U.S.-Israeli ‘steal of the century’

Palestinians reject land theft

By Monica Moorehead

Palestinian organizations have issued a strong joint condemnation of the so-called peace plan, aka colonial “deal of the century,” from the Trump administration. It is supported by the racist, Zionist Israeli regime led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This misnamed “Vision of Peace” announced by Trump Jan. 28 calls for Israel’s annexation of all stolen Palestinian lands taken during the 1967 war and the illegal expansion of Zionist settlements from the West Bank to the Jordan Valley.

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By Monica Moorehead

This annexation includes historical holy sites inside East Jerusalem on the West Bank where the U.S. had threatened to move its embassy from Tel Aviv since 2007. Washington moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018.

Under the phony guise of a “two-state solution,” this annexation will, in essence, force the already displaced Palestinians onto just 15 percent of their occupied lands — after Israel has already seized their most arable agricultural lands and best water sources.

Trump’s plan — justifiably characterized as the “steal of the century” — is a blatant slap in the face to the Palestinian people’s right to liberation and self-determination. It is the latest blow in the continuing onslaught against the Palestinians which started when they were brutally displaced by the U.S.-backed Israeli state established in 1948.

Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, was given credit for being the “architect” of this “deal.” In response to the Palestinians’ rejection of the plan, Kushner arrogantly stated, “The Palestinians probably need a little bit of time to take a cold shower and to kind of digest the plan.” (Middle East Eye, Jan. 28)

Palestinian people voice opposition

Even before Trump’s announcement became official, members of three different Palestinian political currents, Hamas, Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, held a united demonstration in Gaza, known as the largest open-air prison in the world.

Ismail Radwan, a member of Hamas’ political bureau, commented: “The security coordination with the Israeli occupation must be stopped. We are running out of choices and all options on how to respond to this deal are now on the table. Palestinians have been deprived of their rights for decades and they will not let this [deal] pass without a fight.” (Middle East Eye, Jan. 28)

In the days following Trump’s announcement, protests occurred in solidarity with the Palestinians not only in the Occupied Territories of Gaza and the West Bank, but in refugee camps in Jordan and Pakistan. At demonstrations in Beirut, Israeli flags were burned in front of the U.S. Embassy. There were also solidarity protests in Canada, Europe, New Zealand and the U.S.

The Palestinian Authority—which has been policing the borders between Israel and the West Bank, while cooperating with the CIA—reportedly cut all ties with Israel and the U.S. In an emergency summit with the Arab League in Cairo, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas stated Feb. 1: “We’ve informed the Israeli side ... that there will be no relations at all. We’ve informed the Israeli side that there will be no relations at all....” (Middle East Eye, Jan. 31)

Continued on page 12
Beginning in the fall of 2019, anti-war and progressive activists became increasingly concerned that the United States had weaponized its control of the dollar. Using a form of economic warfare, the U.S. had imposed sanctions on 39 countries. Among them were Zimbabwe, Libya and Mali in Africa; Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela in Latin America; Syria, Yemen and Iran in the Middle East; Myanmar and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in Asia; and Belarus and Russia in Europe.

A group of activists, who were working on anti-sanctions campaigns in particular countries or areas, joined together as the Sanctions Kill Campaign and started meeting to plan an international campaign to oppose all the sanctions imposed by the U.S. In 14 different languages, they have issued a call for demonstration and a week of action for March 13-19 and have drawn an international response.

The most recent organizing meeting, held Feb. 5 at the Solidarity Center here, was chaired by members of the December 12th Movement and the International Action Center, and attended by representatives of the Venceremos Brigade, CODEPINK, the Venezuelan Embassy Protectors Collective, Peoples Power Assembly-New York City and Socialist Action; members of the Ecuadorian, Honduran and Palestinian communities; and progressive unions, including the National Writers Union (UAW Local 981) and Professional Staff Congress.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gamed down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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Marxism, Reparations and

The hearts of millions of New Yorkers went out to Malaysia Goodson and her family. Anyone who has taken the city’s subways for over a month has either been in the same situation or witnessed or helped others struggling with steep, sometimes wet and icy stairs. This subway system is notorious for its lack of accessibility, with less than a quarter of its stations equipped with elevators and chronic breakdowns of the existing elevators.

Within 48 hours of Malaysia Goodson’s fatal fall, the hardest fighters for the installation of elevators—leaders in the disability rights community, many of them wheelchair users—acted. They mobilized for a vigil and protest at the station where the young mother fell.

People with disabilities have been the most consistent force to remember Malaysia Goodson’s death and publicize Goodson’s family. Public sentiment for Goodson was massive following her death. However, it has been those daily oppressed by the Metropolitan Transit Authority—wheelchair users and others with disabilities who refuse to accept being locked out of the subways—who have been among the vanguard, along with her relatives, in keeping the young mother’s name alive.

One year after Malaysia Goodson’s death

This year, the same forces who organized last year’s vigil and protest held a demonstration outside the New York State Supreme Court building on Jan. 28, in recognition of the one-year anniversary of Malaysia Goodson’s death. The action was held there because the date coincided with a hearing on the historic subway elevator class-action lawsuit. The suit calls out the MTA for its lack of accessibility as a violation of the city’s Human Rights Law and demands the installation of elevators in every subway station.

These activists used the date to crystallize their demand that the MTA “put it in writing.” In other words, the agency can’t just announce plans and promises for accessible subway stations, it must sign a legally binding agreement with a timeline that mandates the installation of elevators.

The Jan. 28 action was called by The People’s MTA, Rise & Resist, People’s Power Assembly-NYC, the Straphangers Campaign and the Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled. Members of Disabled In Action, TransitCenter, UP-STAND, an advocacy group for pregnant women and families, and other organizations, participated.

The protest attracted union support, including Alicia Smith, of Communication Workers (CWA) Local 1180’s Committee on People with Disabilities, who spoke.

Melissa Enama Bair, a parent representing UP-STAND spoke, as did NYC Councilmember Helen Rosenthal. NYC activist Judith Haider brought her toddler in a stroller. “Fund elevators, not more cops!”

After the demonstration, 50 protesters packed the courthouse. Ten wheelchair users lined one end of the room. As determined as the MTA is to drown this case in lawyers and legal-wrangling, mobility impaired fighters for accessible public transportation are equally determined. They have shown up for every hearing to pack the courtroom. Anger at the racist cops who serve Wall Street and corporate interests, and terrorize subway riders, boiled over into mass rebellions throughout the city on Jan. 31. For the third time since November, the media dismiss the “FTP” protests as “van- dalism.” But protesters’ militant tactics stand in stark contrast to going through “proper channels” in the courts.

Now in its third year, the legal case presents a just demand, yet it is crawling through the legal system. The Wall Street-backed MTA is stalling and delaying the provision of this vital public need by pay- ing millions of dollars to the high-priced law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

The Goodson case is an example of how public transportation—supposed to be a public service—becomes transformed under capitalism into an oppressive insti- tution that is used to serve the rich and foster racist disregard for oppressed and working people.

One injustice after another

The MTA, a profit-making corporation, has lied, obscured and done everything to avoid providing working elevators in the subway system for years. When Malaysia Goodson’s death resulted from their inaction, the MTA refused to even contact her family to offer sympathy or compensation. The officials hid behind a bogus medical examiners’ report that claimed she had a thyroid condition that made her fall. The report took five months to complete, but it was used to explain away the cause of the death in media headlines a mere two days after the needless tragedy occurred.

Even the local coverage of the Jan. 28 action referred to Malaysia Goodson as a rider “with medical problems.” Activist Colin Wright of TransitCenter answered this slander at the rally, covered by NBC’s local news that day: “No person with a ‘medical issue’ should be forced to use the stairs. If the subway system had been accessible, we think Malaysia Goodson would be alive today.”

Justice for Malaysia Goodson: Subway elevators NOW!

By Tony Murphy

Malaysia Goodson, a 22-year-old African-American mother, fell down the stairs in a New York City subway station while carrying her baby in a stroller on Jan. 28, 2019. Her baby survived. She did not.

Workers and community groups held a spirited rally in front of the office of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Jan. 30 to protest his veto of the Securing Wages Against Theft Bill. SWEAT legislation would give tools to work- ers and the New York State Department of Labor to stop bosses from transferring and hiding their assets to cheat workers out of the pay they owe them. (sweatnys.org)

Protesters demanded, “Wage Theft Commander-in-Chief” Cuomo—who has shown he would rather aid and abet criminal bosses who refuse to follow labor law than workers—should right his wrongs and support the reintroduced SWEAT bill, A9008/S7256. The rally was organized by members of the SWEAT Coalition, grass- roots organizations, workers centers, legal service pro- viders and advocates, who are fighting to ensure workers in New York state are able to recover the wages which employers owe them.

New York

Stop wage theft!

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On the
picket line
By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

St. Louis janitors ready to strike for $15 an hour

Some 2,100 Service Employees (SEIU) Local 1 janitors in St. Louis voted to strike on Jan. 30, the last day of their current contract. The workers could walk off the job any day now at major buildings like St. Louis County facilities, U.S. Bank Plaza, Bayer, Boeing and the Wells Fargo building. Many workers are struggling to raise families on wages as low as $10 an hour — so low they need public assistance to pay bills.

The janitors, majority African Americans, staged a strong civil disobedience action the morning of Jan. 27 at the major midtown intersection of Washington Avenue and North 7th Street. Many protesters held signs reading “Honor King. End Racism,” linking their low pay to the fight for racial equity. As the St. Louis American reported, “The racial income gap in the St. Louis region has grown by more than 10 percent since 2010, with black families three times more likely to live in poverty than white families.” Aisha Bell, a single mother with two teenage children, says she needs to work another full-time job on top of full-time janitorial work cleaning the trading floor at Wells Fargo.

Janitors say they’re fighting for One St. Louis, a region where all working families can support themselves with at least a $15 wage and good union jobs. Both the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and St. Louis County Council passed resolutions supporting janitors negoti- ating for a $15 wage. Mayor Lyda Krewson signed an executive order Jan. 17 for a new $15 an hour minimum wage for city civil service workers. (Labor Tribune, Jan. 30) Stay tuned.

Negotiations continue for grocery workers in D.C. area

Local 400 of the Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area has been in negotiations for a new contract at Giant and Safeway stores since September. Their goals are “wages we can live on, schedules we can depend on, health care we can afford and retirement we can count on.” (OTPL, Dec. 8)

A few days after meeting, a contentious bargaining, a federal mediator urged both sides to take a cooling off period until the new year. However, as of Jan. 24, after three weeks of “difficult, contentious and frustrating” negotiations, Local 400 reported, “we remain far apart on nearly every single issue. We will not be rushed into a bad deal.”

UFCW knows that owners of both chains used similar delaying tactics last year when negotiating contracts on the West Coast. For the record, Ahold Delhaize, the parent company of Giant Food, made profits totaling more than $2 billion in 2018. Cerberus, the private equity firm behind Safeway’s parent company, has extracted more than $350 million in management fees and dividend pay-

Seattle hospital workers strike 7,800 say ‘Patients before profits!’

By Jim McMahon

For three days, from Jan. 28 to 30, 7,800 Seattle-area hospital workers struck the giant consortium Swedish at seven hospitals.

Their big issue was unsafe staffing levels — there are 900 vacant positions to result in conditions for patients and overworked nurses and other workers. By striking, mass picketing at the hospitals and marching in the streets, the workers got their voices heard.

The giant merger of Providence with Swedish five years ago created a corporation set on a course of anti-union attacks and deteriorating conditions. Service Employees (SEIU) Local 1199NW has been bargaining without a contract for 10 months. The strike was an unfair labor practice action; the company demobilized labor laws over a dozen times, including disciplining and firing workers for speaking out.

The striking workers included nurses, nursing assistants, tech and lab workers, dieticians, environment- service workers and others. They are fighting for safe nurse-to-patient ratios; manageable workloads for environmental service technicians so they can properly clean and disinfect patients’ rooms; safeguards against racial discrimination so everyone is treated with respect on the job; and fair wages that substitute for exploiting patients. Some 1,000 striking caregivers rallied on Jan. 29 at Swedish First Hill Hospital Campus and marched to downtown Seattle. The mainly women strikers chanted, “Swedish, Amazon, put Patients Before Profit!” They carried such signs as “United For Our Patients!”

At the downtown Westlake Center rally, Lisette Varela, an intensive care nurse said, “We are working to provide our patients with the highest level of care they need. We often have to work an extra four hours after working 12 hours to make sure everyone is cared for.”

Continued on page 5
Resistance grows to planned cuts on disability benefits

By John Catalinotto

Feb. 4 — While impeachment, the Iowa caucuses and the State of the Union message dominate the news cycle, the White House is again quietly pushing forward its attack on the poorest and most oppressed sectors of U.S. society. And it is disguising its offensive as efficiency, eliminating waste and saving taxpayers’ money.

This continued effort to eliminate the possibility of people receiving health and disability benefits exploded in the summer of 2017 with the administration’s attempt to shut down progressive aspects of the Affordable Care Act and to cut out much Medicaid coverage.

That summer, heroic direct actions in Senate buildings by people in organizations like National ADAPT (Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs Today) prevented the cuts from being passed by Congress.

On the July 25 National Day of Action, senators voted to take up the first anti-ACA bill — and 95 people were arrested. Police grabbed 31 protesters

Academy of Management.

In 2017, members of National ADAPT took part in direct actions at the U.S. Senate to prevent cuts to the Affordable Care Act.

In 2017, members of National ADAPT took part in direct actions at the U.S. Senate to prevent cuts to the Affordable Care Act.

With mass pressure at their back, a few Republican senators joined the Democrats to vote down rescinding the ACA.

New plans to cut benefits

Now, since the Democratic Party-led House of Representatives is unlikely to pass any anti-popular law in an election year, the Trump right-wingers are waging their attack through bureaucratic action. On Nov. 18, the Social Security Administration announced de facto plans to eliminate Social Security disability benefits for many adults and children.

Of course, the bureaucrats don’t express their plans that openly. Instead they say they will simply conduct more frequent reviews of eligibility for the 2.6 million people affected — every two years. That means most people will be in a continuous state of “review.”

This may sound reasonable to people who do not need this support to stay alive. But some people — how many can’t be estimated now — who need these benefits would lose them. And all will go through the unnecessary anxiety of facing that loss and being unable to plan their future with any security.

In reality, it is very difficult to get eligibility for these benefits, even for those in need. In a Jan. 16 op-ed in the New York Times, former public service attorney Jon Stein explained: “The current system already presents plenty of hurdles. It can take years to qualify for disability benefits and the eligibility test is so tough that more than 60 percent of applicants are initially denied. Once awarded, the benefits are subject to government review at periodic intervals.” (tinyurl.com/uweqjw6)

USW local supports Indigenous Legislative Agenda

The resolution below was passed unanimously at the monthly membership meeting of United Steelworkers Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, at the Boston Teachers Union hall, presided over by President André François, on Jan. 23.

Whereas, USW Local 8751 represents over 1,000 school bus drivers in Boston and RANDOLPH, Mass., most of whose families are from Haiti, Cape Verde, Barbados, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Santo Domingo, Vietnam, Honduras, states of the U.S. South, homelands that experienced waves of successive enslavement, invasion and occupation since 1492 by armies from Spain, Portugal, France, Britain, Italy and the United States, and;

Whereas, USW Local 8751 represents over 1,000 school bus drivers in Boston and RANDOLPH, Mass., most of whose families are from Haiti, Cape Verde, Barbados, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Santo Domingo, Vietnam, Honduras, states of the U.S. South, homelands that experienced waves of successive enslavement, invasion and occupation since 1492 by armies from Spain, Portugal, France, Britain, Italy and the United States, and;

Whereas, USW Local 8751 has for decades marked the fourth Thursday of November as a “National Day of Mourning” in Plymouth, Mass., and the second Monday of October as “Indigenous Peoples Day,” joining justice-minded unions, cities and towns from coast to coast working to rectify the centuries of racism, land theft, genocide and mythology that accompanied European settler colonialism and that Indigenous peoples continue to experience today.

Therefore, Be it Resolved that USW Local 8751 demands that the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Senate and Governor Baker immediately enact the full Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda to:

- Replace “Columbus Day” with “Indigenous Peoples Day” to honor and celebrate Indigenous resilience and survival. (H.3665)
- Change the Massachusetts Flag and Seal, which have kept a sword hanging over the heads of Native Americans for hundreds of years. (H.2776/S.1877)
- Protect Native American Heritage, and ensure Native American maternity objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony held in governmental or non-profit collections are not sold for profit but returned to their peoples. (H.2948/S.1841)
- Remove and Prohibit Racist, Native American mascots in Massachusetts public schools. (H.247/S.1443)
- Improve educational outcomes and opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native students. (H.444)

The author goes on to detail what the new policies will mean, and who will be targeted: Adults with disabilities nearing retirement; impoverished children with disabilities at ages 6 and 12 without standard medical reasons; adults and children with disabling conditions like cancer and serious behavioral mental disorders.

What’s the alleged benefit? The SSA claims the revised policies will save $2.6 billion. But it will cost $11.8 billion to administer the reevaluations! The government could save more money canceling an aircraft carrier — which is always a good idea. The figures just prove that the goal is to punish oppressed people defined as “not productive” under capitalism.

The potential for combating this SSA offensive exists. Before the op-ed was published on Jan. 16, some 46,000 people had sent public comments on the punitive rule change, almost all opposing it. By the Jan. 31 closing date for comment, more than 120,000 had expressed their opinions, almost all opposing the changes.

The comments show a mass attitude united against this right-wing, bureaucratic scapegoating. What will be more decisive in stopping the attacks is the kind of actions like those taken by ADAPT and others who fought to keep ACA benefits in the summer of 2017.

Seattle hospital workers strike

Continued from page 4

There the hospital workers received needed support for their fight against Swedish. Three public school nurses from the Seattle Education Association spoke in solidarity with the strikers. The Washington State Nurses Association and the Food and Commercial Workers Local 21, who represent many health care workers across the state, also had speakers.

As a solidarity message was read from Sara Nelson, president of the 50,000-member Flight Attendants. April Sims, Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council, and Diane Sosne, president of SEIU 1199NW, with 30,000 members, also spoke.

After the three-day strike, Swedish bosses tried on Jan. 29 to interfere with the workers’ return to work by saying their replacements were still on the job under five-day contracts. But the workers came back from a strong and very well organized mass strike. Following the path of the great 1919 union struggles which organized New York City hospitals, this was the largest health care strike in the country in recent history, according to Local 1199NW.
Embassy Protectors in court

Defense challenges Trump prosecutors

By Ajamu Baraka and Bahman Azad

The statement below, written by the Co-Chairs of the Embassy Protectors Defense Committee, was released Feb. 1 following a pretrial court appearance of the Embassy Protectors, who face charges for defending the Venezuelan Embassy last year.

A pretrial hearing of the four Embassy Protectors facing federal prosecution took place before Judge Beryl A. Howell on Jan. 29 in Washington, DC. The hearing took place before Judge Beryl A. Howell of the Embassy Protectors, who face charges for defending the Venezuelan Embassy last year.

By Ajamu Baraka and Bahman Azad

The hearing started, Judge Howell stated that she expected to rule on all the issues requiring decisions that day. She added that her previous ruling on discovery, where she denied all of the defendants’ discovery requests, ought to tell the defendants what to expect. However, after four hours, the judge decided to delay some of her decisions on critical elements such as what the jury will be allowed to hear and whether the Embassy Protectors will be able to present a meaningful defense.

During the course of the morning, it was also evident that the prosecutors were trying to manipulate the upcoming trial in a way that would guarantee a conviction. The first area of contention was whether the word “trespassing” or its equivalent should be included in the trial statement that would be read to the jury. The Embassy Protectors were not charged with trespassing, yet the prosecutors sought to limit what the jury would hear to three things: The Embassy Protectors were in the Venezuelan Embassy, they were ordered to leave, and they didn’t.

Judge delays key decisions

The judge was initially inclined to agree with the prosecutors, questioning the defense about why it mattered that the jury know about things such as who is the president of Venezuela, international law that governs the treatment of embassies and what happened during the time the four protectors were in the embassy. As the hearing proceeded, it seemed the judge was hearing information that was new to her. She was not familiar with the Vienna Convention or with Protecting Power Agreements, which have been used in diplomatic relations for hundreds of years and are incorporated in the Vienna Convention. The U.S. already has at least 20 such agreements with other nations. She did not seem to know that the four protectors were in the Venezuelan Embassy with the full permission of the Venezuelan government. This was left unresolved at the end of the day.

The next hurdle for the defendants was whether photos and videos of people who are not on trial or of signs with political messages ought to be included in the exhibits. The defendants’ lawyers argued that people who are not being tried are not relevant to the case and that political messages should not be included, especially if the defendants will not be allowed to explain what they mean to the jury. This was also left unresolved at the end of the day.

The most important part of the hearing was the motion by the Trump prosecutors to prevent the four Embassy Protectors or their lawyers from being allowed to tell the jury anything that would explain the context of the case. The prosecutors sought to limit what the jury would hear to three things: The Embassy Protectors were in the Venezuelan Embassy, they were ordered to leave, and they didn’t.


Rise Against Militarism, Racism and the Climate Crisis

Building Power Together

Join us for the National Conference of UNAC - People’s Forum in New York Feb. 21 – 23, register now. Limited space

The UNAC conference comes at a time when the US has become exceeding aggressive in pursuing its regional agenda in one country after another. Recent renewed resistance in Iraq shows the absurdity of the US regime change wars around the world. The US assassination of Iranian military leader Qassem Soleimani during a US airstrike at Baghdad’s airport threatens increased war within the region. The military budget continues to rise, and the administration and congress have agreed to start a new program that will militarize space. Many of us who have traveled to other countries that are being attacked by the US militarily or through economic sanctions, corporate espionage and propaganda wars understand that people all over the world look to the US peace movement to aid them in their struggle to be able to determine their own future. To live up to those expectations we need to build a strong, unified antiwar movement. So, we urge you to join us at the UNAC conference.

Please go to the conference web site to register, to put an ad in the conference journal or to find lodging and logistics information: www.UNACconference2020.org

Speakers include: Ann Wright, Ajamu Baraka, Glen Ford, Kevin Zeese, Medea Benjamin, Gail Walker, Margaret Flowers, Margaret Kimberley, Sam Faulders, Jeff Mackler, Rhonda Ramiro, Joe Lombardo, Bahman Azad, Frank Chapman, Abby Martin, Eva Bartlett, Pam Africa, Cassia Laham and more.

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Attacks on the anti-imperialist conference in Venezuela

By Ilaki Gil de San Vicente

Published by Resumen Latinoamericano and translated into English by its North America bureau. Slightly edited by Workers World. The author is a Basque Marxist. He’s writing about an important anti-imperialist conference held in Caracas at the end of January and the five obstacles U.S. imperialism created as part of its relentless attack on revolution ary Venezuela.

Jan. 23 -- The hostile reaction directed from abroad against the Anti-imperialist Encounter for Life, Sovereignty and Peace, held in Caracas on Jan. 22-25, demands thoughtful attention from all of us, especially from those who were not allowed to attend the event.

First, the boycott carried out by several airlines trying to prevent delegates from attending the event confirms the need to celebrate that it happened at all and that the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) made a good move in organizing it.

Nowadays, we are facing several decisive battlefronts in the war between imperialism and exploited humanity. Venezuela is one of them. Together with Cuba, it forms the most decisive front in the double task of restoring the emancipating forces of Our America and moving the revolutionary processes to the offensive.

But Venezuela and Cuba are also important world-wide because, besides strengthening their alliance with other powers that are in one way or another confronting imperialism, and given their own diverse interests above all these two countries also confirm the unquestionable historical lesson that the people’s sovereignty depends on its capacity for self-defense.

Bolivarian and marxist spokespeople confirm history once again: Imperialism will never give up. It is always updating its counterattacks; it never ceases its destabilizing attempts to bribe and co-opt despicable people, getting mercenaries from other powers that are in one way or another confronting imperialism, and given their own diverse interests above all these two countries also confirm the unquestionable historical lesson that the people’s sovereignty depends on its capacity for self-defense.

Second: For a while good people, revolutionary peo ple, have been enduring airport restrictions and attacks on their freedom of communication, of movement, of attending events, debates and solidarity meetings. We face increasing repression directed against these rights.

These repressive steps remind us of the desperate mea sures taken by many states that go back generations. Let’s start with the prevention of any expression of solidarity during the Roman – Greek and medieval wars; the suffocating vigilance over enslaved people; the peasant war; Andean and continental revolts; the first bourgeois revolutions; the beginning of working-class and popular movements – all faced every sort of obsta cle. There were the 1848 repressive controls imposed on meetings to organize the First International and the siege during the 1871 Paris Commune.

Then came the anti-socialist laws of the late 19th cen tury and the siege laid against the Second International and Third International. And today there is the ob ses sion over limiting and silencing Cuba and Our America, which always fails.

We also recall the Spanish king’s ridiculous aspira tion of silencing Hugo Chávez – whose voice is still heard in this crucial anti-imperialist event in Caracas, as well as the voices of Cuba’s Fidel Castro, Colombian leader Manuel Marulanda, Basque leader Argala, Chile’s Salvador Allende, Colombia’s Camilo Torres, Congo’s Patrice Lumumba, Burkina Faso’s Thomas Sankara, Guinean politician Amílcar Cabral, Che Guevara, Ho Chi Minh, Mao Zedong, Leon Trotsky, Spain’s Buenaventura Durruti, Andreu Nin Pérez, Julio Antonio Mella, Peru’s Mariátegui, Vladimir Lenin, Emiliano Zapata, Rosa Luxemburg, Cuba’s José Martí, Mikhail Bakunin, Haiti’s Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Alexandre Pétion, Venezuela’s Simón Bolívar, Inca leader Túpac Amaru, Puerto Rico’s Negro Miguel – and so many working women who are made invisible but are in fact the intellect and heart of the dignity we have today.

Third: Everything indicates that the open repressive trend is speeding up. This time, imperialism coor dinated sabotage against the anti-imperialist event taking place now in Caracas, getting civilian airlines from a third country not to process airline tickets to Venezuela.

Fourth: The capitalist economy nowadays and the power of the United States and the European Union are facing more and more serious obstacles. For instance, the giant global debt won’t stop growing, given the suici dal policy maintained by the large banking system during the last few years amidst what’s known as “cheap money.”

This debt represents about 320 percent of the world’s annual gross domestic product. According to the per spective of imperialism, there are only two ways to reduce it to a manageable amount: transferring it to workers, as well as to any competing powers that refuse to be pawns of imperialism.

But this is not the only existing threat. There are more. The most serious are the Law of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall and the General Law of Capitalist Accumulation [as explained by Karl Marx].

When the different levels of this crisis merge in a sin gle collapse, imperialism has no other recourse than mass destruction and mayhem. This is why the U.S. power and that infrastructure and productive forces can try to start another phase of expansion. This is why they can’t stand it if people just gather to discuss a minimal step toward the people’s emancipation.

Fifth: Regardless of the repression and harassment, we must multiply these encounters, these debates. We must coordinate them and advance in the anti-imperialist practice, because every second we lose is a vital second we give to the imperialists to regroup and counterattack.

Embassy Protectors continue defense of Bolivarian Venezuela

By Scott Warren

Philadelphia

Four members of the Embassy Protection Collective – Kevin Zeese, Margaret Flowers, Adriene Pine and David Paul – spoke in Philadelphia on Jan. 28. They were there to spread awareness about their struggle for Bolivarian Venezuela, as well as raise money for their ongoing court battle against the Trump administration. The event was sponsored by the Coalition Fortaleza Latina PA, Black Alliance for Peace, the International Action Center and Workers World Party.

On April 24, 2019, the democratically elected president of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, recalled his diplomat staff from the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C. He gave the keys to a group called the Embassy Protection Collective in hopes that they could occupy and hold the embassy until a protective power agreement could come into play. That legal action would have prevented U.S.-backed anti-Maduro forces from taking over the embassy.

While inside, the embassy pro tectors were besieged by a pro-U.S. coup mob that refused to let anyone come through with food or water. The coup opposition in Venezuela is characterized by extreme right-wing positions on race and class, including promoting anti-Indigenous genocide. The opposition in D.C. frequently displayed these attitudes, exhibiting homophobia, transphobia, racism and sexism as well as committing physical and sexual violence. Many of the opposition mob looked like they had come for a vacation or on business, with some of them in suits and ties.

On May 16, 2019, the four embassy protectors remaining in the building – Zeese, Flowers, Pine and Paul – were arrested under U.S. law, in violation of the Vienna Convention, which confirms the sovereign integrity of a nation’s embassy. These protectors now face an uphill court battle where it is anticipated that the judge will not allow them a “discovery phase” of evidence – thus setting up a show trial to guaran tee they are convicted. The doc uments the embassy protectors seek to submit in discovery would prove their innocence under international law.

Information the jury would not be able to know includes that the four were allowed to be there by the National Maduro administration, which held sover eign power over the embassy. At their Philadelphia presen tation, the four talked about their experiences not only in the United States about Venezuela is basically the complete opposite of the reality down there.
Philadelphia

Rally to free Mumia highlights exonerees

By Joe Piette

Mumia Abu-Jamal’s supporters rallied outside Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner’s office on Jan. 31. That day he was expected to file his response to legal briefs filed in September by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys for Post Conviction Relief Act hearings and a request to remand the political prisoner’s case back to the Court of Common Pleas.

Rally participants instead learned that Krasner asked the court for a 30-day postponement. Once again, after 38 years of being wrongfully held behind bars for a crime he did not commit, justice is still denied to Abu-Jamal.

The rally drew attention to recent actions by Krasner’s office that resulted in the release of 10 unjustly convicted individuals. Minister of Confrontation of the MOVE Organization Pam Africa stressed, “Krasner, do for Mumia what you’ve done for these men here. Based on his innocence, he should be released like they were.”

Innocent Black men unjustly convicted

Mobilization4Mumia issued a Jan. 30 press release, which stated: “Recent exonerations of 10 Philadelphia defendants, unfairly convicted for crimes they did not commit reveal a simple truth—the Philadelphia police, courts and prosecutors convict innocent Black men based on gross violations of their constitutional rights. The same patterns of constitutional violations plague the case of Abu-Jamal.”

Since January 2018, investigations by the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office have resulted in the exonerations of Sherman McCoy, James Frazier, Dwayne Thorpe, Terrance Lewis, Jamaal Simmons, Dontia McCoy, James Frazier, Dwayne Thorpe, Terrance Lewis, Jamaal Simmons, and Dwayne Thorpe.

Seven of the 10 men released in Philadelphia were convicted by former District Attorney Lynne Abraham, a “tough-on-crime” prosecutor who regularly sought maximum punishments and death sentences. As a Court of Common Pleas Court judge, Abraham arraigned Abu-Jamal in 1981. Years later as district attorney, she fought against his appeals in postconviction relief hearings.

Ineffective counsel, false witness testimony, witness coercion and intimidation, photonballistics evidence, prosecution failure to turn over evidence to the defense as required by law, racist jury selection and other legal errors led to the exonerations of the 10 innocent defendants after they spent decades in prison. These are the same unjust practices that Abu-Jamal’s attorneys and supporters have witnessed since 1982.

Police target Mumia

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Abu-Jamal was a daily radio reporter for WHYY and NPR where he earned acclaim for his award-winning reporting. As a journalist who reported fairly on the MOVE organization’s resistance against state repression, he drew the ire of the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police and the notoriously racist police commissioner, and later mayor, Frank Rizzo.

On Dec. 9, 1981, while driving a cab to a listening post to report on a MOVE protest, Abu-Jamal was shot and wounded by police. The passenger in the car of Abu-Jamal’s brother, running from the scene.

Protest of migrant punishment ‘protocols’

Immigrant-rights activists and advocates gathered in protest outside a San Antonio, Texas, courthouse on Jan. 29, the anniversary of the implementation of the “Migrant Protection Protocols.” MPP, one of the crueler elements of Trump’s war on migrants, has forced over 27,000 vulnerable asylum seekers to wait in dangerous conditions in Mexico for months, according to a statement from the group RAICES (The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services), which called the demonstration. Inside, immigration judges were spending only two to three minutes per case via videoconference to rule on asylum appeals. Outside, speakers told of the horrors of the system and protesters vowed to ramp up the fight to shut it down.

— Report and photo by Shelley Ettinger
After Brexit

Will Britain become U.S. puppet?

By G. Dunkel

At the stroke of 11 p.m. on Jan. 31, Britain was no longer part of the European Union and free to make any kind of trade deal its government could reach “without let or hindrance” from the EU. But this “freedom” means that U.S. imperialism is free to put intense pressure on a stand-alone country whose major trading partner is the EU — just across the Channel. Forty-five percent of all Britain’s exports in 2019 were to the EU. The proportion from the EU on imports into Britain. Only 13 percent of its exports were to the U.S.

London has conflicts with Washington over taxes, trade and technology. If the British government imposes a digital-services tax that hits U.S.-based tech giants, the Trump administration threatens to retaliate with a 100 percent tariff on British car exports.

The U.S. and the EU have conflicting health and safety standards. The EU forbids the sale or import of frozen chlorinated chicken. In the U.S., it is a common way of treating frozen chicken.

The U.K. has a smaller defense budget compared to the U.S. British forces, like American forces in the region, are not a major factor in the region. Britain and France have significantly reduced their forces in the Middle East and agree to continue to cooperate with the U.S. against Islamic terrorism.

The technological issue between the U.S. and the EU centers on Johnson’s decision to use some kits from Huawei for the 5G network that is being built in England. This decision was announced two days before Secretary of State Mike Pompeo went to Britain to discuss the changes in U.S.- British relations that Brexit will bring. Pompeo aims to do China and Huawei the ability to shape the future of the internet.

5G is a new network standard that is faster, more reliable and capable than the current 4G network. If England chooses Huawei for its 5G network, its people will have to bear the heavy costs of ripping Huawei gear out of its 4G network.

5G will accelerate the growth and expansion of telecommunications. It will also redefine industries such as automotive, entertainment, computing and manufacturing. Like any advanced economy, Britain’s national security will depend on it. Washington claims that British use of Huawei equipment would create a grave security risk, opening up networks to monitoring by Chinese intelligence. Huawei denies this claim and points to its use of open source code.

The French government has stated that it will use Huawei equipment. Huawei has 25 percent of the telecommunications market in France. German network operators say that banning Huawei may add years of delays and billions in costs to Germany’s 5G network launch.

Responding to U.S. pressure on the security issue, a number of Conservative members of the British Parliament have challenged Johnson’s decision on Huawei’s gear.

Italy: war policy is tied tighter to Pentagon

By Manlio Dinucci

Published in the Italian daily Il Manifesto on Feb. 4, a translation by John Catalinotto.

“A historically privileged relationship, which must be strengthened as much as possible.” This is how, during his Jan. 29-31 visit to Washington, D.C., Italian Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini (of the Democratic Party — PD) defined Italy’s ties with the United States.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper called Italy a “solid NATO ally” which, hosting over 34,000 military and other Pentagon employees, “plays a vital role in our projection of force in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa.”

Italy’s role is more important than Esper himself says. Enabled by U.S./NATO headquarters and bases, the Pentagon can launch military operations from Italian territory and bases, from the Atlantic Ocean to Russia and, more to the south, to the whole of Africa and the Middle East. Always with the consent and collaboration of the Italian state.

“Both countries,” underlines the official Pentagon communiqué, “recognize the destabilizing influence of Iran in the Middle East and have cooperated to continue to work together to contain the increasingly disruptive Iranian activities.”

The formal position taken by the Italian government (and therefore by Guerini himself) after the Trump-ordered killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, and after the Iranians reacted, had underlines the need to “avoid further escalation and encourage a lowering of tension through diplomacy.” Thus Guerini canceled this formal Italian policy.

The Pentagon program in which Italy, a second-level partner, has made important investments in development and research.

In Washington, according to a statement published in Rome, Minister Guerini met “representatives of the Italian defense industry and the main think tanks in the sector.”

Holdin first place, certainly, are the executives of Leonardo — the largest Italian military company, in which the Ministry of Economy and Finance is the main shareholder. Leonardo in the U.S. provides products and services to the armed forces and intelligence agencies, while in Italy it manages the Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter plant in Cameri.

Guerini also met in Washington with the managers of Fincantieri, over 70 percent under the control of Italy’s Ministry of Economy and Finance. In the U.S. the Fincantieri Marine Group builds coastal fighter ships for the U.S. Navy.

Four ships of the same type are now being built by the Fincantieri company for Saudi Arabia, under a $2 billion contract signed with Lockheed Martin.

Fincantieri, controlled by the Italian government, signed a contract last year to build warships for Saudi Arabia, even as Italy’s Lower House was passing a motion calling for an embargo on the sale of armaments to Saudi Arabia. The motion was tabled by the government majority.

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

by John Catalinotto

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, John Catalinotto’s ‘Turn The Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

— Pete Larry Holmes, GI resister and organizer for the American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74

Available at online booksellers.

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flordun

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flordun sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

Workers World Party expresses its utmost solidarity with the people of Palestine, who are facing an increasing onslaught of U.S.-Israeli aggression.

The Jan. 28 “Peace to Prosperity” plan—by the U.S. and Israeli NATO—means war with them in that opposition. (See article titled “U.S.-Israeli ‘steal of the century’ of Palestinian land theft” in this issue.)

The fascistic proposal of President Donald Trump and the Bank of the Oslo Accord pretense of 1993 that gave support to a “solution” that pushed Palestinians reject land theft” in this issue.)

This Jan. 31, as news of the Trump-Netanyahu plan spread through the West Bank, thousands of Palestinians demonstrated in a “Friday of Rage.” And, once more, Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition at unarmed protesters. Now solidarity actions with Palestine have been happening worldwide and throughout the U.S. from Los Angeles to Boston, Columbia, S.C., to Columbus, Ohio.

Palestinians, united in outrage, have also emphasized that solidarity actions should include support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and freedom for Palestinian political prisoners, who are leaders of the liberation movement.

Those of us living inside the U.S. witness and experience every day the horrific impact of imperialist social relations system built on settler-colonial genocide against Indigenous peoples and theft of their lands as well as enslavement and forced labor of African peoples.

The same vile system is at work this very minute against the Palestinian people. As the struggle for Palestinian liberation and Black liberation, as we denounce continued coverage of the struggle for from imperialist austerity in Latin America and paths toward socialism in Cuba and Venezuela, as we fight against the predations of capitalist everywhere—with that same dedication we are solidarity with the Palestinian people.

If no justice for Palestine—then no peace!

*Zoe tolerance! Abusers out!*

The following editorial was written by gender non-conforming and women members of Workers World Party.

The progressive movement has come a long way from its shameful history of gender bias. There will always be a gargantuan mountain to climb toward socialism, gen- der equity and justice. We link arms and continue to climb together.

We must resoundingly affirm that we will protect each other from racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism and abuse. To succeed in this, we as women and gender non-conforming people must be welcome in our spaces or in our movement.

In closing the 2020 essay, “Why Misogynists Make Great Informants” by Black gender activist and academic Courtney Desiree Morris, we find that the danger is twofold. Misogynists and abusers chase people of oppressed gender out of the movement. In fear for our safety and in recognition that trans and cis women, men, lesbians, queer folks and gender-nonconforming individuals’ lives and contributions are not valued the same as cis (het) men’s, we leave spaces of entering spaces where we are not supported.

Losing comrades in the movement is always a detriment, and losing the unique perspective that gender-oppressed comrades contribute to the struggle is a road to failure. By accepting abusers into movement spaces we allow a fertile ground for state-sanctioned violence that takes advantage of the havoc abusers create.

People of oppressed gender have the right to defend themselves from abuse, homophobia and misogyny. We have the right to hold organizations accountable that do not support our self-determina- tion at unarmed protesters. Now solidarity actions with Palestine have been happening worldwide and throughout the U.S. from Los Angeles to Boston, Columbia, S.C., to Columbus, Ohio.

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Workers World makes a big deal about Black History Month because racism pervades every aspect of life under cap- italism. Everything—from fighting for living-wage jobs to ending police ter- ror, for affordable housing and com- munity-control schools—is rooted in the centuries-long struggle to end this country’s vicious history of racism, sexism and violence-driven superexploitation—slavery.

That’s why every month, not just February, the struggle for the freedom of people of African descent to eradicate institutionalized, systemic white supremacy. Case in point is our continued coverage of the struggle for political prisoners, especially freeing Mumia Abu-Jamal and for parole for Chuck Africa, the last of the MOVE 9 still waiting to be released after 40-plus years of criminal incarceration.

WW bases our weekly cov- erage in building Workers World, and in the African dias- pora on breaking imperialist chains and the principle of self-determination. By defending people to have the right to fight to end all forms of inequality and injustice—by any means necessary.

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Support Program or renew your membership subscription promptly. WW Supporter Program was established 43 years ago so read- ers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

For a donation of at least $75, a year—$100 or $300 or more if you’re able—members receive a subscription to WW, a monthly letter about our work, free subscriptions to give to friends and a book for donations over $75. Write checks (otherwise mail once a year to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 42th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/)

Know that we are grateful for your help in building Workers World!

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It's not Iran's military power that frightens the U.S.

By Manuel Raposo

Published in jornalmadureirea, doi on Jan. 31, Translation by John Catalinotto.

Jan. 31—The crisis that the U.S. created with Iran, which the Trump gang pushed to the brink of war, has nothing to do with the proclaimed “danger” of the Iranians making an atomic bomb. It is not that they had no desire to have it—or that they did not deserve to have it (in our opinion, they did) to more effectively defend their independence, as the case of North Korea seems to prove. The U.S. rage has other grounds.

The point is that Iran, in the 40 years of independence it has enjoyed since the 1979 revolution, has become a country free from imperialist tutelage, whether U.S. or European imperialism. That is the crux of the matter.

Independence has enabled Iran, thanks in particular to oil, to develop economically and socially, placing it light years ahead of what the country was in the days of Shah Reza Pahlavi [ruled 1941-79]. In addition, despite the regime’s religious ideology, it is way ahead of the dictatorial regimes of imperialist Zionism in the region, which the U.S. and European imperialists are so keen to keep in power.

All the reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the U.N. body charged with monitoring Iran’s compliance with its commitments. The reason for this is the aforementioned “danger” of the Iranians’ nuclear program.

Since the 2015 agreement, the U.S. and its allies maintain that Iran is perpetuating an absolute imbalance of forces with the imperialist powers in control and with the U.S. at the head.

This imbalance is the aim of the economic sanctions imposed on Iran. All are based on the American command, the latest generation of its naval squadrons, and on the regime and silenced by Washington and its allies.

Under various pretexts, they have been repeatedly maintained, re-imposed or strengthened by all U.S. presidents since then. In 40 years, they have only been relaxed for short periods: from 1981 to 1987, following the Algiers agreements, which ended the so-called “hostage crisis”; and from 2013 to 2015 by virtue of the multifaceted agreement that Trump eventually tore up.

As is well known, Israel—which the U.S. has provided with nuclear weapons in violation of all the relevant treaties—and the Arab dictatorships, are the main agents of imperialism in the region, charged with maintaining that imbalance.

This is how the world’s most important sources of energy remain under U.S. and Israeli control, as the regime and rejected by the world. It is an attempt to legitimize the current McMahon title [of] “statehood” to these apartheid states, which do not deserve to have it (in our opinion, they do).

If Iran, especially since the U.S. occupation in 1953, committed itself to keeping the siege to which the Western powers have subjected Iran, it was as part of an overwhelming military presence has been perpetuated for decades throughout the country, under U.S. and naval squadrons, the latest generation of war material and thousands of troops.

Iran, especially since the U.S. occupation in Afghanistan and Iran in 2003, committed itself to breaking the siege to which it was subjected. Iran did this by taking the position in an Islamic regime apart U.S. barbarity or by establishing contacts in Afghanistan with the Taliban resistance. Iran succeeded to the extent of acting as a mediator between the Taliban and the U.S.

On the other hand, Iran’s anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stance gained it sympathy in Lebanon, the Gaza Strip and Syria. Iran established alliances in particular with the Hezbollah and Hamas movements and the Syrian government. The same goes for the Houthis rebels in Yemen, based on their opposition to Saudi aggression.

Considering Iran’s political influence unacceptable, Washington calls it “terrorist action,” thereby trying to counter it by its own acts of state terrorism—which is the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani.

In addition, Iran’s trade agreements and political rapprochement with Russia and China have helped it to sustain the political and economic independence on the international scene, despite the sanctions and demonization to which the Western powers have subjected Iran.

Iran’s capacity for resistance is a major headache for U.S. imperialism. It also terrifies U.S. client states in the region, whose rulers can only stay in control based on U.S. power. It is all the more worrying for Washington and its puppets that Iran’s alliance with Russia and China favors the influence of these two powers in the region.

And the influence of China and Russia tends to expand and consolidate because there is a decisive argument that China’s growing economic power, for which neither the U.S. nor Europe shows any antipathy.

The decline of U.S. hegemony in the Middle East is part of the general decline of U.S. imperialism. This decline opens the way for the expansion of the new regional rival powers. It also exacerbarates the dispute between old and new powers. It is this decline that to a great extent explains why Europeans and other U.S. allies have recently accused the White House of “unpredictability” regarding the direction of its foreign policy.

It is also this decline that makes it possible to understand and expose the growing belligerence of the entire Trump foreign policy—tearing up agreements, breaking alliances, seeking new partners, strengthening mercenary ties with out-law states (such as, in this case, Israel and Saudi Arabia), unashamedly threatening war and destruction in all directions. Ultimately, the sole focus of U.S. power is becoming its use of military weapons.

But the decline of the U.S. also represents an opening for the peoples’ struggles to develop and gain new dimensions. Despite the religious and reactionary nature of Iran’s Ayatollah-led regime, Iran, in serving the interest of a powerful national bourgeoisie, is confronting imperialism as very few national leaderships have the courage to do these days.

It is in this capacity as an anti-imperialist force—and as long as it remains so—that Iran must be unequivocally supported by the European and global left. Iran’s struggle will help to erode and bring down the main enemy of the people today, the main war maker threatening all of humanity: U.S. imperialist capitalism.

Palestinians protest White House plan at Buri al Harajneh refugee camp, near Beirut, Lebanon, Jan. 31.

Palestinians protest White House plan at Buri al Harajneh refugee camp, near Beirut, Lebanon, Jan. 31.

Continued from page 1

with them and the United States including security ties.” The League, as a whole, has rejected the plan. (Reuters, Feb. 1)

Various statements of condemnation were issued, including the following.

“Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network joins our voice with that of Palestinians and all people of color in the world in rejecting and condemning Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu’s racist, colonialist, so-called ‘Deal of the Century.’ This ‘deal’ blatantly enshrines settler colonialism and Zionism without even a facade of concern for allegedly universal principles of justice, sovereignty, self-determination and international law from which Palestinians are systematically excluded.

While we are entirely certain of the utter failure of this ‘war plan’ for occupied Palestinian territory, we hope that the United States and its allies will keep cold their desire to have a say in the future of the Palestinian people.” (considered a war crime under international law). He received $30 million from Netanyahu and his government, and $100 million from the United Arab Emirates and Israel, which are funding the so-called “Deal of the Century.” This imbalance is the aim of the economic sanctions imposed on Iran. All are based on the American command, the latest generation of its naval squadrons, and on the regime and silenced by Washington and its allies.

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A mourner in Iran holds a portrait of Iranian military leader Qasem Soleimani, assassinated by U.S. military drone in Iraq on Jan. 2.
Si no hay justicia para Palestina, jentonces no hay paz!

** ¡Tolerancia cero! ¡Abusadores fuera!**

El siguiente editorial fue escrito por personas no conformes de género y mujeres miembros de Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero.

El movimiento progresista ha recorrido un largo camino desde su vergonzosa historia racial y de género. Desde nuestra montaña gigante para escalar hacia el socialismo, la equidad de género y la justicia. Vinculamos los brazos y seguimos subiendo juntos.

Debemos afirmar rotundamente que aquellos que priorizan nuestra seguridad y el auto reconocimiento de que las vidas y contribuciones de mujeres trans, de personas sin género y hombres trans y personxs que no cumplen con el género no se valoran de la misma manera que los hombres trans y personxs que sí cumplen con el género. Podemos visualizar cuando no podemos entrar en espacios donde no se apoya. Somos la columna vertebral de la lucha por la liberación.

Según los Convenios de Ginebra de 1949, el castigo colectivo se considera un crimen de guerra. Pero, pese a esta regla, comunidades palestinas enteras son castigadas colectivamente (casas y huertos de ovillos arrasados) incluso si solo una persona se convierte en líder y actúa contra la ocupación israelí. Este nuevo acaparamiento de tierras sigue el patrón de siglos de crímenes capitalistas/impérialistas: ocupación colonial y robo de tierras indígenas, asesinatos genocidas de pueblos y destrucción de magistraturas independientes, explotación de recursos robados y construcción de industrias para obtener ganancias con mano de obra capturada o forzada.

Hasta que haya una unidad en torno a eliminar a los abusadores de nuestro movimiento, no se puede comprar en un entorno donde las mujeres y las personas de género oprimido no se sientan bienvenidas. No podemos estar en un entorno que se sienten que nuestros miedos aún existen. Aún más después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, Estados Unidos y otros aliados se negaron a recibir refugiados judíos desesperados de la Europa ocupada por los nazis. En cambio, esos países apoyaron una "solución" que empujó a los sobrevivientes del Holocausto a establecerse en lo que en 1948 se convertiría en Israel, a expensas del pueblo palestino que había estado viviendo allí durante generaciones.

Una solidaridad que se abre paso, una solidaridad que incluye a Palestina también.

**El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida**

Por Fred Goldstein

Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a una infección.

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