOL/PR, Brazil

Fiona Dove, Transnational Institute

Felicity Dowling, National Secretary, Left Unity, Britain

Bernard Dreano, cofounder of the Helsinki Citizens Assembly international network

Jacek Drozda, Independent researcher and labour activist, Poland

Enrique Alfredo Duarte Rodríguez, Partido Revolucionario de las y los Trabajadores, Mexique

Penelope Duggan, Editor *International Viewpoint*

Patrick Dupin, member of the NPA, France

Israel Dutra, Secretário de Relações Internacionais do PSOL, Brazil

Jérôme Duval, member of the CADTM Belgium

Lujan Echeverria, Professional Center for Human Rights, Argentina

Akhtar Ehtisham, retired physician, writer, peace and human rights activist, India / Pakistan / Britain / Canada /USA

Ponciano Elope, Alyansa ng Kabataan Mindanao para sa Kapayapaan (AKMK), Mindanao, Philippines

Faruk Eren, President, DISK Basin-is (Trade union of workers in the press, edition and printing sector), Turkey

Jorge Escamilla, investigador social, Mexico

Ahmed Essaddik, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Patrick Farbiaz, Ecologie Sociale, France

FATE Trade Union Alternative (Tire Union - Gray List), Argentina

Dianne Feeley, editor of the magazine *Against the Current*, USA

Ahmed Fekairi, retired, Algeria

Yiannis Felekis, Fourth internationalist, Greece

Gabriel Feltrin, Dirigente do Juntos/PR, Brazil

Enrique Fernández Chacón, ex national congress member, leader of Unios en la Lucha, Peru

Tiago Ferreira, sociologist, Spain

Fabiola Ferro, Secretary AGD-Philosophy, university professor, Argentina

Richard Fidler, retired lawyer, independent journalist and internationalist activist. Editor of the blog *Life on the Left*, USA

Alicia Flores, ATE Delegate of the Milstein Hospital (formerly French Hospital), Argentina

Fermin Flores JR.. - Executive Director , LAFCCOD Inc. - Lanao, Mindanao, Philippines

Leandro Fontes, Executiva Estadual do PSOL RJ, Brazil

Elea Foster, Fourth Internationalist, Greece

Pascal Franchet, President, CADTM-France

Mirna Freire, Executiva Estadual da CSP-Conlutas RJ, Brazil

Alex Fuentes, Socialist Party, Suède

Pedro Fuentes, Dirigente of the MES/PSOL, Brazil

Vanesa Gagliardi, Secretary of Ademys, teachers of CABA, Argentina

María Garbino, Delegate of ATE Anses / Pablo Lopardo, Board of Directors CTA Autónoma of Moreno, Argentina

Sara Carmen Gaspar, Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores (PRT), Mexico

Franck Gaudichaud, Lecturer in Grenoble Alpes University, France

Jean-Luc Gautero, Lecturer in Philosophy of Science, Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis, France

Joel Geier, International Socialists, USA

Luciana Genro, Movimento Esquerda Socialista, MES Socialist Left Movement, Deputada Estadual do PSOL RS, Brazil

Véronique Georget, member of the NPA, France

Sílvia Giese, Executiva Municipal do PSOL/Belém, Brazil

Juan Carlos Giordano, national congress member, Left Front (FIT) and Socialist Left national leader, Argentina

Enrique Gómez, leader of Movimiento al Socialismo, Mexico

Luis Carlos Gómez Pintado, airports union delegate (AENA), LI member, Spain

Gelsimar Gonzaga, PSOL Itaocara e ex-Prefeito prefeito da cidade, Brazil

Todd Gordon, Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford, Ontario, Canada

Oxley Greg, Director, magazine La Riposte, member of the PCF, Paris, France

Carlos Guanciarossa, Press Secretary of the Retired Center of ATE Province of Buenos Aires and General Secretary of the Mosconi YPF FETERA Association, Argentina

Gérard Gueniffey, retired, NPA Saint Nazaire, France

Axel Guerra, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, France

Sébastien Guex, Professor, Lausanne University, Switzerland

Shubhra Gururani, Professor, Chair, Department of Anthropology, York University, Toronto, Canada

José Gusmão, Member of the European Parliament, Left Bloc, Portugal

Laurent Gutierrez, professeur, member of the PCF and la Riposte, France

Anne Gutierrez-Vigreux, Conseillère Municipale de Longvic, France

Christian Haasen, Member Public Service Union Ver.di, Germany

Norbert Hackbusch, Deputy of The Left Party (DIE LINKE) in Hamburg State Parliament, Germany

Mouhamed Hamdi, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament),

Tunisia

Bouhbib Hamid, University Teacher, Algeria

Samia Hamouda Abou, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Walter Hanz, Dipl.-Ing., Hamburg, Germany

Health Care Workers Alternative, Argentina

Andy Heintz, author and freelance writer, United States

Lucía Helín, Board of Directors of AGD (university teachers) Philosophy and Letters, Argentina

Lars Henriksson, auto worker and union activist, Suède

Frederico Henriques, Fundação Lauro Campos, Brazil

José Luis Hernández Ayala, Coordinadora Socialista Revolucionaria (CSR), Mexico

Miguel Ángel Hernández, leader of the Freedom and Socialism Party (PSL), Venezuela

Ernesto Herrera, Correspondencia de Prensa, Uruguay

Alexander Hick, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, Hamburg, Germany

Alex Hinno, Member of the Comunitat Palestina de Catalunya, Catalonia

Helena Hirata, Emeritus Research Director at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France

Robert Hirsch, trade-unionist (retired), member of Ensemble !, France

Mourad Hmaidi, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Fritz Hofmann, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, Hamburg, Germany

Norbert Holcblat, economist, France

Annie Hsiou, Estevan Martins, PSOL Ribeirão Preto SP, Brazil

Andrej Hunko, MP for DIE LINKE (German Bundestag) and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Maryam Hussain, Retired professor at National College of Arts, Climate change activist, Pakistan

Gayaal Iddamalgoda, Solicitor, First Union, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Internationale Sozialistische Organisation (ISO), Germany

Maral Jefroudi, Co-Director IIRE Amsterdam

Taoufik Jemmi, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Nkosingithi Jikeka, National Coordinator of the United Front, Republic of South Africa

Daniel Johnson, writer and teacher, Turkey

Roger Jönsson, Socialist Party, Suède

Michael Joosten, Activist, the Netherlands

Bonn Juego, Academic, Finland/Philippines

Imran Kamyana, Editor of the online Urdu magazine *Roznama Jeddojehad*

Harsh Kapoor, founder and editor South Asia Citizens Web (SACW), India

Pierre Khalfa, Member of the Copernic Fondation and of the Scientific Council of Attac, France

Dr Lal Khan, editor *Asian Marxist Review*, Pakistan

Muhammad Khan, I condemn the brutality of a cruel state as a Muslim and Pashtoon, Britain

Nighat Saeed Khan, Women Action Forum, Pakistan

John Kirkland, Carpenters Local Union 167, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Sheema Kirmani, classical Bharatanatyam dancer, Tehreek Niswan (Women movement), Pakistan

Angela Klein, member of the SO et publisher of *Sozialistische Zeitung (SoZ)*, Köln/Cologne, Germany

Isabel Koifmann, sindicato Ecos, Uruguay

Stathis Kouvélakis, Reader in Political Theory, King's College, Britain

Zbigniew Marcin Kowalewski, researcher and editor, Warsaw, Poland

Masis Kürkcügil, historian, Yeniyol (IVth International), Turkey

Manon Labaye, NPA municipal councilor in Poitiers, France

Chantal Labiche, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, France

Salem Labyadh, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Federico Lafaie, SAP-Grenzeloos, The Netherlands

Angelica Lagunas, member of the Neuquen regional parliament, teachers' union leader, Socialist Left-Left Front (FIT), Argentina

Zied Lakhdhar, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia

Miguel Lamas, journalist, Cochabamba, Bolivia

Andrea Lanzette, Community Board of Director of CTA Autónoma and Congress Delegate of SUTEBA Lanús, Argentina

Agustina Larsen, President CECIM-UBA, Partido Obrero, Argentina

Marie Lassen, Member of the Leashership of the Red-Green Alliance, Denmark

César Latorre, General Delegate of the Italian Hospital-ATSA, Argentina

Sosa Laura, Delegate of Amsafe Santa Fe, Montenegro Claudia, Gaitán Maricel and Fernández Facundo, Delegates of Amsafe Rosario, Argentina

Daphne Lawless, Fightback, Australia/New Zealand

Juan Laya, Youth Section, Mindanao, Philippines

Patrick Le Moal, retired labor inspector, France

Left Voice, Sri Lanka

Fred Leplat, Socialist Resistance, Britain

Norma Lezana, General Secretary of the Association of Professionals and Technicians of the Garrahan Hospital, Argentina

Daniel Libreros, Movimiento Ecosocialista, Colombia

Marianne Ligou, Academe, member of Attac, France

Nelba M. Lihai, Chairperson, KASAMMAKA inc, Mindanao, Philippines

Zeneide Lima, Executiva Nacional do PSOL, Brazil

Sumanasiri Liyanage, Former Professor in Political Economy, University of Peradeniya, Left Voice, Sri Lanka

Anne-Marie Loop, actor, France

María Marta Lopes, Teaching Assistant of UTE, Argentina

Salvador López Arnal, colaborador de El Viejo Topo y de rebelión, Spain

Samuel López, Student Council member FMED-UBA, Partido Obrero, Argentina

Carlos Lordkioanidse, Former detainee disappeared, Argentina

Michael Lorenz, activist in the mouvement against climate change, Hamburg, Germany

Rhayane Lourenço, Coordenadora do Emancipa/Curitiba Net of Popular School, Brazil

Silvana Louzada, Dirigente Sindifrfj Teachers Union, Brazil

Michael Löwy, Emeritus Research Director at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France

Carlos Loza, Survivor of the clandestine detention center ESMA (School of Mechanics of the Navy), Argentina

Łukasz Ługowski, journalist, Poland

Bartosz Łukaszewski, sociologist, PhD, WULS, UKSW, Poland

Rob Lyons, International Solidarity Coordinator, Socialist Action/Ligue pour l'Action Socialiste, Canada

Ian MacDonald, Assistant Professor, Université de Montréal, Québec

Jeff Mackler, Socialist Action, USA

Rene Magtubo, chairperson, Partido Manggagawa, Philippines

Nicolás McNamara, Secretary of Youth of the CTA Autónoma of Santa Cruz and President of the Student Center of UNPA, Argentina

Bruno Magalhães, Observatório Internacional do PSOL, Brazil

Christian Mahieux, International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles

Khalid Mahmood, Executive director, Labour Education Foundation, Pakistan

Rechidi Mahmoud, General Secretary, PST, Algeria

Ana Mainer Martín, artist-musician, France and Spain

Jan Malewski, editor *Inprecor*

Nasir Mansoor, Deputy secretary general, National Trade Union Federation (NTUF), Pakistan

Jamil Maqsood, Director for Brussels & Eastern Europe. International Human Rights Council. An accredited NGO with the European Parliament.

Artur Maroń, Cultural Studies, University of Wrocław, Poland

Maroon List - Private Health Care Workers Association (FATSA), Argentina

Laura Marrone, teachers' leader and city council lawmaker of the City of Buenos Aires, Socialist Left-Left Front (FIT), Argentina

Marcelo Martínez, Delegate ATE SRT, Argentina

Jorge Martins, Coordenador da Rede Emancipa, Brazil

Szymon Martys, journalist, Poland

Cristina Mas, union delegate of the press workers, Internationalist Struggle member (LI), Spain

Alain Massalsky, Teacher, Ensemble Insoumis, France

Gustave Massiah, Cedetim, France

Yousaf Masti Khan, President, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan

Marisa Matias, Member of the European Parliament, Left Bloc, Portugal

Jany Maufrais, trade union and grassroots activist, Orléans, France

Amna Mawaz Khan, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan

Nenad Mecava, fine artist, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Roy T. Megio, Chairperson, I'M GLAD - ZamPen, Mindanao, Philippines

Fernanda Melchionna e Silva, Deputada federal do PSOL RS, Brasil

Richard Mellor, U.S. blog Facts For Working People, USA

Adriano Mendes, Diretor da UNE Union National Students, Brazil

Omar Menoni, obrero jubilado, Uruguay

Pedro Mercader, public education union delegate, LI member, Spain

Michel Metayer, for the freedom of Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, France

Lone Ree Milkær, Ph.D. student, Denmark

David Miranda, Deputado Federal do PSOL RJ, Brazil

Kamal Mitra Chenoy, Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India

Yorgos Mitralias, journaliste, Greece

Reynaldo M. Monteverde, Chairperson, Federation of Rural Organizations in Zamboanga Peninsula, Mindanao, Philippines

Claudio Mora, General Secretary of the CTA San Fernando and Delegate of FATE, SUTNA (tire workers union), Argentina

Felipe Moreira, PSOL São Paulo, Brazil

Marie-Thérèse Moreno, Jobseeker, France

Gippò Mukendi Ngandu, Sinistra Anticapitalista, Italia

Djermoune Nadir, Architecte/urbaniste, enseignant/Institut d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme Blida, Algeria

Mohammad Nafees, Freelance Journalist and Recherche, Pakistan

Pratip Nag, Radical Socialist, India

Ruben Navarro, Correspondencia de Prensa, Lyon, France

A. H. Nayyar, academic and peace activist, Pakistan

Diego Z. Neri, editor, *Bandiera Rossa* website, Italy

Olivier Neveux, University Professor, ENS de Lyon, France

Alvin John Neyra, Alyansa ng Kabataang Mindanao para sa Kapayapaan (AKMK), Philippines

Jolie Nieves, Sumpay Mindanao, Inc., Mindanao, Philippines

Colette Noë, activist for social and environmental rights, Louviers, France

Pablo Odriozola, Survivor of the clandestine detention center “Azopardo”, Argentina

Marga Olalla, Barcelona municipality union delegate, LI member, Catalonia, Spain

Honorio Oliveira, Executiva Estadual do PSOL RJ, Brazil

Liliana Olivero, ex member of the Cordoba regional parliament, Socialist Left-Left Front (FIT), Argentina

Lasse Olsen, Deputy Mayor, the City of Aalborg, Denmark

Geral Jan Omelio, Youth Section, Philippines

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Marcio Ornelas, Presidente do PSOL São Gonçalo, Brazil

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Luciano Palagano, Executiva Estadual CSP-Conlutas e militante MES/PR, Brazil

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Leonardo Nicolás Rando, ATE Delegate of the Ministry of Culture, Marcela Salas, secretary of tourism of ATE Lanus, candidate to sec for the Multicolor list of ATE, Daniela Saavedra, delegate of ATE Health Care, Argentina

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Dr Taimur Rehman, General Secretary, Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party, Pakistan

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Sukla Sen, Peace Activist, India

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Umar Shahid, Information Secretary, PTUDC, Pakistan

Ferida Sher, Activist (retired from Development activism), Lahore, Pakistan

Michał Siermiński, doctorant en philosophie, Pologne

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Cynthia Wright, Assistant Professor, Gender, Sexuality, Women's Studies, York University, Canada

Nora Zaldua, Massacre Commission of La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Susana Zaldua, Massacre Commission of La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Luis Zamora, Autodeterminación y Libertad, Argentina

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