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Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! [workers.org](https://www.workers.org) Vol. 66, No. 15 April 11, 2024 \$1

Yet another Israeli war crime

The deliberate targeting of seven workers with the World Central Kitchen (WCK) by not one, not two, but three Israeli airstrikes on April 1 has justifiably deepened the world outrage against the Zionist, apartheid state.

These martyred workers – Saifeddin Issam Ayad Abutaha, Laizawmi “Zomi” Frankcom, Damian Soból, Jacob Flinkinger, John Chapman, James Henderson and James Kirby – came from different parts of the world:

WORKERS WORLD editorial

occupied Palestine, Britain, Australia, Poland, Canada and the U.S.

Their three-car convoy had just finished overseeing the delivery of over 100 tons of humanitarian aid from the Deir al-Balah warehouse, brought into northern Gaza at a newly built aid jetty. The delivery and the movements of these workers had all been coordinated with the Israeli Occupation Forces, with their vehicles clearly marked with the WCK emblem.

The first response from the war criminal, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was that the killings were a “mistake” and an “unfortunate” consequence of war and that the IOF would “investigate” what happened. This amounts to a fox being asked to guard a chicken coop. Then on April 5, an IOF spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, stated that the IOF took “full responsibility” for the attack, calling it a “tragedy.”

President Joe Biden issued an April 2 statement saying how “outraged” and “brokenhearted” he was regarding the WCK deaths. In the same breath, he granted another \$18 billion for more armaments to Israel. Biden then urged Israel to open up the Erez border to finally let through some of the aid and continue

negotiations in Egypt with Hamas on the release of Israeli hostages taken on October 7.

On the very same day as the WCK killings, Israeli airstrikes attacked the Iranian Consulate in Damascus, Syria, killing seven people. Those killed included Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, a senior commander in the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and his deputy General Mohammad Hadi Hajriahimi. The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying the attack was “a violation of all international obligations and conventions.”

Biden contacted the Iranian government saying that the U.S. had nothing to do with this attack, in reaction to any anticipated military response from Iran against Israel.

Deaths of other aid workers

Many people have questioned on social media why should just the deaths of the WCK workers be emphasized when at least 200 humanitarian aid workers have been martyred for the so-called crime of trying to provide nourishing food, medical equipment and other aid to the blockade which is starving the people of Gaza? Is it because the majority of these slain workers come from the Global North, especially European countries?

These are valid questions since many of these murdered 200 aid workers worked for UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees). UNRWA came under attack a few months ago when Israel accused some of its workers of collaborating with Hamas on the Al-Aqsa Flood operation that took place

on October 7. Not only were these workers fired, but much of the funding of the UNRWA was suspended, as demanded by Israel and the U.S.

The truth is that this current U.S. administration and any previous administration have never given a damn about the plight of the Palestinian people, their friends and their allies since Israel was illegally established in 1948 under the aegis of the U.N.

Any public statements by the U.S. government made in response to any Israeli atrocities are hypocritical and cannot be taken seriously. These statements may reflect tactical differences with how Israel is conducting the genocide where civilian casualties are concerned. But nothing can really disguise the complicit U.S. role in the genocide or Washington’s determination to back Israel at all costs.

If the deaths of the seven WCK workers serve any purpose, it is that this tragedy will shine a brighter light on all of the sacrifices the many named and unnamed humanitarian aid workers have made, including losing their lives, to help alleviate the immediate, unimaginable suffering of the people in Gaza.

To say that the U.S. government, i.e. U.S. imperialism, is just as responsible as Israel if not more so

for the genocide that Israel has carried out in Gaza over the past six months is an understatement. The U.S. is the number one supplier of bombs, tanks and other sophisticated weaponry to Israel – to not only terrorize Gaza, the West Bank and other occupied territory but to terrorize the peoples in the rest of the region. This keeps the flow of lucrative profits from oil and gas resources into the coffers of the billionaire ruling class.

The attack on the Iranian Consulate is just one example of this U.S.-sponsored Israeli terror against any government showing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their resistance.

The U.S. could stop the genocide tomorrow by cutting off all aid to Israel. □



Int’l Al-Quds Day call: ‘Rise up and revolt’

The following statement from the Popular Resistance Committees was issued by Resistance News Network on April 5, 2024.

On International Al-Quds Day and at these historic moments that pass over our Palestinian people, the nation and its proud axis as the covenant renewed is for Al-Quds and its Al-Aqsa Mosque and for the heroic Gaza, which with the blood of its women, children and elderly confronts the tyranny and oppression of the Zionist-U.S. axis of evil that commits a war of genocide and ethnic cleansing aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause.

The epic of the Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7 dispelled the Zionist-U.S. illusions and myths, which the enemies of the nation and their agents among the normalizers and the negligent tried to market and implant in the minds of the nation’s peoples, that this Nazi Zionist entity is invincible and cannot be defeated.

The battle of the Palestinian people

began since the occupation and usurpation of the land of Palestine at the hands of Zionist gangs in 1948, and the Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7 was nothing but a glorious chapter and a bright page on the pages of the resistance and struggle of our people on the path to liberating Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque and restoring stolen rights.

Let all wills and energies mobilize on International Al-Quds Day to make it a day of global rage and a flood of all free people in the nation and the world, rejecting the continuation of genocide in Gaza.

On International Al-Quds Day, we extend our salutes and pride in the arms of the heroic fighters in the Islamic Resistance in Hezbollah, the Yemeni Armed Forces and Ansarallah and the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, who fulfill their duty by igniting all fronts and arenas in support of Gaza and in victory for Al-Quds and its Al-Aqsa Mosque and direct blessed strikes against this criminal entity.

On International Al-Quds Day,

Palestine, its people and its resistance will not forget everyone who stood by them, led by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which did not hesitate for a moment to provide all forms of support and assistance to our people, our cause and our resistance.

We call on all peoples and the free in

the nation, foremost among them the nation’s scholars and sheikhs, to rise up and revolt and to take to the streets in support of Gaza and in rejection of the genocidal and ethnic cleansing war waged by the Nazi Zionist enemy with U.S. partnership and international inaction. □



Protesters denounce weapons-maker Day & Zimmermann’s support for Israeli genocide in Gaza. Philadelphia, April 5, 2024.

WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

New Yorkers chant 'Free, free Palestine' on Al-Quds Day

By Brenda Ryan
New York City

Thousands of protesters gathered at Times Square in New York City in support of Palestine as part of worldwide demonstrations on Al-Quds Day, held annually on the last Friday of Ramadan, a month of special religious significance in Islam. This year it was on April 5.

A leader of the Palestinian Youth Movement, one of the organizers of the event, told the crowd that the day highlights the united resistance front that spans the region from Iran to Iraq to Lebanon, Yemen and Syria. She said the official theme of Al-Quds Day this year is the flood of freedom: "In the face of settler colonial occupation, in the face of the genocide against our people in Gaza, in the face of American imperialism in the region, in the face of hypocrites hiding behind a mask, in the face of all this, there is a flood, a flood of resistance."

Speakers at the rally described the genocide being carried out by Israel against the people of Gaza. A psychiatrist with Healthcare Workers for Palestine New York City noted that more than 400 people were martyred in the destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital, the largest hospital in Gaza. Countless numbers of people were injured and hundreds detained, tortured and executed.

The psychiatrist said healthcare workers have been stripped, zip-tied and forced to kneel for days on end. He said: "Six months into the genocide, not a single hospital in Gaza has not been bombed and rendered unfunctional. This goes beyond war crimes. This is pure genocidal,

Zionist blood lust. This is collective punishment of the Palestinian people."

The famous actor Susan Sarandon, a surprise speaker, said that the death toll is now more than 41,000 and that more than 77,000 have been injured and 2 million people displaced. She said 349 healthcare professionals and 136 journalists are among those killed: "One thousand children in Gaza lost one or both of their legs and four children are killed every hour in Gaza, and this is being done with our tax money."

Sarandon stressed: "You can't bomb your way to peace and peace is not enough. We want a ceasefire, yes, but our goal is liberation for Palestine."

Protesters marched from Times Square to Herald Square chanting "Free free Palestine, Free free free Palestine!" and "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free!" Several times the crowd took to the streets until a large force of police pushed them back onto the sidewalk. □



Times Square, New York City, April 5, 2024.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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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. □

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