



Beware U.S. imperialism's war on Iran!

WW STATEMENT

Will the escalation in bombing by the U.S. and British air forces against people in Syria, Iraq and Yemen lead to a regional war with Iran?

Despite declarations from President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin that they seek no war with Iran, every day the genocide in Gaza continues brings that war closer. Every bomb and rocket the U.S. Air Force launches against the region expands the war.

The leaders of U.S. and British imperialism will claim they are “retaliating” for attacks on ships or the killing of three U.S. soldiers. The corporate media will blame “Iran-backed terrorists.” The truth is otherwise.

Workers World warns our readers to refuse to believe a word from Biden, Blinken and Austin regarding war. Refuse to believe the corporate media. They lie.

They form the Executive Committee of U.S. imperialism, which leads all of the capitalist countries that exploit human labor and plunder natural resources around the world. That's why there are 800 U.S. bases in at least 80 countries. That's why U.S. warships police the world.

The imperialist ruling class dominates the military, financial, media and communications arenas to enforce its exploitation worldwide. Wherever this domination is challenged, there is no crime they won't commit to protect and increase the profits this system produces, including waging war.

It was telling that many solidarity messages

to the Lenin Centennial held in New York City Jan. 21 focused on imperialism. According to Lenin, imperialism means war.

The International Court of Justice found the charge of genocide against Israel plausible. A U.S. federal court found charges of U.S. complicity with genocide plausible.

That means that the Axis of Resistance — anti-imperialist forces in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Iran — have not only the legal right, but the responsibility to obstruct Israel's genocidal acts. And to obstruct Washington's genocidal complicity.

The Ansarullah government of Yemen, for example, says Israel must cease the genocide or Yemen's fighters will harass ships using the Red Sea to supply Israel. Because the Yemenis are trying to stop genocide, the U.S. and Britain are bombing them.

Because other forces in the Axis of Resistance have fired on U.S. bases in the region, the Pentagon targets them. And the U.S. military threatens Iran with war.

The U.S. is on the verge of a war of aggression against Iran. The imperialists also target Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iraq. Biden and his cronies threaten to sacrifice millions of people in West Asia and thousands of U.S. soldiers to protect and expand imperialist profits worldwide, as well as to allow

Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Israel, despite all its killing, is losing the battle to conquer Palestine. Washington has lost much of its remaining political capital in the region. Israel and the U.S. ruling officials are trying to reverse these losses by employing ever greater force and destruction.

The lesson for the multinational working class in the United States is to prepare for a prolonged battle against the imperialist ruling class of the U.S. and its allies. To start out, don't believe a word the U.S. officials say. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Protesters like these young people in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Feb. 5, 2024, will have to continue targeting U.S. intervention in West Asia to stop the drive to imperialist war.

Stop defunding UNRWA!

Since October 7, the Israeli genocidal assault against Gaza has taken place on numerous fronts and all have been connected in one way or another with the fascist ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. One of those most recent fronts has been the targeting of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The U.N. established UNRWA in

1949 — one year after the Nakba or catastrophe — which violently uprooted an estimated 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland to set up the Zionist settler-colonial state of Israel.

UNRWA has provided food, water, medical and other vital services to nearly six million Palestinians who have had refugee status inside and outside their occupied homeland

for four generations.

Since October 7, some 1.9 million Palestinians in Gaza have been displaced, along with the massacre of over 27,000 civilians, almost 40% of them children. As if these numbers were not horrifying enough, Israel has gone a step further. It is attempting to destroy UNRWA by claiming that a dozen of its workers were Hamas members involved

Palestinian resistance condemns U.S. attacks on Syria and Iraq

The following statements from Palestinian resistance forces appeared on Resistance News Network, Feb. 3, 2024, in response to the recent U.S. attacks on Syria and Iraq. To read more statements go to workers.org.

Hamas – Islamic Resistance Movement

We condemn in the strongest terms the U.S. aggression on both Iraq and Syria, considering it a dangerous escalation, an infringement on the sovereignty of the two Arab countries, and a threat to their security and the stability of the region, serving the expansionist agenda of the occupation and covering up its horrific crimes against our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

The administration of U.S. President Biden bears responsibility for the consequences of this brutal aggression on both Iraq and Syria, which pours oil on the fire. We affirm that the region will not witness stability or peace unless the Zionist aggression, the genocidal crimes, and the ethnic cleansing against our people in the Gaza Strip are stopped, and the Nazi, Zionist occupation of our Palestinian- and Arab-occupied lands is ended.

This requires Washington to review its aggressive policies and respect the

sovereignty of states and the interests of the Arab peoples, who will not stand idly by as our people are subjected to genocide in full view of the entire world.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Central Media Department

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine strongly condemns today, Saturday, the heinous U.S. aggression that targeted Iraq and Syria, affirming its full support for both countries and their right to respond to this aggression.

The Front emphasized that this criminal and blatant U.S. aggression came to protect the Zionist entity, which is struggling and drowning under the blows of resistance in Gaza, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria. It also underscores direct U.S. involvement in aggression against the Arab nation and its partnership in the genocidal war waged by the Zionist enemy against our Palestinian people in Gaza.

The Front stressed that this aggression has not and will not succeed in achieving its goals or dissuading the two sisterly countries from performing their national duty in



Representatives of united Palestinian resistance organizations.

serving the causes of the nation, supporting the Palestinian people, and confronting Zionist and U.S. aggression against our Arab peoples.

The Front concluded its statement by reaffirming that the resistance factions on all fronts are determined to continue the fight until the cessation of the Zionist genocidal war against the Palestinian people, to halt U.S. aggression against our Arab peoples, and to counter its unlimited support for the Zionist entity in its war against the Palestinian people.

These statements were lightly edited.

Stop defunding UNRWA!

Continued from other side

in the October 7 mission that took about 250 Israelis prisoners to bargain for the release of thousands of illegally detained Palestinian prisoners.

The accused workers have been fired while an investigation is taking place. Before these accusations were made in late January — with no evidence presented — over 150 UNRWA workers, including some named in the accusations, had been killed in Israeli airstrikes. In a clear violation of international law, no official investigations have been announced at this time into these killings.

This agency is dependent on the financial contributions made by many countries of nearly \$1.5 billion in 2023 to keep its services functioning to support the basic needs of displaced Palestinians. Many governments have used these latest claims by Israel as a pretext to withhold their contributions to UNRWA, led by Israel's biggest backer, the United States, along with Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Canada, Australia, Austria and Finland.

In total, \$440 million has been withheld.

Countries that refused to defund the Agency include China, Spain, Ireland and Norway, as well as the European Union. Belgium, which refused to defund the UNRWA, has paid a heavy price for its stance. According to numerous sources on X (formerly Twitter), on Feb. 1, Israel bombed and completely destroyed the building belonging to the Belgian Agency for Development Cooperation (Enabel) in Gaza in retaliation for continuing its support for UNRWA.

Portugal announced that it will be sending an additional \$1.1 million donation, along with the already \$4.4 million sent in 2023. The South American government of Guyana has pledged \$150,000 to UNRWA.

The Chinese government made a plea to countries to continue their support of UNRWA. In a Feb. 1

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press briefing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin stated that the agency has “made important efforts in easing the humanitarian situation in Gaza, playing an indispensable and irreplaceable role.”

He continued, “We call on the international community, especially major donors, to prioritize the lives of the people in Gaza, reconsider the decision to suspend funding and continue to support the work of UNRWA.” (tinyurl.com/3a6hser6)

Wenbin stated that “collective punishment” against the people in Gaza should be avoided.

All efforts must continue worldwide to provide the emergency humanitarian aid that is so desperately needed to reach the starving people of Gaza — and which the Israelis are purposely blocking — including demanding more funding, not less, for organizations like UNRWA. □



PHOTO: MIDDLE EAST MONITOR

Protest demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, London, Feb. 3, 2024.