

Statement: Solidarity with the uprising in Kazakhstan

Wednesday 12 January 2022, by [Organisations and Individuals \(international\)](#) (Date first published: 12 January 2022).

There has been a rapid and strong response to the circulation of this Kazakhstan solidarity statement. Very close to 200 signatures in almost 40 countries were collected in the space of just two days, with many prominent individuals and organisations.

We, socialists, trade unionists, human rights activists, anti-war activists and organisations have watched the uprising in Kazakhstan since 2 January with a sense of deep solidarity for the working people. The striking oil workers, miners and protesters have faced incredible repression. The full force of the police and army have been unleashed against them, instructed to 'shoot to kill without warning'. Over 160 protesters have been killed so far and more than 8,000 have been arrested.

We reject the propaganda of the dictatorship that this uprising is a product of "Islamic radicals" or the intervention of US imperialism. There is no evidence of that whatsoever. It is the usual resort of an unpopular regime - to blame 'outside' agitators.

Instead, the trigger of the protests was the rise in fuel prices. This was the straw that broke the camel's back, in a country where immense oil wealth exists side by side with terrible poverty and exploitation. It is also the result of the crushing weight of a brutal dictatorship on people's backs. This regime has liquidated all opposition parties, imprisoned and tortured trade union and human rights activists, and was responsible for a massacre of striking oil workers in Zhanaozen ten years ago.

The position of all the major capitalist powers is clear. Putin stands full square behind the regime. The Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) has sent 3,000 troops to Kazakhstan to intimidate protesters. Chinese President Xi Jinping also announced his support for the Kazakhstan government and claimed the unrest was the deliberate result of "outside forces."

The US administration has called for "restraint by both the authorities and protestors". The EU has similarly called on protesters to "avoid any incitement to violence" and called on authorities "to respect the fundamental right to peaceful protest and proportionality in the use of force when defending its legitimate security interests"!

Unsurprisingly, they all prioritise 'stability' for their oil companies who are benefiting from the exploitation of the natural resources and Kazakh workers.

In response to the class solidarity of the capitalist regimes, we respond with working class solidarity and commit to raise the following demands in our trade unions, parliaments and organisations:

- Solidarity with those rising up against the dictatorship in Kazakhstan
- End the repression of the protests

- Release all the detained protesters and political prisoners
- No to Russian and CSTO intervention - withdraw the troops now
- No to the hypocrisy of the EU and US who equate the revolt of the masses with the brutal violence of the regime
- Down with the dictatorship
- Support the call from oil workers for nationalisation of the oil wealth and major industries under workers' control
- Support the building of an independent trade union movement and socialist movement in Kazakhstan

Albania

Redi Muci

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International Socialist Organisation

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New Internationalist Left, NEDA

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JRCL (Japan Revolutionary Communist League)

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