

The Global Justice Movement and Imperialism Today

By Bhim Rawal*

Comrades, Delegates and Participants,

I am pleased to address this Asian Conference on Participatory Democracy and Alternative Forms of Popular Power. I, on behalf of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) and on my own, would like to extend our cordial thanks to the organizers, namely the *Laban ng Masa* (Philippines), Transform Asia and the Left International Forum (Sweden) for inviting us in this Conference. The theme and various subjects selected for the deliberations are very important for the contemporary world politics and social movement. I believe that the discussions and sharing in the series of seminars and workshops will bring fruitful conclusions and better understanding for the future global justice movement.

In Nepal, the Nepali people's movement launched last April has compelled the autocratic king to accept the people's sovereignty. The Seven Party Alliance, including the CPN (UML), and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) - CPN (M), had entered into a 12-point understanding before the mass movement. They again have signed a comprehensive peace accord after the success of the mass movement. Now the CPN (M) has joined the interim parliament and they will join the interim government in near future. The interim government will declare the date for the election of the constituent assembly that will take place in coming June. Thus, Nepal now has been moving towards the institutionalization of full sovereignty of the people to achieve democracy and social justice in practice.

Chairperson,

Now I would like to express our views on the topics of this plenary in brief.

1. The world is fast moving towards globalization in all aspects of human life. There are double facets of the globalization. One the one hand the globalization itself is the phenomenon created due to the ever-expanding transport and communication facilities. Trans-national movement of people and goods has made the scope of globalization very wide. The interrelation and interaction among human being of all continents is a kind of globalization of achievements and creation of human kind. These creations and achievements are the common heritage of human civilization. Thus, the globalization or interaction and interrelation among the people of different civilization, culture, religion, race and language is an important aspect of globalization. In this context globalization itself does not carry any negative connotation. Furthermore, globalization is itself neither bad nor good.

However, another face of globalization is characterized by the domination of super power and its allies in the world politically, economically, culturally and even technically. The scientific innovations and achievements made in many fields including in transport, communication, trade and education are not fully dedicated to make the life of majority of human kind prosperous for enriching humanity itself. It is rather misused for accumulation of power and wealth in the interest of powerful ones. The world of abundance is confronted with the ocean of deprivation, hunger, starvation, disease, illiteracy and violent conflicts. This is the disgusting aspect of

globalization that is sponsored by imperialism and its allies. It has created imperatives for a global justice movement of oppressed countries and the peoples the world over. Thus, a broad transitional social movement opposing "corporate globalization" is spreading and widening. The state system has been changed by globalization and by the creation of supranational political and economic institutions such as the League of Nations, the United Nations (UN), the WB and IMF. Over the same period, global justice has become an important issue in the world political philosophy. The UN System, from the very beginning, also had to accept the need of global justice in its universal declaration of human rights and economic and cultural rights of nations and peoples.

2. It must be a mind boggling question even for the proponents of the globalization that why every major meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), IMF and the WB is now the scene of conflict and turmoil? Why, according to the WB study, more than 2.8 billion people—46 percent of humanity on the earth live below the WB's per day \$ 2 poverty line despite several commitments of the powerful rich countries? A growing divide between the haves and have-nots has left increasing number of people in the developing world in dire poverty. Many more people are vulnerable to violence, diseases and starvation. Wide spread hunger and homelessness, alienation, illiteracy, disease, increasing wage gaps, crime and corruption have been serious concerns for every justice and peace-loving human being the world over. Voices for empowerment of society, security and self-determination, women's rights, peace and disarmament and protection of environment are continuously increasing in the world. Natural calamities both caused due to dynamics of planets and human behavior are further aggravating the miseries of the poor people. Nevertheless, the imperialism with hegemonic ambitions and powerful countries are spending huge money and resources for nuclear weapons and militarization. This situation calls for the need and importance of a strong global justice movement.

3. The philosophy of global justice, respect for earth, economy democracy, creativity at work and creation of abundance for everybody are very relevant to the countries and people who are deprived of their human rights politically, economically and culturally. If any one accepts that human being is free and equal, every one has to respect rights and dignity of every country and person. Justice and equality should be demonstrated by deeds not by mere words and rhetoric. It should be reflected in justifiable distribution system, creation of compatible institutions and policies to that regard. Support to tyrannical regimes, merciless exploitation of people and abuse of resources by the multinational corporations, plunder of weaker countries and sections of society can bring neither democracy nor justice. Such a situation always sows the seeds of discontent, conflict and war as amply seen so far in the annals of world history.

4. Democracy and peace requires justice and equality among nations and the people. Without democracy peace is not sustainable, without justice and equality democracy and peace are not achievable. Long-term peace needs properly structured societies based on the principles of social justice and equality combined with proper relationships with each other. This means a holistic approach embracing economic, social, cultural, humanitarian and environmental justice is necessary to attain the goal of global justice. A new world system is yet to be evolved for justifiable distribution of wealth and goods. Notwithstanding the powerful rich Western countries have pushed poor countries to eliminate trade barriers, but kept their own barriers, preventing developing countries from exporting their agricultural products. Same thing is happening to the intellectual property and patent rights. Imposition of conditionalities on developing countries by the West is common. Indiscriminate liberalization, privatization, structural adjustment and

several other policies have not brought prosperity in many developing countries but have ignited conflicts, chaos and rebellion in several parts of the globe so far. It is either a failure or exposition of those international institutions that are not only dominated just by the wealthiest industrial countries but by commercial and financial interests in those countries. The countries like Nepal have been the victims of those policies and institutions.

5. Countries and governments in the developing countries are forced and manipulated to pursue the prescriptions of the institutions like the WB and the IMF without looking into the internal dynamics and necessity of a given society. Pro-poor growth strategy is discouraged at the expense of populist poverty alleviation propaganda. Foreign aid, loan and direct investments are also not proved based on the principles of monetary justice. Strings are generally attached and the elite of the aid and loan receiving countries are obliged to follow the 'guidelines'. It has aggravated indebtedness, capital flight and brain drain in the developing world.

6. Pro-people development requires use of resources for public good, sustainability and transformation of society to democratic justice. Hither to history and experiences have shown that people's united and coordinated efforts are necessary both at national and international level to achieve people's sovereignty, democracy and social justice. Feudalists, imperialists and dictators have never easily accepted the rights of people in the world history. People's uprisings and revolutions have forced those rulers to abandon their anti-people policies or regimes. The people's movements and popular uprisings have also compelled imperialists to abandon their cronies and to accept the people's verdict in many countries. However, imperialism and their allies try to maintain their exploitation through domestic rulers and multinational corporations and international institutions at their best. Military build-up, nuclear armament, military alliance and promotion of puppet regimes are the manifestation of hegemonic imperialist policy. It has made the world more unsafe increasing inter-country and inter-people contradictions. Therefore, people's movement for global justice requires international solidarity and coordinated actions. Because the instruments of imperialism are of international character and they act globally.

7. The Communist Party of Nepal (UML)-CPN (UML), has been persistently fighting for people's democracy, social justice and equality in the country. The six-decade-long democratic movement of the Nepali people has uninterruptedly opposed the imperialist exploitation, interference and domination and championed for independence of countries and people in real sense. The movement is continuing.

The CPN (UML) is dedicated to social justice in every aspect of human life and wants to be a part of international solidarity and unity to achieve that goal. The Party always see the international seminar-workshops like this very important and a party of people's movement for justice and equality.

Chairperson,

I believe that our deliberations will further consolidate our solidarity for achieving people's democracy and social justice. I wish the Conference a complete success. #

**Presented by Bhim B. Rawal – Central Committee Member of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), at the Asian Conference organized by the International Left Forum and Transform Asia Gender and Labor Institute Inc. in Manila on January 30-31, 2007.*