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by the Organization for the Communist Party of the Proletariat

Albania: mass political protest



(This picture is not from the Scintilla article.)

Albania has been the scene of one of the largest mass protests in decades. The population took to the streets in the capital Tirana and in the region of Zvërnec, in the province of Vlora, protesting for weeks, shouting "Albania is not for sale".

The reason for the protests is the transfer of strategically important and protected coastal areas to foreign investment, as part of a \$4 billion luxury tourism project linked to Ivanka Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump, and son-in-law Jared Kushner.

The anger in the streets is not limited to this project. The protesters, who are demanding the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Edi Rama, are fighting against the spiral of corruption that is engulfing the country, the lack of transparency in purchasing and the worsening of poverty.

The trigger for the mobilization is that the government serves the interests of U.S. imperialism, not those of the popular masses. Another key factor is the worsening of poverty.

40% of Albanian workers live below the poverty line. The average minimum wage is around 300 euros, but the prices of basic necessities are exactly the same as in European countries. Rents are on average between 100 and 120 euros. Monthly inflation is 3.2% and is steadily rising. Unemployment benefits amount to only 90 euros. Albania continues to be subject to very heavy mass emigration.

Despite the intervention of the police, the Albanians who took to the streets, maintaining their determination in the protests that have lasted for over a month now, shout loudly that they will never allow the natural and historical heritage of the country to be ceded to imperialist capital.

It should be remembered that the island of Sazan, in addition to being a vulnerable ecosystem, is a strategic military point 100 kilometers from Italy, which allows for control of the Otranto Channel and the maritime access between the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. This is why countries such as fascist Italy and then the revisionist USSR tried to control this island. Now the Trans Adriatic Pipeline, the last section of the pipeline that brings gas from the Caspian Sea, also passes through there. In summer 2023, a year before Albania changed its protected areas law, Kushner visited the island with Grenell, former acting director of U.S. intelligence, and the Trump administration's central figure for the Balkans.

On that occasion, the Atlantic Incubation Partner presented a proposal to "develop large-scale tourism interventions in Zvernec and Sazan".

Kushner, however, did not decide to invest independently but through Affinity partner, a fund with a majority of non-US investors. The main investors belong to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The flows of money and investors behind the operation, however, remain obscure and opaque.

In September 2025, a public company "Albanian State Development and Real Estate" was established for the development of the project and the military costs for the reclamation of the island were transferred to the State.

These events triggered the just popular protest. The protesters also want the leader of the opposition, Sali Berisha, to go. They believe that all existing political factions are responsible for the current situation in the Land of Eagles.

The demands towards which the protest is moving are: a radical change in the electoral system; the repeal of the law on strategic investments, which regulates foreign investments in Albania and paves the way for the exploitation of the country; the formation of an independent technocratic government for one year, with the task of leading Albania towards transparent elections.

Some NGOs with international ties are trying to exert their influence by supporting the protests. The so-called "civil society", which is made up of bourgeois political organizations, "opposition" movements created, directed and financed by the bourgeois political parties and the great imperialist powers, aims to confuse and manipulate the popular masses.

Among these forces "Myaft!" stands out, which was created, directed and financed by the "Soros" fund and other groups of imperialist powers. These NGOs are not the absolute organizers, nor are they the only ones responsible for the actions, but they aim to control and orient the masses according to their own interests. While they try to lead the protests, they continue to support the current government.

European Union (EU) flags are also seen at the demonstrations. On the other hand, the conflict between the United States and the European Union on the global market and for the division of spheres of influence is also evident in Albania.

EU imperialism seeks to shape this popular movement according to its own interests and exert influence with the argument that "the country must reach EU standards". The European Union has publicly stated that it is in favor of respecting its environmental standards and supports the protest. From what point of view? From that of those who consider Albania part of their "backyard".

This position of the European Union is an expression of the antagonistic contradictions between it and US imperialism regarding the division of export markets and the control of raw material resources, for the export of capital, for the economic and territorial division of the world. These powers clash with each other for hegemony and global domination.

The interests of US and European imperialism are not fundamentally different. Both want to control the means of production, economic policies, oil and other resources of the Albanian subsoil. They are determined to take total control of the economic management of Albania which nowadays is a dependent capitalist country, governed and exploited jointly by EU and US imperialism.

We support the struggle of the Albanian people against imperialism, militarization and environmental devastation.

No to the sell-out of Albania!

We are sure that from today's struggles, in which the Albanian communists are intervening, the revolutionary movement for socialism will be reborn!