

As Israeli genocide continues

Protesters for Palestine stay in the streets

Special to Workers World

Mass demonstrations in solidarity with Palestine are continuing across the U.S., many honoring the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Nov. 29 and others held during "tree lighting" events.

Hundreds demonstrated in Center City Philadelphia on a rainy evening Dec. 3. Called by the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition, the event started with a rally and prayer service in Rittenhouse Park, followed by a march that ended at 40th and Market streets for a solidarity rally with the Save UC Townhomes Coalition.

Two sound trucks led the way, followed by lead banners calling out the murderous genocide, carried out by Israel but funded by the U.S., that has taken the lives of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza. Along the route, protesters stopped to call out two Zionist-run restaurants.

They marched by the University of Pennsylvania cam-

pus, where activist students are under attack by university trustees with major investments in Israel. Last week, UPenn administrators threatened disciplinary action against Penn Chavurah, a progressive Jewish student group whose members defied restrictions against screening the documentary film "Israelism."

The final stop was at the former site of University City Townhomes, an affordable housing project where the residents have been subject to mass evictions by developers who serve on UPenn's board. Speakers drew the connection between the constant evictions of low-income Black and Brown residents of



Children lead march for cease-fire. Portland, Oregon, Dec. 2, 2023.

affordable housing communities and the Palestinians being pushed off their land.

Once again Palestinians in Northeast Ohio demonstrated their solidarity with Gaza, demanding an end to Israel's genocide. The latest protest, called by Al-Awda Cleveland, took place Dec. 2 in Westlake, a suburb

of Cleveland nicknamed "Little Palestine." Chants included, "October 7 is not the date, we've been fighting since '48," and "Twisted lies and corrupt news, we fight Zionists, not the Jews."

Thousands of people were in the streets of New York City Nov. 29 to demand an end to the genocide in Gaza. People protested at a demonstration organized by Within Our Lifetime during the yearly Christmas tree lighting at Rockefeller Center. The police initially attacked the participants but were forced to move back and open up the street to allow for a larger gathering space.

The gathering site was in front of Fox News, and then the demonstrators took to the streets to let

people know that during this holiday season, their tax dollars are being used to massacre Palestinians.

One of the most popular chants was "Israel bombs, USA pays, how many kids did you kill today?" They also chanted, "Genocide Joe has got to go."

In NYC, there are at least two demonstrations happen-

ing every day, often with bridges being shut down.



Responding to the call to Shut It Down for Palestine, Houston activists gathered on multiple bridges across Houston highway 59 on Nov 29, hanging banners demanding a permanent cease-fire and an end to the siege on Gaza and denouncing the ongoing genocide in Palestine.

Activists with the Palestinian Youth Movement and Students for Justice in Palestine at Rice University and the University of Houston held a dynamic teach-in followed by a poetry session on Continued on page 3



Philadelphia, Dec. 3, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

WW PHOTO: MADDI JOHNSON

THAT moment WHEN OFF



IS THAT WHY ISRAELI SOLDIERS NOT ONLY FORCED DOCTORS TO LEAVE INCUBATOR BABIES TO DIE IN GAZA HOSPITALS...



BUT ALSO HAVE. ALREADY KILLED 700 PEOPLE IN 24 HOURS AFTER THE END OF THE CEASEFIRE



LEAVING THE ONLY POSSIBLE CONCLUSION THAT ISRAEL IS DELIBERATELY TARGETING CIVILIANS?



WELL THE UNITED STATES DID THE SAME THING IN HIROSHIMA!



WORKERS WORLD→ editorial

No to bigotry, no to war!

a ruling Nov. 30 that banned the "international LGBT public movement," calling this movement for basic civil rights "extremist." If convicted of "extremism," a member of the LGBTQ+ community could face up to six years imprisonment. Within days of the court ruling, Russian police reportedly raided LGBTQ+ bars in Moscow.

This follows a decade of anti-LGBTQ+ acts by the Russian government, including a ban on gender reassignment surgery enacted by Parliament last June.

LGBTQ+ activists around the world are, understandably, outraged over this new law.

However, the LGBTQ+ movement must be careful not to let its outrage be weaponized by the imperialist state and media, and channeled into support for the U.S./ NATO war in Ukraine. On the contrary, the movement can play a significant role in exposing the hypocrisy of U.S. imperialism's condemnation of Russia's anti-LGBTQ+ policies.

The U.S. State Department's 2022 report on human rights practices in Russia states that, "the Russian Federation has a highly centralized, authoritarian political system dominated by President Vladimir Putin." It claims there are "crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons." (state.gov)

If you didn't know better, you might think that LGBTQ2S+ people in the U.S. are not subject to hate crimes or bigoted laws.

Far from it.

The American Civil Liberties Union reports that there are 507 anti-trans and homophobic laws that have been introduced in state legislatures. Some have been passed, some defeated and some are still under consideration. All but three states — New York, Illinois and Delaware — have at least one bigoted bill in some stage of the legislative process.

These bills, many of them targeting transgender youth, have contributed to the climate of violence facing trans people, especially trans women of color. This

The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation issued past Nov. 20, Trans Day of Remembrance, 33 anti-trans murders during the previous year were acknowledged. This may well be an undercount.

> Nor are things ideal in Ukraine, which the U.S. and NATO are supporting against Russia. Same-sex couples are barred from marrying and adopting children. The LGBTQ+ community has been violently attacked by rightwing gangs. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has had the backing of pro-Nazi groupings in Ukraine.

> Whether in Russia, Ukraine or the imperialist West, the roots of anti-LGBTQ+ oppression are the same: class society. Oppression is a built-in feature wherever capitalism is the dominant mode of production.

> War is also in capitalism's DNA. The U.S. is waging war against Russia in order to subdue its capitalist rival. It has nothing to do with the worldwide fight for LGBTQ+ civil rights.

> Likewise, the LGBTQ+ community should have nothing to do with the imperialist war machine!

> Justice can be achieved in a socialist society. After the Russian Revolution, along with establishing legal rights for women, the Bolsheviks eliminated the Tsarist regime's anti-gay laws. Socialist Cuba's 2022 Family Code — the "law of love" — protects the rights of LGBTQ+ people and their relationships.

No to bigotry! No to imperialist war! □



Anti-NATO protest with Pride flags in the background, Brussels, Feb. 26, 2023.

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, LGBTQ2S+ 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 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, 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 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. □

If you are interested in joining **Workers World Party contact:**

National Office

121 W. 27th St., Suite 404 New York, NY 10001 212.627.2994 wwp@workers.org

Atlanta

PO Box 18123 Atlanta, GA 30316 404.627.0185 atlanta@workers.org

Bav Area

P.O. Box 22947 Oakland, CA 94609 510.394.2207 bayarea@workers.org

Boston

284 Amory St. Boston, MA 02130 boston@workers.org instagram: @wwpboston

Buffalo, N.Y.

335 Richmond Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222 716.883.2534 buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast

(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi) centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland

cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.

919.322.9970 durham@workers.org

Houston

P.O. Box 3454 Houston, TX 77253-3454 713.503.2633 houston@workers.org

Minnesota minnesota@workers.org

610.931.2615

Philadelphia P.O. Box 34249 Philadelphia, PA 19101

phila@workers.org Portland, Ore.

portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City

801.750.0248 slc@workers.org

San Antonio sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle

seattle@workers.org **West Virginia**

WestVirginia@workers.org

In this issue

			•••	 1554
•	In the	U.S.		

Protesters for Palestine stay in the streets
UAW joins labor call for cease-fire in Palestine 3
Oakland acts for Gaza

Editorial

 Mundo Obrero El pueblo panameño se apuntó una gran victoria . . 4

Online articles

• In the U.S.

CUNY 'Shout Out' for a strong contract LINK
Black activist leader 'Ant' Smith faces prisonLINK
Гhe Iraq war & propaganda of 'terrorism'LINК
Long live the spirit of Fred Hampton!LINK
Corporate media play pernicious role LINK
Portland pro-Palestine actionsLINK
Mumia Abu-Jamal: 3 recent guest columnsLINK

Around the World

U.S. weapons fuel genocide vs. PalestiniansLIN	ΙK
Hamas: 'Victory for our people is near'LIN	ΙK
Kissinger and the class he servedLIN	ΙK
On remaining Palestinian & Israeli hostagesLIN	ΙK
Liberated Palestinians look to the resistanceLIN	ΙK
Towards a legal framework for Palestine LIN	ΙK

Editorial

Funds for housing, not for war! LINK

Tear Down the Walls

Activists protest jail deaths: 'care not cages' LINK
Major Tillery and SLEPLINK
Mumia Abu-Jamal: 'No place for old men'LINK
A visit to a Pennsylvania prison LINK

Mundo Obrero

Más allá del 'alto el fuego ya' LINK Ucrania y el mundo que está naciendo LINK

Ongoing coverage of Palestine:

www.workers.org/tag/palestine

Workers World 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404 New York, NY 10001 Phone: 212.627.2994 E-mail: wwp@workers.org Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 65, No. 49 • December 7, 2023 Closing date: December 6, 2023

Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes Tear Down the Walls! Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Steve Gillis and K. James

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2023 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404 New York, N.Y. 10001.

UAW joins labor call for cease-fire in Palestine

By Martha Grevatt

On Dec. 1, the last day of a five-day hunger strike calling for a cease-fire in Palestine, unions that have supported that call held a press conference outside the White House. Among those speaking there were United Auto Workers Region 9A Director Brandon Mancilla, who announced that the UAW was joining the United Electrical Workers (UE), the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), and many local and regional labor bodies in raising that demand. The UAW, with 400,000 members, is the largest U.S. union to demand a cease-fire.

"We opposed fascism in World War II." said Mancilla. "We ended up opposing the Vietnam War. We opposed apartheid South Africa and we mobilized union resources and the entire labor movement to join us in that fight. We opposed the contra war in Central America and Nicaragua that the Reagan administration with our tax dollars, with our resources, was mobilizing. We opposed the killing of Mexican trade unionists down South where so much of our work has been outsourced ...

"The UAW International is calling for an immediate permanent cease-fire in Israel and Palestine so that we can get to the work of building a lasting peace, building social justice and building a community, a global community, of solidarity. That is what we've committed ourselves to and that is as important as anything else that we're doing in this country in order to ensure that workers and oppressed people and poor people across the world are on the path to winning the justice they so deserve." (UAW Facebook)

The UAW International Executive Board voted to form "a Divestment and Just Transition working group to study the history of Israel and Palestine, our union's economic ties to the conflict, and explore how we can have a just transition for U.S. workers from war to peace."

Big first step, more needed

Unfortunately, UAW President Shawn Fain, in an interview with the Detroit News after the IEB vote, said, "We're not picking a side between Israel and Palestine." Yet if ever there was a "Which Side Are You On?" moment

"The UAW International is calling for an immediate rmanent cease-fire in Israel and Palestine so that we n get to the work of building a lasting peace, buildground social justice and building a community, a global Israel's crimes." (workers.org/2023/10/74027)

Nevertheless, for any union to move away from the pro-Zionist stance of organized labor, including the AFL-CIO, is extremely significant. Not only does it help the cause of Palestine, it represents a break with the Democratic Party. When Mancilla spoke in Washington, it was behind a sign reading "Biden, you are starving Gaza."

Hopefully, the UAW's new working group will do its homework and convince the union to divest from Israeli bonds and companies that are bolstering Zionist apartheid. Hopefully, the "just transition" will be one that enables UAW members employed by war profiteers to stop building weapons for Israel and U.S. imperialism and instead produce for human needs.

Global working-class solidarity has to include solidarity with Palestine. \qed

Protesters for Palestine stay in the streets

Continued from page 1

Nov. 30. Hundreds packed the venue, spilling outside onto the driveway as they snapped and cheered and chanted. The Palestinian poetry was dramatic, horrifying and inspiring, and the crowd was electrified by the originality and reality it presented.

On Dec. 1, Houston activists disrupted Mayor Sylvester Turner's Holiday Spectacular Tree Lighting Ceremony

at City Hall under the theme "Make Palestine Unavoidable!" With lots of huge Palestinian flags, banners and bullhorns, the protest was what was "spectacular."

Children in Portland March for Palestine

"We want justice! You say how? End the siege on Gaza now!" Chants like this one have become a common refrain across the globe. The difference was that this time, on Dec.2 in Portland, Oregon, it was led by kids.

That day the local organization Mothers For a Cease-fire called a children's march. After impassioned, tearful speeches and radical poetry, youngsters armed with megaphones led hundreds of families through the rain to the home of U.S. House Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon). Correctly identifying the United States' critical role in enabling Israel's crimes, the children sang, explicitly called out Biden's and Blumenauer's culpability in genocide and left stuffed toys on the sidewalk as a painful reminder of children being murdered in Gaza by the Zionist state.

Five-year-old Bodhi commented that, "Lots of people are destroying Palestine" and said he talks with his friends about the events occurring there. Bodhi's message to his government is to "stop sending guns to Israel."

A young girl named Ofelia, when asked what is happening in Palestine, understood that the struggle is not a new one. It didn't begin on Oct. 7. Ofelia stated that her teacher, who is Jewish, said that it was important to discuss the topic and that everyone in the class agreed. When asked about her message to the U.S. government, she held up her sign reading "Fund schools, not genocide."

Toni Arenstein, Martha Grevatt, Maddi Johnson, Betsey Piette and Gloria Rubac contributed to this article.



Banner drop, Houston, Nov. 29, 2023.



Westlake, Ohio, Dec. 2, 2023.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVAT

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN
Nov. 29 protest at Rockefeller Center, New York City.

PALESTINE

Oakland acts for Gaza

By Dave Welsh Oakland, California

Following weeks of protests denouncing Israeli genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, the Oakland City Council voted unanimously on Nov. 27 to demand an immediate cease-fire in the conflict.

The resolution called for release of hostages and unrestricted entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. The City Clerk reported that the resolution had the support of 86% of the 1,284 comments submitted online, along with a clear majority in the Council chambers. Many speakers urged the Oakland Council not to agree to any amendments, and no amendments were approved.

"One Palestinian speaker said they had lost eight members of their family due to Israel's bombardment



Oakland City Council meeting, Nov. 27, 2023 PHOTO: AMIR AZIZ

and ground invasion of Gaza," stated a report on Oaklandside.org. Local authorities reported 1.6 million people, or 75% of Gaza's population, have been displaced and approximately 14,000 people killed. UNICEF said about one-third of the dead were children.

Berkeley mayor tries to squelch public comment

The neighboring city of Berkeley, also discussed a "cease-fire in Gaza" proposal in their City Council session on Nov. 29, but a different scenario unfolded. The mayor, Jesse Arreguín, used a different approach in dealing with the passionate crowd — by simply cutting off microphones as soon as any speaker's pro-Palestinian sympathies became apparent.

Members of the crowd reminded us that Mayor Arreguín was the recipient of a sponsored junket to Israel in May of 2022, along with other U.S. office holders and opinion makers recruited by a pro-Israel group in the United States. Arreguín has ambitions for higher office, including a run for state senate in 2024.

Richmond affirms solidarity with the Palestinians

Earlier this year, on Oct. 24, the nearby city of Richmond, said it "stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza, who are currently facing a campaign of ethnic cleansing and collective punishment by the state of Israel." The City Council resolution said collective punishment "is considered a war crime under international law."

This resolution said "approximately 2 million people in Gaza may soon run out of drinking water and all medical care." The resolution also called for "an immediate humanitarian cease-fire and the safe passage of substantial humanitarian aid to Gaza," release of hostages, and "an end to Israeli apartheid and the occupation and blockade of Palestinian land by Israeli military forces." The resolution was forwarded to the Council by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.



Correspondencia sobre artículos en Workers World/Mundo Obrero pueden ser enviadas a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org MUNDO OBRERO

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los paises unios!

workers.org

Vol. 65 Núm. 49 7 de diciembre de 2023

El pueblo panameño se apuntó una gran victoria, pero la lucha no ha terminado

Por Olmedo Beluche Panamá, 2 de diciembre de 2023.

El fallo de inconstitucionalidad emitido por la Corte Suprema de Justicia de Panamá, del 28 de noviembre de 2023, constituyó la consumación de una gran victoria popular contra el abusivo contrato minero con First Quantum Minerals (FQM). Esta decisión es la legitimación judicial de lo que ya el pueblo panameño había expresado en las calles: ese contrato era ilegítimo por cuanto constituía un atraco a la nación, consumado en una conspiración entre la trasnacional canadiense y un gobierno corrupto, con la complicidad de los grandes medios de comunicación, los gremios empresariales y partidos políticos tradicionales.

Es una victoria del pueblo organizado y resistiendo en la calle, no de la 'Corte'

Tanto el sentido del fallo, declarando la inconstitucionalidad del contrato, como la celeridad completamente inusual como actuaron los magistrados y magistradas, fue producto de la presión popular que no dejó las calles, ni levantó los cierres y mantuvo los bastiones de lucha. El pueblo organizado, dirigido por las dos alianzas (Pueblo Unido por la Vida Digna y ANADEPO), que se mantuvo

firme y movilizado es el que produjo el milagro de una resolución positiva y expedita del máximo tribunal de justicia. No se olvide que el fallo anterior tardó 20 años y 5 años más en ser publicado.

Esta es una victoria de los compañeros y compañeras indígenas de todas las comarcas, pero especialmente de los Ngäbe-Buglés, que mantuvieron firmes los cierres en Tierras Altas, Horconcitos, San Félix, Tolé, Viguí, en Changuinola y diversos sitios de Bocas del Toro. Es un triunfo de los gremios docentes que sostuvieron los bastiones del río David, Santiago, Aguadulce y Penonome. Es una conquista lograda gracias los bastiones de Pacora, de Colón, de Arraiján, de Chorrera, de la

Iglesia del Carmen y tantos lugares, sostenidos por educadores, obreros de la construcción, jóvenes y pobladores.

Tienen buena parte del mérito de este triunfo los estudiantes universitarios organizados y los vecinos de Viejo Veranillo que, junto a los trabajadores universitarios. sostuvieron el bastión de la Transístmica cerrado por un mes. Por supuesto, les tocan honores también a las decenas de miles de jóvenes y a las familias que acudieron disciplinadamente a la Cinta Costera y a la Corte a exigir la derogación de la Ley 406.

Esta victoria tiene una deuda particular con la firmeza de los moradores y pescadores de Donoso, vecinos de la mina, que impusieron el cierre marítimo al puerto minero. La derrota judicial de FQM se la debemos a la entereza de los docentes y sus gremios, que se sostuvieron en lucha pese a las amenazas del MEDUCA. Este triunfo le debe mucho a los dirigentes y afiliados al SUNTRACS cuya firmeza ayudó a sostener la lucha, pese a las campañas difamatorias de los medios de

comunicación, gremios y funcionarios del gobierno.

Esta victoria tiene una deuda perenne con las familias de los compañeros caídos defendiendo sus bastiones: Agustín Morales, atropellado en Buena Vista Colón el 26 de octubre; Tomás Milton Cedeño García, atropellado en San Lorenzo, el 1 de noviembre; Abdiel Díaz e Iván Rodríguez, baleados en Chame el 7 de noviembre, por un abogado vinculado a intereses mineros.

En fin, este fallo no significa que la Corte haya dejado de ser un instrumento de los sectores del poder político y económico, que nombran a los magistrados, para sostener la impunidad y la corrupción imperantes en el país. No. La Corte no ha cambiado. Fue el pueblo el que con su lucha en las calles los obligó a declarar la inconstitucionalidad.

Necesitamos un gobierno honesto que defienda al país frente a las amenazas de la empresa

Tal v como habíamos advertido anteriormente, daba lo mismo la derogación de la Ley 406 que la declaratoria de inconstitucionalidad, porque la empresa iba a demandar de todos modos, lo cual ya hizo, para que un tribunal foráneo defienda sus intereses. También ha tramitado ante el Ministerio de Trabajo el despido de 7,000 obreros. Está claro que ni a los gerentes canadienses, ni los accionistas internacionales, ni a los abogados, polí-

Manifestación de los pueblos indígenas de Panamá contra la transnacional minera canadiense First Quantum Minerals, 30 de octubre de 2023.

ticos y comunicadores panameños al servicio de FQM, les importa en absoluto con lo que opine el pueblo de Panamá ni sus tribunales.

A los dueños de FQM sólo les interesa seguir saqueando los recursos minerales del país a cambio de casi nada. Ellos quieren seguir robándose el cobre y otros minerales panameños de manera impune porque las autoridades corruptas y vendepatrias de cinco gobiernos, sus Asambleas y jueces se lo han permitido. Los dueños de FQM están convencidos de que en Panamá seguirán gobernando políticos venales y títeres cuyos hilos mueven desde Morgan y Morgan.

Esa esperanza de los saqueadores de FQM se funda en que casi todas las propuestas electorales de mayo de 2024 son tributarias de intereses mineros: José Gabriel Carrizo (abogado de Petaquilla Gold), Rómulo Roux (socio de Morgan y Morgan); Ricardo Martinelli (en 2011 intentó reformar Código Minero a costa de muertos y heridos): Martín Torrijos (uno de los expresidentes que no hizo nada



Protesta en Houston, 27 de noviembre de 2023.

frente al contrato); Ricardo Lombana (cuyo vicepresidente Michael Chen avaló el contrato en nombre de la Cámara de Comercio de Colón) y Melitón Arrocha (ocupó cargos ministeriales en tres gobiernos pro minera).

Sólo dos candidatas a la Presidencia de la República se opusieron a la Ley 406, Zulay Rodríguez y Maribel Gordón, pero solo esta última ha estado en las calles acompañando la lucha contra el contrato minero.

Ouienes lucharon denodadamente contra la destrucción ambiental y el robo de FQM deben pensar muy bien por quién van a votar en las elecciones de 2024, porque todo lo alcanzado con la lucha se puede perder si se elige un gobierno compuesto por funcionarios penetrados por los intereses mineros y el poderoso bufete de Morgan y Morgan. Funcionarios corruptos no defenderán consecuentemente el interés nacional frente a FQM.

La lucha contra el extractivismo es una lucha contra la globalización capitalista

No basta elegir un gobierno honesto, hay que elegir uno que también tenga una comprensión de que enfrentar a FQM es una lucha contra un modelo económico extractivista, por el cual las empresas transnacionales de los países capitalistas (G-7), saquean los recursos naturales de los países dependientes o semicoloniales.

Enfrentar a FQM es enfrentar un sistema internacional injusto, hecho para legitimar el saqueo económico y la donación política de nuestros países. Las leyes internacionales, los tribunales que deben dirimir estos litigios, los acuerdos de "libre" comercio, las instituciones como la Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC), los organismos de crédito (Banco Mundial, FMI, BID), las calificadoras de riesgo, etc., trabajan para sostener ese modelo económico expoliador.

No podemos ser inocentes v creer que se respetará el derecho de una pequeña nacion como Panama. Hay que ser conscientes de los problemas que han tenido naciones hermanas cuando han querido con-

trolar sus recursos nacionales y protegerlos de los depredadores capitalistas internacionales: sanciones, golpes de estado, sabotajes, etc.

Por eso se requiere que la vanguardia del movimiento popular panameña, generadora de esta victoria que celebramos, asuma como siguiente paso la consolidación de una alternativa que lleve a un cambio político institucional profundo, con una Asamblea Constituyente originaria. Se requiere trabajar por un gobierno que tenga la actitud, los argumentos y la estrategia para llevar la lucha contra FQM y el extractivismo a un terreno que rebasa las fronteras nacionales y que obliga a alianzas con países hermanos que enfrentan los mismos retos que Panamá.

Para derrotar definitivamente los antinacionales intereses mineros se requiere que la vanguardia que capitaneó esta victoria asuma conscientemente la construcción de proyecto de transformaciones que sea parte de la lucha por "otro mundo posible", distinto a la globalización capitalista. □