

On the Dissolution of the Revolutionary United Front and the way forward

The RUF began as an attempt by communists to unite with the masses in their daily struggles and as a beacon to rally the broader left. During its existence, many of us involved in the group gained a great deal of experience and learned many lessons as we tried to move ahead with our stated goals. However, we came to realize that the form and political nature of the RUF was not conducive to these goals. While conceived as a (revolutionary) united front, i.e. a united front with the potential to win victories for the people in the course of a larger struggle for revolution, it was also conceived as a united front of revolutionaries. This approach amounted to trying to form something halfway between a mass organization and a cadre organization.

It was seen as an alliance of principled revolutionary minded people, who saw the need to not just organize against the day to day needs of the people, but against the broader capitalist system. However, such principled people were hard to come by. We had greater luck building solidarity and building revolutionary consciousness among those involved in day to day economic and political struggles, or those who earnestly wanted to contribute to such struggles. At the same time, the call for a broad based revolutionary alliance in effect left the door open for liberal approaches to revolutionary strategy that in effect reduced revolution to its opposite, tailing behind bourgeois reformers. Ultimately, many who we tried to work with rejected the need to advance the struggle among the people, but not explicitly. They cloaked this sort of politics in posturing and sloganeering, which is all too typical among the U.S. left, especially in online circles. Hence what was emerging was a non-revolutionary united front.

In order to move forward and rectify these errors, we decided to dissolve the RUF. Several comrades involved in the RUF's quarterly publication, Red Star, have joined a new effort, "The Uprising," which better serves the needs of the people at present. We will continue organizing, but not under the RUF banner.