Walking in the shoes of struggle

By Jiselle Hanna

I was lucky enough to get my hands on an advance copy of *Talking Back*. I read it from cover to cover and found myself walking in the shoes of many of the comrades who have contributed to this publication.

As an internationalist and a socialist that devotes most of my time to organising internationally, I was particularly interested in the section, “A global lens.”

This section starts off with a piece from Maya Gonzalez, an undocumented migrant woman from Guatemala. Gonzales recounts her experiences of being a revolutionary in Guatemala, and I was reminded of the risks and dangers many activists face in their struggle for a better world. Like her comrades in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Colombia and many other parts of the world, Gonzales risked being extra-judicially executed or disappeared, for being a communist, and then faced racist oppression and discrimination as a migrant in the United States.

The pieces by Palestinian political prisoner, Farouk Abdel-Muhti, the statement by the National Comrades of Color Caucus arguing class warfare underpins the publication of anti-Muslim cartoons and the interview by Tamara Turner of Israeli-born socialist feminist, Raya Fidel, speak to issues very personal to me. I am an Australian-born Egyptian woman. These articles tell the stories and put forward a perspective on the current racist and Islamophobic offensive of governments across the world and remind us why we must keep up the fight.

*Talking Back* is being launched in Melbourne, Australia in May when I will be in South Korea, offering solidarity to the workers there who are facing the biggest fight of their life against the union-busting campaign of the Park administration. If I was at the launch, I would congratulate and commend the producers of this publication, encourage everyone to get a copy, and remind ourselves that whilst the fight for a better world is critical, so too is telling our stories.

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