

Statement on Dissolution of the NCP-LC by the Former New York City Branch

Two days ago it was announced that the Liaison Committee for a New Communist Party was no longer in existence. After the Red Guards - Los Angeles (RGLA) announced their disassociation from the organization on April 5, 2016, the following day the remaining branches -- Philadelphia, Kansas City, and New York City -- made the decision that it no longer made sense to continue as comrade organizations. This damaging setback in the development of a national Maoist movement and party in the United States was a direct result of patriarchal gender practice perpetrated by member organizations. We, the former New York City branch of the organization accept the greatest responsibility in causing this setback, the perpetration of patriarchal gender practices, and liberalism in rectifying these practices.

The last few days have been earth shaking for the organization. The mass organization associated with the NYC branch is presently undergoing a dramatic change in leadership, and gender contradictions both related and unrelated to those propagated by our branch are being called out in unprecedented form. While it has so far been a painful process, at this point it is necessary for the survival of the mass organization as well as our branch. We must make it clear that the events unfolding now were entirely preventable had the cadre leadership practiced a correct proletarian feminist line. This is our principal failure.

On April 5 there were two documents released criticizing our branch, one by RGLA and one by Red Guards Austin (RGA). The document published by RGA presents a detailed account of the circumstances that led to their criticism, and while we unite with what they've said in the abstract, the details presented are a mixture of truth, half-truth, and factually wrong statements. At the same time, in the process of the shake-up of the last few days, details have been revealed to members of our branch which contradict certain accounts of situations reported to the branch general body. For this reason, we will not address the RGA statement point by point until we are completely certain of the full scope of the accusations against our organization. This much is clear though : our failure to more thoroughly isolate Freddy Bastone from the beginning of his vile predation on women comrades and former comrades is at the root of our failure as an organization. The admission of this fact is only the first step in his more complete isolation, and it's already been made clear to that the masses are ahead of us on this issue. The responsibility to follow through with this lies with us, and being at the epicenter of his influence we must take great care in ensuring the safety of the survivors whom he's harmed, along with others he has the capacity injure ; physically, emotionally, or otherwise. To anyone who might encounter Freddy Bastone, let it be known that he is dangerous and not to be trusted in any capacity.

Likewise, with the criticisms raised against us by RGLA we unite completely on an abstract level regarding our branch's majority gender practice, their criticism of intraorganizational secrecy, and the centrality of gender struggle to Maoist communist politics. A response to the first point they present can be found above. To the others, we must make the following points :

1. RGLA had national leadership of the NCP-LC at the time of their resignation. This meant they had the bureaucratic means at their disposal to advance the debate on gender practice. Their resignation gave the impression they were sidelines or somehow unable to exercise line struggle. This is factually incorrect. Their resignation was a retreat, not an advance, in getting gender practice rectified.
2. On a practical level, RGLA was aware and part of a transparent process of investigation on an issue not directly related to Freddy Bastone. Their mistrust of this process was never communicated to the NYC branch membership. The day before the resignation they were informed and part of a process to investigate a coverup of a sexual abuse allegation. They did not raise any criticisms in this regard.
3. The NCP-LC was not a democratic centralist formation, but a center for collectives and emerging collectives to develop joint politics and joint practice as part of building together towards a party. Member organizations of the LC had the right to practice DC on their own terms internally. We feel RGLA should have publicly or privately criticized the NYC branch with the clear condition that splitting was a near possibility. Instead they engaged in the same secrecy they criticized.
4. The NYC branch has been reshuffling its internal process and leadership structure since allegations were recently made against the leading cadre. Partly as a result of the RGLA declaration and partly as part of a preexisting process of investigation (of which RGLA had knowledge contrary to their claim of secrecy). The branch leadership in NYC as well as fractional leadership in the student work has been replaced.
5. There is no doubt the overarching issue is the need, not only of gender rectification in the NYC branch, but also the liberal and centrist position of the former branch leader and the majority of the branch on this issue.
6. In choosing to abandon the LC without previous notice, RGLA has fallen into gender opportunism: they have valued an abstract adherence to the spoken word over a concrete adherence to supporting women and non-men in the NYC branch politically and organizationally. It is the classic position of men beating other men with the pain of women and non-men. Women and non-men also engage in this retreat -- it is an issue of political line not identity.
7. Time will tell of the RGLA position is a principled one or not. We remain in contact with them and are open to discuss and even redevelop the project. The task is to construct the Party and the process will never be a straight forward one.
8. On the issue of the investigation mentioned in point 2, without a national body to hold us accountable we cannot conduct an adequate investigation into the allegations brought against two of our presently suspended members. The general membership body of the Revolutionary Student Coordinating Committee (RSCC) has decided that they will continue their own investigation into the allegations brought against these two men. We fully support the decision of the RSCC general body to continue the investigations into the allegations of abusive gender practice by Tafadar Sourov and Khalil Vasquez. We stand behind RSCC's ability to ensure accountability to the survivors.

It must be stressed that the circumstances leading to our admission of guilt to these crimes of revolutionary practice should not have been required to rectify the majority behavior of our branch. Maoists must engage in a constant cycle of criticism, self-criticism, and rectification; and in this regard we have failed. Patriarchy and liberalism are poisons to proletarian

revolution. Furthermore, an admission of guilt alone is not enough, as a radical transformation in our practice is required. The process of transformation will undoubtedly be a tumultuous one, as we will likely see further shifts in our leadership and composition. It is important to deepen our ties and accountability to the masses, comrades, and former comrades that we've lost due to our branch's patriarchal behavior. None the less, we shall continue on as a collective, albeit a reduced one, as we remain dedicated to the task of building the Party and winning political power for the oppressed and exploited masses.

Dare to struggle, dare to win.