

Nakba's 75th anniversary

Global solidarity with Palestine

By Monica Moorehead

To mark the 75th anniversary of Nakba (The Disaster), global protests took place this past weekend. The actions commemorate the day, when on May 15, 1948, the new Zionist state of Israel began its brutal removal of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people from their rightful lands. This genocide continues today with beatings, murders and jailings of Palestinians — with U.S. backing in the billions of dollars.

An estimated 4 million Palestinians have been relegated to refugee status. At least 78% of their lands have been confiscated by a racist occupation, reminiscent of apartheid South Africa and the wholesale theft of the Indigenous Americas.

The Palestinian people continue to carry out an heroic resistance with strikes, protests, boycotts and an armed struggle inside Israel and in the Occupied Territories, especially Gaza and the West Bank. Palestinians around the world marked the Nakba, including in **Bethlehem** and **Ramallah** on the occupied West Bank, where thousands waving flags rallied May 14 and protested Israeli oppression and murderous repression.

'Not just a singular event'

In **London** on May 13, thousands of people were in the streets demanding an end to apartheid and occupation in Palestine. The march began in front of BBC headquarters and ended at the office



London, May 13, 2023.

PHOTO: ANADOLU AGENCY



New York City, May 14, 2023.

WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

of the prime minister.

Leanne Mohammed, a British Palestinian activist, stated: "The Nakba was not just a singular event, today we are still living the effect of the Nakba. Seventy-five years ago my family was expelled from their home in Haifa, Palestine, by Zionist militias. They ended up as refugees in Lebanon. Three-quarters of a century later, they are still living in that same refugee camp." (middleeasteye.net, May 14)

Protests took place in **Vienna, Paris, Dublin, Montreal, Toronto**, and many other cities in South America, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. The German state banned Nakba protests in Berlin for the second year in a row,

despite the fact that 80,000 Palestinians are exiled in the city.

In the U.S., Nakba protests were held in numerous cities including **Boston; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle**. In **New York City** on May 14, a rally began at Times Square, and then protesters marched to Grand Central Station in full view of thousands of passersby. Palestinian youth were in the forefront leading the chants.

Richie Merino, who spoke on behalf of Workers World Party, stated: "We're here today to honor the courage and bravery of Palestinian youth, who are united in fighting for liberation despite being dispersed across the globe. We condemn Zionist and white-supremacist forces for executing children and youth in Occupied

Palestine and harassing and intimidating Palestinian students right here in New York City.

"We are also here to demand freedom for all Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli occupation jails. Thousands of Palestinians, including youth, are imprisoned for their resistance against Zionist colonialism. We know that it is right to rebel against Israeli war crimes and terrorism. When Palestine is under attack, what do we do? Stand up! Fight Back!"

Organized by the Philly Palestine Coalition, the "Nakba Day 75 — Rally and March Against Israeli Apartheid" in **Philadelphia** drew around 200 people on a rainy afternoon May 13. They gathered at Rittenhouse Square and

Continued on page 3



Philadelphia, May 13, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Anatomy of the prison industrial complex 3

Letters from behind the bars

Stop censoring Workers World!

Editorial:

Forces behind Jordan Neely's lynching 2

Mundo Obrero: El Frente Polisario 4

Voices from behind the walls



Greetings fellow comrades

Dear Workers World,
Greetings fellow comrades. I hope all the staff there are protecting themselves from COVID. These are the times of shit hitting the fan! Can we agree that when you attack corporations’ profits in the U.S., that’s when attention is given. We must re-sound the boycott bullhorn because that’s a term that the people have power to wield over those in power.

How many people in prisons receive your newspaper?

Be aware, safe, and thank you for your time and effort in the cause. In solidarity,

Joshua L.
Clinton Correctional Facility,
New York

Thanks for the well-wishes, hope you and all the comrades inside are also staying safe and healthy inside. The Biden administration may have declared the pandemic emergency “over,” but we know that workers — especially incarcerated workers — are still at high risk.

We’re glad you asked about how many other comrades we have inside reading Workers World. We have over 500 subscribers currently incarcerated in prisons across the U.S. And we love that most of our subscribers share their paper with friends and cellmates and others on the block. We don’t just publish your letters so that our readers outside of the prisons can read your words. We want our incarcerated readers to be able to communicate with each other through the pages of Workers World. — TK

(Anyone who wants to help more readers like Joshua get a free newspaper subscription should visit patreon.com/wwp/!)

New addresses

Workers World, greetings. My name is Bruce A. I am on your mailing list and do receive a monthly issue of the Workers World newspaper.

I write to inform you that my mailing address has changed. Your newspaper is a valuable educational tool. I appreciate your contribution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce A.
San Diego, CA

Greetings,

I write to inform you of a new address. I am truly enjoying and sharing your most informative publication. Thanks much — Peace Unto All.

Sincerely,

W.C.
Richmond, TX

Dear Workers World,
Peace! Please make note of my new (hopefully temporary) location. Did you ever publish any papers about the stimulus money and other benefits the government gave out? If you did, I would really like to hear/read what you had to say.

Sincerely,

Mike H.
Albion, NY

Thanks for writing to us, Mike. I’ll send you some selected articles we wrote about the stimulus and pandemic response that we think you’ll find interesting. Keep an eye out for our response. — TK

‘America, America’ An Anatomy of America’s Wasteful Prison Industrial Complex

America, America
Land of the free, A society filled with justice and equality.
This is a clear example of hypocrisy, unless they forgot to include me, and millions of others kept in captivity.

Confined behind tall walls, and razor wires with the Nation of prisoners constantly rising higher,
countless amounts will never be released, Except in body-bags, once deceased!
Most inmates have done their wrong. But guidelines by design withhold prisoners much too long!

America’s prison industrial complex has a fluctuating economy, so, prisoners in America have become the No. #1 “Prison Industry.”
Where men are stocked as a commodity. And actually forced to work for a paltry sum, under servitude, for free!
Refusal results in being without pay and thrown into the hole, along with a definite denial of parole.
Since the signing of the emancipation proclamation, Minorities have been swallowed by incarceration.
It’s easy to see the similarities, Between prison life and slavery.

Inside the walls phone rates and commissary prices are still high, Because financial siphoning comes from Securus, Global Tel Link, Aramark Food Service and Smart Communications, too,
As far as these corporate raiders, that’s just a few!

Inmates are forced to make prisoners’ clothes, bed linen, bras, panties/boxers, socks, boots, hats and coats, too.
It’s a shame many tax-paying citizens don’t know, We are in an era of the New Jim Crow.

There’s no justice or equality, America was built through slavery, Don’t take my word, study your history.
Racist lawmakers and politicians make decisions, causing Black, Latinx and poor white to fill the prisons.

Outsiders believe we’re being rehabilitated. But being caged only generates hatred.
The majority of defendants are victimized and doomed, way before entering the courtroom.
The vocabulary and legal terminology used leaves most defendants dazed and confused. And often the attorney who’s allegedly protecting your rights is secretly drinking martinis with the DAs and judges at night.
Quick to offer some type of plea deal or make you wait many years for an appeal. Court officials share a bond which we’re not a part, stacking the odds against you from the start.

Just like slave masters buying and selling slaves, working them till they’re dead in their graves. So, at times it seriously baffles me, WHY America is called THE LAND OF THE FREE; especially when The Nation of Prisoners is in this country.

Bryant Arroyo
SCI Coal Township, Pennsylvania

The reaction from those who build the walls

Missouri prison authorities censor Workers World

We thought readers of Workers World would like to see an example of the frequent censorship notifications we get from prison administrators. Our reaction and how you can take action, below.

Dear Workers World:
The Missouri Department of Corrections has reviewed material sent to multiple offenders who are currently confined in Potosi Correctional Center. We have determined the material identified on the enclosed censorship notification form is prohibited from being delivered within the institution for the reasons indicated on the form.

[Reason for denial: “Contains information which can be used to instill violence or hatred among the offender population,” referring

to an article from Feb. 23, 2023 that included coverage of a prisoner hunger strike in Texas. (workers.org/2023/02/69501/)]
Sincerely,

Jason Lewis
Deputy Division Director
State of Missouri Department of Corrections
Jefferson City, MO

While the editors of Tear Down the Walls! always appeal these denials in writing, we thought our nonincarcerated readers would like an opportunity to respond, too. We encourage you to contact Jason Lewis at 573-751-2389 and tell him that Workers World readers are no longer going to tolerate the censorship of our paper in prisons. — TK

Global solidarity with Palestine

Continued from page 1

then marched to the Sister Cities site in Logan Square, where speakers criticized Philadelphia’s designation as a sister city to Tel Aviv, which was named Jaffa before the Zionist displacement took place.

Participants then continued chanting and marching in the street on the way to the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum, where a final rally took place.

Hundreds of demonstrators took over 16th and Valencia streets in the **San Francisco** Mission neighborhood May 13 to demand an end to the bombing of Gaza and to support the Palestinian resistance. The action was organized by the Palestine Action Network.

On the back of a flatbed truck, young Palestinian, Filipino and Latiné activists led chants and directed this dynamic rally to free Palestine.

Speakers from the Palestinian Youth Movement, the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, the Anti-Police Terror Project, and the League of Filipino Students from San Francisco State University exposed Israel’s genocidal acts against the Palestinian people and delivered strong statements of international solidarity.

The large protest marched defiantly in

the streets, up Mission Street, the heart of the Latiné community, chanting “Escucha, escucha, estamos en la lucha!” (Listen, listen, we’re in the fight!) And people in the streets did listen and responded with fists in the air, waves and cheers.

The march ended where it began, with the defiant crowd cheering after the Israeli flag, the flag of the expulsion of the Palestinian people from their homeland, was set on fire.

Contributors to this article include Judy Greenspan, Richie Merino and Joe Piette.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

San Francisco, May 13, 2023.



MO FOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Los manifestantes recuerdan a Joe Campos Torres, brutalmente asesinado por la policía en Houston, Texas, en 1977. Desde la izquierda, Margaret Torres y Janie Torres, hermanas de Joe Torres. 6 de mayo de 2023, Houston.

En conmemoración de los 50 años de luchas y de victorias del Frente Polisario

Por Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein*

Hoy 10 de mayo, se celebran 50 años de la fundación del Frente Popular de Liberación de Saguia el Hamra y Río de Oro (Polisario) representante legítimo del pueblo saharaui en su lucha por la autodeterminación. Así mismo, el próximo día 20 se conmemorará medio siglo del inicio de la lucha armada contra el poder colonial.

El Frente Polisario, fundado en 1973 por El Uali Mustafa Sayed junto a otros jóvenes saharauis dio continuidad a las luchas emprendidas desde la década de los años 60 del siglo pasado por el Movimiento para la Liberación del Sahara, liderado por Mohamed Sidi Brahim Basir. Su objetivo -desde el primer instante de su existencia- ha sido lograr la independencia del Sahara occidental. Su lucha de medio siglo ha permitido consolidar la unidad nacional y construir la identidad saharauí. No obstante, y a pesar de todos los éxitos obtenidos, el pueblo saharauí no ha podido acceder a una independencia total y absoluta.

La creación del Frente Polisario se produce en el marco de la lucha por la independencia de los pueblos africanos en contra del colonialismo y el imperialismo. De la misma manera, este acontecimiento no está ajeno a las grandes conquistas sociales y políticas logradas por el combate de los trabajadores, las mujeres y los jóvenes en diversas regiones del planeta. Desde entonces, su lucha se ha inscrito en la historia de las batallas anticoloniales y a favor de la democracia.

Sahara Occidental, Marruecos, y el Estado español

A comienzos del año 1973, se habían producido múltiples encuentros entre grupos que se manifestaban a favor de la independencia del Sahara Occidental. En los primeros meses de ese año, estas asociaciones avanzaron hacia acuerdos de mayor compenetración y coordinación de las acciones en contra del colonialismo.

A fines de abril, se realizó una conferencia de forma discontinua y en distintos lugares del desierto para desinformar al servicio de inteligencia español. En estas sesiones se decidió crear una organización político-militar para luchar por la independencia. Así, nació el Frente Polisario el 10 de mayo de 1973 en Zuerat (Mauritania).

Diez días después, el Frente Polisario atacó el puesto policial de El Janga, dando inicio a la guerra de liberación anticolonial que fue ampliando la magnitud y el espacio geográfico de sus acciones causando cada vez mayores bajas al ejército español al mismo tiempo que el prestigio del Frente Polisario y de su ejército de liberación crecían en el ánimo y el espíritu del pueblo saharauí que además comenzó a recibir apoyo internacional, sobre

todo de Argelia y Libia.

Los fuertes golpes armados sufridos por el ejército de ocupación español fueron mostrando la justeza de la lucha emprendida. En esas condiciones, la delirante dictadura franquista comenzó a buscar una “salida honrosa” a la situación creada. En esa medida, -con la actitud propia de las potencias coloniales- España se dio a la tarea de crear un gobierno autóctono “independiente” que funcionara bajo control de Madrid.



MAPA: KMUSSE (COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?CURID=1621025)

El 20 de agosto de 1974, el gobierno español envió una nota al Secretario General de la ONU anunciando la intención de celebrar un referéndum de autodeterminación en el Sahara Occidental durante el primer semestre de 1975. Al mismo tiempo impulsó la formación de un partido político fiel a los intereses de España denominado “Partido de Unión Nacional Saharaui” (PUNS).

Durante el año 1975, el Ejército de Liberación Saharaui se vio fortalecido con la incorporación de varias unidades militares que incrementaron su poder de fuego y su capacidad de maniobra al punto de proponerse operaciones de mayor envergadura como control de puestos militares españoles al tiempo que golpeaba sus tropas y retaguardia.

Tras dos años y medio de guerra, el Frente Polisario coronó sus esfuerzos político-militares con la realización, el 12 de octubre de 1975, de la Convención para la Unidad Nacional, en la localidad de Ain Ben Tili. Pero para entonces, España había llegado a un acuerdo secreto con Marruecos para la entrega del territorio saharauí en lo que se considera una de las mayores traiciones de la historia colonial.

Ante esta situación, el Frente Polisario convocó a una amplia asamblea a la que acudieron personalidades de todas las fuerzas políticas partidarias de la independencia: representantes de diversos sectores y miembros de la Djema'a que es el cuerpo principal de una tribu y que está compuesta por ancianos y líderes elegidos. En ese marco y bajo el liderazgo de El Uali Mustafa Sayed, proclamaron la unión del pueblo en torno al programa y las

La larga lucha de resistencia del Frente Polisario en contra de la ocupación marroquí ha permitido echar las bases para la construcción de una sociedad y un Estado que se proyectan en el futuro a partir de ideas que recogen lo mejor de la condición humana y los principios fundamentales de la convivencia en el mundo.

estructuras del Frente Polisario con el objetivo de alcanzar la independencia y defender la integridad territorial del Sahara Occidental.

Una sociedad unida y inclusiva

La larga lucha de resistencia del Frente Polisario en contra de la ocupación marroquí ha permitido echar las bases para la construcción de una sociedad y un Estado que se proyectan en el futuro a partir de ideas que recogen

lo mejor de la condición humana y los principios fundamentales de la convivencia en el mundo. En estos años, el Frente Polisario ha sido capaz de edificar una sociedad saharauí unida e inclusiva. Para ello reúne a todos los sectores y personalidades progresistas de la sociedad saharauí donde quiera que estén: en el exilio, las regiones liberadas o aquellas que están bajo ocupación marroquí.

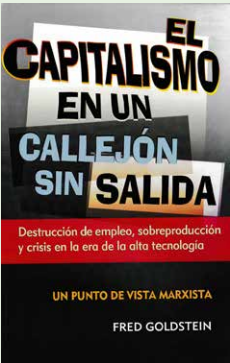
A 50 años de su creación, el Frente Polisario ha renovado su compromiso con los que han caído en decenas de años de lucha contra el colonialismo y el expansionismo marroquí. Desde siempre, además de proponerse lograr la independencia, sus objetivos han sido la construcción de un Estado moderno en el contexto de una integración regional magrebí.

En el plano internacional, el Frente Polisario defiende la creación de un Estado palestino, la unidad del mundo árabe y la eliminación de toda forma de colonialismo en África.

*Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein es Consultor y analista internacional venezolano, Fue Director de Relaciones Internacionales de la Presidencia de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Asesor de política internacional de la Presidencia de TeleSUR y Embajador de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Nicaragua Twitter: @sergioro0701

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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



Para más información sobre estos libros y otros escritos del autor, Fred Goldstein, visite LowWageCapitalism.com