Free, Free Palestine!

U.S. backs Israeli terror in Gaza

By Monica Moorehead

The genocidal bombing of Gaza by the U.S.-backed Israeli Defense Forces, which began May 10, has entered its second week. This latest assault was sparked in Sheikh Jarrah, a neighborhood in East Jerusalem where neighbors were trying to stop the illegal evictions of Palestinian families by racist, Zionist settlers. At the same time U.S.-trained Israeli police raided Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa Mosque, during Eid Al-Fitr prayers signaling the end of Ramadan for millions of Muslims around the world.

According to the Washington Post, 54 Israeli jets carried out 35 airstrikes in Gaza after midnight May 17, claiming to target Hamas military bases and their leaders. These strikes have leveled numerous buildings housing families, as well as a mattress factory and the building containing the offices of the Associated Press and Al Jazeera. The most recent bombing killed 42 Palestinians in just 20 minutes.

In the week before the May 17 bombing, an estimated 200 Gazans were killed, including 60 children. There are desperate pleas for blood donations from the already understaffed and besieged health facilities in Gaza from COVID, where many of the over 1,000 injured will suffer and die from unattended wounds. There is no safe place to hide from this Israeli onslaught; Gazans attempt to flee, but even overcrowded refugee camps have been attacked. Hunger is at an all-time high.

Fifteen Palestinians on the West Bank lost their lives at the hands of Israeli soldiers during a solidarity protest with Gaza. The Palestinian people continue to be dehumanized and treated as collateral damage, as the Israelis hope to turn Gazans against Hamas, their elected representative.

The Biden administration has shamefully defended Israel’s right to “defend itself,” as the U.S. continues to prop up the murderous Israeli regime with $3.8 billion annually in military aid. Just think of the relief that amount could bring to millions of people in the U.S. suffering from unemployment, hunger and the threat of evictions spurred by the pandemic, instead of repressing and occupying a whole nation.

Resistance builds global solidarity

People from around the world, including across the U.S., are coming out in the streets in solidarity with the heroic people of Palestine. Israel is becoming more and more hated and isolated.

Continued on page 7

Reflections by Malcolm X & Ho Chi Minh

‘Crown: Freedom’ mural

MOVE remembrance

Justice for Tamir Rice

Maskless mandate danger

Palestine

Global Solidarity

Susan Abulhawa on Zionism

Not one dollar for occupation!
Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with education or anything else—unless they can pay for it. Impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social ties. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities, with their fists raised and masks on their faces arranged in a ring shape (a corona). Defiance, hope and determination fill the faces, which are surrounded by names of people who were fatally shot by police.

― Crown: Freedom‖ and ‗Crown: Medusa,‘ the two newest murals, were dedicated by the city on May 11. ‗Crown: Freedom‘ pays tribute to Black women activists including freedom fighters Ramona Africa and Pam Africa, who are worldwide. If you‘re interested, the wealth workers create should be socially produced all wealth in society, and this wealth should be owned and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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 neverending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTIQ+ 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. Wage earners, 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 gunned 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, multigendered 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 capitalist profits. 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.

― Around the world‖

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In the U.S. — 'Crown: Freedom‘ tribute to activists — MOVE ‘Day of Remembrance‘ honor heroes — Tamir Rice family demands justice — Free Imam Jamil Al-Amin — Malcolm X & Ho Chi Minh reflect on prisons — Stop the execution of Quinton Jones — Shackles come in many forms — CDC’s maskless mandate puts workers at risk — Thousands support Palestinian fightback — Not one dollar for Zionist genocide! —

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by Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

On the 36th anniversary of the horrific bombing of the MOVE family house in Philadelphia on May 13, 1985, hundreds gathered at Osage Ave. and Cobbs Creek Parkway as a plaque commemorating the event. Speakers focused on naming and remembering the lives of the six adults and five children murdered by the repressive state.

This year’s commemoration was especially poignant because of recent revelations involving the city’s callous mishandling and mistreatment of the remains of children who died there.

Several demonstrators carried placards listing the names of the 11 MOVE family members who perished. The adults were Rhonda Africa, Theresa Africa, Frank Africa, Raymond Africa, Conrad Africa, and John Africa — who founded the MOVE organization in 1972. The children were Katricia (Tree) Africa, 14, Delilah Africa, 12, Netta Africa, 12, Little Phil Africa, 12, and Tomaso Africa, 9. Birdie Africa, 13, survived the fire but died in September 2013. Ramona Africa, the only adult survivor, continues to be a force in the movement.

A visibly emotional Mike Africa Jr., son of MOVE 9 members Debbie and Mike Africa, recalled childhood memories of those who died in 1985. “The people who took the remains of my family and incinerated them have to be held accountable. What the city authorities have been doing over these many years has to come to a screeching halt. They need to stop covering up their behavior and destroying evidence of what they have done.”

In late April, news surfaced that Penn University Museum was in possession of bones thought to be the remains of Tree Africa and Delilah Africa. The bones were examined by Penn forensic anthropologist Alan Mann at the Philadelphia Medical Office for analysis. Mann subsequently transferred to Princeton University, taking the bones with him.

Earlier today Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney met with the MOVE family and acknowledged that additional remains from victims of the 1985 assault had been kept in the Philadelphia Medical Examiner’s office until 2017, when they were incinerated and dumped by the city without the knowledge or permission of living relatives. During a late afternoon press conference, Kenney announced the firing of the city’s health commissioner Thomas Farley.

Police atrocities against MOVE

Kenney also apologized to the MOVE family, as did the Philadelphia City Council last year on the anniversary of the atrocity carried out by the city. However, MOVE members have insisted that the only remedy they want from the state is the release of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Several signs calling for Abu-Jamal’s freedom were carried by demonstrators.

At the rally speakers recalled the history of Philadelphia’s decades-long attack on the MOVE organization, including the police months-long blockade of the neighborhood around the families’ Powelton Village home. On Aug. 8, 1976, a police attack on the compound resulted in the arrest of nine MOVE members, who served over 40 years in prison. During the weekend of May 12-13, 1985, police again orchestrated an attack on MOVE, including making sure that the children who lived in MOVE’s Osage Avenue house were present at the time of the assault. Speakers recounted the involvement of Philadelphia police as well as state and federal police forces, as well as the fire department’s collusion in the assault.

A military helicopter dropped a C4 military-grade bomb on the house, resulting in a fire that reached adjacent houses. Officials then made the decision to “let the fire burn.” In addition to the lives lost, 60 homes in a predominantly Black neighborhood were destroyed.

This year’s gathering was followed by a march through West Philadelphia to Malcolm X Park. Along the way, neighbors expressed support for MOVE.

Six years after police murder

Tamil Rice family demands justice

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Tamir’s Campaign held a virtual event May 12 to demand the federal Department of Justice reopen the case of Tamir Rice, who was only 12 years old when Cleveland police murdered him Nov. 22, 2014. The DOJ under the Trump administration quickly closed its investigation last year with no charges against officer Timothy Loehmann, who shot Tamir instantaneously after coming across him playing with a pellet gun, or Loehmann’s partner Frank Garmback. Previously a Cuyahoga County grand jury declined to indict either cop, and both remained on the force until Loehmann was fired — not for Tamir’s death but for lying on his job application.

Tamir’s family only learned of the decision by Trump’s DOJ when a whistleblower at the department leaked the news to the New York Times. The Cleveland Police Patrolmen’s Association, which appealed Loehmann’s firing, endorsed Donald Trump for president in 2016.

Tamir’s mother Samaria Rice spoke to the virtual audience about her son. “He was so talented” and is “always dearly missed.” He loved the Cleveland Cavaliers, especially LeBron James. He played drums. His teachers had many good things to say about him.

Samaria Rice explained that her whole family has PTSD from having lost Tamir so violently. She spoke proudly of her three children — who all managed to graduate from high school, but have not been able to pursue higher education. Their father, described how Tamir’s lynching opened their eyes to the real character of policing in the U.S.

Tamir family attorney Subodh Chandra presented a timeline of events from the 2014 shooting to “deliberate attempts to throw the case” by County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty to the quashing of the DOJ investigation begun under the Obama administration. The Trump DOJ violated the law when it did not inform the Rice family — a “family cheated of justice” — that the investigation was being terminated.

Tamir’s Campaign has written to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland asking that the investigation he restarted be preserved for more than June 25, Tamir’s birthday. The Campaign has won the support of 40 Congressional Representatives, including four from Ohio, along with the Cleveland City Council and Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown. More actions are planned.

Justice for Tamir Rice! [↩]

Free Imam Jamil Ali-Al-Muin

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Supporters of Imam Jamil Ali-Al-Muin (formerly known as H. Rap Brown) took the campaign to gain freedom for the Black liberation fighter to the Fulton County Courthouse Friday, May 7, in Atlanta. This downtown building houses the office of the district attorney and the staff of the Conviction Integrity Unit, which is able to examine past prosecutions and determine if there were misconduct or errors made in the course of the investigations and trials. Upon review, the CIU can order a new trial or exonerate a falsely convicted person.

Ali-Al-Muin was charged with the murder of a Fulton County deputy and the wounding of a second on March 16, 1969. Two years later, at a trial replete with unconstitutional actions of the Fulton County legal team, judicial error, the questionable role of the FBI and the admission of faulty evidence, he was convicted and sentenced to life plus 35 years in prison.

The members of the Imam Jamil Action Network held down the four corners of Central Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive during the busy Friday rush hour with hammers and signs, demanding his freedom.

Many drivers honked and put their fists up in solidarity.

Thousands of signatures have been submitted on a petition to the conviction integrity Unit to provide justice for Ali-Al-Muin.

More information on the numerous legal errors and government misconduct in his trial can be found at WhatHappened2Rap.com and ImamJamiActionNetwork.org.

Readers are encouraged to sign the petition and share the information about the campaign. [↩]
Reflections on prisons

Honoring Malcolm X & Ho Chi Minh

By Monica Moorehead

May 19 marks the 96th anniversary of the birthday of Malcolm X and the 131st for Ho Chi Minh. Although one was Black and one was Vietnamese and the two were from different generations and experiences, what they had in common — that continues to inspire many today — was sacrificing their lives for the liberation of oppressed peoples from racism, colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism.

Malcolm X and Ho Chi Minh both spent part of their lives imprisoned, in the U.S. (1942-1952) and pre-revolutionary China (1942-1945), respectively. In honor of these two great revolutionaries, we share the following quotes from Malcolm X, reflecting on both his personal and political views on prisons, and Ho Chi Minh’s spoken word from “The Prison Diary of Ho Chi Minh.”

“While I was in prison, I was indulging in all types of vices within the prison. And I never was ostracized as much by the penal authorities while I was participating in all of the evils of the prison, as they tried to ostracize me after I became a Muslim.”

“The prison systems in this country actually are exploitative, and they are not in any way rehabilitative.”

“People earn extra money in prison selling contraband, dope and things of that sort to the inmates, and so that really it’s an exploiter.”

— Malcolm X (May 19, 1925 – Feb. 21, 1965) (aqquotes.com)

Stop the execution of Quintin Jones

By Gloria Rubac

Houston

In a couple of days, the State of Texas plans to execute a man who was 20 years old in 1999 when he committed a terrible crime. He killed his great-uncle Berthena Bryant so he could steal $30 from her to buy drugs. There were one should know about Quintin Jones, however.

Quintin Jones is a friend to many, including pen pals of Jones, who is not upper-middle class and university educated, but who, like Whittaker’s family, has forgiven him, remains to be seen.

In a video sent to the Texas governor, Jones’ plea is simple: “It took me years to forgive myself. Another thing that helped me out was my great-aunt, Aunt Mattie. It was her sister. So by her loving me enough to forgive me, it gave me the strength to try to do better and to want to be better. All I’m asking you to do, if you find it in your heart, Mr. Abbott, is to give me a second chance at life.”

Long told CBS News reporter Omar Villafranca that she does not believe Jones should die. “I love him very much. I think the governor should spare him, because he has changed, and he’s a different person than he used to be,” she said. Long has regularly visited Jones on death row.

Science has proven that young peoples’ brains do not fully develop until they are around 25 years of age. Youth are impulsive, prone to peer pressure and can’t grasp the long-term consequences of their actions.

Agapetus, an activist with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, says she’s a nervous wreck waiting for the Texas Board of Pardons to decide if they will recommend clemency to the governor, and if they do, if the governor will follow their decision. “I believe he is a caring, matured and decent man. He is a different person than the person he was 20 years ago. He is also ethical, intelligent and thoughtful. “Texas has five executions scheduled for 2021, but no one should be executed, whether they are innocent or guilty. The death penalty is inhuman, and Texas and the whole U.S. should abolish it now!”

Hard Is the Road of Life

Having climbed over steep mountains and high peaks. How should I expect on the plains to meet greater danger?

In the mountains, I met the tiger and came out unscathed;

On the plains, I encountered men, and was thrown into prison.

The Flute of the Fellow-Prisoner

Suddenly a flute sounds a nostalgic note;

Sadly the music rises, its tune is close to sobbing;

Over a thousand miles, across mountains and rivers, Journey’s an aching grief. We seem to see a woman Climbing a far off tower to watch for someone’s return.

A Comrade’s Paper Blanket

New books, old books, the leaves all piled together. A paper blanket is better than no blanket.

You who sleep like princes, sheltered from the cold,

Do you know how many men in prison cannot sleep all night?

Autumn Night

Before the gate, a guard with a rifle on his shoulder. In the sky, the moon flies through clouds. Swarming bed bugs, like black army tanks in the night. Squadrions of mosquitoes, like waves of attacking planes.

I think of my homeland. I dream I can fly far away. I dream I wander trapped in webs of sorrow. A year has come to an end here.

Clear Morning

The morning sun shines over the prison wall, And drives away the shadows and miasma of hopelessness, A life-giving breeze blows across the earth. A hundred imprisoned faces smile once more.

COLD NIGHT


On the Way to Nanning

The supple rope has now been replaced with iron fetters. At every step they jingle as though I wore jade rings. In spite of being a prisoner, accused of being a spy, I move with all the dignity of an ancient government official!

After Prison a Walk in the Mountains

The clouds embrace the peaks, the peaks embrace the clouds. The river below shines like a mirror, spotless and clean. On the crest of the Western Mountains, my heart stirs as I wander.

Looking towards the Southern sky and dreaming of old friends.

Moonlight

For prisoners, there is no alcohol nor flowers. But the night is so lovely, how can we celebrate it? I go to the air-hole and stare up at the moon, And through the air-hole the moon smiles at the poet.

— Ho Chi Minh (May 19, 1890 - Sept. 2, 1969)

In a letter to the editor of the Houston Chronicle, Agapetus wrote, “...in 2018 Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued his only commutation of a death row sentence, for Thomas Whittaker, who is white, to life without parole in a case with some similarities to Jones’ case. Jones is Black. Whittaker was wealthy and arranged the killing of his mother, brother and father for inheritance. His father survived and requested clemency.”

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Quintin Jones

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Whether Abbott will take into account the Black family— has forgiven him … He has transformed himself into a kind, decent, compassionate man.”
Shackles come in many forms

By Princess Harmony

The shackling of incarcerated workers and other members of our class is a heinous crime against humanity. As committedists, we have a responsibility to end the conditions of their incarceration. There is another form of shackling: psychiatric shackling. It is used against the mentally ill or those suspected of mental illness.

It is the use of psychosurgery (lobotomies), electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and medication shackling. Even if these forms of shackling aren’t used on the patient, people can be tied to their beds or stretchers until they break or relent. It is important to examine these forms of shackling and understand how destructive they can be to the minds of the victims.

What is the reasoning behind these forms of shackling? In modern times, they are used to restrain “violent” or “difficult” patients, those in need of real treatment and sympathy. I had akathisia “difficult” patients, those in need of real treatment and sympathy. I had akathisia

Both of these medications have unpleasant or life-threatening side effects. First, the disorders tardive dyskinesia, Parkinsonism and akathisia were found to be caused by neuroleptics. “Neuroleptic” means “to hold back of one’s nerves.” This is an appropriate name for a medication used when doctors actually wanted to cause side effects. It was believed that typical antipsychotics only worked on D2 (dopamine) receptors, thereby causing side effects. It was believed that typical antipsychotics only worked on D2 (dopamine) receptors, thereby causing side effects. It was believed that typical antipsychotics only worked on D2 (dopamine) receptors, thereby causing side effects. It was believed that typical antipsychotics only worked on D2 (dopamine) receptors, thereby causing side effects. It was believed that typical antipsychotics only worked on D2 (dopamine) receptors, thereby causing side effects.

Chemical shackles

Sometimes the drugs were given orally, in the cases of clozapine and Zyprexa, but most times it would be Haldol and Ativan given via injection. Patients’ choices were limited to nonexistent. Sometimes they caused hallucinations on a benzodiazepine.

After this psychiatric injection series, they were locked in a “safe room” and deprived of reading material or human interaction for hours on end. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Mental Health America (MHA) oppose the usage of physical restraints and seclusion of patients, viewing them as failures of treatment and the treatment team. (A treatment team consists of a psychiatrist, therapist, social worker and the patient’s family, if possible.)

This is only the beginning of understanding the history of shackling in mental health facilities. In the past, they used electroshock therapies and psychosurgery, lobotomies were first used in the early 20th century. Dr. Antonio Egas Moniz received a Nobel prize for this cruel discovery.

If drilling holes into the skull to destroy part of someone’s brain was bad, a new “development” in psychosurgery allowed doctors to go through an eye socket and stir up the brain. The result would be a completely compliant patient, who often times was totally disabled and needed to be taken care of permanently.

Drugs given, not help

There is also drug-induced shackling of the mind and sometimes the body. This was permissible because no one believed mentally ill people were capable of giving consent. Some facilities still use drug-induced shackling, because it is easier to dope up patients than to help them, if help is possible. In modern psychiatric facilities, the view is that it’s easier to drug patients and dump them after a week, without treating their acute problems.

The use of drug-induced therapy started with the advent of the typical antipsychotic or neuroleptic Thorazine (chlorpromazine). This drug was given to patients in the now-destroyed state hospital system to keep them from acting up and to make them stay compliant. This is a dehumanizing cruelty, but there’s more: Then came Haldol (haloperidol).

As a result of this cruel discovery, and the mental health facilities still use intramuscular Haldol on patients.

Even on the first use, Haldol can cause tardive dyskinesia and Parkinsonism. A person doesn’t need to be in an extended period of time to suffer from these conditions, although tardive dyskinesia is most common after years of taking the medication.

The second and third generation antipsychotics, such as clozapine, aripiprazole and brexpiprazole, are shown to work without impacting D2 receptors as much.

Racism in psychiatry

Unfortunately, there are other negative aspects of psychiatry. Psychiatrists have often mistreated marginalized people. Racist psychiatrists often overdiagnosed disorders of Black and Brown people. In 1851, Samuel A. Cartwright proposed a mental illness called “drapetomania” to explain enslaved people fled their captors. This so-called “mental illness” did not exist but is an example of how psychiatry has abused and shackled people.

It’s not that mentally ill people shouldn’t take advantage of all the positive help that psychiatry can give. The use of medication is both important and legitimize. However, psychiatrists can cause their skills and medications to shackles those who enter their maw.

Remember this and fight for mentally ill people in prisons, psychiatric hospitals and outside the walls.

CDC’s maskless mandate puts workers at risk

By Betsey Piette

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recklessly capitulated to pressure from U.S. corporations in issuing their latest guidelines lifting mask requirements. They announced on May 13: “Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.”

While the percentage of adults getting vaccinated continues to rise, only in 3 in 10 people in the U.S. are fully inoculated. The CDC guidelines contain no mandate stating individuals must provide proof they are fully vaccinated. This puts the lives of essential workers at serious risk.

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, scientists and epidemiologists found that 80% said individuals need to wear masks in indoor public areas for at least another year, and 88% responded that even fully vaccinated people should wear masks at large outdoor gatherings.

Vivian Towe, program officer at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, said to the Times, “Unless the vaccination rates increase to 80% or 90% over the next few months, we should wear masks in large public indoor settings.” (May 13)

States, bosses coerce workers

Some states are beginning to cut off access to unemployment insurance benefits to force workers to return to jobs in dangerous environments lacking adequate safety measures to protect them from the virus or where they are paid subsistence wages. Already burdened with enforcing mask mandates, frontline workers are now being put in the impossible position of determining if customers or others whom they encounter are truly vaccinated.

Even with mask mandates implemented, there have been multiple incidents of workers being harassed and even injured while trying to enforce the protocols. Most at risk are workers in jobs with heavy exposure to the public, in grocery and retail stores and warehouses, and those toiling in the service sector in trucking, health care, postal or sanitation jobs employed in restaurants, hotels and other hospitality businesses. Children under 12, not yet eligible for vaccines, now account for 22% of new cases.

The year-plus history of the coronavirus pandemic is rife with examples of large gatherings where unvaccinated people deliberately and willfully broke mask mandates during the spread of COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, the right-wing, anti-mask movement has ignored protocols by appearing in public without the vital protean. Many are vocally anti-vaccine.

With mask mandates in place, workers in restaurants and other businesses open to the public could restrict access for these individuals. Now the door is wide open for anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers to fill public spaces where people can easily gather in large groups and expose individuals who are immunocompromised, not yet immunized, or who lack access to, or eligibility for vaccines, which will put the consequences of this affects the many Latinx immigrants, who want to be inoculated as soon as possible but are afraid of risking their jobs, or their immigration status, if they take time off to get vaccinated.
Global protests demand: ‘Stop Israel’s genocide!’

By Kathy Durkin

The whole world is watching in horror as Israel bombards Gaza. As of May 17, the Zionist state has killed nearly 200 people, 58 of them children. With military precision, Israel’s bombs are aimed at civilian targets, family homes, refuge camps, hospitals and schools.

Israeli missiles razed to the ground a famous building that provided residential housing, doctors and lawyers’ offices and international media offices, which was the base of support enabling AP and Al-Jazeera journalists and photographers to capture the reality of life in Gaza. Israel has now destroyed the largest three buildings housing media in the Gaza Strip. The message is clear: Israel does not want the truth publicized about their vile crimes against Gaza’s people, nor the carnage seen.

Israel is intensifying its war on the Palestinian people and trying to eliminate all resistance to its expansionism and apartheid state, which legally denies equal rights to the region’s Indigenous inhabitants. Its murderous military campaign exposes the Zionists’ contempt for Palestinian lives and its anti-Arab, anti-Muslim racism. Meanwhile, Zionist settlers are stealing Palestinian families’ lands, and forcing them out of their homes and farms.

However, Palestinians and other Arab and oppressed peoples, Muslims, anti-Zionist, anti-racist and anti-war activists are loudly protesting Israel’s crimes. They are decrying the Zionists’ attacks on the Al-Aqsa mosque and the genocidal bombings. And they are calling in solidarity with the Palestinians of Gaza, the occupied West Bank and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem, under deadly siege by the Zionist state and settlers.

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world protested Israeli apartheid and war crimes May 14 through 16. And Washington’s financial and political backing of the Zionist state was condemned. Activists were inspired to demonstrate by the heroic Palestinian Resistance. Here are some highlights of these actions.

Nakba Day marked

Many actions took place on May 15, Nakba Day, a yearly commemoration of the forcible removal of 750,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1948. The state of Israel was formally proclaimed May 14, 1948.

Demonstrations were held in the occupied West Bank on both days. In Ramallah, a sireen sounded for 73 seconds on Nakba Day, symbolizing the years since the “Day of Catastrophe.” Protests were held in Nablus and other towns and cities. The Palestinian Resistance was mobilized; however, Israeli soldiers retaliated and fatally shot 10 Palestinians.

Palestinian flags flew at rallies in Baghdad and cities in Iraq’s southern provinces of Babylon, Dhi Qar, Diwaniyah and Basra, in solidarity with Gaza’s people. Thousands turned out in Doha, Qatar. Other solidarity activities took place in Karachi, Pakistan; Tehran, Iran; Amman, Jordan; and Beirut, Lebanon.

At the Lebanese-Israeli border.

At the Lebanese-Israeli border.


At the Lebanese-Israeli border.

At the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Sydney, Australia.

Sydney, Australia.

By Kathy Durkin

The whole world is watching in horror as Israel bombs Gaza. As of May 17, the Zionist state has killed nearly 200 people, 58 of them children. With military precision, Israel’s bombs are aimed at civilian targets, family homes, refuge camps, hospitals and schools.

Israeli missiles razed to the ground a famous building that provided residential housing, doctors and lawyers’ offices and international media offices, which was the base of support enabling AP and Al-Jazeera journalists and photographers to capture the reality of life in Gaza. Israel has now destroyed the largest three buildings housing media in the Gaza Strip. The message is clear: Israel does not want the truth publicized about their vile crimes against Gaza’s people, nor the carnage seen.

Israel is intensifying its war on the Palestinian people and trying to eliminate all resistance to its expansionism and apartheid state, which legally denies equal rights to the region’s Indigenous inhabitants. Its murderous military campaign exposes the Zionists’ contempt for Palestinian lives and its anti-Arab, anti-Muslim racism. Meanwhile, Zionist settlers are stealing Palestinian families’ lands, and forcing them out of their homes and farms.

However, Palestinians and other Arab and oppressed peoples, Muslims, anti-Zionist, anti-racist and anti-war activists are loudly protesting Israel’s crimes. They are decrying the Zionists’ attacks on the Al-Aqsa mosque and the genocidal bombings. And they are calling in solidarity with the Palestinians of Gaza, the occupied West Bank and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem, under deadly siege by the Zionist state and settlers.

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world protested Israeli apartheid and war crimes May 14 through 16. And Washington’s financial and political backing of the Zionist state was condemned. Activists were inspired to demonstrate by the heroic Palestinian Resistance. Here are some highlights of these actions.

London: 150,000 chant ‘Palestine will be free!’

Organizers say 150,000 people denounced Israel’s atrocities at a London, England demonstration, holding signs saying “Free Palestine!” and “This is apartheid.” Speakers condemned Britain’s historic betrayal of the Palestinian people. Some 5,000 people attended a Manchester rally. Protests were held in 80 cities in Britain, including Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland, and Cardiff, Wales.

In Madrid, Spain, 2,500 demonstrated, and the youth wrapped themselves in Palestinian flags. They all made their way to Puerta del Sol. Hundreds bravely rallied in the Barbes neighborhood in Paris, France, despite a ban on protests. Police fired tear gas and water cannons at them and arrested 44 people.

Hundreds rallied in three locations in Berlin and at actions in Frankfurt, Leipzig, Hamburg and Stuttgart, Germany. In the Berlin district of Neukoelln, protesters burned Israeli flags and pummeled police with bottles, stones and fireworks. Officials tried to ban some protests, falsely charging anti-Semitism.

In Canada, 5,000 people participated in an action in Toronto, organized by the Palestinian Youth Movement. Thousands assembled in Montreal, where police attacked pro-Palestinian activists. Other actions were held in Ottawa, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

Brazil’s Landless Workers Movement condemned Israeli attacks and called for support for the Palestinian Resistance.

Free Palestine rallies held in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, attracted thousands of people. And there were 10 rally sites in New Zealand.

A conversation with Susan Abulhawa on Zionism

Susan Abulhawa: Recently five or six young Palestinian boys were kidnapped and arrested. They were young: they were babies, and they were targeted because they were picking wild za‘atar, wild herbs. This is actually not how the war of 1948 was being foraged for ‘atzar and meramiyeh for thousands of years. Nor were they stealing land that displaced more than the Zionists. You can see it in the way they build their homes. They literally delineate the hills. Palestinians never had walls around their homes. They were built on the sides of hills and in the valleys to conform to the landscape, not the other way around. Israel makes the land conform to their desire.

If you’ve never seen a hill being de-apathefied, it is such a violent act. The hills are not a thing, they’re a person. The people were destroyed. Consider how many animals depended on those trees as their habitats and food sources. The land is gone. There’s just zero respect for the land.

From its inception Israel devastated the water streams. One of the first things they did was drain the Hula [valley] wetlands. That was considered “Zionist ingenuity.” They took it and went on and on about what gorgeous things they had foreseen the Hula valley to be. They call it the Hula swamp.

It was actually a massive ecological treasure that was home to hundreds of bird species, of frog species, fish, flora—many of which have become extinct, because they were unique to that region, which sits on the border of the Mediterranean. They drained the wetlands to establish settler colonies, but they didn’t understand the land it was made of. They made mistakes that happened, that ended up leading to subterranean internal combustion that basically made it impossible to build their damn houses there. They had to end that project, but the wetlands were destroyed. There’s a tiny bit left that’s a fraction of what it used to be.

The Zionists were Europeans. They’re trying to make the land European. And so they’re destroying birds that have no relatives— dozens of animals and they have no relatives— dozens of animals that are related to the birds. They are wiping out the populations and it’s total destruction. That’s why they had those massive forest fires a few years back.

In North America, there was Manifest Destiny. There was a divine aura to it all. It was destined; people were escaping persecution to come here. They were looking for a better life. And the current inhabitants weren’t even viewed as the current stewards of the land or even worthy of the land. God was not on their side—all of these things, so it makes it palatable to the average colonizer.

Presumably the people coming here for a better life— to come and work— they were people in search of a better life. But they became colonizers. They became monsters. They became adherents to mythologies that made sense to them. And the same thing is happening in Palestine.

The original Zionists were Europeans who very much had that European colonial mentality. They looked at the East as backward, inferior and unworthy. They decided their presence as the European colonizer colonoy somewhere— the Jewish state. The fact that they were expanding and taking land from the other people was never important. Most of them were atheists, by the way. So this was never a religious thing. They were always about power. It was always about colonialism. Because of European antisemitism, they didn’t have the access that the Christian states had to their special piece of the pie. That’s the origin of Zionism.

They had nothing to do with Judaism. Of course, they looked everywhere. They looked in Uganda, Argentina, Ethiopia and Palestine. It was never about “returning” to Palestine, but Palestine made for a better myth.

All the other places were a little bit too baroic—a little bit too primitive. It had water. It had it. You knew, a Biblical aura. It had everything they needed to create the other really potent aspect of colonialism, which is the apathy about the people who live there.

Judaism had roots there. Judaism also has roots in Egypt and in Persia. They could have manufactured the same thing in any of these places. But Palestine made for an attractive place for many reasons, particularly the fact that it was under British mandate.

The British enticed Jews, especially following World War II, who were coming for a better life in search of a better future. They were a lot of smaller people. They were not a lot of bigger people. They were more of the Eastern Jews, the ones that come from the Donbass. They were different, because they didn’t have the land of either Persia, or Egypt. They didn’t have the background of a land as small as it was. It was very small. It was built-up; it had an infrastructure—it had it. It had a history. It had a identity. It had a Bible, it had the Torah. It was the most important thing on earth. That’s why it was so important. They wanted to “indigenize” themselves. They don’t want to be seen as colonizers. They want to be “Jewish.” So suddenly they “created” a new history. They have their own “indigenous culture,” which is basically Palestinian cuisine.

They’re stealing our clothing; they’re pretending like it’s Israeli in their fashion shows. They’re even appropriating the kifefeh, making a blue-and-white kifefeh. And they’re claiming our archaeological sites— the ones that were raised where they were raised in hundreds and thousands of years-old cemeteries. Muslim cemeteries especially, because they want to erase us. They’re threatened by our presence. And you didn’t see that in South Africa, that didn’t exist.

WW: Your research also found that Israel is the worst exporter of weapons globally, per capita. Israel was insistently the no. 1 exporter of weapons in the world per capita, exceeding the U.S. by a huge margin, exceeding Russia, exceeding China, France, Italy. I did the research and examined a 10-year period. I got the information from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, that basically tracks all weapons transactions across the world and especially in conflict situations.

All of Israel’s weapons transactions are only indirectly known because of the discretion of the country. However, they have been one of the biggest suppliers of weapons, especially to regions of conflict situations where there are international bans on weapon sales. When there were weapons embargos against South Africa, Israel was supplying them to South Africa and they would set it down all those kids in Soweto, those were Israeli-supplied weapons.

They sold nuclear technology to the apartheid government. The extent of Israel’s collusion with South Africa was actually quite shocking. There’s a really great book called “The Israeli-Apartheid Alliance” by Sasha Polakow-Suransky, which is worth a read for anybody who wants to understand how all those countries are working with them. But it wasn’t just South Africa; Israel supplied weapons to Rwanda.

And that’s just the weapons. That doesn’t include the surveillance technology, the drone and facial recognition equipment. It doesn’t include their train- ing and their weapons training around the world, including in the U.S., on suppression methodologies.

WW: Regarding Gaza, do you think about the term open-air prison? Is that accurate? What does that really mean? What is the term “SA: It is a prison. Probably the biggest prison in the world. People aren’t allowed in. They’re not allowed out. They’re not allowed to do different things, but it’s more than that. It’s not just a place to warehouse people. They have made it into a laboratory, a weapons testing ground.

Whenever they launch a quote unquote “war”— it’s never the word “genocide”— after those mass attacks, they test all their new stuff. And it allows them to put this “field test” label on their weapons. Later on, they can market their weapons as being field tested, which means: “We use this on Palestinians, and it murdered them effectively.” And that’s what it’s all about— the science of extermination and social and one thing that it’s not about is Israeli security. That’s what it’s not about. The weapon’s technology is only an extension of capitalism. U.S. backs Israeli terror in Gaza

Continued from page 1 of thousands of people demonstrated on Nakba (Arabic for catastrophe) Day, commemorating May 15, the day that Palestinians were violently displaced in 1948 from their ancestral homelands through the establishment of Israel by British and other Western imperialists—in order to control oil-rich region known as the Middle East.

Besides street actions, other forms of solidarity have taken place. Italian port workers in Livorno, near Tuscany, have refused to load an arms shipment to Israel. L’Unione Sindacale di Base (The Basic Union of Trade Unions) stated, “The port of Livorno will not be an accomplice in the massacre of the Palestinian people.” (The New Arab, May 15)

The Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network has called for a “Day of Action in Solidarity with the Palestinian Uprising and General Strike” May 18. The call reads in part: “As Israel is continuing its massive attacks on Palestinians in Jerusalem and settler-mob violence throughout occupied Palestine from the river to the sea, Palestinians have called for a general strike on Nakba (catastrophe) Day May 15.”

As Susan Abulhawa, a Palestinian writer and activist, told WW: “What has been happening to Palestine is not unusual news because Gaza is defending itself from U.S.-backed Israeli attacks. There is not a day that goes by when some kind of violence is not visited upon the people of Gaza or any other part of Occupied Palestine which does not get reported by the media. It is not a day that goes by when some kind of violence is not visited upon the people of Gaza or any other part of Occupied Palestine which does not get reported by the media. It is not a day that goes by when some kind of violence is not visited upon the people of Gaza or any other part of Occupied Palestine which does not get reported by the media.”
Thousands support heroic Palestinian fightback

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Palestinian resistance continues against the state of Israel’s destruction of their homes, seizure of their land, assassination of their leaders and slaughter of their people. This genocidal attack was first made possible by the might and sponsorship of European colonialist powers. The onslaught on Palestine has since been protested and propped up by U.S. military funding for the promotion of U.S. economic and political interests.

Recognition of the Palestinian struggle as an Indigenous, anti-colonial, anti-imperialist struggle is growing in the U.S., as seen in recent demonstrations of thousands supporting the current heroic Palestinian fightback. A rally took place May 15 to coincide with the anniversary of the 1948 Nakba, when Israel expelled over 700,000 Palestinians from their homes and razed as many as 600 Palestinian villages.

Protests stretched from coast to coast and deep into the U.S. heartland. In Memphis, a crowd of hundreds chanted: “Occupation is a crime from Memphis to Palestine!” while marching to the National Civil Rights Museum. In Louisville, Ky., a student organizer said, “We have a duty to speak up because our own tax dollars are funding the Israeli military.” In Phoenix, Ariz., a matcher emphasized the protest was to “reafirm our commitment to the Palestinian people’s struggle, for justice, return and liberation.” (tinyurl.com/yw86wyjs)

Here are on-the-ground reports from just a few of the many marches:

**In the U.S.**

*Brooklyn, N.Y.*, May 15.

Buffalo, N.Y.

Buffalo for Palestine held an inspiring demonstration of resistance against the recent Israeli attack on Gaza and the apartheid inflicted on the Palestinian people since 1948. The crowd was significantly young and radical, with political messaging that reflected years of struggle against Zionism, white supremacy and imperialist genocide.

A solidarity demonstration kicked off in Rittenhouse Square in Center City Philadelphia. May 15, as cars and trucks waving Palestinian flags circled the park. Thousands of people occupied the city streets. While a majority of participants were Palestinian, there was significant turnout of Black activists and progressive whites. Chants were in English and Arabic, and signs referred to police brutality in the U.S. and Palestine.

As the march got underway, response from people in the packed outdoor Center City dining areas was generally positive. At the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, marchers took over all lanes and blocked traffic. At the Philadelphia Museum of Art, protesters dropped a bomb on the MOVE family 36 anniversary of the Nakba and May 13 as the anniversary of the City of Philadelphia taking the lives of six police during the MOVE uprising.

**Paterson, N.J.**

Over 2,000 people marched in downtown Paterson, N.J. The Palestinian community and supporters filled the streets to demand: no more ethnic cleansing, the end of Israeli apartheid by U.S.-backed Israeli settlers. Over 2,000 people marched in downtown Cleveland, to support the fighting people of Palestine. The march was called by Al-Awda: the Palestine Right to Return Coalition. The Palestinian community and supporters filled the streets to demand: no more ethnic cleansing, the end of Israeli apartheid.

**Cleveland.**

**Atlanta.**

**Brooklyn, N.Y.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

**Atlanta.**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

**Paterson, N.J.**

**Atlanta.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

*Philadelphia.*

*May 15, organized by American Muslims for Palestine. Aerial footage showed the militant rallies stretched for many blocks, halting traffic for hours. Crowds in both Buffalo and Philadelphia provided messaging that connected the struggle against racism and police brutality in the U.S. with the struggle of the Palestinian people against the occupation. They condemned the current renewed brutal repression by Israel and demanded an end to the occupation of Palestine.*

Led by Palestinian youth, 1,000 people marched through downtown Atlanta to commemorate the Nakba and to call for an end to the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestine by U.S.-backed Israeli settlers.

**Raleigh, N.C.**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

**In the U.S.**

**Brooklyn, N.Y.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

**Atlanta.**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

**Atlanta.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

**Atlanta.**

**Philadelphia.**

**Cleveland.**

Continued on page 9
Syringes for Cuba

Campaign to send vital COVID supplies

By Stephanie Hedgecocke

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba’s Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade sent 53 contingents of volunteer health workers to over 40 countries—in addition to Cuban medical personnel already working in 58 countries. And more than 45 countries requested Cuba’s Interferon Alpha 2b protocol to use for treatment of seriously ill COVID patients. (Granma, Nov. 25, 2020)

Cuba has developed five internationally recognized candidate COVID-19 vaccines, two of them now in Phase III clinical trials: Soberana-02 and Abdala. Cuba plans to produce 100 million doses of low-cost vaccine, safe to store at room temperature for weeks, and has arranged to expand its scale of production with agreements with Venezuela and Iran. The 100 million doses will cover their population of almost 11.5 million and, in contrast to the rich countries’ hoarding of life-saving vaccines, provide vaccines to poorer countries in Africa and Latin America. (Workers World, April 26)

Cuba regularly exports hundreds of millions of vaccines to other countries. Global distribution of Cuban COVID vaccines will be tracked through COVAX, with the World Health Organization, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation. (Reuters, Nov. 12, 2020) Dr. Jose Maya Medina, Cuba’s representative to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), said, “Cuba’s contribution with its vaccine could be very important for certain vulnerable groups in our region” from rural and remote Indigenous communities to the elderly.

Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industries (BioCubaFarma) President Eduardo Martinez said Cuba intends to present a diversified portfolio of vaccines, which will help match the needs of different population groups. BioCubaFarma is Cuba’s state-owned network of 34 companies and scientific institutions which coordinate a planned, societywide approach to pharmaceuticals and vaccines. Cuban biotech development has been a priority since the 1980s due to the criminal U.S. blockade, which cut off access to medical supplies and innovations to the island. Vaccination in Cuba will be voluntary; yet decades of free health care, free education and extensive public health campaigns ensure high levels of coverage. All Havana is set to be vaccinated by the end of May, 60% of the rest of the country by August and the entire island by the end of the year.

In the Special Period after the loss of Soviet aid in 1991, the Cuban Revolution faced a devastating economic blockade that significantly impacted its people’s access to medicine. In response, the Cuban solidarity network helped Cuba in the 1980s to sending the first medical personnel volunteers to fight Ebola in West Africa in 2014 to planning to help vaccinate the world. Cuba needs our solidarity in the pandemic now. The Saving Lives Campaign and Global Health Partners are building a broad-based, urgent drive to supply these vital medical tools to Cuba to put life-saving vaccines into Cuban arms.

To show your solidarity with the revolutionary Cuban people, please make a donation to Global Health Partners, which has a U.S. Commerce Department license to send medical supplies to Cuba. You can make an immediate donation online at ghpartners.org/syringes4cuba/. Or send a check payable to Global Health Partners, 39 Broadway, Suite 1540, New York, NY 10006, with the check memo: Syringe Campaign.

Thousands support heroic Palestinian fightback

Continued from page 8

occupation now and a stop to U.S. funding for the Zionist settler state.

On the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba, roughly 1,000 people assembled in downtown Portland, Ore., to call for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. As cars honked in solidarity, over a dozen Palestinian, American and Abroad families in Palestine are experiencing from the recent violent onslaught by Israeli armed forces. Poems and stories of suffering since 1917—when Great Britain took colonial control of Palestine—brought tears to the crowd, who chanted: “From Palestine to Mexico, border walls have got to go!” The event was organized by the Center for Study and Preservation of Palestine, which collected donations for the people of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

On May 15, 10,000 people took to the streets of San Francisco to support the Palestinian struggle against continued occupation and Israeli terrorist attacks. In the morning, hundreds gathered in the Mission District to paint a powerful street mural, “We Will Return,” in both Arabic and English. The day ended at Dolores Park, after a dynamic march past the mural, as the streets shook with chants of “Free, free Palestine!” and “Long live the Intifada!”

Palestinian youth, multigenerational Palestinian families with their children, and allies from a broad spectrum of the anti-occupation and anti-imperialist movement overflowed the streets in front of the park. Demonstrators were united in demanding an immediate return of Palestine—from the river to the sea—to the Palestinian people. A coalition of organizations, including the Palestine Action Network, AROC (Arab Resource and Organizing Committee) and the Palestinian Youth Movement, organized the day’s actions.

Contributing to this article were Sara Flounders, Judy Greenspun, Monica Moorehead, Christian Noakes, Betsy Pete, Susan Schnur, Maureen Shehan, Carlos Spliststoer, Hadley Williams, Workers World Durham bureau.
two oppressors — the tascetic Israeli occupiers who violently displaced them from their homeland May 15, 1948, with horrific massacre — and the top backer of Israel, U.S. imperialism.

Yes, it is the duty for anyone who con-
siders them to be a revolutionary and social-
istic inside any superrich capitalist
ist countries to demand that all aid be
vered from propping up Israeli apartheid
sh with solidarity with the multinational,
working class against capitalist exploit-

Finally.

For the first time since the creation of
Israel in 1948, U.S. bipartisan support for
the Zionist settler state has come under
fire on the House floor.

To read the statements from President
[Joe] Biden, Secretary [of State Antony]
Blinken, General [Lloyd] Austin and lead-
ers of both parties, you would hardly know
Palestinians existed at all,” exclaimed a
tearful Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Detroit, the
first and only Palestinian woman in
Congress, May 14. “There has been no
recognition of the attack on Palestinian
families being ripped from their homes
right in front of them. They are being
detained or murdered. No recognition of
a sustained campaign of harassment and
terror by Israeli police against worship-
ners kneeling down and praying and cel-
brating the holiest days in one of their
holiest places; no mention of Al-Aqsa
being surrounded by violence, tear gas,
smoke, while people pray.”

Rep. Tlaib, a daughter of Palestinian
immigrants whose grandmother still lives
in Jerusalem, was joined by nine other
House members. It is a conflict where one
country, funded and supported by the
United States government,acon-
sidered the other country, funded and
supported in occupied Palestine, was joined by
nine other countries, and one, two or three free subscriptions,
WW, a regular letter about timely issues
to all workers and their families and
supporters worldwide as a regular holi-
day in over 80 countries, but not in
the U.S. where it originated during the
19th century struggle for the eight-hour workday. But May Day
should not be the only day to honor
the laborers of the world!

Workers World newspaper calls for
May Day to be commemorated every
day, for workers in the U.S. and
worldwide to be recognized,
applauded and thanked for their
essential labor. Each day should be marked
by solidarity with workers everywhere, especially those superexploited by greedy bosses
and global corporations.

Our newspaper is partisan. Our
coveragestruggles by the global
working class against capitalist exploit-
itors. WW sides with the multinational,
multigender, multigenerational working
class, organized and unorganized, doc-
ument and undocumented, in their
struggles for livable wages, unionization
and respect.

WW honors and thanks all essential
workers who risked their own health to
keep society running during the pan-
demic and those who are doing this now
in countries hit hard by COVID-19.

Our pages express solidarity with the
millions of workers impacted by the
pandemic downturn, especially Black,
Latina, Indigenous, women and
other gender-oppressed people, the
disabled, and those still jobless, those
lacking health care, childcare, sufficient
food and housing. Our Tear Down the
Walls section shows our support of incre-
cerated workers.

WW calls for jobs and government
programs to provide life’s necessities
to all workers and their families and
requests an end to all bigotry, inequality
and oppression. End capitalism! Fight
for socialism!

The 44-year-long WW Supporter
Program was created so readers could
support publication of working-class
truth needed for revolutionary change.
Members receive a year’s subscription to
WW, a regular letter about timely issues
and one, two or three free subscriptions,
respectively, for subscriptions of
$75, $100, $300 — or more. Members
can receive the book “What Road to
Socialism?” upon request. (Read it at
workers.org/books/)

WW articles are posted daily at
workers.org. During the pandemic, printed
copies of one of the weekly issues each
month are being mailed to subscribers.
Issues will be printed and sent out more
frequently.

Write monthly or annual checks to
Workers World. Mail them, with your
name and address, to Workers World,
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York,
NY 10011. Or please contribute at
workers.org/donate.

We are grateful for your help in build-
ning Workers World!
The courageous struggle of the Colombian people

Reports from Colombia May 17 state the national strike that began April 28 continue and a national mobilization has been called for May 19. The strike has growing mass support from diverse sectors. Colombians today have fought against state and private state death-squad repression that has killed at least 50 people, wounded more than 500, imprisoned over 1,500, and disappeared over 500. This statement of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People’s Army (FARC-EP) represents a revolutionary view concerning the national strike and explains why they believe—five years after a peace treaty was signed—it is necessary to pick up arms again.

The Western Coordinating Command on behalf of the structures that make it up salutes the Colombian people, the social organizations, but also groups of friends, clubs, etc. This shows that the level of mass consciousness exceeds the organized social structure and that the people are enraged by the cynical economic and political measures that the illegitimate “President” Iván Duque推行的政策. Duque is simply carrying out the orders of his bosses: the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and U.S. imperialism.

We stand in solidarity with all those who have lost their families, who have been beaten and injured at the hands of those who proclaim themselves the guarantors of human rights and international humanitarian law (these are the same people who believe that all dissidents are criminals and should be treated as such). We cannot remain silent or tolerant when we see a pack of members of the Esmad [U.S.-trained anti-riot squad] or the police killing protesters with clubs and bullets, merely because protesters demand education for their children and raise complaints against the injustice of the state.

We are people in arms because we are faithful witnesses that democracy in Colombia only exists on paper; we are people in arms because we know that the only way to make ourselves heard is by dying on our feet, by not living as the people who have understood that there are no more possibilities of making demands than through armed struggle.

Role of FARC-EP

Today more than ever, the struggle of the FARC-EP is just and necessary, and we will not give up until we see the structure of this Santanderist state which sells out the homeland destroyed — and to be able to establish together with the people a sovereign, inclusive, fully democratic, just and truly patriotic government, in which the people make the strategic decisions of the nation; in which the police become an entity preventing repression, where there are no mercenaries in the public service; in which soldiers are patriots committed to the defense of the people.

In other words, we want that dignified Colombia, of the people and for the people, and not the Colombia of today, which is the miserable oligarchy who apply death and blackmail to defend the interests of the rich without considering the suffering of the poor, who are the families of those soldiers and policemen who, regardless of the justice of the struggle, do not mind killing to defend a miserable salary. That scaffold of corruption that steals the wealth and forces us to pay tribute sacrificing the well-being and that of your family. We are glad that the mobilizations these days are going very well and that it is time to take to the streets for this just cause and to make this corrupt government fall, to demand that the congress freeze the lower salaries and to reform the legislature and establish a unicameral system or one representative per department, to put an end to the violence against the just cause, to try to make the military and police forces have carried out, follows the repetitive script, linking us with the mobilization, creating false profiles on social networks from which they disseminate information in our name alluding to the strike, taking out false pamphlets forcing people to go on strike and very possibly try to make military personnel in sites where masses are concentrated wear our insignias.

They have done this with the undeniable presence of armed and person- nel in demonstrations, agents previously trained by the police; this is how the cowards act in the face of the fury of the people. They cannot expect the people to remain immobile in the face of barbarism. It is the people raised up against injustice who are the protagonists of the coming change; the people have begun the march of no return for a new homeland, and this just march will not be stopped by anyone. People and dignity, Manuel Marulanda lives, the struggle continues!!!!!!

Coordinating Command of the Western FARC-EP
Jaime Martínez Mobile Column
Dagoberto Ramos Mobile Column
Franco Benavides Mobile Column
Urias Rondon Mobile Column
Carlos Patiño Front
Rafael Agudera Front
Ismael Ruiz Front
Western Coordinating Command
Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia Ejército del Pueblo
Source, rebellion.org, translation: John Cudia

The attack on the FARC-EP

Al desechar los acuerdos de paz colombiano que se reunió con los negociadores de las FARC en 2015 en La Habana.

Colombia: The terror of Estado no detendrá la lucha

Continúa de la página 12

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Al desechar los acuerdos de paz colombiano que se reunió con los negociadores de las FARC en 2015 en La Habana.
El terror de Estado no detendrá la lucha

Por Martha Grevatt

Desde el 28 de abril, los trabajadores de Colombia están llevando a cabo una huelga general. La huelga fue provocada por la tercera de las tres recientes “reformas” fiscales impuestas por el gobierno derechista del presidente Iván Duque. Las mismas integran restricciones a los trabajadores por ambos lados, aumentando los impuestos sobre la renta personal y cobrando impuestos sobre las ventas de los bienes necesarios para la vida.

Esto crea tremendas dificultades para los trabajadores colombianos, cuya salaario medio mensual equivale a unos 310 dólares, muy por debajo de la media mundial y menos que el alquiler mensual de un piso pequeño en la ciudad de Bogotá. (quora.com)

Una vez más, la codicia capitalista prevalece sobre las necesidades humanas, lo que eleva las infecciones notificadas a 14 y 30 años. Muchos han sido desplazados, y sus barrios urbanos están dominados por las fuerzas estatales y los paramilitares, es un terror continuo de la policía colombiana (ONIC) denunció las “acciones para Colombia de la Alianza para la Producción de Defensa de América Latina y Asia”.

El terror de Estado no detendrá la lucha armada de liberación. La ONIC participa en el paro general. El 7 de mayo, activistas indígenas derribaron una estatua del colonizador español Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada, fundador de Bogotá. El 5 de mayo, el Capítulo Étnico del Acuerdo de Paz, firmado en 2016 por las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) y el gobierno colombiano del entonces presidente ultraderechista Álvaro Uribe, ha echado por terra el Acuerdo de Paz. Algunos combatientes retirados de las FARC abogan por la reanudación de la lucha armada de liberación.

El terror de Estado no detendrá la lucha. La lucha armada de liberación debe seguir, y al terror se le debe enfrentar de tal forma que la respuesta a estos hechos sea la violencia armada. (Telesur, 7 de mayo)

Colombia

El papel del gobierno colombiano en la defensa de los intereses imperialistas en América Latina y otros países ha suscitado comparaciones con la forma en que el Estado del apartheid israelí funciona extendiendo los intereses imperialistas.

El Petro en la capital, Bogotá. (quora.com)

La huelga fue provocada por la tercera de las tres recientes “reformas” fiscales impuestas por el gobierno derechista del presidente Iván Duque. Las mismas integran restricciones a los trabajadores por ambos lados, aumentando los impuestos sobre la renta personal y cobrando impuestos sobre las ventas de los bienes necesarios para la vida.

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