U.S. student encampments demand

Divest from Israeli apartheid!

By Monica Moorehead

April 22 – The global struggle in solidarity with the Palestinians against the horrific U.S./Israeli genocidal war since October has become a major focus on U.S. college campuses. Prestigious Columbia University, located in Harlem, New York, has become ground zero in the campaign to divest funds supporting the apartheid Israeli regime.

The students at this Ivy League university established a Gaza Solidarity Encampment at 4 a.m. on April 17, Palestinian Students’ Day, on the main lawn to demand Columbia divest funds from Israel. They pitched over 60 tents with an ample supply of food, water and other necessities. Unionized graduate student workers, some of whom have been arrested, are in solidarity with the student workers, some of whom have other necessities. Unionized graduate student workers, some of whom have been arrested, are in solidarity with the student workers, some of whom have other necessities.

April 17 was the same day that Columbia President Minouche Shafik testified before Congress in Washington, D.C., to answer questions over handling of demonstrations organized by Students Voices for Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace. Her administration ordered New York Police Department surveillance against pro-Palestine students, who had been slandered and doxxed for being “antisemitic” for their anti-Israel stances. Like college presidents at Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania, Shafik was also grilled by right-wing politicians on why she allowed “antisemitic” protests to take place. As it turns out, Shafik is not just any run-of-the-mill university president.

Shafik, who is of Egyptian ancestry, is a former World Bank vice president, former International Monetary Fund (IMF) deputy managing director, former British Department for International Development permanent secretary and former Bank of England deputy governor, and is presently a 2022-appointed Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Board member.

With these banking and corporate ties, Shafik was chosen by the Columbia Board of Trustees to defend the university’s financial ties to Israel. Columbia’s total endowment is $14 billion. Once the encampment was set up and thousands of other activists, along with faculty and campus unions, descended on the campus to show their solidarity, Shafik authorized the NYPD, equipped with riot gear, to physically dismantle this encampment and to carry out mass arrests of around 100 protesters. For a short time, activists supporting the encampment outside the campus blocked police buses carrying the arrestees to the jail at 1 Police Plaza.

These police arrests, however, did not deter other student activists from occupying the west lawn of Columbia and setting up a new encampment April 18, which is still going strong as of April 22. These students have vowed on their Columbia Encampment Telegram thread that they will remain “steadfast until the demand for FULL DIVESTMENT is met.” It was just announced on April 21 that all classes at Columbia will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day until all classes at Columbia will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day until

Continued on page 10

Organize the South!

UAW wins historic victory at Volkswagen

By Martha Grevatt

It wasn’t even close.

Casting their ballots from April 17-19, workers at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, voted by a nearly three to one margin in favor of representation by the United Auto Workers union. The final tally was 2,628 to 985, with 83% of the 4,300 workers at the plant participating.

The mood of union supporters in Chattanooga was too used to turn VW workers against the union. What was whittled away by concessionary contract bargaining. This was the third time the VW workers voted on union representation, with the UAW losing by slim margins in 2014 and 2019. In 2019, anti-union organizations and politicians, besides using the familiar scare tactics, were able to exploit a huge corruption scandal in the UAW. A federal investigation uncovered theft of members’ dues money, kickbacks from vendors and bribes from bosses at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (now Stellantis) in exchange for weak contracts.

For decades, UAW members saw their hard-won gains eroded away by concessionary contract bargaining. This too was used to turn VW workers against the union. VW workers are fighting for joy when they learned they had won a majority. The celebratory feeling extended far beyond Tennessee, with spontaneous cheering by thousands of people attending the April 19-21 Labor Notes conference in Chicago when

Continued on page 6
Workers World: May Day means ‘Solidarity with Palestine’

May Day is a day of solidarity with workers everywhere. This year’s priority is to support the besieged Palestinian people in their struggle against U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza—in every type of action, everywhere.

Workers World newspaper has given prominent coverage to the racist Israeli state’s war against Palestinians since October 2000, and we aim to keep our rate media lies and tell the truth about U.S. imperialism’s historic role of supporting and arming the brutish Zionist state. This paper has been pro-Palestine since it began publishing.

WW highlights the role of the Palestinian resistance forces and reprints and posts their statements online. Our articles tell of the massive global demonstrations calling for a ceasefire and an end to Israel’s geno- cide, destruction and occupation.

WW reports on the three-city occupation protests by workers objecting to their company’s contracts with Israel to develop AI to monitor and aid their weapons against Palestinians. Articles covered the West Coast International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU) picketing a “Bionic Boat” picket lines aimed at stopping weapons bound for Israel. WW lauds the union campaigns in pro-Palestine marches around the U.S.

Our reporters have joined the worker/student occupation at Columbia University protesting U.S.- backed Israeli genocide. We welcome the burgeoning campus actions as the struggle deepens.

As May Day’s militant legacy is being marked by working-class protests against capitalist exploiters and solidarity activists worldwide, gains are celebrated, too.

WW applauds the worker-led union drives at 400 Starbucks stores which pushed the bosses to the negotiating table. Our pages covered the victorious autoworkers’ strikes, which inspired Tennessee Volkswagen workers to unionize; they are now celebrating their vote to join the United Auto Workers. We congratulate the actors and writers who carried out militant months-long strikes to win

WW newspaper is partisan. Our coverage sides with workers in their struggles for unionization and gains in timely articles and our biweekly column “On the Picket Line.” Our staff members often join the picket lines.

On this May Day, WW expresses solidarity with all workers—the millions of Black, Latine, Indigenous, Arab, Asian, immigrants, women and other gender-oppressed people, LGBTQ2+, disabled, low-paid, jobless, incarcerated, young and elderly.

WW invites your participation! Join the WW Supporter Program: Can you donate $50, $100 or $200 a year? Contributing $50 or more will entitle you to receive the 12 print issues a year, email links to articles posted online and, upon request, the book “What road to socialism?” Your donations can help get class struggle deepers— and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10011.

WW needs your support! This pro-worker newspaper depends on your backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help print this socialist newspaper. The Workers World, Inc., where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper’s PDF is displayed.

Workers World newspaper has given class struggle deepers— and is appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10011.

WW’s need for support!

Hamas statement for Palestinian Prisoners’ Day... 4
Israel’s deadly mistreatment of prisoners... 4
Mumia Abu-Jamal on the war against Gaza... 4
SCOTUS abolishes right to mass protest......... 5
Workers unite for Palestine in Philadelphia...... 7
Don’t greenwash Earth Day!................... 6
Mumia Abu-Jamal on the war against Gaza... 4
SCOTUS abolishes right to mass protest......... 5
Evidence withheld in Texas death penalty case ... 5

Editorial
House vote: Bipartisan backing for genocide... 10
Mundo Obrero
Día de los Trabajadores y Palestina ............ 12
No a la guerra contra Irán!.................... 10

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, multicultural 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 and attacks on immigrants, LGBTQ2+, oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problem is 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—or 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 ginned 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-strug- gles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in the hands of those who create it, not stolen in the form of capi- talist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution should be planned and guaranteed by 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 WWF branch near you. ⚡️

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

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

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0883
baya@workers.org

Baltimore
3407 Annapolis Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21218
410.356.8402
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
440 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02115
617.986.2334
boston@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Hammonton, N.J.
609.869.3306
hammonton@-workers.org

Houston
PO Box 3449
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.501.2633
houston@workers.org

Minneapolis
212 E. 23rd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612.333.3136
minneapolis@workers.org

Philadelphia
PO Box 32449
Philadelphia, PA 19101
215.299.3688
philadelphia@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.710.2048
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
786.858.3535
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
540.347.5530
West Virginia@workers.org

Workers World newspaper has given class struggle deepers— and is appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10011.

Workers unite for Palestine in Philadelphia...... 7
Kent State protests speech by fascist killer... 9
Mundo Obrero
Día de los Trabajadores y Palestina ............ 12
No a la guerra contra Irán!.................... 10

In the U.S.
Students demand divestment from Israel... 1
Volkwagen workers in Tennessee join UAW... 1
No tech for apartheid: Google workers hold sit-in 3
SCOTUS abolishes right to mass protest..... 6
Protesters coordinate multi-city traffic blockade... 6
Don’t greenwash Earth Day!.................. 7
Workers unite for Palestine in Philadelphia... 7
Kent State protests speech by fascist killer... 9
Mundo Obrero

Join the WW Supporter Program:

WW agrees with May Day’s social -ism founders: End capitalism! Fight for socialism! Today we add: Stop U.S.- backed Israeli genocide! Free Palestine! The pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers’ backing. The WW needs your support!

Your donations can help get class struggle deepers— and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10011.

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 annual print issues and web site 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 or $200 a year? Contributing $50 or more will entitle you to receive the 12 print issues a year, email links to articles posted online and, upon request, the book “What road to socialism?” Your donations can help get class struggle deepers— and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10011.

WWF needs your support!

Workers World 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 and attacks on immigrants, 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 are 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 ginned 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-struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in the hands of those who create it, not stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution should be planned and guaranteed by 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 WWF branch near you. ⚡️

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:
Call to action from the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions – Gaza:

This May Day and Nakba Day (May 15), we, the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions – Gaza, urgently appeal to our brothers and sisters in the international trade union movement to take a stand in solidarity with Palestine by joining us in collective action to disrupt business as usual.

We ask you to challenge the status quo in your workplace and communities, refusing to support violence against Palestinians. Raise your voices and take action to disrupt the flow of commerce and trade that sustains Israel’s military occupation and exploitation of Palestinian workers.

Our people, especially those in Gaza, are enduring unspeakable atrocities — Israel’s relentless genocidal bombardment, starvation blockades, forced displacement, and land confiscation have been broadcast worldwide. These atrocities compound years of a brutal siege and military occupation that have decimated our working conditions. Israel’s genocidal war against the Gaza Strip is not an exception but a continuation of our ongoing 1948 Nakba and a feature of Israeli settler colonialism.

Palestinian workers have always been the backbone of the Palestinian struggle for freedom and justice. Israel’s deliberate targeting of trade union facilities, including the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions headquarters in Gaza, along with all our offices, constitutes a flagrant assault on the very livelihoods of Palestinian workers. Despite this unrelenting onslaught, we persist in safeguarding our communities, educating children in makeshift tents, getting the news out, lending to the wounded and organizing food distribution. As Palestinian workers, we make a commitment to stand strong for our communities.

This May Day and Nakba Day, as governments continue to turn a blind eye, we draw on the long tradition of trade union internationalism and speak directly to you: We urge you to stand in solidarity with our struggle and take decisive action to honor the countless martyrs lost and the families torn apart by the Israeli military occupation for a free Palestine.

Fellow workers, particularly those in the arms and transport sectors, we implore you to consider that your livelihoods should not be based on the destruction of our homeland and lives. While we know too well the importance of decent jobs, we urge you to think about the products you manufacture and transport and where they are ultimately deployed. Decent employment should never come at the expense of countless Palestinian lives. As the ones directly affected by arms manufactured and moved internationally, we simply ask you to embrace the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all.

Throughout history, workers have bravely opposed oppressive regimes. We have refused to handle goods in apartheid South Africa, and factory workers have rejected the production of arms for dictatorships like Chile’s Pinochet. As the Palestinian death toll continues to climb, this May Day and as we mark 76 years since the colonization of Palestine and the uprooting of over 750,000 Palestinians from their lands during the Nakba (Catastrophe) of 1948, we ask you to stand with us — and let us strive together to construct economies rooted in justice not destruction.

Stand with us as we demand an end to Israel’s genocide and siege in Gaza.

---

Google workers held a sit-in at their New York City workplace on April 16. They demanded the tech giant stop providing technology for Zionist genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and cancel Project Nimbus, a $1.2 billion joint Google-Amazon cloud contract with the Israeli government and military.

The sit-in was organized by No Tech for Apartheid (NOTA), which held simultaneous actions at Google offices in Seattle and Sunnyvale, California.

A Palestinian tech worker told the cheering New York crowd: “This is the first sit-in at a major tech company, and it won’t be the last. The labor movement and the student movement are the heartbeats of liberation.”

The Google workers’ sit-in took place as a “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” unfolded at Columbia University and shortly after revelations that the Zionist occupation forces use metadata from an artificial intelligence (AI) program called Lavender to more easily target and kill Palestinians, including children, in Gaza.

Some 200 supporters gathered outside Google’s New York office to show solidarity with the workers inside. Chants of “Google, Google, you can’t hide, your tech’s for apartheid!” and “Not another push, not another line, no more code for genocide!” rang out as the crowd grew.

Workers from Amazon, Meta and current and former Google workers were joined by activists from Jewish Voice for Peace, Al-Awda, Workers World Party and other groups at the hours-long speakout.

The Google workers made these demands: Drop the Project Nimbus cloud and AI contract now; stop harassment, intimidation, and censorship of Palestinian, Arab and Muslim Googlers; and stop retaliation and doxxing of workers raising worker health and safety concerns caused by Project Nimbus — which has prompted workers to quit rather than see their labor used for genocide.

“Cloud technology should be used in libraries, health care and elsewhere to protect users and the planet,” said former Googler Eddie Hatfield. “Instead, it has become a deadly exchange of technology used against the Palestinians and, from there, the world via the cloud. It has to stop.” Hatfield, a software engineer who uses they/them pronouns, was fired in March 2024 after disrupting a conference speech by the managing director of Google Israel.

In retaliation for the sit-in, Google fired 28 workers and ordered nine workers arrested for “trespassing.” Yet even if it means putting their jobs on the line, NOTA’s written statement to the April 16 rally was clear: “We will not stop organizing until Google stops profiting from genocide.”

For more information on this struggle, visit NOTA at NonTechForApartheid.com.

Seattle protest

In Seattle, Google and Amazon workers rallied and marched on April 16 in solidarity with the workers’ sit-in in New York and California. Chanting workers claimed the Google complex several times, vowing to keep the struggle going until Google’s $1.2 billion spyware contract with Israel is canceled.

As workers spoke of the importance of raising the level of struggle, a speaker from Communication Workers Local 9009, the Alphabet Workers Union, said that some Google bargaining units had now won union recognition.

Jim McMahen, Seattle, contributed to this article.
Hamas on Palestinian Prisoners’ Day

A call for ‘liberation from occupation’s prisons’

In recognition of Palestinian Prisoners’ Day, April 17, 2024, the following statement was issued by Hamas on Resistance News Network.

On Palestinian Prisoners’ Day: Our Free Prisoners at the Heart of Al-Aqsa Flood Battle. Their Liberation from the Enemy’s Prisons is Our Top Priority, in a Deal of Loyalty to Their Sacrifices and Steadfastness. Calling for Global Movement in Support of Their Just Cause.

This year, Palestinian Prisoners’ Day comes amidst the heroic battle of Al-Aqsa Flood, in which our people and their valiant resistance have been engaged for over six months, defending the land, thawabet [principles], and their rights against the Zionist enemy.

On this day, our people recall the suffering and pain of thousands of prisoners and detainees in the Zionist enemy’s prisons, as well as their sacrifices and heroics in overpowering the Zionist jailer, renewing their vow of loyalty and solidarity with them until their liberation from the occupation’s prisons.

The administration of the occupation’s prisons continues to commit grave and heinous crimes against prisoners within jails and detention centers, including medical neglect, torture, and direct killing where 16 prisoners have risen as martyrs inside the prisons from October 7 to date. This is due to the horrific crimes committed by the occupation amid a deliberate strategy of occupation policy to target the enemy. The occupation also exploited its aggression on Gaza to target in “enforced disappearance” against citizens of the Strip, blatantly kidnaping, detaining, and torturing them to death, and still detains over 9,500 prisoners, including 3,660 administrative detainees, 56 journalists, at least 80 women, and more than 200 children, and 1,787 detainees from the Legislative Council.

We, in Hamas, on the anniversary of Palestinian Prisoners’ Day, pray for the souls of the martyred prisoners and ask Allah for a swift recovery for the sick among them and send a salute of pride and honor to our heroic prisoners and noble female prisoners in the prisons of the Zionist enemy. We affirm the following:

Firstly: The goal of liberating our prisoners and female prisoners in our prisoners and female prisoners in the prisons has been at the heart of the ongoing Al-Aqsa Flood battle and will remain our top priority. The movement will spare no effort to achieve a deal of loyalty for them, where they will breathe freedom on the homeland’s soil, by Allah’s will and power.

Secondly: The escalation of the occupation’s crimes and violations against our prisoners and female prisoners in its prisons — from solitary confinement, deliberate medical neglect, inspections and humiliation, psychological and physical torture, and deprivation of the most basic human rights — are crimes that will not succeed in breaking their will, and at the same time, the perpetrators will not escape punishment, and these crimes will not be subject to a statute of limitations no matter how much time passes.

Thirdly: The systematic and horrific violations and brutal torture practices against prisoners, and the retreat of the occupation’s prisons constitute a war crime added to the series of sadistic crimes perpetrated by the Nazi occupation army against the Arab and Palestinian peoples.

Fourthly: We hold the occupation fully responsible for the life and safety of thousands of kidnapped detainees in the West Bank since last October 7, who are subjected to the most atrocious forms of torture and vindictive mistreatment, and we condemn the occupation in the face of ongoing execution and killing under torture they face in detention places, and call for intervention to save them and for their immediate release.

Fifthly: We call on our people’s masses, living forces, and national factions in all parts of the homeland and abroad to unite efforts, mobilize crises, and escalate activities to support the prisoners, and support them by all means, and we call on our Arab and Islamic nation and the free people all over the world to initiate a global movement that triumphs for the cause of Palestinian prisoners in the occupation’s prisons.

Sixthly: We call on the global human rights and humanitarian institutions to expose the crimes of the occupation against the prisoners and detainees from our people in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Al-Quds, and the occupied interior, and to take effective positions and actions to press to stop the Zionist enemy’s crimes against them, and to work on prosecuting the perpetrators in international courts and trying them as war criminals.

This statement was lightly edited.

Israel’s deliberate mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners

The following statement from the Palestinian Prisoners’ Club first appeared on Resistance News Network on Feb. 2, 2024. This call takes on greater significance in light of the death of the revolutionary Palestinian prisoner Walid Daqqah, 62 years old, who died April 7, as a result of an Israeli prison policy of medical negligence, after a serious deterioration in his health. And on April 17, far-right Israeli national security minister Ben Gvir called for the execution of Palestinian prisoners “to ease overcrowding.”

Here, we remind you of the most prominent policies adopted by the administration of the occupation’s prisons — from solitary confinement, torture, and maltreatment. Sick prisoners in the occupation’s prisons are facing imminent famine and starvation, and wounded prisoners after October 7:

- After October 7, the prison administration stopped transferring sick prisoners and wounded prisoners after October 7:
- After October 7, the prison administration stopped transferring sick prisoners who need intensive medical follow-up to clinics.
- The prison administration canceled many examinations for several sick prisoners, which the prisoners had been waiting to undergo for a long time due to procrastination.
- With a decision from the “Israeli” Ministry of Health and with the endorsement of many medical teams, some hospitals and doctors refused to receive the prisoners, which the prisoners had been waiting to undergo for a long time due to procrastination.
- Many sick prisoners were subjected to operations of suppression, transfer and maltreatment. Sick prisoners in the occupation jails face systematic starvation, as do all prisoners in the jails, despite being a right to exist and their critical health and dangerous relapses.
- It is noted that the number of sick and wounded prisoners is increasing with ongoing acts of abuse, torture and starvation.
- The prison administration has severely restricted the work of legal teams in following up on many medical files for prisoners with chronic diseases.
- Medical devices were seized from some prisoners, such as glasses and crutches.
- Prisoners are subjected to inadequate food and those needing special foods due to their health condition face daily hunger and dangerous relapses.
- In general and Palestinians in particular are subjected to a cruel and inhumane occupation which respects no law.
- The hatred Israelis feel towards Arabs and their rights is beyond the pale. But this conflict is more than racist and more than merely different species. The colonizers are...
DeRay Mckesson organized a Black Lives Matter demonstration in July 2016, following the murder of Alton Sterling at the hands of police in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During the protest, populated with hundreds of people, resulting in over 200 arrests by fully armed police officers in riot gear, one police officer was hit in the face with a rock thrown by a participant.

Now McKesson is getting sued for negligence. On April 15, the Supreme Court of the United States declined to intervene in the McKesson v. Doe lawsuit.

The rights and freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment require that the government respect the First Amendment rights of protesters. But the Supreme Court on April 15, or in the days thereafter, decided to overturn the ruling in NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware, even noting in its ruling that protest leaders could not be held liable for the violent actions of a protest participant. Prosecutors and party organizers faces potentially ruinous financial consequences if a single attendee at a mass protest commits an illegal act, according to the Vox article. Under the lower court’s decision, the Supreme Court likely abolishes the right to mass protest in three U.S. states.

Finally! DA admits hiding evidence in Melissa Lucio’s case

By Gloria Rubac

Houston

The prosecution, the defense and the judge all agree now that evidence hidden by the Cameron County District Attorney from Melissa Lucio’s trial counsel should cause the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to reverse her conviction!

Lucio was sent to death row in 2008 for causing the death of her two-year-old daughter Mariah Alvarez. Exactly two years ago, in April, 2022, she was waiting to be executed in Texas when she got a stay of execution with two days left to live.

The young child had accidentally fallen down the stairs, and that her children told Child Protective Services that Lucio beat to death little Mariah and murdering her.

The hidden evidence included that one of her children saw Mariah fall down the stairs, and that her children told Child Protective Services and police that their mother was not physically abusive to Mariah or the other children. The evidence also included a CPS report which stated that Lucio’s children told an investigator that their mother was worried about Mariah after the fall and was caring for her before she died. In a second-floor apartment and died from head trauma. The DA accused Lucio of killing little Mariah and murdering her.

The court can now weaponize the age-old, union-busting tactic of making the organizer the bearer of punishment, taking the whipings for the actions of many, which is meant, of course, to dissuade organizers from organizing. In fact, this could also serve as an invit- ation for bad actors, such as white supremacists both federal and recreational to join a cause they don’t agree with, incite violence much in the style of the agitators against the George Floyd protests and get massive fines placed on the organizer as punishment for inconvenience- ing the day.

What makes the situation in the United States so unique is that when it comes to standing up for workers’ rights, bringing attention to the causes of marginalized groups and boycotting genocide, on top of being under a government that’s very prepared to murder you, a junior army of its loyalists are as well. They can be easily acti- vated if they’re sure they won’t be penalized for it.

On April 15, Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton, in response to road-blocking demonstrations protesting the U.S. funneling of Israel’s murder of 23,450 children (and counting) in Palestine since October 7, tweeted: “I encourage people who get stuck behind the pro-Hamas mobs blocking traffic: Take matters into your own hands. It’s time to put an end to this nonsense.”

Cotton later edited the tweet to “take matters into your own hands to get them out of the way,” thinking that would better hide the dog whistle. In response to the George Floyd protests, Republican legislators in Oklahoma and Iowa passed bills granting immunity to those who want to hit protesters with their 2-ton motor vehicles.

Consciousness grows in U.S.

As consciousness in the U.S. continuously develops into more awareness of our impact on the world and the purpose of the capitalist system meant to keep our mouths shut and too poverty-stricken to fight, we’re also confronted with the fact that we are also a violent nation spirituallly marching towards a fascist state. Since 2020, it’s become painfully evident that stripping back the few protections protesters have is a greenlight for more vio- lence from the opposition.

One consolation offered to those concerned about what this decision may mean for the U.S. is that it may not be a permanent ruling. Although SCOTUS allowed the First Amendment right to protest to be attacked, they didn’t outright reverse it, possibly rendering this deci- sion a temporary one.

But why wouldn’t they? It’s not hard to draw the con- clusion that the gag order on protesters intends to be a common feature. The working class has gotten too com- fortable with the idea of having a say on how their coun- try runs, and in response we have politicians radicalizing an angry, often armed opposition to keep us in line from just enough of a distance that they face no consequence legally. There are only benefits for the bourgeoisie. If we let them take this from us, it will be gone forever.

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.
Available at major online booksellers. Free PDF download at www.workers.org/books

工人运动工作者
Coordinated economic blockade to free Palestine ties up traffic in multiple cities

By Joe Piette

After over six months of a horrific U.S.-armed genocide in Gaza, everywhere there is a sense in this unprecedented movement for Palestine that escalation has become necessary. There is a need to shift from symbolic actions to those that cause pain to the economy.

Philadelphia, April 15, 2024.

An international effort to carry out an economic blockade on April 15 (tax day in the U.S.) in solidarity with Palestine led to blockades of Interstate 95 in both directions in Philadelphia before police arrested people. A separate group of Palestine supporters shut down the streets outside the busy 30th and Market streets intersection, site of the IRS complex. Altogether, 69 activists were arrested.

Yet another 100 activists met at City Hall before marching to Broad and Vine streets where they tied up the entrances to the I-676 Expressway for 30 minutes. They followed up with a march to the offices of Day & Zimmermann. That company provides $300-million contract with Israel. (tinyurl.com/2c8v6ca4)

Demonstrators continued their march to the world headquarters of the Comcast media giant, broadcaster of Zionist propaganda, before returning to City Hall.

At Sea-Tac airport in Seattle, consolidators blocked all vehicles entry into the airport, while blocking the highway outside, shutting it down for three hours (airport traffic, causing over 100 flight delays, disrupting the functioning of the capitalist transportation and global supply chain system. There were 42 arrests.

People in other cities and areas blocked and disrupted the circulation and production points of trade and commerce. In the U.S., this includes: Phoenix; Long Beach, Oakland, Orange County and San Diego in California; Miami, Tallahassee and Tampa, Florida; Chicago; Indianapolis; Western Massachusetts; Detroit; Minneapolis-St Paul; St Louis; New Jersey; New York City; San Antonio and Houston, Texas; Seattle; and Portland, Oregon. Organizers in those cities have agreed that if there is police repression in any location, other cities will extend their blockades in solidarity.

Globally, actions were held on April 15 in cities in 19 countries on six continents. A complete list can be found at a15action.com.

Fatima Muhammed of the Coordinated Economic Blockade to Free Palestine said: “We know that the global economy is complicit in genocide, and as Yemen is bombed to protect global trade and billions of dollars are sent to the Zionist project, we will target what hurts the war machine the most: major points of production and places where the most profit is made.” For more information and daily updates, visit a15action.com

Labor Notes conference

Support for Palestine was strong among the thousands of union activists who attended the Labor Notes conference in the Chicago area April 18-21. Although not an official conference event, a rally organized by the Labor for Palestine National Network on April 19 drew hundreds of people.

The crowd blocked traffic for over an hour, surrounding a cop car and refusing to leave the street after two people were arrested. Chanting “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” and “Let them go,” the demonstrators eventually “de-arrested” the two activists, who were released without charges.

Several Palestine solidarity workshops and meetings were part of the conference. An impromptu meeting about the Columbia University occupation included graduate student members of United Auto Workers Local 7902, some of whom were among those arrested at Columbia. Many conference attendees wore keffiyehs in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.

Jim McManah and Martha Grewalt contributed to this article.

Earth Day 2024

Stop the Ecocide in Gaza

Don’t let the warmongers greenwash Earth Day

Continued from page 1

voted in favor of changing how their International Executive Board was elected, choosing direct elections -- “one member, one vote.” In 2022 and in a 2023 run-off election, opposition candidates won a majority of the 14 seats on the IEB.

The militant “Stand-up Strike” that began Sept. 15, 2023, and took on General Motors, Stellantis and Ford simultaneously won huge gains, reversing the trend of giveaways. The unorganized auto companies, hoping to discourage unionization, then gave their workers big raises. This was referred to as the “UAW bump.” The scheme by European, Asian and non-union domestic companies, including Tesla and Rivian, failed miserably! Thousands of workers at these companies reached out to the UAW, seeking to organize. The union has committed $80 million to organizing the unorganized autoworkers.

Volkswagen is just the beginning. Mercedes workers at two plants in Alabama are voting on UAW representation from May 13-17. Union drives are underway in a number of other non-union plants, most of them in the U.S. South.

It can be done! Organize the South!

Before the VW results were known, members of the capitalist media expressed skepticism that a union could win in the U.S. South. Governors of five Southern states warned that unionization could cost workers their jobs and/or discourage new investments that would bring jobs to the region, threatening “the values we live by.” The VW vote was a big punch to the bosses’ collective gut.

Now the union’s chances of winning at other Southern plants are being downplayed. “Sam Fiorani, vice president of global vehicle forecasting at the research firm AutoForecast Solutions, predicted that most Japanese and South Korean manufacturers with plants in the South would be more difficult targets for the UAW, because they have worked hard to develop a close relationship with workers,” the New York Times reported April 20.

However, the prospects for a successful unionization drive across the South, including but not limited to the auto industry, are high. Many of the 400-plus unionized Starbucks stores are in Southern states. The Union of Southern Service Workers has launched an ambitious organizing drive.

The labor movement urgently needs to organize the South. Volkswagen workers have clearly demonstrated that it can be done!
Global Strike for Palestine hits pro-Zionist economic targets

The following April 17, 2024, report appeared on Resistance News Network on the Global Strike for Palestine.

The last two days have represented the largest series of direct actions in support of Palestine since October 7, 2023, as part of the April 15 actions and beyond it. Impactful actions were the address of the last two days to reorient the movement from symbolic protests towards material effects on Zionist economic arms. Actions took place in over 50 cities internationally on April 15 alone, reflecting the geographic extent of Palestine’s influence on the global economy, as it profits off Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, Iranian, Iraqi, and Yemeni blood.

Parts were blocked, such as in Athens, Greece; Belfast, Ireland; Montreal, Halifax, and Vancouver in Canada; and Melbourne, Australia. Major roads were blocked in the U.S., including in Chicago and Oakland. In the Bay Area of California, the Port of Oakland was shut down due to three simultaneous direct actions. Activists even creatively made parking meters unusable by jamming coin slots and card readers, writing “NO TAKES FOR WAR” and “Parking tickets are a war tactic the state uses to attack the working class.” Blockades took place in Portland, Oregon, Philadelphia, and New York, and dozens of activists were arrested across cities. Weapons manufacturers such as Boeing and Elbit were certainly not spared, with actions targeting them, their subsidiaries, and their funders in the U.S. and the Global Strike for Palestine. The experience revealed how much support there is for the Palestinian struggle for freedom. The economic targets used in Gaza and on the U.S./Mexico border.

Conflict, April 15, 2024.

Workers unite for Palestine

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Over 200 workers and union members held a spirited rally and demonstration of international solidarity on April 13 in a “Which side are you on? Workers March for Palestine.” The march began in West Philadelphia’s Clark Park, crowded with farmers market shoppers and a weekly community flea market. It ended outside Ghost Robotics, a facility hosted by the University of Pennsylvania, responsible for producing robotic weapons used in Gaza and on the U.S./Mexico border.


Teachers, artists, truck drivers, theater performers, municipal workers, health care workers, postal workers, concession workers and baristas joined forces to demonstrate solidarity with Palestine.

The rally opened with a reading of demands from Palestinian unions. On Oct. 16, over 30 Palestinian unions and worker organizations called for concrete solidarity from workers around the world. A May Day appeal from the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions reiterated this message.

Joe, a postal worker, noted: “Polls say the majority of people want peace and the majority of the population are workers, likely many of our co-workers. Many may want an end to the occupation and a free Palestine, but we need to organize that awareness into collective action.”

Representing the Unity Caucus, composed of members of various city unions, Sunita, a librarian, and member of District Council 47, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2187, said: “They act as if all we have earned, what we have fought for, is theirs. They use our tax money for wars, while we need services like libraries, schools and more. Why are the University of Pennsylvania’s tax-free endowments funding military technology like Ghost Robotics?”

Following the opening rally, demonstrators marched around Clark Park and eventually onto Woodland Avenue, stopping for a second rally. Nyla, with Healthcare Workers for Palestine, spoke of being in Gaza and seeing doctors operating in the dark and surgical procedures done without anesthesia. “When is it justifiable to bomb ethnic targets, to strip doctors down to their underwear for the world to see? These are heinous war crimes and violations of international law.”

Strong show of public support

As the march turned onto the Grays Ferry Bridge, oncoming traffic was blocked and backed up quickly, so organizers went over the lane barriers to distribute fliers to drivers in stopped cars. The response was tremendous, with almost every driver opening their windows to get leaflets. Many smiled and raised fists of solidarity, while the marchers kept chanting for Palestine. The experience revealed how much support there is for the Palestinian struggle for freedom.

“This has been a powerful display of unity today and, as a health care worker and union member, I’m proud to be a part,” said Karim with SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania who spoke outside Ghost Robotics, the final rally stop. “Why do Black and Brown people have to die trying to access life saving care, while the U.S. spends billions every year paying for free, universal health care for Israelis? Why doesn’t this government pay for free health care for people in Pennsylvania?”

Karim concluded: “They don’t fix the roads, our neighbors are stripped of good paying jobs, but somehow money is always available to build the war machine being used in Gaza. If we stick together, as workers we have the power to stop this genocide.”

Maijoi, a member of Starbucks Workers United and the PPC, stated: “The fact that Starbucks finally agreed to meet with our union was not due to their ‘good will’ but the result of the boycott for dozens of community members arrested in the U.S. for their solidarity with Palestine. These funds will be used for bail, legal defense, and support for defendants.”

This statement was lightly edited.
AI: The machine intelligence of imperialism

By Daphne Barroeta

Part 1: Digital labor and material

What is AI — artificial intelligence? According to the University of Illinois, Chicago, artificial intelligence describes a type of software design that "enables machines to learn from collective human experiences, adapt to new inputs, and execute tasks resembling human capabilities."

By leveraging AI technologies, computers can undertake training to perform particular tasks through the analysis of extensive data sets and the identification of patterns within the data. (tinyurl.com/3q4bz9pk)

AI has become a subject of research since a summer-research project at Dartmouth initially published in 1955. (tinyurl.com/mw6s3ydx)

Generally, the form of machine intelligence described in news articles and encountered in daily life operates by taking a large data set and iterating over it, exporting suggested solutions to a problem at each iteration and receiving human feedback with each batch. Each iteration — or repetition of a step of the process — brings the process closer to a final acceptable solution. This is not the only way to design AI, but it is often used.

To give a concrete example of one of the major processes mentioned above, let’s say there is a computer program designed to recognize the handwritten letter “A.” The researcher would assemble a collection of cases mentioned above, let’s say there is a computer program. The only way to design AI, but it is often used. This trend is also not limited to the Global North. Companies like OpenAI (developer of the GPT-3) and Amazon Web Services rely on the cheapest paid labor they can exploit, anywhere in the world.

Reliance on gig labor

A platform is a packaging of software and data meant to control the inputs and outputs of a desired experience or manufacture useful information or outcomes. One of the major types of platforms is a nizing computer labor for the benefit of the tech-capitalists is called “the Mobile t-k.” The term refers to an old and racist device called the “Mechanical t–k” in which a hidden human operator would pilot a “robotic” puppet which was dressed as a stereotypical facsimile of a Turkish man.

The reference to the human operated “robot” (puppet) stands today as a bourgeois fantasy image for computer labor that abstracts the role of the human laborer to the human users of a platform (like Facebook or Coursera) so that the capitalists can superexploit the laborers and create a false sense of both ethical practice and intellectual savvy on the part of the business — obviously a lie that needs to be dispelled. A strong example can be found in the book “Ghost Work,” which explains “invisi- ble” computer labor to readers in the Global North.

The following excerpt is discussing a family in India and their experiences on one of Microsoft’s gig tools:

“In Bangalore, India, Kala works from her makeshift home office, tucked away in the corner of her bedroom … Kala picks up work from an outsourcing company that supplies staff to the Universal Human Relevance System (UHRS), an Mturk-like platform used internally by its builder, Microsoft. Kala, a 43-year-old housewife and mother of two with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering, calls her two teen-age sons into the room, points to a word displayed inside a large text box on her LED monitor, and asks them, “Do you know what this word means? Is it something you shouldn’t say?”

“They giggle as she reads the text aloud to them. They make fun of her pronunciation of ‘chick Rick.’ Together they decide that, no, this sentence does not contain adult content. Kala clicks ‘no’ on the screen, and the window refreshes with a new text phrase to read to her sons …

“Though she’s typically unable to find enough tasks to fill more than a couple hours a day, human workers are given work in seemingly endless amounts. As Kala returns to UHRS almost every day to see if there are any new tasks that she feels qualified to do …” [italics original]

“Companies like Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and Twitter use software to automatically remove as much ‘not safe for work’ content as they can, wherever posi- tion. But our work environment is powered by machine learning and artificial intelligence, aren’t perfect. They can’t always tell the difference between a thumb and a penis, let alone hate speech and sarcasm.”

The exploitation of labor globally is one of the three major avenues through which the ruling class uses artificial intelligence, and computer technology more broadly, to oppress and exploit the global proletariat. The other two ways are surveillance technology and mechanized warfare.

The working class must recognize our consistent relation- ship to these tools and enhance our study of them, so we can use them to our advantage in the fight against the ruling class. We must also be aware that the “digi- tal” world and “digital” technology have a material basis, the physical components of and labor behind comput- ing, which must be studied through the dialectical lens of Marxism-Leninism.

Machine labor and living work

A useful description Marx gave for this kind of technology comes in his description of the difference between machine labor and living labor. To paraphrase sections of Marx’s “Grundrisse” (1861): Living labor seeks to exchange its produc- tive capacity for wages for its own survival, and machine labor serves to abstract some aspect of living labor and reduce it in other areas.

Doing an analysis of digital tech- nology also means recognizing that every minute of battery life, every minute of email, every minute of YouTube videos or Facebook feeds requires mass extraction of resources and human labor, pro- duces carbon emissions, contribut- ing to ecological damage, steals water away from local municipalities to cool servers and produces digital material (information) for the ruling class to study and/or generate profits from.

Increasing exploitation of workers

As a former ‘Tesla worker in the autopilot department, I experienced firsthand the factory process laborers are subjected to and the way in which the exploitation of our labor physically and psychologically harmed the workforce.

Data annotators — the people who process data for machines in the form of human labor by using machine learning — have identified anti-black biases in AI applications ranging from hiring to robots to loans” (Vox, June 2023).

Capitalism not only facilitates the perpetuation of blatant bias in algorithmic technology in the pursuit of the profit motive, it also exploits the workers who develop and train these systems.

High Tech, Low Pay

A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Changing of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy with an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein, author of Low Wage Capitalism.

Free download at workers.org/books

These technologies can be useful to our class inter- ests and do hold the potential for helping us to organize our lives in transformative ways, but the prerequisite to this is proletarian revolution. The working class and oppressed of the world must own and reform the means of production — the workplace. Anything less kicks the cycle of exploitation around the globe.
Money for war, but not for the poor

By Betsy Piette

The Supreme Court of the United States is set to hear arguments on April 12 in a high-profile case that could potentially make a crime to be homeless. The case of the City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Gloria Johnson will consider whether a local government can outlaw sleeping outside and demand an immediate ceasefire and “cessation of all military, diplomatic and economic support for Israel.”

Student body was unhappy with “a vigilante coming to campus.” SJP helped organize the press conference, along with ALSA, Black United Students, Sister Circle, United Students against Sweatshops and other student groups.

German police shut down Palestinian Congress in Berlin

By Andrew Johnson

An anti-imperialist Palestinian Congress against “German complicity in the genocide in Gaza” was planned for Berlin from April 12-14. (Junge Welt) (April 15).

Before police shut it down, the congress discussed the recent charges in the International Court of Justice, including South Africa’s charges accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza and Nicaragua’s case against Germany for facilitating the genocide through arms sales to the Zionist occupation forces.

Presently, Germany provides Israel with 30% of its weapons, creating a military-industrial complex that supports Israel and its occupation of Palestinian land. The congress was scheduled to address these issues, including the German government’s role in the ongoing occupation and colonization of Palestinian land.

The congress would have featured speeches by Palestinian activists and experts, as well as discussions on the role of the German government in supporting Israeli violations of international law. It would have aimed to raise awareness about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to mobilize support for Palestinian self-determination.

In the current confrontation, the Berlin police claimed that their raid on the Palestinian Congress was due to concerns of antisemitism, but the congress was a peaceful, anti-war event that did not pose any threat.

Protests erupt against police shutdown

Within minutes, the Berlin police stormed the conference and forced the 250 attendees to disembark. The police shut off the building’s electricity and demanded that the organizers stop livestreaming on their phones. Protests erupted in the surrounding streets, and riot police blocked and encircled the protest with vehicles. Many demonstrators were arrested.

The German state's actions in suppressing this event and the subsequent protests are a precedent and represent an alarming trend in Germany and indeed in many imperialist states which use various instruments of state power to quash pro-Palestinian voices. German authorities, as a pretext to justify their overreach, accuse activists like those connected with the Palestinian Congress of being “antisemitic.” While German history dating from the Nazi Third Reich and prior antisemitism justifies the existence of law against Nazi-type hate speech, the German state has distorted this justification and turned it into repression directed at anyone criticizing the repressive actions of the Israeli state, even when these actions reach the level of genocide.

In the current confrontation, the Berlin police claimed that their raid on the Palestinian Congress was due to such concerns of antisemitism. (Middle East Monitor)

German media resolutely parroted the state’s narrative. The truth is, as Dr. Abu Sitta said, that Germany is complicit in the genocide in Gaza and will not hesitate to obfuscate the truth and dispel disinformation to protect its interests as a capitalist imperialist regime that unwaveringly supports the Israeli occupation.

For another report on the Palestinian Congress, see workers.org/?p=78084.

Kent State University

Hundreds protest campus speech by fascist killer

By Martha Grevatt

The Supreme Court of the United States is set to hear arguments on April 12 in a high-profile case that could potentially make a crime to be homeless. The case of the City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Gloria Johnson will consider whether a local government can outlaw sleeping outside and demand an immediate ceasefire and “cessation of all military, diplomatic and economic support for Israel.”

Student body was unhappy with “a vigilante coming to campus.” SJP helped organize the press conference, along with ALSA, Black United Students, Sister Circle, United Students against Sweatshops and other student groups.

German police shut down Palestinian Congress in Berlin

By Andrew Johnson

An anti-imperialist Palestinian Congress against “German complicity in the genocide in Gaza” was planned for Berlin from April 12-14. (Junge Welt) (April 15).

Before police shut it down, the congress discussed the recent charges in the International Court of Justice, including South Africa’s charges accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza and Nicaragua’s case against Germany for facilitating the genocide through arms sales to the Zionist occupation forces.

Presently, Germany provides Israel with 30% of its weapons, creating a military-industrial complex that supports Israel and its occupation of Palestinian land. The congress was scheduled to address these issues, including the German government’s role in the ongoing occupation and colonization of Palestinian land.

The congress would have featured speeches by Palestinian activists and experts, as well as discussions on the role of the German government in supporting Israeli violations of international law. It would have aimed to raise awareness about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to mobilize support for Palestinian self-determination.

In the current confrontation, the Berlin police claimed that their raid on the Palestinian Congress was due to concerns of antisemitism, but the congress was a peaceful, anti-war event that did not pose any threat.

Protests erupt against police shutdown

Within minutes, the Berlin police stormed the conference and forced the 250 attendees to disembark. The police shut off the building’s electricity and demanded that the organizers stop livestreaming on their phones. Protests erupted in the surrounding streets, andriot police blocked and encircled the protest with vehicles. Many demonstrators were arrested.

The German state's actions in suppressing this event and the subsequent protests are a precedent and represent an alarming trend in Germany and indeed in many imperialist states which use various instruments of state power to quash pro-Palestinian voices. German authorities, as a pretext to justify their overreach, accuse activists like those connected with the Palestinian Congress of being “antisemitic.” While German history dating from the Nazi Third Reich and prior antisemitism justifies the existence of law against Nazi-type hate speech, the German state has distorted this justification and turned it into repression directed at anyone criticizing the repressive actions of the Israeli state, even when these actions reach the level of genocide.

In the current confrontation, the Berlin police claimed that their raid on the Palestinian Congress was due to such concerns of antisemitism. (Middle East Monitor)

German media resolutely parroted the state’s narrative. The truth is, as Dr. Abu Sitta said, that Germany is complicit in the genocide in Gaza and will not hesitate to obfuscate the truth and dispel disinformation to protect its interests as a capitalist imperialist regime that unwaveringly supports the Israeli occupation.

For another report on the Palestinian Congress, see workers.org/?p=78084.

Kent State University

Hundreds protest campus speech by fascist killer

By Martha Grevatt

The Supreme Court of the United States is set to hear arguments on April 12 in a high-profile case that could potentially make a crime to be homeless. The case of the City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Gloria Johnson will consider whether a local government can outlaw sleeping outside and demand an immediate ceasefire and “cessation of all military, diplomatic and economic support for Israel.”

Student body was unhappy with “a vigilante coming to campus.” SJP helped organize the press conference, along with ALSA, Black United Students, Sister Circle, United Students against Sweatshops and other student groups.

German police shut down Palestinian Congress in Berlin

By Andrew Johnson

An anti-imperialist Palestinian Congress against “German complicity in the genocide in Gaza” was planned for Berlin from April 12-14. (Junge Welt) (April 15).

Before police shut it down, the congress discussed the recent charges in the International Court of Justice, including South Africa’s charges accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza and Nicaragua’s case against Germany for facilitating the genocide through arms sales to the Zionist occupation forces.

Presently, Germany provides Israel with 30% of its weapons, creating a military-industrial complex that supports Israel and its occupation of Palestinian land. The congress was scheduled to address these issues, including the German government’s role in the ongoing occupation and colonization of Palestinian land.

The congress would have featured speeches by Palestinian activists and experts, as well as discussions on the role of the German government in supporting Israeli violations of international law. It would have aimed to raise awareness about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to mobilize support for Palestinian self-determination.

In the current confrontation, the Berlin police claimed that their raid on the Palestinian Congress was due to concerns of antisemitism, but the congress was a peaceful, anti-war event that did not pose any threat.

Protests erupt against police shutdown

Within minutes, the Berlin police stormed the conference and forced the 250 attendees to disembark. The police shut off the building’s electricity and demanded that the organizers stop livestreaming on their phones. Protests erupted in the surrounding streets, and riot police blocked and encircled the protest with vehicles. Many demonstrators were arrested.

The German state's actions in suppressing this event and the subsequent protests are a precedent and represent an alarming trend in Germany and indeed in many imperialist states which use various instruments of state power to quash pro-Palestinian voices. German authorities, as a pretext to justify their overreach, accuse activists like those connected with the Palestinian Congress of being “antisemitic.” While German history dating from the Nazi Third Reich and prior antisemitism justifies the existence of law against Nazi-type hate speech, the German state has distorted this justification and turned it into repression directed at anyone criticizing the repressive actions of the Israeli state, even when these actions reach the level of genocide.

In the current confrontation, the Berlin police claimed that their raid on the Palestinian Congress was due to such concerns of antisemitism. (Middle East Monitor)

German media resolutely parroted the state’s narrative. The truth is, as Dr. Abu Sitta said, that Germany is complicit in the genocide in Gaza and will not hesitate to obfuscate the truth and dispel disinformation to protect its interests as a capitalist imperialist regime that unwaveringly supports the Israeli occupation.

For another report on the Palestinian Congress, see workers.org/?p=78084.
House vote: Bipartisan backing for genocide

The movement in the U.S. that has taken on the challenge of stopping the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide against Palestine has received over $11 million in research dollars from Biden regarding border policing and placing Ukraine's puppet regime into debt to the U.S. The Democratic establishment politicians are congratulating themselves and their Republican cronies for pushing through another war budget. They consider it a small price to settle with fewer rights migrants to the U.S. still possess. To the credit of the anti-genocide movement's pressure, the Democrats voted against the funds for Israel. But all the Democrats voted to fund the war on Russia in Ukraine.

May the bipartisan warmongers soon find out this self-congratulation is mis-placed. They have shown the world’s people, including people in the U.S., the same group of war criminals in Washington back genocide in Gaza, a NATO-provoked war in Ukraine and maneuvers in the Pacific that threatens war against China.

None of these war moves helps workers and oppressed people in the United States, let alone in the rest of the world. The bipartisan representatives have laid it out: The U.S. leads a rogue band of imperialists and superpowers to plunder most of the world, whose systems are in crisis and drive them toward war. These same ruling classes are all complicit in the war. Imperialist-class capitalist parties have just voted to fund a movement that aims to stop Israeli genocide must consider this whole imperialist system its enemy.

U.S. student encampments demand divestment

Continued from page 1

Student walkouts, inspired by the Columbia struggle, have taken place at Boston University, Harvard University and elsewhere, also with their own demands that their universities divest from Israel.

This struggle over the right to free speech is nothing new for college campuses, which have come under the intense scrutiny by right-wing forces with the most sophisticated weapons against genocide. The racist ideology that the U.S. and other Western powers. As pro-Palestine students have rightfully raised, your right to free speech depends on which side you are on. The Heroic students at Columbia and the heroic students at New Haven, Connecticut, for setting up an encampment demanding “no tuition for genoicide,” hundreds of supporters have taken to the streets block intersections in solidarity with the arrestees.

The encampment at MIT on Kresge Lawn has been named “Scientists Against Genocide Encampment.” MIT has received over $11 million in research funding from Israel’s Defense Ministry since 1998. More such solidarity actions are sure to spring up in the coming days and weeks. Despite Biden’s feigned separation from the Netanyahu-led war regime in Israel, both the Republican and Democratic parties intend to continue supplying weapons for genocide.

There is no doubt the movement here will demand the U.S. stop the transfer of weapons to Israel.

Push for wider regional war

On April 1, Israel killed 16 Iranians in a strike on Iran’s Damascus Consulate. With this aggression, the Israeli war cabinet tried to expand the genocidal war on Gaza to a regional war.

Rushing to support Israel, U.S. imperialism and other NATO and regional allies joined their weapons systems with the Netanyahu-led war regime in Israel, despite Biden’s feigned separation from the Netanyahu-led war regime in Israel, both the Republican and Democratic parties intend to continue supplying weapons for genocide.

The war bill includes $26 billion more for Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza and its active settlement policy in the West Bank aimed at removing Palestinian people from their land. It is direct evidence that, as happened in 2008. Only a looming crisis could explain the accelerated war drive seen in the U.S. and in imperialist states, let alone in the rest of the world.

A ‘bipartisan’ war drive

The war bill is a symptom of what must be a deep crisis of the capitalist system – as happened in 2008. Only a looming crisis could explain the accelerated war drive seen in the U.S. and in imperialist states, let alone in the rest of the world.

As pro-Palestine students have rightfully raised, your right to free speech depends on which side you are on. There is a struggle to win her the right to give her pro-Palestinian views. There is a struggle to win her the right to give her speech and not silence her.

The Heroic students at Columbia and the heroic students at New Haven, Connecticut, for setting up an encampment demanding “no tuition for genoicide,” hundreds of supporters have taken to the streets block intersections in solidarity with the arrestees.

The encampment at MIT on Kresge Lawn has been named “Scientists Against Genocide Encampment.” MIT has received over $11 million in research funding from Israel’s Defense Ministry since 1998. More such solidarity actions are sure to spring up in the coming days and weeks.
Popular Front condemns U.S. House of Representatives vote

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Central Media Department issued the following press release on April 17, 2024, statement on Resistance News Network:

The U.S. House of Representatives’ condemnation of the use of the slogan “From the River to the Sea” comes within the context of the typical U.S. stance biased towards the entity.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine confirmed the U.S. House of Representatives’ adoption by a majority of 377 votes to 44 condemning the use of the slogan “From the River to the Sea ... Palestine Will Be Free” is a decision that comes within the context of the well-known and typical U.S. stance, which confirms the bias of the official U.S. system towards the Zionist entity, and its hostility towards the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Front considered the adoption of this resolution by the House of Representatives to reflect the hypocrisy of the U.S. administration. While it declares its hostility and rejection of the slogan “From the River to the Sea” and accuses those who promote it of being “anti-Semitic,” it allows the Zionists to circulate the slogan “From the Nile to the Euphrates,” which means the establishment of “Greater Israel” on the ruins of the Arab states and not just Palestine.

The Front added: “However, what is noteworthy is the vote of American representatives in favor of this slogan, which is something we have not previously seen from within one of the most important official American institutions that sponsor the Zionist entity. This indicates a partial shift in the stance on the Palestinian issue.”

The Front emphasized the need not to ignore the popular movement in the U.S. streets that opposes the Zionist genie in the Gaza Strip, which is beginning to grow restless from the official U.S. support for the Zionist entity. This confirms the existence of brave voices inside the U.S. that oppose these stances and the continuation of the flow of U.S. weapons, and explicitly calls for a change in these positions, with some voices adopting the strategic solution to the Palestinian issue, and refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the entity.

The Front demands the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region and the cessation of support for the Zionist entity, considering the presence of these forces to protect the entity and impose dominance at the expense of the U.S. citizen and their livelihood, and from their pocket, exacerbates relations with the peoples of the region and places the U.S. as an outlaw and hated by the peoples of the world.

The Front concluded its statement by affirming that the slogan “Palestine—Will Be Free from its River to its Sea” will remain the realistic discourse that echoes in the squares of the world, for Palestine and its people are a bright reality, and “Israel” is the fabricated entity with no future or existence at all.

This statement was lightly edited.

Taking protests from the streets to the sea

The following article first appeared on the Resistance News Network, April 22.

In two days, 1,000 people from around the world will board the Gaza Freedom Flotilla in a heroic attempt to break the siege on Gaza and deliver thousands of tons of aid, preparing to do what neighboring countries have failed to do.

As part of an international coalition of activists, doctors and others, three ships are set to sail for Gaza from Turkey, determined to reach the besieged Strip despite the Zionist entity’s threats.

The flotilla is reminiscent of 2010’s Mavi Marmara Freedom Flotilla, where a ship from Turkey was attacked by Israeli Occupation Forces raided the ship. Two ships will carry activists, and a third will carry over 5,000 tons of aid. A fourth ship will join from Italy. The ships have been redesigned, with halls named after activists and the restaurant renamed “Libertas.”

“There is no way that we can’t sail. There is no way that we can’t reach Gaza,” said one activist.

There is a possibility that the IOF will attack the ships, but the activists hold that the people of Palestine are in danger, too, and it is worth the risk.

Be sure to follow @FFC_official_channel (Telegram), @gazafreedomflotilla (Instagram), and @GazaFFFlotilla (x.com) to learn more and stay up to date.

“We refuse to sit back while the illegal occupation strangles all life out of Gaza!”

¿No a la guerra de EE.UU. e Israel contra Irán!

Continúa de página 11

La guerra de EE.UU. e Israel contra Irán es una guerra de los intereses de los Estados Unidos y Israel contra las naciones musulmanas del mundo. La guerra de EE.UU. e Israel contra Irán es un ataque contra los derechos de la población palestina y contra la resistencia del pueblo palestino. Es una guerra de la izquierda contra el imperialismo estadounidense y contra el imperialismo israelí.

Mundo Obrero reconoce y apoya el derecho de Irán a emprender estas acciones, que son tanto de autodefensa como de defensa de todos los pueblos oprimidos de la región que luchan por su liberación. Cualquier riesgo de un conflicto regional más amplio recae directamente sobre Israel y sus patrocinadores, el imperialismo estadounidense y de la OTAN.

No es de extrañar que tras la acción defensiva de Irán, el arrebatador régimen israelí apelara inmediatamente al Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU para que interviera en nombre de Israel, el agresor. Lo hizo a pesar de las reiteradas críticas de Israel a la ONU por condenar el genocidio de Israel en Gaza, condenas que el régimen israelí ignora.

Como parte del eje de resistencia a Israel y al imperialismo mundial, Irán tiene el derecho a proporcionar armas a quienes luchan por la liberación.

Israel aprendió del imperialismo estadounidense

Debemos señalar aquí que el ejército estadounidense ha dado el ejemplo para la arrogante agresión de Israel en territorio diplomático soberano cuando, durante la guerra de EE.UU./OTAN contra Yugoslavia en 1999, el Pentágono bombardeó la embajada china en Belgrado. La respuesta defensiva de Irán el 13 de abril marca la primera vez que Irán responde directamente a un ataque imperialista contra su territorio. Los dirigentes iraníes han demostrado que tienen la capacidad de devolver el golpe si Israel vuelve a cometer una agresión contra Irán. La solidaridad mundial sin precedentes de la liberación de Palestina desde la Inundación de Al-Aqsa del 7 de octubre ha despertado una apreciación mundial de que el papel de Irán en el eje de la resistencia es de solidaridad con el pueblo asediado y oprimido de Palestina.

El movimiento en Estados Unidos que ha asumido la tarea de detener la guerra genocida de Israel contra Gaza también debería percibir la acción de Irán como parte de ese movimiento para defender al pueblo de Gaza y decirle al régimen de Netanyahu como de al-Biden: “NO a la guerra contra Irán!”
Por Larry Holmes

19 de marzo de 2022 — El Partido Mundo Obrero ha hecho un llamamiento que invitamos a los activistas y organizaciones de todo el mundo a apoyar y adoptar. El llamamiento es hacer del 1 de mayo, Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, el “Día de los Trabajadores por la Resistencia Palestina”.

Hemos hecho este llamamiento para distinguir la necesidad de defender la resistencia palestina (incluso su derecho a luchar por la liberación por cualquier medio necesario), que en estos momentos se está reorganizando actualmente para defender la resistencia palestina. Este llamamiento no pretende contrarrestar las reavivadas reivindicaciones básicas vitales para la super-vivencia de los trabajadores por las que millones de trabajadores de todo el mundo marcharán en el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, especialmente por la defensa de los trabajadores inmigrantes que están siendo utilizados como chivos expiatorios para dividir a los trabajadores. El llamamiento se hace con el espíritu de elevar el nivel del Primero de Mayo, para que sus tradiciones se consoliden en la lucha por superar todas las contradicciones que han tendido a confundir, fragmentar y paralizar a la clase obrera, dejándola a merced de la reacción y del servilismo al imperialismo.

Este llamamiento no pretende contrarrestar las reavivadas reivindicaciones básicas vitales para la super-vivencia de los trabajadores por las que millones de trabajadores de todo el mundo marcharán en el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, especialmente por la defensa de los trabajadores inmigrantes que están siendo utilizados como chivos expiatorios para dividir a los trabajadores. El llamamiento se hace con el espíritu de elevar el nivel del Primero de Mayo, para que sus tradiciones se consoliden en la lucha por superar todas las contradicciones que han tendido a confundir, fragmentar y paralizar a la clase obrera, dejándola a merced de la reacción y del servilismo al imperialismo.

Hemos hecho este llamamiento para distinguir la necesidad de defender la resistencia palestina (incluso su derecho a luchar por la liberación por cualquier medio necesario), que en estos momentos se está reorganizando actualmente para defender la resistencia palestina. Este llamamiento no pretende contrarrestar las reavivadas reivindicaciones básicas vitales para la super-vivencia de los trabajadores por las que millones de trabajadores de todo el mundo marcharán en el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, especialmente por la defensa de los trabajadores inmigrantes que están siendo utilizados como chivos expiatorios para dividir a los trabajadores. El llamamiento se hace con el espíritu de elevar el nivel del Primero de Mayo, para que sus tradiciones se consoliden en la lucha por superar todas las contradicciones que han tendido a confundir, fragmentar y paralizar a la clase obrera, dejándola a merced de la reacción y del servilismo al imperialismo.

Hemos hecho este llamamiento para distinguir la necesidad de defender la resistencia palestina (incluso su derecho a luchar por la liberación por cualquier medio necesario), que en estos momentos se está reorganizando actualmente para defender la resistencia palestina. Este llamamiento no pretende contrarrestar las reavivadas reivindicaciones básicas vitales para la super-vivencia de los trabajadores por las que millones de trabajadores de todo el mundo marcharán en el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, especialmente por la defensa de los trabajadores inmigrantes que están siendo utilizados como chivos expiatorios para dividir a los trabajadores. El llamamiento se hace con el espíritu de elevar el nivel del Primero de Mayo, para que sus tradiciones se consoliden en la lucha por superar todas las contradicciones que han tendido a confundir, fragmentar y paralizar a la clase obrera, dejándola a merced de la reacción y del servilismo al imperialismo.

Hemos hecho este llamamiento para distinguir la necesidad de defender la resistencia palestina (incluso su derecho a luchar por la liberación por cualquier medio necesario), que en estos momentos se está reorganizando actualmente para defender la resistencia palestina. Este llamamiento no pretende contrarrestar las reavivadas reivindicaciones básicas vitales para la super-vivencia de los trabajadores por las que millones de trabajadores de todo el mundo marcharán en el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, especialmente por la defensa de los trabajadores inmigrantes que están siendo utilizados como chivos expiatorios para dividir a los trabajadores. El llamamiento se hace con el espíritu de elevar el nivel del Primero de Mayo, para que sus tradiciones se consoliden en la lucha por superar todas las contradicciones que han tendido a confundir, fragmentar y paralizar a la clase obrera, dejándola a merced de la reacción y del servilismo al imperialismo.

Hemos hecho este llamamiento para distinguir la necesidad de defender la resistencia palestina (incluso su derecho a luchar por la liberación por cualquier medio necesario), que en estos momentos se está reorganizando actualmente para defender la resistencia palestina. Este llamamiento no pretende contrarrestar las reavivadas reivindicaciones básicas vitales para la super-vivencia de los trabajadores por las que millones de trabajadores de todo el mundo marcharán en el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, especialmente por la defensa de los trabajadores inmigrantes que están siendo utilizados como chivos expiatorios para dividir a los trabajadores. El llamamiento se hace con el espíritu de elevar el nivel del Primero de Mayo, para que sus tradiciones se consoliden en la lucha por superar todas las contradicciones que han tendido a confundir, fragmentar y paralizar a la clase obrera, dejándola a merced de la reacción y del servilismo al imperialismo.