Stop U.S.-backed Israeli terror

War crimes: Bombing Gaza hospitals

The edited appeal was released by Hamas–Islamic Resistance Movement – on Nov. 11, 2023.

It’s time for the Arab and Islamic states, our nation, and the free people of the world to act now to stop the aggression and immediately rescue the hospitals in the Gaza Strip and open the Rafah crossing for the entry of essential human life necessities.

The siege of hospitals in the Gaza Strip, Israel’s barbaric continuous bombardment with all types of U.S. weapons, the prevention of fuel, water, food, internet, communication and transport means, and all essentials of human life from reaching patients, the wounded, and displaced people, is a heinous crime against humanity and a genocide for which everyone who stands helpless to immediately intervene to stop this horrifying massacre and humanitarian disaster bears moral and political responsibility.

In the face of the humanitarian catastrophe affecting the health sector in the Gaza Strip, ongoing for 35 continuous days, and the martyrdom of more than 11,000 people, mostly women and children, and 27,000 wounded and injured, we urgently call for the following:

Firstly, Leaders and rulers of our Arab and Islamic nation, meeting today at the joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh, in the name of Arab and Islamic brotherhood bonds, to make a historic and decisive decision to immediately stop the Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip, and to employ all the Arab and Islamic power resources to enforce that by pressuring the U.S. administration, which bears decisive decision to immediately stop the Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip are subjected to.

Secondly: Form committees in all medical, humanitarian relief, and parliamentary specialties, and head immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian Rafah crossing, challenging the Zionist and parliamentary specialties, and head immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian Rafah crossing, bringing in all relief, medical, food, and fuel materials for civil society to challenge Israel’s deadly occupation by heading immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian crossing to bring urgent humanitarian relief to 2.3 million people, we have just submitted a request to the Egyptian authorities for permission to travel to Rafah.

Israel’s wanton bombing has killed over 11,000 people, a shocking number of whom are children who were gruesomely buried alive in their bombed homes or had their bodies shredded by these bombs. Thousands more remain unreachable under the rubble and over 27,000 are injured.

Water, food, fuel and medical supplies have been cut off, with only a trickle of aid trucks making it for the immediate entry and sustained flow of urgent humanitarian aid — food, water, fuel and medical aid to 2.3 million Palestinians facing starvation and death as genocidal Israeli air strikes continuously pound defenseless civilians.

In response to the Palestinian and Arab calls for civil society to challenge Israel’s deadly occupation by heading immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian crossing to bring urgent humanitarian relief to 2.3 million people, we have just submitted a request to the Egyptian authorities for permission to travel to Rafah.

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We urge all peoples and governments to act urgently to end this horror. There are hundreds of aid trucks currently parked in the desert waiting to enter the Rafah crossing. We demand they be allowed to reach Palestinians whose needs are dire and desperate.

Stop Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza Now! Open the Rafah border Now!

From Turtle Island to Palestine, the struggle continues at 2023 NDOM

The National Day of Mourning protest was founded by Wamsutta Frank James, an Aqinninah Wampaanaga tribal member. In 1970, Wamsutta had been invited by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to give a speech at a banquet commemorating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims.

The organizers of the banquet imagined that Wamsutta would give an appreciative and complimentary speech, singing the praises of the U.S. settler-colonial project and thanking the Pilgrims for bringing “civilization” to the Wampaanog.

However, the speech that Wamsutta wrote — which was based on historical fact instead of the hollow fiction portrayed in the Thanksgiving myth — was a far cry from complimentary.

Indigenous pride and power

In his speech, Wamsutta not only named atrocities committed by the Pilgrims, but also reflected upon the fate of the Wampaanog at the hands of settlers. The speech contained a powerful message of Native American pride. “Our spirit refuses to die,” wrote Wamsutta. “Yesterday we...”
Honor Day of Mourning
Support Workers World

Workers World honors Indigenous peoples on their commemoration of the 54th National Day of Mourning on Nov. 23, so-called “Thanksgiving.” On that day, Native people honor their ancestors and tell their true histories as the original inhabitants of this land, while exposing European colonials’ massive crimes against Indigenous people, including theft of their lands and food sources, attempted obliteration of their cultures, racism, oppression and genocide.

In 1970, United American Indians of New England gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, site of the original “Pilgrims” invasion, and observed the first National Day of Mourning. Only Indigenous people speak at this solemn annual event.

WW has attended the National Day of Mourning commemorations every year since 1981 and has reported firsthand on these in our pages. WW applauds Indigenous peoples in the U.S. and globally, who fight oppression and lead struggles to save lands, forests and rivers from capitalist destruction. Our newspaper carries Indigenous water, land and forest protectors who lead these movements, often putting their lives on the line to confront rapacious corporations which harm the planet in their reckless drive for profits.

We honor those who have lost their lives in these struggles.

WW needs your help!

Workers World calls on our readers and sustainers to support these movements and honor the National Day of Mourning.

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. WW depends on its readers’ backing. The program was established 46 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth, as well as anti-war, anti-imperialist, anti-racist, women’s, LGBTQ2+ and other progressive movements.

While WW’s staff members are volunteers, the 12 issues printed, shipped and mailed each year and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

Join the WW Supporter Program!

Can you donate $50, $100, $200 a year or more? Donating $50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, email links to articles posted online and, upon request, a copy of the book “What Road to Socialism?” (Download WW books at workers.org/books).

By donating to this fund, you can help get class truth to more readers. Write checks, either monthly or annually, to Workers World. Include your name, address and email; write “Supporter Program” on the memo line. Mail to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.

We appreciate your help in building Workers World.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, 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 imm/migrants, mis/gynogy, LGBTQ2+ 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 citizenship — 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 ganged down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out 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. Work is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WW 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 WWV branch near you.

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

National Office
W 27th St, Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
ww@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
durham@workers.org
www.workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 3016
Atlanta, GA 30305
atlanta@workers.org

Bay Area
PO Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02139
boston@workers.org
instagram: bostonworkers

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richard Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2354
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
PO Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.501.2633
houston@workers.org

Minneapolis
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
PO Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
215.925.2615
philadelphia@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.719.048
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

Join us in the fight for socialism!
National Day of Mourning

Thurs., Nov. 23, 2023
12 noon – Cole’s Hill (above Plymouth Rock)
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!
From Turtle Island to Palestine, Colonialism is a crime!
Free Leonard Peltier!

Since 1970, Indigenous people and their allies have gathered at noon on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. “Thanksgiving” holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers.

Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in the National Day of Mourning stand in solidarity and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Indigenous peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, settler-colonialism, war, sexism, anti-LGBTQ2S+ bigotry and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

While many supporters will attend in person, we will also Live Stream the event from Plymouth at tinyurl.com/NDOM2023LiveStream.

Mask up for solidarity!
No sit-down social, but light box lunches will be available.

#NDOM2023
#NoThanksNoGiving

Unidentified American Indians of New England
(Decolonizing since 1970)
Website: uaine.org Contact: info@uaine.org Donate: bit.ly/DonateUAINDE2023
facebook.com/groups/UAINE Facebook event: @NDOM2023

NDOM 2023 will again provide sign language interpretation on Cole’s Hill.

The following speech was delivered at 300,000 pro-Palestine marchers by The Red Nation co-founder Dr. Melanie Yazzie and was written by members of The Red Nation. The speech is also available in Arabic and Spanish at therednation.org. Video of the speech is posted at The Red Nation’s YouTube channel. (yout.be/bihQfjhg_19)


The Red Nation’s message to the
Free Palestine National March

The Red Nation

October 30, 2023

The Red Nation calls all supporters of The Red Nation and its allies to join us in our international day of action to support the Palestinian people, as the following speech explains. TheRedNation.org has already been translated into Arabic and Spanish, and the full text has been translated into French. The Red Nation will continue to translate this important message into other languages.

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The Red Nation
The occupation’s crimes against prisoners have exceeded all limits

The following statement was issued by the Office of Martyrs, Prisoners, and Wounded of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nov. 10, 2023:

“The occupation’s authorities have continued to commit a series of war crimes and crimes against prisoners in jails by the occupation authorities continues with international silence. The insistence of the International Red Cross and many international organizations concerned ignore the reality of these conditions and their excuse that the occupation prevents them from visiting the prisoners and learning about their conditions is an argument against them, not for them, confirming the ongoing complicity of international institutions in the comprehensive massacre of the occupied people by the occupation against our people.

The statement called on the relevant international institutions to immediately impose sanctions on the occupation, expel it from all international bodies concerned with human rights, boycott and internationally isolate it, and impose the severest sanctions against it.

The statement mentioned that it is impossible to ensure the noble humanitarian treatment of the Palestinian resistance towards the occupation’s prisoners of all categories, and their earnest efforts to preserve them despite the brutal bombing targeted at them by the occupation state, with the treatment of this criminal state.

imprisoned Palestinian youth

War against the fleas

By Mumi Abu Jamal

Perhaps Israel’s most respected statesman, former diplomat Abba Eban, once said, “Nobody does Israel any service by proclaiming its right to exist.” That was then, in 1981. Now is a new age of war and iron walls. The occupation has brought to bear the far right wing. It is once again a time of war, but to say it’s a war of Hamas versus Israel is somewhat disingenuous.

For there has been a war between Palestine and Israel for, at the very least, 75 years, and at most, a century. And this is not a war around religion or between faiths or gods. It’s a war that which is no longer being produced — land.

Kudos to the authors of the “Except for Palestine: The Limits of Progressive Politics,” by Marc Lamont Hill and Mitchell Plitnick. The book, using history instead of myths, shows how the Palestinians received exceptions to the rules while Israelis did not. They showed the emergence of the rightist Likud party and the ideas proposed by Ziv Javotinsky. They led right to this moment in Israeli history by driving the Palestinians to the wall.

“Except for Palestine,” shows how U.S. foreign policy was driven by domestic policy. And how both major parties are determined to maintain a regional superpower in the Middle East. And while Hamas may have used a few less techniques of vengeance, they have over one engage with an F-4+ I don’t think so.

What most U.S. news agencies are loath to address is the realm of international law, especially when one considers the law of occupied territories and the right of the occupied to resist their occupation by any necessary means.

The Palestinians are the Indigenous people of the region. They are thus equivalent to the Navajo, Apache and Seminole of the West, subjected to the settler colonialism of the invaders. It is they who have a right to exist. Is that not so?

The Indigenous of the U.S. were sent to a century of dispossession and military repression. Their decades of negotiations have led to nothing but more of the same. What they want all people want, freedom.

With love, not fear. This is Mumia Abu-Jamal.


(tinyurl.com/zhhbdlab4)

A plea from U.S. jails: Stop killing us

By Joe Piette

Read the entire article at workers.org

Robert Divine, 52, died 2/14/23; Thomas Johnson, 29, died 4/10/22; Troy Chaney, 33, died 5/26/21; Quincy Di-Harris, 25, died 8/27/21; Kenneth Harris, 69, died 6/7/23; Bays Vyekem, 33, died 9/26/21; and 41 others are the out of at least 46 people who died in Philadelphia County jails since 2020.

Many community meetings and protests have been organized but more of the same. They want what all people want, freedom.


Jail (cbsandiego.com, July 26)

“Because a person is sick… that doesn’t mean that they should receive a death sentence and that’s what’s happening here,” said Norma Nelson, whose brother Donald suffered a diabetic seizure, got into a fight and was killed in a cell just two hours after arriving at Santa Rita Jail. “People who are in need of medical, mental health care, behavioral health care — they’re just not getting it here.”

(cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco, Apr. 1)

Community activists across the U.S. have proposed various solutions to the epidemic of deaths while in county jails. Many participants believe mass incarceration should be abolished. But what do we who have loved ones behind bars do until then?

Philanthropic activists, many of whom are formerly incarcerated or relatives of those who died in jail, are hoping more community oversight of the City’s jails will improve the chances that anyone placed in jail will come out alive.
The liberation and leadership of women was a cornerstone of Vladimir Lenin's thinking and actions as the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution. Revolutions could not have been complete without it. It was an integral part of it, and he talked and wrote about it a great deal. Lenin wanted to know what women wanted and needed and what issues were on their minds. He consulted with them often and regularly. He would meet with women leaders at their offices and homes or he would ask them to meet with him at his office. Lenin consulted with the leading women revolutionaries of the day — Inessa Armand, Alexandra Kollontai, Nadezhda Krupskaya, Rosa Luxemburg and Clara Zetkin.

Lenin wanted to know the preface to the book "The Emanicipation of Women," which was written in 1933 by Krupskaya, Lenin's spouse and partner, 10 years after his death. Russian women were some of the most oppressed people in the country due to their living in a patriarchal society. Lenin stated, "only the working class could bring emancipation to women and peasants." He closely studied the working conditions and lives of women factory workers, peasants and women who produced handicrafts (objects made completely by hand). At that time, peasants were moving from farms to factories.

Krupskaya said that Lenin explains in his book "The Development of Capitalism in Russia" that women's work "at factories broadens their outlook, makes them more cultured and independent, helps them break the shackles of patriarchal life." He explained that large-scale industry would create the basis for the emancipation of women.

Soviet Union enshrined women's rights

Lenin called for the complete equality of men and women to be written into the Bolshevik Party's program, and it was. The Soviet government codified laws that established the full equality of rights for women and men.

By Phebe Eckfeldt

The Russian bourgeoisie was telling women to use birth control because their children were doomed to poverty and a life lacking in food, heat and other basic human needs. But Lenin said: No! Children are our future, and we are fighting against poverty when we fight against capitalism and we will win.

Lenin wanted all women to be able to work for the benefit of society. He worked hard to draw the oppressed women into the work of running the country, including sex workers. He knew they needed to be taught how to govern and how to administer the state; this was called social work. Lenin stressed all workers needed training in this, and he aimed to break from the view that only the rich could do this.

Many women died in action defending the newly formed Bolshevik government during the Civil War which took place from November 1917 until June 1923.

The Bolshevik government began to raise the question of collectivization of agriculture and communes and the struggle against the rich peasant and peasants who exploited other peasants and loaned money.

Collectivization of agriculture meant consolidating individual farms into collective farms, combining small farms into one large farm — which came under state ownership and control. Farmers worked together and made decisions together about these farms.

Krupskaya wrote: "Small scale farming ... shackled women, tied them to the individual house-holds, and narrowed their outlook; they were in fact slaves of their husbands, who often beat them cruelly.

Lenin often quoted peasants who used to say: “Each man for himself and God for all.” He apparently often referred to this expression to show the psychology of a small farmer.

Collectivization, said Krupskaya, "undermines the peasants' isolation, and the hold of religion and emanci-pates women." And she said that Lenin emphasized that "only socialism would bring emancipation for women."

The Congress of Collective Farmers showed that Lenin's words were "coming true," said Krupskaya. Many women were among the delegates. Women were learning to govern and to fight the kulaks — and religion was fading. She wrote that political consciousness was developing and would help to get rid of old prejudices.

"The Emanicipation of Women," from the writings of V.I. Lenin, was first published in 1903 by International Publishers. Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.
By Martha Grevatt

There has been no letup in the mass movement to stop the Zionist genocide in Palestine. Here are but a few examples of the explosion of mass protest which have taken place since Oct. 7.

On Nov. 8 at UPenn Commons in Philadelphia, light projection of pro-Palestine slogans raised a critical question that University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill had to answer. Which side is she on — genocide and Zionist apartheid or cease-fire and an end to the occupation of Palestine?

Instead of opposing the genocide, Magill responded with a statement calling the projections antisemitic and "vile." Her statement centered on the slogan “From the river to the Sea, Palestine will be free.” In actuality, the phrase calls for a free Palestine where everyone, no matter their religion or background, has equal rights and privileges, and where Palestinians who have been violently displaced have the right to return.

It’s a call for a new Palestinian state to replace the current apartheid state of Israel, where only Jewish people have full citizenship and where Indigenous Palestinians are severely exploited, oppressed and displaced. (theDP.com, Nov 9)

The Palestinian Youth Movement and Indigenous and Chicano activists in Houston organized a joint event for the Day of the Dead Nov. 8 entitled "Pray for Palestine: Indigenous Solidarity / Raza Con Gaza." A candle-light vigil at Guadalupe Plaza was filled with Palestinian flags, singers and poets. Prayers were said in English, Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic.

The plaza had a large outline of the map of Palestine done with candles and inside it were items normally seen during Day of the Dead — El Día de los Muertos. One of the organizers, Monica Villareal, told Workers World, “We felt the need to create the event to alleviate hopelessness over what is happening to Palestine. I understand the importance of continuing to speak out in any form it may take, whatever it looks like. The caliber of artists was phenomenal and the youth were empowered to organize. It was inspiring.”

Dozens of cities held protests on Nov. 9 to “Shut it down for Palestine.” Actions continued during the next few days.

There were gigantic demonstrations in New York City Nov. 9 and Nov. 10 in Bryant Park and Columbus Circle. Hundreds of LGBTIQ2S+ activists joined the Queers for Palestine march from Union Square to the historic Stonewall Inn on Nov. 12. That same day, a huge crowd gathered outside the Brooklyn Museum for a Children’s March for Gaza. Jewish Voice for Peace held a march in Newark, New Jersey, Nov. 13.

On Nov. 11, Over 1,000 people — Palestinian, Arab, Jewish, Black and Brown, old and young, of every gender — marched to President Joe Biden’s home in Wilmington, Delaware, to say “Cease-fire now!” "End the people say: ‘Shut
the genocide! “End the occupation!” and “Free Palestine!”

Over 700 people, young and not so young, representing many families, marched from Philadelphia’s Clark Park to Cedar Park on Nov. 12, to demand the U.S. and Israel initiate an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and put an end to the occupation of Palestine. The event was part of a National Family Day of Action called by Families for Ceasefire.

Hundreds of Palestinians and allies turned out in Cleveland Nov. 9 to “Shut it down for Palestine.” After a spirited rally in Market Square Park, protesters took over the streets on the city’s Near West Side. In Santa Fe, New Mexico, over 400 people marched in solidarity with Palestine.

A Labor for Palestine march in Portland, Oregon, drew over 1,000 people.

Marsha Goldberg, Renee Imperato, Lyn Neeley, Joe Piette and Gloria Rubac contributed to this report.

Boston Coalition for Palestine shuts down Massachusetts Avenue Bridge

By Steve Gillis

A massive rally in support of the Palestinian resistance in Boston’s Copley Square on Nov. 12 brought out more than 10,000 to demand, “Stop the genocide in Gaza!” and “End all U.S. aid to Israel.” The action was pulled together in four days by the over 30 organizations that comprise the Boston Coalition for Palestine, initiated in early October 2023 by the Palestinian House of New England.

Mahtowin Munro of United American Indians of New England (UAINE) and Jean-Luc Pierite, President of the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), opened the rally with calls for international Indigenous solidarity, massive reparations, the right to return and land back for the Indigenous population of Palestine.

“From Boston to Palestine, colonialism is a crime!” they declared.

Students under attack at Boston-area universities, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders, a Holocaust survivor and leaders of the Palestinian House demanded, “Lift the siege of Gaza,” “Cease fire now!” and that the U.S. and Zionist governments open the Rafah Crossing immediately to international aid.

Layan Alnajjar of Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Connecticut emceed and, along with a powerful quartet of Palestinian women, led chants atop Boston Labor for Palestine’s sound truck. At the Copley Square stage, which was draped with the names of over 11,000 murdered Gazans, Alnajjar informed the crowd that, “We will no longer refer to Gaza as an open air prison, because the only criminals there are the occupiers. The U.S. and Israel have turned Gaza into a concentration camp.”

On swank Newbury Street — filled with tourists dining and shopping — marchers spontaneously stopped and sat down to disrupt business. Protesters displayed outrage in front of a Starbucks store for that corporation’s complicity with Israeli apartheid. “Starbucks, Starbucks what do you say? How many kids did you kill today?” they chanted.

Despite the threatening presence of multiple jurisdictions of federal, state and city cops, marchers took all four lanes of the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, occupying and shutting down that major artery over the Charles River.

The final target was the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, where marchers took over the steps, grounds and street at its main entrance. They denounced the institution’s leading role in fueling the military industrial complex and the discriminatory suspensions of students belonging to the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid, who had occupied the administration’s offices earlier in the week.

Layan Alnajjar of Students for Justice in Palestine leading chants on Boston Labor for Palestine’s truck, Nov. 12, 2023.

Occupying the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, Nov. 12, 2023.
Gaza resistance exposes limits of U.S. power

By Sara Flot

The U.S. stranglehold is slipping. Its global hegemony and its ability to assert that the world order is under threat by the Zionist movement maker are being challenged by a desper- ate and revolutionary people kept totally imprisoned.

The productivity of the coordinated Palestinian resistance, which began with a surprise operation on Oct. 7, was not only a shock to the Zionist air defense and its vaunted intelligence network, but is also sending shockwaves through the U.S. empire.

Both Israel and the U.S. rulers are now reeling on brute force. But brute force can’t reverse this political blow. More U.S.- supplied weapons for massive destruction only strengthen the U.S.-rule—and will only arouse the hatred of the millions of people in the Global South. The coordinated Palestinian resistance is a deadly threat to Israel and its principal backer.

Many commentators agree that the Israeli myth of “invincibility” will never recover from this blow. The whole world has viewed, again and again, the videos of the bold coordinated flight over layers of electrified fences, barbed wire and surveillance cameras by small, motorized hang gliders, followed by light drones. The protection afforded by the Israeli Iron Dome has been shattered by waves of shoulder missiles hitting Israeli command centers as far away as Tel Aviv.

While the attack was a surprise, it was certainly not unprompted. It was an act of desperation by the population of a concentration camp who have suffered 16 years in total lockdown and 75 years of occupation. The whole Palestinian population was under a life- time prison sentence.

Israel is euphorically using the attack on Oct. 7 as a pretext to exacerbate its “ethnic cleansing” of Gaza and expand the ongoing build-up of Zionist settlements on the West Bank.

Israel’s plans for a final displace- ment of the Palestinians in Gaza were long in the drawing board, openly dis- counted with great arrogance and inflated self-confidence.

The relentless bombing of Gaza is a sign of Zionist desperation and wild revenge. It is not a plan. The so-called Israeli Defense Forces are stumbling into a ground inva- sion, although they know that, in the past, they were unable to sustain similar inva- sions of Gaza in 2009 and Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. They were no match for anti-aircraft guns, small arms and antiaircraft actions cohesively coordinated in attack.

The mobilization of millions of people around the world, now on a daily basis, is a threat to the political order. The sheer size, scale and speed with which huge events have come together—from mass- sive demonstrations, even where they have been scattered and brutified by attacks from schools, work stoppages, sit-ins, high- way blockades, and disruptive actions in transportation hubs—against weapons manufacturers, at politicians’ offices— is unprecedented. This new, awakening consciousness in solidarity with besieged Palestine is making a deep impact on this grotesque violence is a threat to long-established capitalist rule.

Israel’s inability to hold the almost total corporate control of the media, Israel has lost public support, especially among youth.

‘Existential crisis’

Many Israelis describe the situation as an “existential crisis.” The continued existence of the imperialist state is at stake. President Joe Biden’s immediate and final trip to Israel, his desperate embrace of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and promises of still more weapons, followed by U.S. military genera- lds and admirals in a coordinated carrier bot- tle groups in tow, expose that on a global scale, the besieged Palestinian movement has struck a major blow to U.S. hegemony. Israel, in past years, had been embraced into a “strategic partner” crucial to U.S. “regional security,” even as the U.S. occupation of Iraq unraveled and plans to overthrow the Syrian govern- ment also failed. Just a month ago, the U.S. rulers thought they had secured Sudan’s coup and the ruling classes of several Arab countries into recognizing Israel. But now, by arousing the hatred of the masses, the U.S. is so desperate that local deals have been moved off the table.

All of the U.S. plans made since the Sept. 11 attacks have pivoted away from failed wars in the Middle East in order to encircle and threaten China are now in complete disarray.

The U.S./NATO military alliance is battered and running short on weapons and funding in Ukraine. Its corrupt forces have totally failed to secure any ground, and now face a “spring offensive.” This was a war that Biden, over 20 months ago, promised would be over by the summer, with the ruble turned to rubble and regime change in Moscow. Now the U.S. war machine is bogged down on two fronts, struggling to gather munitions and funding for both Israel and Ukraine.

‘Unsinkable aircraft carrier’

Israel has for 75 years been consid- ered U.S. imperialism’s unsinkable air- craft carrier, its one secure asset. Israel is totally dependent on the U.S. for its political, economic and military survival. Israel has consistently been the largest recipient of U.S. military aid, exceeding $3 billion a day, every day, for 75 years. (fiamericansticks.org/st/usa/aid.html)

Now Israel’s very existence is in question.

This is what is behind U.S. support for Israel’s carpet bombing of the tiny Gaza enclave, deploying more weapons than the U.S. and NATO combined, and more explosive power than the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. (tinyurl.com/mrz2wvc)

The bombing is so extreme that it has turned Gaza “into a ball of fire,” according to Al Jazeera. Hospitals, schools, United Nations gatherings.

Yet despite these crimes or the world outcry, Israel is assured of an endless stream of U.S. sanctions and regime change operations—have iden- tified with the long Palestinian struggle for sovereignty. This is reflected in over- whelming votes in the United Nations General Assembly and in all international gatherings.

Some 77 resolutions have been passed by the U.N. General Assembly condemn- ing the occupation and Israel’s genocidal, apartheid treatment of Palestinians. The United States has never voted for one, and Israel has never been held accountable.

Threat of regional war

U.S. imperialism can ignore these U.N. votes and regional condemnation.

Far more ominous for the U.S. strate- gic position in the entire region are threats to escalations involving the region's most powerful forces.

Iran is consistently blamed for the weapons that the Palestinians have man- aged to smuggle into Gaza.

Each of these organizations has survived, despite years of U.S. sanctions and Washington’s continuing efforts to block all development.

Massive mobilizations in Jordan’s Hashemite monarchy and Egypt’s mili- tary dictatorship send a message that these compliant states could rapidly unravell. A few months ago, a blockade of roads has stopped gas shipments into Gaza. Identification with beleaguered Palestine is changing the consciousness of the whole region.

Despite its big threats, the Pentagon knows that the U.S. military personnel or the domestic sup- port to fight a regional war. Weapons are easy to secure on the international arms market. And most U.S. arms dealers have been convicted of war crimes. The Pentagon is thus in a desperate situation, discipline and self-sacriice on a mass scale to secretly train combatants to overthrow a regime. The formation of guerrillas movements and the power of people’s movements are lessons deeply absorbed by the mil- lions of disenfranchised.

Many attempts to divide and conquer

In an earlier time, the Zionists hoped that the U.S./Israel military machine and its vaunted intelligence network, but is now working with the much more explosive power than the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. (tinyurl.com/mrz2wvc)

Now the U.S. war machine is bogged down on two fronts, struggling to gather munitions and funding for both Israel and Ukraine.

The U.S./NATO military alliance is battered and running short on weapons and funding in Ukraine. Its corrupt forces have totally failed to secure any ground, and now face a “spring offensive.” This was a war that Biden, over 20 months ago, promised would be over by the summer, with the ruble turned to rubble and regime change in Moscow. Now the U.S. war machine is bogged down on two fronts, struggling to gather munitions and funding for both Israel and Ukraine.

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Behind Israel’s ‘end game’ for Gaza: Theft of offshore gas reserves

By Betsye Plettet

In 1999, British Gas (BG) discovered the existence of natural gas in the Gaza Marine fields, 20 nautical miles off the coast of Gaza, at a depth of 795 miles. Further exploration by BG through two successful wells — Gaza Marine 1 and Gaza Marine 2 — determined the field could produce 122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. (EgyptOil-Gas.com, April 5, 2018)

The Palestinian Authority was “granted” the right to exercise sovereignty over its own maritime territory by the Oslo Accords in 1999. Four years later, following the findings of the offshore natural gas, the PA gave the international consortium BG a 25-year, 90% stake in a license to explore, develop any discovered fields, and install the required infrastructure. Since that time Israel has consistently blocked this development.

In 2002, the PA approved BG’s proposal to construct a pipeline to a processing facility in Gaza. However, the Israeli state delayed this development, arguing the pipeline should run to an Israeli-controlled port, and that Palestinians would have to supply Gaza Marine surplus fuel to Israel at far below market price. When BG won the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in Gaza in 2006, taking control in 2007, Israel established a militarized naval blockade, prohibiting further development and transportation of the gas.

In December 2008, in total contravention of international laws, Israel declared sovereignty over the Gaza Marine area, and BG closed its offices in Tel Aviv. Royal Dutch Shell bought out BG’s interests in the Gaza Marine fields for $2.4 billion in 2016. By March 2018, Royal Dutch Shell backed out of their investment, leaving the PA to search for a replacement company to develop the field. (EgyptOil-Gas.com, April 5, 2018)

U.N. study cites Palestinian natural gas reserves

A 2019 study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) identified existing and potential Palestinian oil and natural gas reserves in the West Bank and Gaza that could be developed for the benefit of the Palestinian people. The report cited the Levant Basin Province, comprising 8.5 million kilometers of the eastern Mediterranean Sea, with 122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, as one of the most important natural gas resources in the world. Despite the fact that this reservoir lies under waters bordering occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and Egypt, Israel has claimed sole access and profits from this find. (tinyurl.com/2ramhj3s)

While the estimated volume of natural gas in the Gaza Marine is considerably less than the Levant Basin, its proximity to the shore and lesser depth make it easier and less costly to extract. In 2019, UNCTAD estimated the net cost of developing the Gaza Marine field at $4.592 billion — energy and financial resources that could go a long way in addressing poverty in the region.

Yet Israel continued to prevent Palestinians from developing and benefiting from their natural resources, in clear violation of international law that governs who has rights to these resources when a country is occupied.

Gaza Marine importance to global energy

Renewed interest in pursuing development of the Gaza Marine field surfaced in 2022 following the war between Russia and Ukraine, the destruction of the Nord Stream Pipeline, and the sanctions placed on Russia that caused a global energy crisis. Joint meetings were held between Israeli, U.S., Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian Authority officials to discuss the project, which was given the go-ahead by Netanyahu following his reelection. In particular, President Joe Biden and Egyptian government officials pressured Israel to pursue the project, as it is one of the near-term solutions to the energy crisis.

On June 18, Israel gave preliminary approval for the development of a gas field off the coast of Gaza, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claiming progress would hinge on “preserving the State of Israel’s security and diplomatic needs” and coordination with the Palestinian Authority and neighboring Egypt. At the same time, Hamas official Ismail Rabaian told Reuters: “We reaffirm that our people in Gaza have the right to use their natural resources.” (June 18)

Two months before Oct. 7, Israel again began building a $35.8 million troop facility in Israel’s Negev desert, 20 miles from Gaza, allegedly as a radar site to monitor for missile attacks on Israel. The base is part of a “secret” U.S. military presence in Israel. (The Intercept, Oct. 27)

Since Oct. 7, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has continued to refuse to order a cease-fire to let aid in to stop the horrific genocide being carried out in Gaza.

The people of Gaza are well aware, as their grandparents experienced with the 1948 Nakba, that once Israel forcefully remove Palestinians from Palestinian land, returning is a near impossibility.

Israel’s genocidal war on Palestinians has not stopped the Israeli regime’s plans for further oil and gas exploration. On Oct. 29, Israel announced that it awarded 12 licenses for exploring additional offshore natural gas fields to six companies, including British Petroleum and Italian energy giant Eni. These awards show that Israel has already won the Palestinian silent consent for development of the Gaza Marine field as it is carrying out against Gaza’s people interfere with its ongoing theft of Palestinian resources.

Indigenous Land Back Movement

In many ways, the struggle of the Palestinian people parallels that of Indigenous tribes and nations in the Western Hemisphere, whose populations were decimated over the course of hundreds of years of white settler colonialism. For many Indigenous people in the U.S., so-called “Thanksgiving” is the Day of Mourning. In 1621, in an act of survival, the Wampanoag signed an agreement with the Pilgrims, but the European settler colonists broke the treaty and decided to kill the tribe’s population, stealing their land in the process.

Over the course of the next 400 years, Indigenous lands were stolen by the European colonizers. Indigenous people were either killed or pushed off their land and forced to relocate to reservations believed to be on worthless land, often considerable distances from their original homes. Later, when these reservations were developed, the land’s value was increased by the value of valuable minerals, the land theft would start again.

Centuries-long battles to reclaim the land stolen from Indigenous people in the Western Hemisphere have been gaining momentum, along with calls for reparations with the Land Back movement.

From Turtle Island to the Gaza Strip, Indigenous peoples are fighting the settler colonial theft of their lands and resources.

Unions worldwide obstruct arms supplies to Israel

By Marc Vandepitte

The author is a Belgian Marxist who writes for rebellion.org and investigation.net.

When Israel unleashed its ruthless war of revenge against the people of Gaza, Palestinian trade unions appealed to their colleagues worldwide for a boycott of arms deliveries to Israel:

“On October 7, 2022, a military campaign, Palestinian trade union calls on our counterparts internationally and all people of conscience to end all forms of complicity with Israel’s crimes — most urgently halting the arms trade in any form and scale.”

Belgian unions set example

The Belgian trade unions were the first to set a good example. In a joint press release they called for a stop to arms shipments destined for Israel. They refuse to contribute to the murder of innocent victims and call for an immediate cease-fire.

“We, the various trade unions active in the ground handling sector, call on our members to no longer handle flights shipping military material to Palestine/Israel, as there were clear agreements and rules at the beginning of the conflict with Russia and Ukraine.”

The Belgian example is being followed in many countries. The list grows every day.

In the United States, [the Unite All Workers for Democracy caucus (UAWD)], part of the United Auto Workers (UAW), which waged a fierce battle for wage increases, has called for a boycott of Israel.

“We watch with horror as the U.S. sends American troops to assist in an Israeli ground invasion of Gaza. We mourn the loss of civilian life. We categorically reject US support of the murderous Israeli regime in its ongoing genocide of Palestinians, which has killed over 7,000 people and injured 66,000 more in airstrikes since October 7, and has cut off water, food, and power to the population of Gaza.”

“We call on the UAW to endorse and implement boycotts of arms suppliers, with a special focus on Israel. We call on the UAW to refuse to service vessels and haul cargo to Israel to support its army, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).”

The United Tech & Allied Workers of Britain (UTAW-CU) join calls from Palestinian trade unions for the international labor movement to end all complicity and take concrete action against arms supplies to Israel.

India’s unions say, ‘No arms to Israel’

The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), which represents more than 600,000 workers in India, is appealing to unions for a boycott of arms shipments to Israel.

“We extend our full support to the call by Palestinian trade unions to all workers around the world to unite and boycott manufacturing or loading of weapons and military equipment destined to Israel and its brutal war.”

In Brazil, the United Workers Central (CUT), the largest trade union federation representing more than 7.4 million workers, passed a resolution pledging unwavering support for the Palestinians.

“The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the country’s largest union with 740,000 members, adopted a resolution in solidarity with the Palestinian people, including a call for the government to ‘end its sale of arms to Israel.”

Continued on page 10
Salute students who fight genocide

The mass revulsion at Israeli terror in Gaza has unleashed a conflict on U.S. college campuses where they live. Protests are not only pro-Israel students, but also college administrations and wealthy donor alumni who have targeted student groups that oppose Israel’s genocidal attack.

Confrontations have disrupted many campuses, including at public colleges, where student protests have shut down the working class, and those considered elite, such as Ivy League colleges and some California universities.

Since a greater percentage of their students come from ruling-class backgrounds, most media coverage goes to the “elitist” schools: Stanford, University of California Los Angeles, University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Harvard and Columbia. Those who run U.S. capitalist society expect many students at these schools to continue running the economy and the state.

When students at these universities rebel, it’s big news, and they have rebelled. It also involves big money. And the billionaires have demanded the students be punished.

In some cases they even demand the students be identified so they can be denied job opportunities or scholarships. It is a constant war against the working class and the state.

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Working-class organizations admire these and similar student groups’ courage, just as we do the organizations in public universities, such as those in the City University of New York. They are confronting not only the U.S.-armied Israeli genocide but also the neo-colonial Western imperialist countries, whose elites consider the Israeli state an extension of their own exploitation of West Asia.

Palestine Writes Festival

Since the pro-Israeli alumni donors at UPenn mobilized weeks before Oct. 7, more has been revealed about them. They tried to stop the Palestine Writes Literature Festival, held in late September, in an attempt to repress Palestinian cultural with the usual pretext that this was “antisemitic.” They failed.

Simply because the university allowed the Festival to proceed, a big donor from the Estée Lauder corporation and a private equity billionaire have tried to use their money’s power to punish the university and determine its policy, even about which professors are hired. Estée Lauder, by the way, has been on the list of companies to boycott for their ties to the Israeli state.

The conflict over events in Gaza has exposed the perverse role of big money in the U.S. university system intrinsic to U.S. imperialism. Now students, activists and sympathizers, face another choice: Do they bow to the threats to their financial future or do they continue to fight against the U.S./Israeli genocide?

Many have already made the choice to continue the struggle. Perhaps the attempt at repression will boomerang against the rulers, just as it did during another criminal U.S. war in 1968. We in Workers World salute the students from CUNY to UCLA who are fighting U.S.-Israeli terror.

Unions worldwide obstruct arms supplies to Israel

In Japan, the National Railway Motive Power Union of the town of Chiba (1 million inhabitants) responds to the call of the Palestinian unions. The Japanese government plans to supply weapons and financial aid to Israel, among other things. The railway association wants to prevent this: “We wholeheartedly support the fierce struggle of 22 million people, and we will do all we might to overthrow the Kishida administration, a member of international imperialism: the cause of oppression of the people and the cause of war.”

Colombia: Miners’ union says, “Suspend shipments”

In Colombia, the miners’ union wants a suspension of the supply of all minerals and fuels to Israel. “As noted by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, these events ‘do not come in a vacuum’. The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocation, occupation, and human rights organizations, churches and we join as a working-class organization.”

“Cease fire now!”

In Barcelona, port workers have decided not to allow materials to be sent to the conflict in the Gaza Strip. They do this for the “sole purpose of protecting the civilian population, regardless of territory. No reason justifies the sacrifice of civilians.”

The dockworkers consider it a collective “obligation” to defend the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “tooth and nail.” They criticize the fact that many unions seem to have forgotten that they signed the Declaration. They point out that these human rights are “currently being violated in Ukraine, Israel and the Palestinian territories.”

The dockers call for an immediate cease-fire and peaceful solutions to the various conflicts.

In Poland, the largest umbrella federation of trade unions (OPZZ) is calling for an end to military cooperation with Israel.

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Defend the right to resistance

By Monica Moorehead

Based on a talk given at an Oct. 19, 2023, Workers World Party meeting in New York City.

With any struggle for national liberation, the role of violence of the oppressed versus violence of the oppressor becomes a debate within the worldwide movement. This debate has occurred for many generations starting with the Paris Commune in 1871, when the workers and the poor of Paris dared to seize state power for 72 days to challenge the repressive rule of the dominating French bourgeoisie.

Although the workers and the poor were eventually defeated, these important lessons were examined by Karl Marx’s “The Civil War in France.” Marx’s work helped lay the basis for the conception and theory of the anti-imperialist struggle, explaining the role of the repressive state and the triumph of the Soviet Union. There have been other important struggles where the issue of violence became a central question in Vietnam, Cuba, Chile, Angola, People’s Korea and elsewhere, along with rebellions of the oppressed inside the U.S.

At this moment, we don’t view this question of violence as one of morality or in isolation, which pacifists and liberals tend to do. It is integral to the class struggle that goes to the heart of which side you are on — the side of the oppressor or the side of the oppressed; the side of the haves or the have-nots; the side of the working class or the side of the bosses.

It boils down to supporting oppressed peoples who have been superexploited by capitalism and imperialism, not just for one day or one month or one year, but for decades and even for centuries. In the instance of the colonized Palestinians, it has been 75 years since the Nakba.

Armed resistance in apartheid South Africa

During the height of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, there was a period when the Black masses and their representatives, like the African National Congress, tried to appeal to the racist regime for a transition of power with peaceful protests and other nonviolent actions. These appeals were drowned in blood with outright heinous massacres, most notably in the Black townships of Soweto in 1976 and Sharpeville in 1960, by the brutal apartheid police.

These terrorist attacks led to a shift in tactics by liberation forces who felt they had no other choice but to organize in the most virulent form of the anti-apartheid struggle to fight force with force for both survival and social change. This significant decision was made with the understanding that any armed resistance would be a defensive one because the apartheid regime had at its disposal the most sophisticated weaponry from the West, including the U.S.

The guerrilla fighters in South Africa had to resort to going underground to retrieve arms from socialist countries like the former Soviet Union, along with military assistance from socialist Cuba.

And as apartheid became more isolated and reviled worldwide, the armed resistance was labeled as “terrorism” by the apartheid regime and its imperialist allies in an attempt to demonize the struggle in the eyes of the world movement. But in the end, it backfired because the masses backed the armed struggle, which eventually led to the end of legal apartheid.

Palestinians challenge Zionism and imperialism

At this moment, the heroic uprising in Gaza, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and other areas in the Occupied Territories in Zionist Israel that began on Oct. 7 has taken the global center stage on the question of violence. This righteous struggle is on the front lines of challenging imperialism in the region and the world. It has been over 75 years since the settler colonial state of Israel was formed resulting in another form of apartheid.

During that time, the Indigenous Palestinian population has been humiliated, brutalized, exiled to other parts of the world, and made refugees in their ancestral land by a racist, terrorist regime. This regime acts as a military outpost, doing the bidding of the imperialist West to control fabulous wealth and profits for mainly Big Oil interests.

The Palestinians have used every means at their disposal to fight for their liberation, including general strikes, demonstrations, etc., where they were mowed down by Israel’s occupation forces and driven further out of their homes. No liberation forces can compete against bombs, tanks, helicopters and other high-powered military weaponry by just throwing rocks and bottles, or even hijacking airplanes — as justified and heroic as these tactics have been to help bring worldwide attention to the Israeli occupation.

So, once the Hamas group was democratically elected to represent occupied Gaza in 2006, an uncompromising organization to the occupation was elevated, rooted in the First Intifada in the late 1980s.

Working-class forces worldwide must defend the right of Hamas and others to lead an armed struggle, despite ideological differences. Any form of resistance against Israeli occupation is also a blow against imperialism. This resistance also continues to break the decades-long isolation of those opposing Zionism, an isolation that has enjoyed the united support of the global ruling class and its bourgeoisie, especially the media.

The rest of the masses in the Arab world, who have also suffered at the hands of the Zionist bullies for decades, view the Palestinian struggle as inspiration for struggling against their own puppet governments, which are complicit in submitting to Israel and imperialism.

The only thing that can challenge a repressive state like Israel — a state founded on the wholesale theft of land, carried out with brutality and genocide — is armed resistance and the backing of the masses supporting that armed resistance.

Palestine is an exemplary demonstration of the right to self-defense — a form of self-determination — of an oppressed people or nation, which any left force that views itself as revolutionary — especially if based in an imperialist country — must defend in order to strengthen global class solidarity.

A class view on violence

Sam Marcy, the last chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote three articles featured in the 1992 pamphlet “A Marxist Defense of the L.A. Rebellion,” when the Black and Latine communities rose up in a spontaneous rebellion following the acquittal of four racist white police officers charged with beating a Black motorists, Rodney King, almost to death in 1991. This heinous crime was caught on video before there was social media.

The name of the following section is called “Marxism on violence.”

“A class view on violence is not based on class and its bourgeois ideology. This resistance also invokes all sorts of lies and deceits about the unruliness of the masses. It conjures up all sorts of lies and deceits about the unruliness of a few among the masses as against the orderly law-abiding many. Marxism here again cuts through it all. In this instance, the peasantry view of violence flies from an altogether different concept. It first of all distinguishes between the violence of the oppressors as against the repressive violence of the masses.

“Just as one must be able to formulate it that way is a giant step forward, away from disgusting bourgeois praise for nonviolence. It never occurs to any of them to show that the masses have never made any real leap forward with the theory of no violence. Timidity never made it in history. Indeed, Marxists do prefer nonviolent methods, but if the objectives the masses seek — freedom from oppression and exploitation — can be obtained that way. But Marxism explains the historical evolution of the class struggle as well as the struggle of oppressed nations as against oppressors.” (Atworkers.org/book/a-marxist-defense-of-the-l-a-rebellion/)

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!
Defender el derecho a la resistencia

Por Monica Moorehead

Basado en una charla pronunciada en una reunión del Partido del Mundo Obrero celebrada el 29 de octubre de 2023 en Nueva York.

Con cualquier lucha por la liberación nacional, el rol de la violencia del opri- mido y sus aliados internacionalistas es llevar adelante un debate dentro del movi- miento mundial. Este debate se ha pro- ducido durante muchas generaciones, comenzando con la Comuna de París en 1871, cuando los trabajadores y los pobres de París se atrevieron a tomar el poder durante 72 días para desafiar el régimen represivo de la burguesía francesa dominante.

Aunque los obreros y los pobres fue- ron finalmente derrotados, estas impor- tantes lecciones fueron examinadas por Karl Marx en “La guerra civil en Francia”. La obra de Marx ayudó a sentar las bases del “El Estado y la Revolución” de Vladimir Lenin, explicando el papel del Estado represivo y el triunfo de la Unión Soviética. Ha habido otras luchas importantes en las que la lucha por la libertad se convirtió en una cuestión cen- tral en Vietnam, Cuba, Chile, Angola, la República Popular Democrática de Corea y otros lugares, así como rebeliones de los oprimidos dentro de Estados Unidos.

Como marxistas, no vemos esta cuestión de la resistencia como una cuestión moral o aislada, como suelen hacer los pacifistas y los liberales. Es parte integrante de la lucha de clases que va al corazón de qué lado están: del lado del oprimor o del lado del oprimido; del lado de los que no tienen; del lado de la clase obrera o del lado de los patrones. Se reduce a apoyar a los pueblos oprimidos que han sido superexploitados por el capitalismo y el imperialismo, no sólo durante un día, un mes o un año, sino durante décadas e incluso siglos. En el caso de los palestinos colonizados, han pasado 75 años desde la Nakba.

Resistencia armada en la Sudáfrica del apartheid

Durante el apogeo de la lucha contra el apartheid en Sudáfrica, hubo un periodo en el que las masas negras y sus repre- sentantes, como el Congreso Nacional Africano (ANC), se consideraron que un llama- miento al régimen racista para una tran- sición de poder con protestas pacíficas y otras acciones no violentas. Estos llama- mientos se ahogaron en sangre con atro- ces masacres a manos de la brutal policía del apartheid, sobre todo en los muni- cipios en donde la población era negra -Soweto en 1976 y Sharpville en 1960. Estos ataques terroristas provocan- un cambio en la táctica de las fuer- zas oprimidas. Ambos consideraron que no tenían otra opción que organizar un brazo armado de la lucha contra el apar- theid para combatiendo con la fuerza tanto por la supervivencia como por el cambio social. Esta importante decisión se tomó en el entendimiento de que cualquier resistencia armada sería definida como defensora del régimen del apartheid tenía a su dispo- sición el armamento más sofisticado de Occidente, incluido el de EE.UU. Los guer- rilleros de Sudáfrica tuvieron que recu- rrir a la clandestinidad para recuperar armas de países socialistas como la anti- gua Unión Soviética, junto con la ayuda militar de Cuba socialista.

Ya medida que el apartheid quedaba más aislado y era más repudiado en todo el mundo, la resistencia armada fue tachada de “terrorismo” por el régimen del apartheid y sus aliados imperialistas en un intento de demonizar la lucha a los ojos del movimiento mundial. Pero al final les salió el tiro por la culata, porque las masas respaldaron la lucha armada, que finalmente condujo al fin del apar- theid legal.

Los palestinos desafían al sionismo y al imperialismo

En este momento, el heroico levantamien- to en Gaza, Cisjordania, incluido Yefin y otras zonas de los Territorios Ocupados en el Israel sionista que comenzó el 7 de octubre ha ocupado el centro de la escena mundial en la cues- tión de la violencia. Esta justa lucha está en primera línea para desafiar al imperia- lismo en la región y en el mundo. Hace más de 75 años que se formó el Estado colonial de colonos de Israel, que dio lugar a otra forma de apartheid. Durante ese tiempo, la población indíge- na palestina ha sido bombardeada, bru- talizada, exiliada a otras partes del mundo y convertida en refugiada en su tierra ancesstral por un régimen racistas y terro- rista. Este régimen actúa como un puesto militar avanzado, cumpliendo los órdenes del Occidente imperialista para controlar falsas acusaciones y beneficios para los intereses principalmente de las Grandes Petroleeras.

Los palestinos han utilizado todos los medios de su alcance para luchar por su libertación, incluidas huelgas generales, manifestaciones, etc., en las que fueron acribilladas con las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes y expulsados más a sus lindes. Ninguna fuerza de liberación puede competir contra bombas, tanques, helicópteros y otro armamento militar de alta potencia simplemente lanzando pie- dras y botellas, o incluso secuestrando aviones, por muy justificadas y heroicas que hayan sido estas tácticas para ayudar a llamar la atención mundial sobre la ocu- pación israelí.

Así, una vez que el grupo Hamás fue ele- gido democráticamente para representar a su Gana ocupada en 2006, se elevó una resistencia organizada sin concesiones a la ocupación, enraizada en la Primera Intifada de finales de la década de 1980. Las fuerzas de la clase obrera de todo el mundo deben defender el derecho de Hamás y de otros grupos a dirigir una lucha armada, a pesar de cualquier dife- rencia ideológica. Cualquier forma de resistencia contra el ocuapción israelí es también un golpe contra el imperialismo. Esta resistencia también sigue rompiendo el aislamiento de décadas de quienes se oponen al sionismo, un aislamiento que ha contado con el apoyo unido de la clase dominante mundial y sus expertos burgueses, especialmente los medios de comunicación.

El resto de las masas del mundo árabe, que también han sufrido a manos de los matones sionistas durante décadas, ven a la lucha palestina como inspiración para luchar contra sus propios gobiernos tiste- res, que son cómplices de la sumisión a Israel y al imperio. Lo único que puede desafiar a un Estado represivo como Israel –un Estado fundado sobre el robo de tierras al por mayor, llevado a cabo con brutalidad y genocidio– es la resistencia armada y el respaldo de las masas que apoyan esa resistencia armada. Palestina es una demostración ejemplar del derecho a la autodefensa –una forma de autodeterminación– de un pueblo o nación oprimidos, que cualquier fuerza fuera de izquierdas que se considere revolucionaria –especialmente si tiene su base en un país imperialista- debe defender para reforzar la solidaridad de clase global.

Una visión de clase sobre la violencia

Sam Marcy, el difunto presidente del Workers World Party, escribió tres artícu- los que aparecen en el panfleto de 1992 “Una defensa marxista de la rebelión de Los Ángeles”, cuando las comunidades negra y latina se levantaron en una rebu- lión espontánea tras la absolución de una cua- tro policías blancos racistas acusados de golpear casi hasta la muerte a un automo- vilista negro, Rodney King, en 1992. Este atroz crimen fue grabado en vídeo antes de que existieran las redes sociales. Se titula “Marxismo sobre la violencia”. “Después de cada etapa en la lucha de los trabajadores y los oprimidos, sigue una lucha ideológica sobre qué métodos deben adoptar las masas para lograr su liberación del capital monopolista impe- rialista. Siempre hay quienes abrían la violencia mientras minimizan el uso inicial de la violencia por parte de la clase dominante. La denuncia de palabra, mientras que en los hechos realmente la violencia es precisamente lo que está ocurriendo ahora.”

“En efecto, admieln de buen grado que el veredicto de la paliza a Rodney King fue erróneo y injusto. Pero y a su vez se hacen más fuertes – ‘Las masas no deberían haber salido a la calle y haberse tomado la justicia por su mano’. Su timidez y miedo no son sino la forma de reflejar que la clase dominante no está en peligro. Pero el más pequeño alzamiento es suficiente para que se toman las dos partes de la discusión donde lo que sigue es en realidad una condena de las masas. Siempre que la burguesía se encuentra contra la pared, cuando las masas se han levantado revolucionarias de manera, la burguesía se pone muy lúdica al alzar la violencia. Inventa todo tipo de mentiras y engaños sobre la insubordinación de unos pocos en las masas frente a la ordenada mayoría res- petuosa de la ley. Una vez más, el mar- xismo lo corta todo. La visión marxista de la violencia surge de un concepto total- mente diferente. En primer lugar, disting- guen entre la violencia de los oprimidos y la violencia de respuesta de las masas. El mero hecho de poder plantearlo así es un paso gigante en la conciencia de la parte, lejos de las repugnantes elogios burgue- ses a la no violencia. A ninguno de ellos se le puede permitir que las masas nunca han dado un verdadero salto ade- lante desde – con la teoría de la violencia. La timidez nunca ha triunfado en la histo- ria. De hecho, los marxistas preferen los métodos no violentos si los objetivos que buscan las masas -‘liberarse de la opresión y la explotación’- pueden obte- nerse con armas menos nocivas. Es un marco que explica la evolución histórica de la lucha de clases, así como la lucha de las nacio- nes oprimidas contra los opresores.” (En workers.org/book/a-marxist-defense

Boston, 17 de octubre de 2023. Traducción de la pancarta: Autodeterminación para todas las naciones arábes. Fuera yanoqui del Medio Oriente. ¡Victoria para Palestina!