

Record numbers turn out in solidarity with Palestine

By Betsey Piette
Washington, D.C.

Nov. 4—In a massive historic march on the White House in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 4, 300,000 protesters demanded that President Joe Biden call an immediate halt to the U.S./Israeli genocidal war on 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza and end U.S. aid to Israel. Chants of, “Biden, Biden you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide!” could be heard throughout the day. (tinyurl.com/yc3f4fs8)

Biden’s current request to Congress for \$14 billion in additional funding for Israel contains language suggesting it could be used for efforts to remove Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank, leaving no doubt that he backs Israel’s ethnic cleansing of Palestine.



Indigenous contingent



Workers World Party

The turnout—the largest ever for Palestine in the U.S. Capitol—was one of dozens of protests in cities across the U.S. and around the globe.

At Freedom Plaza, blocks from the White House, demonstrators began arriving hours

before the start of the 2 p.m. rally. By the time the march began, closer to 5 p.m., the crowd filled the plaza and all surrounding streets, going back for at least a half-mile on several. As the rally grew in size, most participants were too far away to hear the speakers, but they engaged in continuous chanting for hours on their own.

Standing on one of the concrete uprights and looking around the plaza, I felt like I was standing in a sea of demonstrators as far as one could see. All ages were present, from infants to grandparents with entire families attending, but the gathering consisted overwhelmingly of young people of all nationalities.

The rally chairs announced attendees from as far away as California, Florida, Maine and Texas. While most people arrived on buses, one vanload of activists with the Marxist Youth League drove 10 hours overnight from Buffalo, New York, to attend.

There were many Palestinian rights groups; Indigenous rights, trans, queer and anti-racist groups; anti-Zionist Jewish activists, as well as a grouping of Orthodox Jews who oppose Netanyahu and the Israeli state.

Several youth from D.C. were gathered at the base of a monument near the rear of the rally with their skateboards. They told Workers World that

the plaza was a regular place for them to skate, but after arriving to find it in use, they decided to stay for the rally.

Several demonstrators carried a long paper scroll with the names of 8,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza as a result of



List of over 8,000 Palestinians murdered



Some of the 300,000 marchers



One of the lead banners, Washington, D.C., Nov. 4, 2023.



Palestine Youth Movement.

the bombing and siege. Multiple groups of activists held enormous Palestinian flags together, raising them above their heads as they marched.

A Palestinian who now lives in New Jersey brought 75 mock “body bags” to represent the members of his family in Gaza who had been killed in their sleep when Israeli bombs devastated their homes. Others carried mock coffins.

Protesters climbed to the tops of monuments in the plaza to place Palestinian flags in the hands of the bronze figures on horseback. The march passed a Starbucks with its windows plastered with “Free Gaza” stickers.

A number of organized contingents participated in the march, including Indigenous members from The Red Nation, Filipino activists with ANAKBAYAN, the Palestine Feminist Collective, Palestinian Youth Movement, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), South Asians and Indo Caribbeans, climate justice activists, Veterans for Peace, Workers World Party and more.

The Washington protest sponsors included Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition, American Muslim Alliance, ANSWER Coalition, Maryland 2 Palestine Organizers, National Students

for Justice in Palestine, the Palestinian Youth Movement, The People’s Forum, United National Antiwar Coalition, U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, U.S. Palestinian Community Network, and Workers World Party.

Around the globe massive demonstrations took place in many cities over the weekend,

including Accra, the capital of Ghana; São Paulo; Berlin; Dublin; London; Paris; Mexico City; Jakarta, Indonesia and the Turkish cities of Ankara and Istanbul.

End the siege of Gaza now! End all U.S. funding of Israeli genocide!

WW Photos: Joe Piette



Climate justice activists



South Asian and Indo-Caribbean contingents



In a movement spanning every continent, millions of people are in the streets chanting, “Free, free Palestine!” In Jakarta, Indonesia, for example, 2 million people marched against Israeli apartheid Nov. 5.

Where there are bans or limits on Palestine solidarity actions, as in Germany and France, the people are defying the laws. The movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel is growing despite attempts by imperialist governments to quash it.

The struggle has gone beyond protest marches and boycotts, as necessary as those are. In a “Block the Boat” action in Oakland, California, activists blocked cargo from being loaded onto or unloaded from a ship bound for Israel; the ship eventually

left the Port of Oakland unloaded.

In Massachusetts young militants have occupied entrances to Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit and sat down inside the office of pro-Israel Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Unions in Belgium have called on their members to refuse to handle military equipment bound for Israel.

The armed resistance in occupied Palestine and neighboring countries is growing and winning. Resistance News Network (a Telegram thread with close to 75,000 subscribers) has new reports every hour of the Zionist occupation forces suffering losses, from troop fatalities to destruction of its drones, tanks and other military hardware. And because of the strength of the united armed resistance, there is a growing chorus

within Israel for the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Al-Aqsa Flood insurgency against Israeli apartheid, launched Oct. 7, has become a massive global uprising. Palestine is currently the epicenter of the class struggle.

The genocidal slaughter that has taken countless lives, including thousands of children, has horrified and outraged humanity. Yet the prospect of the hated apartheid apparatus crumbling has given hope to working-class and oppressed people worldwide.

Aiding the anti-Zionist resistance — in whatever way possible and, as Malcolm X said, “by any means necessary” — is every worker’s right and every worker’s duty.

FREE, FREE PALESTINE!

Bay area activists block warship for nine hours

By Guest Author
Port of Oakland, California

The emergency text went out early Friday morning [Nov. 3]. A ship had pulled into the Port of Oakland bound for apartheid Israel. Within an hour, hundreds of demonstrators converged in front of the ship chanting, “Free Free Palestine.” Several demonstrators were able to actually board the side of the ship and conduct a sit-in.

The police eventually stepped up their security and stopped hundreds of protesters from entering the area near the ship. However, a large group armed with several banners had already secured the gates leading to

the ship, thereby preventing anyone from leaving or entering the ship.

Demonstrators kept up the loud chanting and drum beating all day until the ship eventually left. It was bound for Tacoma, Washington where weapons were to be loaded onto it. The Tacoma progressive community has promised to meet the ship and block it also.

The Bay Area has a long working-class history of stopping ships bound to Israel. In 2014, a massive protest organized by a broad coalition of groups, coordinated by the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, turned away the Israeli-owned Zim ship. That ship has never returned to the Port of Oakland. In the 1980s,

anti-apartheid protests, with strong participation from International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, prevented the loading of ships with weapons to apartheid South Africa.

Three protesters aboard the warship were arrested at the end of the day, and the ship unmoored and headed out of the Bay. The Bay area once again showed its militant support for the liberation of Palestine and its opposition to U.S. support of Israel’s genocidal war in Gaza.



PHOTO: BAY AREA PHOTOS

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

Bay 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: @wwwpboston

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

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfc coast@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

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
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

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. 45 • November 9, 2023
Closing date: November 8, 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: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

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

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl, Gloria Rubac

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.