



## **Stop the ten-fold expansion of the "US Ecology" waste plant located in Detroit!**

### **No to the poisoning of Detroit and its water system!**

A number of people and organizations with many different social and political views are united in the Coalition to Oppose the Expansion of US Ecology.

"US Ecology" is a cynically misnamed toxic waste processing facility operating in the middle of Detroit. It wants to expand its Detroit (North) location near Hamtramck by 10 times. It has its eyes on the huge profits to be made from hazardous and radioactive waste, including fracking waste from gas wells. This waste will be brought into the city, and transported through city streets. The liquid residue left after processing will be dumped into the Detroit sewers. The Detroit water system is not designed to deal with industrial toxic waste of this sort. Let's not let "US Ecology" make Detroit into a waste dump.

"US Ecology" has requested a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). MDEQ plans to approve the permit by September 30. That's not surprising: MDEQ goes along with just about anything that the polluters want. MDEQ Director Dan Wyant had to resign in 2015 because of the Flint water crisis. This year *Newsweek's* cover story on April 8 dealt with the horrible air pollution in River Rouge; it reported that MDEQ renews permits for companies that have violated them. In mid-July, Governor Snyder appointed Heidi Grether, a former oil company executive, to be the new head of MDEQ; Grether was a manager for BP America as it tried to dig its way out from under the huge Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. And now MDEQ wants to allow "US Ecology" to expand its waste plant.

It's up to the working people to oppose this expansion. The capitalists have opened up Michigan to large amounts of radioactive frack waste from around the country. Fracking is a dirty method of extracting natural gas; it destroys the land and it gives rise to a lot of toxic waste. Frack waste from other states is being

transported on truck, down our roads and into Detroit for processing. At "US Ecology", liquid residue from processing it is dumped into the sewer system, so the Detroit Waste water treatment plant will have to deal with it.

The expansion of "US Ecology" will worsen an already bad public health situation. Detroit is already carrying the toxic burden of the largest incinerator in the world and the 250 acre Marathon oil refinery. Now "US Ecology" wants to bring more hazardous and radioactive waste into the heart of our city, and more radioactivity into our public water system.

**The Detroit City Council passed a resolution on July 12, 2016 opposing the expansion of US Ecology.** But you know how politicians are: City Council didn't actually ban the expansion. So unless we mobilize widely, the permit will be granted anyway. What can we do to stop this expansion?

**\* Learn more at the website of the Coalition to Stop the Expansion of US Ecology: <http://coalitionstopuse.weebly.com>.**

\* Talk to friends, co-workers, and neighbors

\* Oppose the expansion of "US Ecology" in letters to

**Governor Rick Snyder.** Email: [Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov](mailto:Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov).

Address: P.O.Box 30013, Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Richard Conforti,** MDEQ Office of Waste Mgt. and Radiological Protection, email: [confortir@michigan.gov](mailto:confortir@michigan.gov). Address: MDEQ, 525 West Allegan St., P.O.Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909

**Mayor Michael Duggan,** Email: [mayorduggan@detroitmi.gov](mailto:mayorduggan@detroitmi.gov). Address: 2 Woodward Ave. Suite 1126, Detroit, MI 48226

\* Learn more about the environmental crisis facing us at [www.comunistvoice.org/00GlobalWarming.html](http://www.comunistvoice.org/00GlobalWarming.html).

\* Take part in the *Detroit Workers' Voice* email list (see back of this leaflet).

## **Support the struggle of the Syrian people to overthrow the Assad dictatorship!**

The Syrian uprising against the dictator Bashar al-Assad has lasted more than five years. The people have had enough of dictatorship after living through half a century of the rule of the Ba'ath party and its state of emergency.

Peaceful demonstrations against the rule of Bashar al-Assad began in February 2011; this was part of the Arab Spring. But the regime replied by shooting down demonstrators and imprisoning and torturing opponents. The result was a mass rebellion that swept across the country. Local Coordination Committees were formed in one town after another; thousands of soldiers deserted from the

official Syrian army to form the Free Syrian Army; militias also formed to fight against the regime. Thus the Civil War began. It has lasted year after year, while the regime dropped thousands of barrel bombs on civilians, devastated town and after town, systematically bombed hospitals and killed medical personnel, and gave the people the ultimatum to "starve or kneel".

The civil war would have been over long ago, and Assad would have fallen from power, but one outside power after another has intervened. Some want to prop up the Assad regime at all costs; others wouldn't mind seeing Assad fall, but want the outside

powers, not the Syrian people, to determine the nature of the next government. The theocratic regime of Iran has financed Assad's war and sent troops to kill the rebels. Russia provided Assad with heavy weapons to be used against cities, sent military advisors, and then began massive bombing last year. The murderous fundamentalists of ISIS have sought to carve out territory in Syria and establish their own hell on earth. The US government blocked the rebels from getting the weapons needed to fight the regime's tanks and aircraft. And so on.

But with incredible heroism, the Syrian people have persisted in struggle despite suffering immense casualties. Over 400,000 people, almost 2% of the pre-war population, have been killed. Many more have been wounded or imprisoned. Half the population has had to leave their homes, either being displaced in Syria or becoming refugees abroad. And yet the struggle continues.

## The crisis of the American left

Workers around the world naturally sympathize with struggles for democracy. So their impulse was to welcome the uprising against the brutal Ba'ath regime. But they have been held back by the fact that many left-wing organizations have opposed the struggle against Assad. The support for the dictator Assad by such groups as the Workers World Party or the United National Anti-war Coalition shows that something is really, really wrong with these groups. The left-wing is supposed to support democratic rights, not oppose them. Yet these groups find excuses for Assad or even organize trips to visit Assad. In the name of opposing war, these groups give aid and comfort to one of the worst wars of the present-day: the Syrian government's war on its own people. In the name of opposing intervention, these groups approve those interventions that benefit the Assad regime.

According to the supporters of Assad, the Syrian uprising is a U.S.-organized plot for "regime change". But they cannot explain why in two years of U.S. bombing in Syria, the U.S. and allies have only targeted ISIS, and never the regime and its foreign props. They can't explain why the U.S. "boots on the ground" in Syria are not there to help the rebels overthrow the Assadist dictatorship, but only to assist some groups in the fight against ISIS. They can't explain why the U.S. has made Syrians sign contracts saying they would NOT fight Assad, only ISIS, before providing any assistance. And these fraudulent anti-imperialists cannot explain why the U.S. and Russia coordinate their imperialist air wars, with the U.S. mostly bombing ISIS, and with Russia bombing the hell out of the rebel-controlled areas, and neither side interfering with Assad.

## Support the Syrian people!

Let's oppose the lies of the apologists for Assad. Let's listen to the voices of the Syrian democrats who have suffered incredible hardship. Accounts by them, such as the book *Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War* by Robin Yassin-Kassab and Leila Al-Shami, tell the story of the uprising against Assad. Let's understand how to really oppose imperialism in the Middle East. See articles on the nature of imperialism and the democratic struggle at <http://www.comunistvoice.org/00ArabSpring.html> and <http://www.comunistvoice.org/00Stages.html>.

Let's help improve the left-wing movement in the US by supporting the Syrian struggle. If we really want to fight US imperialism, we need to have solidarity with peoples who are rising in struggle. Our allies are the working people who are fighting against dictators, not organizations who back dictators like Assad.

The struggle against Assad is only one step in the struggle for freedom and a decent life. The fall of his regime won't bring utopia, but it will pave the way for class struggle in Syria and it will encourage people throughout the Middle East, and the world. It will pave the way for the peoples of Syria and elsewhere to take their fate into their own hands, rather than seeing their countries ruled by the small cliques of crony capitalists who benefit from dictatorship.

**Support the Syrian people against the Assad regime, ISIS, Russian and Iranian imperialist attacks, and U.S. imperialist manipulation! Let the Syrian people, and not a conference of outside powers, determine the Syrian government! ☐**

### For more about the subjects above, subscribe to the *Detroit Workers' Voice* email list!

To subscribe, which is free, send a request, along with your email address, to [detroitworkersvoice@yahoo.com](mailto:detroitworkersvoice@yahoo.com). Some of the topics that have been recently covered on this list include:

- Background to the civil war in Syria (August 31)
- Terry Burke vs the apologists of Assad (August 21)
- Down with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (August 18)
- Fracking: 150 years of poisoning the land (August 16)
- Two years after the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri (August 8)
- Enough! Justice for Alton Sterling and Philando Castile (July 18)
- About Assad's regime of murder (June 26)
- Stop sacrificing our health for industry! Demonstrate against MDEQ! (June 7)
- In support of the "Break Free from Fossil Fuels" protests (May 14)
- Earth Day 2016 revisited: the IMF and the World Bank push for the neo-liberal carbon tax (April 29)
- Oh no! The UAW accepts a third tier of lower-wage jobs in the 2015 auto contracts (Oct. 24, 2015)
- Support the BDS movement and the Palestine solidarity movement (September 4, 2015)
- The Navajo Nation and the toxic spill in the Animas River (Aug. 19, 2015)
- The political collapse of Syriza in Greece (July 16, 2015)
- Will Pan-Africanists support NUMSA, the huge South Africa union of metalworkers? (Feb. 15, 2015)
- Against those who, in the name of anti-imperialism, vilify the democratic movement in Hong Kong (Oct. 24, 2014)

### Read *Communist Voice* magazine

*Communist Voice* is a journal of revolutionary theory. It exposes the capitalist system, and also tackles the controversies facing activists. It upholds real Marxism-Leninism, which has nothing in common with the false "communist" regimes like the former Soviet Union, or China and Cuba, or with Trotskyism, Stalinism or Maoism. For subscription info, or to read recent issues of the journal in PDF form, visit the *CV* website.

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