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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 genocide since October 7 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 Prisoners' 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 encampment.

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



Columbia students, faculty in solidarity with campus encampment for Gaza. New York, April 22, 2024.

PHOTO: BASSAM KHAWAJA

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 of FULL DIVESTMENT is met.”

It was just announced on April 21 that all classes at Columbia will be conducted

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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 beyond jubilant, with union supporters yelling and jumping 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



Workers celebrate their victory. Chattanooga, Tennessee, April 19, 2024.

the results were projected onto a wall April 19. UAW President Shawn Fain received a hero's welcome when he

addressed the conference two days later.

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 whittled away by concessionary contract bargaining. This too was used to turn VW workers against the union.

A lot has changed in five years. In 2021, UAW members

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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 7. Our articles refute corporate media lies and tell the truth about U.S. imperialism's historic role of supporting and arming the brutal 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 genocide, destruction and occupation.

WW reports on the three-city occupation of corporate offices by Google workers objecting to their company's contracts with Israel to develop AI to more efficiently aim their weapons at Palestinians. Articles covered the West Coast International Longshore Workers Union locals honoring the "Block the Boat" picket lines aimed at stopping weapons bound for Israel. WW lauds the union contingents 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 marked by working-class protests against capitalist exploiters and solidarity actions 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 — and won.

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, Latiné, Indigenous, Arab, Asian, immigrants, women and other gender-oppressed people, LGBTQ2S+, disabled, low-paid, jobless, incarcerated, young and elderly.

WW agrees with May Day's socialist founders: End capitalism! Fight for socialism! Today we add: Stop U.S.-backed Israeli genocide! Free Palestine!

WW needs your support!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help print this socialist newspaper and later fund workers.org., where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper's PDF is displayed.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people's movements against racism and war and for the rights of women,



WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN
Protesters outside the United Nations, New York City, Nov. 20, 2023.

workers, migrants, LGBTQ2S+ and disabled people. The website is a resource for political activists.

While WW's staff is voluntary, the 12 annually printed issues and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Join the WW Supporter Program:

Can you donate \$50, \$100 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 truth to more readers — 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 10001.



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 never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

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

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

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

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
boston@workers.org
instagram: @wwpboston

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

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

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

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

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

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Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org



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Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear Down the Walls! Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Teddie Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

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

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

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

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Strike for Palestine May Day and Nakba Day



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 workplaces 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 policies, 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, tending 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 and build pressure 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 truly an injury to all.

Throughout history, workers have bravely opposed oppressive regimes. We have refused to handle goods from 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.



Workers Solidarity Day with Palestine. Philadelphia, April 13, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Stand with us as we demand our rights as workers for a decent living, free from settler colonialism and military occupation.

Take Action!

Here are some actions you can take this May Day (May 1, 2024) and Nakba Day (May 15, 2024): Refuse to handle goods coming from or destined to Israel. Organize a work stoppage or slowdown. Hold educational meetings within your trade union branch to discuss the Palestinian struggle.

Distribute informational flyers, pamphlets or newsletters in your workplace to educate colleagues and provide resources for action. Circulate a workplace petition among coworkers calling for specific actions or policy changes, such as divesting pension funds from companies complicit in the occupation or implementing boycott measures against complicit companies.

Now is the time for courageous worker-led solidarity! Long live international solidarity with Palestinian workers in their struggle for return and liberation! □

Google workers: 'No tech for Israeli apartheid'

By Mary Owen
New York City

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 heartbeat 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 workplace 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 NoTechForApartheid.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 circled the Google complex several times, vowing to keep the struggle going until Google's \$1.2 billion spyware contract with Israel is canceled.



Seattle

WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

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 McMahan, Seattle, contributed to this article.



New York City

WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN



Sunnyvale, California

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 holy sites, and triumphing for Al-Quds, the prisoners, and the path [Al-Aqsa].

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 the most 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 blackout, as the occupation also exploited its aggression on Gaza to engage in "enforced disappearance" against citizens of the Strip, blatantly kidnapping, 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 17 deputies 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 heroic prisoners from the Zionist enemy's 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 committed against prisoners and abductees from the Gaza Strip constitute a war crime added to the series of sadistic crimes perpetrated by the Nazi occupation army against civilians from our people.

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 international silence 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 areas of the homeland and abroad to unite efforts, mobilize energies, 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 action by all means 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 prisons against sick 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 refuse to treat Palestinian prisoners.

The prison administration stopped transferring prisoners to hospitals except in very serious cases, exacerbating the suffering of prisoners, especially with them being denied even exit to the prison clinic.

[They are] deliberately not providing treatment to hundreds of prisoners and detainees who were subjected to acts of

abuse and torture, leaving them without any treatment despite their injuries. This was reflected in dozens of testimonies from detainees who were recently released.

occupation jails face systematic starvation, as do all prisoners in the jails, directly affecting their lives.

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 confiscated from some prisoners, such as glasses and crutches. Diabetic patients and those needing special foods due to their health condition face severe 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 Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party salutes the Palestinian resistance forces and honors the

INCARCERATED MARTYRS

who have waged a second front against the Zionist entity from within occupation prisons

SINCE OCTOBER 7, ISRAEL HAS EXECUTED FOURTEEN POLITICAL PRISONERS BY TORTURE, STARVATION, AND MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE. THEIR NAMES ARE

Omar Daraghme from Tubas	Mohammed Al-Sabbar from Al-Khalil
Arafat Hamdan from Ramallah	Khaled Al-Shaweesh from Tubas
Majed Zaqoul from Gaza	Izz El-Din Al-Banna from Gaza
A martyr whose identity is unknown	Asif Al-Rifai from Ramallah
Abdulrahman Mer'i from Salfit	Ahmed Qudeih from Gaza
Thaer Abu Asab from Qalqilya	Juma' Abu Ghneima from Bir Al Sabi'
Al-Bahsh from Nablus	Walid Daqqah from Baqa Al-Gharbiya

Many sick prisoners were subjected to operations of suppression, transfer and maltreatment. Sick prisoners in the

What a difference half a dozen makes

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The war against Gaza has entered its sixth month, and no end is in sight. Over 33,000 souls — men, women, and children — are dead. Thousands of housing units have been destroyed. And millions of Palestinians are facing imminent famine and utter starvation.

Notice that I said "the war against Gaza" instead of "the war against Hamas," an Islamist resistance organization. Why did I say this? Because the vast majority of the dead are non-combatants. Thousands are children. Are we to believe they were Hamas babies?

The hatred Israelis feel towards Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular is beyond the pale. But this conflict is more than racist and more than merely

political. It is both existential and territorial. It is a settler-colonial conflict that covets the land of Palestinians. It could care less for the people. Doesn't that explain the naked carnage of the war? Doesn't that explain the average of 5,000 deaths per month?

One need look no further than the Israeli Defense Forces' (IDF) killing of three shirtless Jewish hostages speaking Hebrew. As the saying goes: "Shoot first. Ask questions later." If you're in the territory, you're a target.

And then the killing of seven World Central Kitchen helpers happens, and liberals go bonkers. Israel gets rapped on its knuckles. "Bad dog. Bad dog." Really? Really? Some 33,000 Palestinians get slaughtered, and the virtual silence is deafening.

Dr. Franz Fanon, in his classic work "The Wretched of the Earth," said that colonial conflicts are between two different species. The colonizers are deemed human. The colonized are less than human. For being unfree, they are non-human, because only humans are free.

The liberals call for a ceasefire. Why not go to the core of things by demanding an end to occupation? Don't Palestinians deserve freedom? Don't Palestinians deserve a right to exist? Don't Palestinians deserve statehood? Or are these things only for Israelis?

Perhaps I'm not being fair. Perhaps. But then I think of the words of an Israeli diplomat, the ambassador who was discussing peace with Palestine. Danny Danon, Israel's United Nations ambassador, in

an op-ed piece for the June 24, 2019, edition of the New York Times wrote that Palestinians need only do two things to establish peace: A. Commit (his words) national suicide, and B. Surrender. Think of that. A French imperial colonial couldn't have said it better.

The U.S. is neither a fair nor impartial arbiter. It is deeply biased and arms apartheid Israel with weapons, not of defense, but of offense. The IDF stands for the Israeli Death Force.

So let us begin with a call: Cease the occupation!

With love, not phear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. April 15, 2024

These commentaries are recorded by Prison Radio. <https://tinyurl.com/MumiaPalestineApril2024>

Shocker: SCOTUS punishes protesters for protesting

By Janisse Miles

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.

According to an article on the SCOTUS decision in Vox, the officer, who was allowed to hide his identity, claimed that McKesson “knew or should have known” that violence would result and alleged that McKesson had “organized and directed the protest in such a manner as to create an unreasonable risk that one protester would assault or batter” the officer. (tinyurl.com/a557y6e4)

The Supreme Court had already tread this water in 1982, explicitly ruling that protest leaders could not be held liable for the violent actions of a protest participant in NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware, even noting in its ruling that courts must use “extreme care” before imposing liability on a political figure of any kind, in fear that the precedent may be set much like the one happening right now.

Right to organize protests in danger

Louisiana, like Mississippi and Texas, previously upheld the right to organize a mass protest. Now with this right being undermined, “a protest organizer 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 effectively abolishes the right to mass protest in three U.S. states.”



Protest for Alton Sterling, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, July 2016.

The courts can now weaponize the age-old, union-busting tactic of making the organizer the bearer of punishment, taking the whippings for the actions of many, which is meant, of course, to dissuade organizers from organizing. In fact, this could also serve as an invitation 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 inconveniencing their 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 activated 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. funding of Israel’s murder of 13,450 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 spitefully 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 violence 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 decision a temporary one.

But why wouldn’t it be? It’s not hard to draw the conclusion that the gag order on protesters intends to be a common feature. The working class has gotten too comfortable with the idea of having a say on how their country 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. □

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.

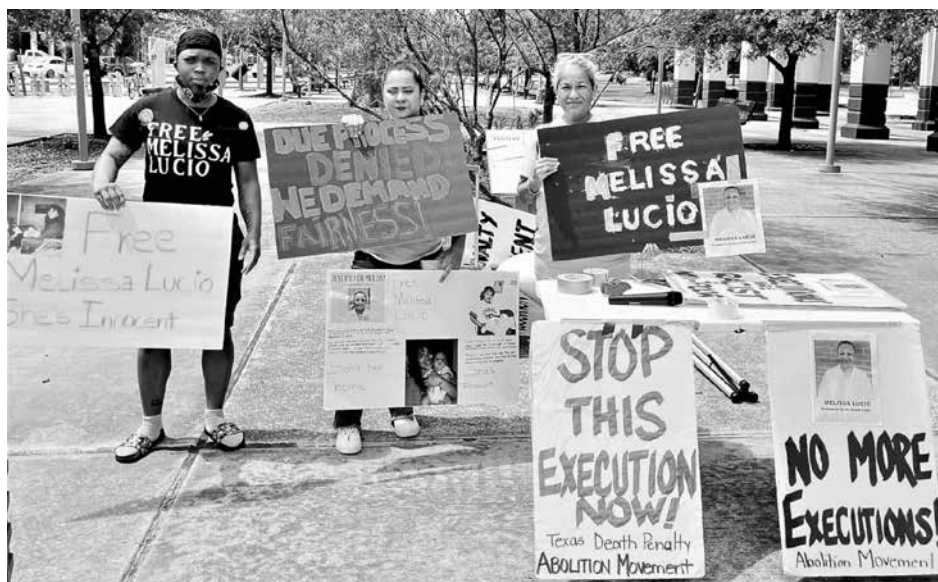
The young child had accidentally fallen down a concrete staircase leading to their second-floor apartment and died from head trauma. The DA accused Lucio of beating little Mariah and murdering her.

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 the child died.

In an extremely rare move, Lucio’s appellate attorney, Vanessa Potkin, of the Innocence Project, and Cameron County District Attorney Luis Saenz released a joint statement in early April to MyRGV.com regarding the agreed order. The judge finally agreed to it and it has been sent to Texas’ highest criminal court.

Kept from their mother for 17 years

On April 15, Lucio’s children issued the following statement: “We are grateful to our mother’s legal team for their hard work to bring the truth to light and to DA Saenz for taking another look at our mother’s case and recognizing that she did not receive a fair trial and her conviction



Rally for Melissa Lucio by the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement held in Houston, April 23, 2022. WWW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

should be overturned. We hope and pray the Court of Criminal Appeals will agree with the District Attorney, the defense, and the judge and our mother can come home to her family. It’s been 17 years that we have been without her. We love and miss her and can’t wait to hug her.”

Lucio’s case has gathered widespread attention and support. In February 2022, the Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACHR) issued precautionary measures asking the state to refrain from execution until her case was reviewed and to ensure detention conditions align with international human rights standards.

In March 2022, 81 members of the Texas House of Representatives, led by Republican Representative Jeff Leach, signed a letter calling on Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to grant her clemency. The stay was granted before the board had a chance to vote.

A friend of the court brief filed by the Innocence Project and The Innocence Network on behalf of Lucio stated: “Police

interrogation may sometimes psychologically pressure even innocent people to confess to crimes they did not commit. When the interrogated suspect is a battered woman, as she was in this case, such risks are heightened, and the need for expert testimony to explain these risks to lay juries are more acute.”

At trial, the defense tried to present expert testimony to educate the jury about why Lucio, as a victim of sexual abuse and domestic violence, would be more likely to admit to something she did not do. But the

trial court refused to allow the testimony. Instead, it allowed a Texas Ranger to say that he knew she was guilty from the time he first laid eyes on her, because of her slumped posture and downcast eyes.

Judge Stephen A. Higginson, of the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals wrote in a dissenting opinion in Lucio v. Lumpkin on Feb. 9, 2021: “A battered woman was convicted of capital murder because, in a case lacking direct evidence, prosecutors told the jury that, five hours into interrogation, in the middle of the night after the discovery of her dead child, [Lucio] accepted a seasoned interrogator’s suggestion that she was responsible, ultimately agreeing with him that she ‘did it.’”

In Texas there are now seven women on death row, and several have cases of innocence that are waiting for a judicial review that would reverse those convictions. Women are rarely sentenced to death and even more rarely are executed.

The Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide reports there are 52 women, including five trans women on death rows across the U.S. Eighteen death-sentenced women have been executed in this country since 1976. Six of those were in Texas and all but two were in Southern states.

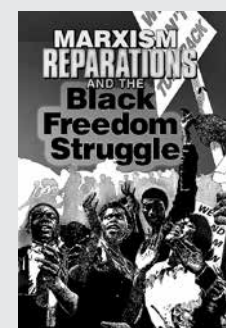
Gloria Rubac is an organizer with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.

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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.

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 M67 fragmentation grenades, new XM111 offensive grenades, training grenades and various types of fuzes (devices with explosive components designed to initiate a main charge), in a \$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, demonstrators blocked all vehicle entry into the airport, while blocking the highway outside, shutting it down for three hours during rush hour traffic, causing over 100 flight delays, disrupting the functioning of the capitalist transportation and global supply chain system. There were 46 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



Philadelphia, April 15, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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 McMahan and Martha Grevatt contributed to this article.



Palestine solidarity rally during Labor Notes conference, Rosemont, Illinois, April 19, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

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



By Jim Wallace

Earth Day was started by a people's movement in 1970, but too often today has become an opportunity for politicians and corporations to wax poetic about their concern for the environment, while they overlook the environmental destruction their policies cause, especially from war.

In Gaza, once fertile farmland now lies barren, 97% of the water is unfit for human consumption, and in just the first two months of Israel's genocidal bombing campaigns since October 7, more planet-warming emissions were generated than the annual carbon footprint of the world's top 20 climate-vulnerable nations.

Want to protect the environment? Stop the U.S.-funded Israeli genocide in Gaza and work to prevent war from spreading. □

UAW wins historic victory at Volkswagen

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 givebacks. The unorganized auto companies, hoping to discourage unionization, then gave their workers big raises. This was referred to as the "UAW bump."

This 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 \$40

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 materially affecting Zionist economic arms.

Actions took place in over 50 cities internationally on April 15 alone, reflecting the geographic extent of



Demonstrators occupy an outdoor shopping mall in downtown Los Angeles calling for the U.S. to stop funding Israel and for a permanent ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict, April 15, 2024.

Zionism's influence on the global economy, as it profits off Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, Iranian, Iraqi, and Yemeni blood.

Ports were blockaded, such as in Athens, Greece; Belfast, Ireland; Montreal, Halifax, and Vancouver in Canada; and Melbourne, Australia. Major roads were blockaded 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 TAXES 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 Britain and the U.S., while Valero, Amazon, and others were targeted elsewhere.

You can see some more examples at [instagram.com/a15actions](https://www.instagram.com/a15actions). On April 17, nine Google employees were arrested at Google headquarters in New York City and Sunnyvale, California, after staging a 10-hour-long sit-in in protest of the company's billion-dollar deal (Project Nimbus) with the Zionist entity. The employees, who refused to leave, were put on administrative leave.

You may donate to this support fund (bit.ly/a15fund)



Global strike: Protesters occupy the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, April 15, 2024.

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.



Protests outside New York City Stock Exchange, 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.

The historic march, initiated by the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition (PPC), was endorsed by Healthcare Workers for Palestine—Philadelphia, Labor for Black Lives, The NewsGuild of Philadelphia Local 10/Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 38010, Philadelphia Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Philadelphia Tenants Union, Philly Industrial Workers of the World, Unity Caucus, Service Employees Union (SEIU) Healthcare Pennsylvania and Workers World Party.

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 a ceasefire—and the majority of the population are workers, likely many of your 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



Health care workers for Palestine in Philadelphia march. April 13, 2024.

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. Nayla, 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 entire hospitals, 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 tremendously positive, 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 neighborhoods 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



Workers United March for Palestine in West Philadelphia. April 13, 2024.

WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

of Starbucks over Palestine and the threat to their bottom line. We won't let Starbucks bully us into submission to not wear signs of solidarity with Palestine, where workers are demanding justice, demanding accountability. Our solidarity goes beyond our workplace. It reaches across borders in solidarity with Palestine."

Kim, with the Philadelphia Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, wrapped up the program: "Philadelphia is the poorest big city in the U.S., yet there is always money for war. Martin Luther King Jr. made the connection that every bomb dropped in Vietnam impacted cities at home. Today the U.S. deliberately made the decision to support Israel when people here lack food, health care and more. Biden pushes the idea that wars abroad are made in America and therefore are good for American jobs. We reject that working-class jobs come at the cost of our working-class brothers and sisters abroad." □



Banners hung on Pennovation fence target Ghost Robotics. Philadelphia, April 13, 2024.



Workers March for Palestine crossing Grays Ferry bridge. Philadelphia, April 13, 2024.

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 experience, adapt to new inputs, and execute tasks resembling human capabilities.

“By leveraging AI technologies, computers can undergo training to perform particular tasks through the analysis of extensive data sets and the identification of patterns within the data.” (tinyurl.com/334b9r2k)

AI has been a subject of research since a summer research project at Dartmouth initially published in 1955. (tinyurl.com/muwd59xd)

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 scans of samples of handwritten letters, including but not limited to the letter “A.” Every time the program successfully identifies “A” it gets a passing grade, and every time it misidentifies something else as an “A” it gets a failing grade.

As the program goes through batch after batch of this process, it slowly learns how to identify the letter “A” with a significant degree of accuracy. The process of grading and guiding the program starts off as a human-directed process and eventually can be transitioned into an automatic process.

Built-in bias

An important thing to take note of is that a dataset of some type is acquired and used as the foundation for building the “understanding” of what constitutes “truth” within the context of some objective. When it comes to AI systems that handle data relating to human demographics, this is an area where the underlying biases of humans often come into play.

A classic example comes in the form of facial recognition software. “Facial recognition software has a long history of failing to recognize Black faces. Researchers and users have identified anti-Black biases in AI applications ranging from hiring to robots to loans” (Vox, June 2023).



PHOTO: NOTECHFORAPARTHEID.COM

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

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 machine learning — were tracked using keystroke detection software, and their productivity was ranked in an automated system. Workers who were not putting in at least 6.5 hours of keystrokes in an 8 hour day were subjected to disciplinary action, held back from pay raises and even terminated. Obtaining a medical exemption

in cases when the individual had migraines, ADHD or a medical condition that required bathroom or insulin breaks was a near impossibility.

The bourgeois image of the computer programmer who owns a part-time business and works at Google where they have lemon water and cucumber sandwiches on demand is largely a myth — a myth that benefits the tech firm. Make no mistake, while there are petit bourgeois individuals who work in the tech industry, the general trend in computer programming labor is a trend towards industrializing computerized labor so that proletarians can be exploited and paid lower wages.

While this trend has been brewing since the 1990s when the personal computer exploded on the market and transformed the office landscape, it has only been within the last decade or so that this trend has really kicked off — with the COVID-19 pandemic further accelerating this process. This trend is also not limited to the Global North. Companies like OpenAI (developer of ChatGPT) 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 to create a desired experience or manufacture useful information or outcomes. One of the major styles of platforms organizing 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 “invisible” computer labor to readers in the Global North.

The following excerpt is discussing a family in India and their experience with 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 teenage 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 out loud to them. They make fun of her pronunciation of ‘chick flick.’ 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 15 hours of work in a given week, Kala returns to UHRS almost every day to see if there are any new tasks that she feels qualified to do ...” [italics in the original]

“Companies like Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and Twitter use software to automatically remove as much ‘not safe for work’ content as they can, wherever possible. But these software filtering systems, 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.” (“Ghost Work,” Gray and Suri)

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 relationship 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 “digital” world and “digital” technology have a material basis, the physical components of and labor behind computing, which must be studied through the dialectical lens of Marxism-Leninism.

Machine labor and living labor

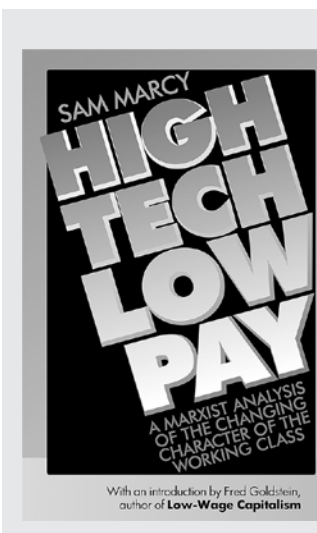
A useful description Marx gave for this kind of technology comes in his description of the difference between machine labor and living labor. To paraphrase sections of Marx’s “Grundrisse” (1861): Living labor seeks to exchange its productive capacity for wages for its own survival, and machine labor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

Doing an analysis of digital technology 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, produces 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.

The bourgeois image of the computer programmer who owns a part-time business and works at Google where they have lemon water and cucumber sandwiches on demand is largely a myth — a myth that benefits the tech firm. Make no mistake, while there are petit bourgeois individuals who work in the tech industry, the general trend in computer programming labor is a trend towards industrializing computerized labor so that proletarians can be exploited and paid lower wages.

These technologies can be useful to our class interests 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 — including the digital means. Anything less kicks the cycle of exploitation around the globe. □



High Tech, Low Pay

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German police shut down Palestine Congress in Berlin

By Andrew Johnson

An anti-imperialist Palestine 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. (bbc.com, April 14) Despite German claims that the arms are being used for training purposes, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz found that the “training ammunition” had been used in Gaza. (junge Welt)

The congress found the Federal Republic of Germany complicit in the ongoing genocide and demanded an immediate ceasefire and “cessation of all military, diplomatic and economic support for Israel

by the German state.” (junge Welt)

In an escalation of crackdowns and repression against pro-Palestinian activists by the German state, Berlin police raided, cancelled and banned the conference on its first day. Germany also barred multiple international speakers from entering the country or even participating in the conference online.

Among those barred from the event was Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta, a British-Palestinian surgeon who has been an eyewitness to the atrocities in Gaza. Abu Sitta was detained and interrogated at the Berlin Airport. He accused the German state of silencing witnesses to genocide and being an accomplice

to Zionist crimes.

Two other German-Palestinian eyewitnesses that have been providing medical assistance in Gaza were able to report their accounts at the conference, however. One emphasized the particular despair of children in the Gaza Strip (half of the population are minors), calling it simply “indescribable.” (junge Welt)

Protests erupt against police shutdown

Within minutes, the Berlin police stormed the conference and forced the 250 attendees to disband. 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 have 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 Palestine Congress of being “antisemitic.” While German history dating from the Nazi Third Reich and prior antisemitism justifies the existence of laws 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 Palestine 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 dissidents to protect its interests as a capitalist imperialist regime that unwaveringly supports the Israeli occupation.

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



Protest banning of Palestine Congress. Berlin, April 13, 2024. PHOTO: JUNGE WELT

Kent State University

Hundreds protest campus speech by fascist killer

By Martha Grevatt

When the right-wing organization Turning Point USA announced it was hosting a speaking engagement at Kent State University in Ohio for white supremacist killer Kyle Rittenhouse, students tried to get the university administration to cancel the event, filing petitions with 5,000 signatures. When the university allowed the meeting with Rittenhouse to proceed, citing freedom of speech, students organized a press conference on April 16, the day Rittenhouse spoke.

The press conference became a demonstration of hundreds of students protesting outside while others challenged Rittenhouse inside.

Rittenhouse shot three antiracist protesters on Aug. 25, 2020, killing two, at a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He was acquitted of homicide,

attempted homicide and reckless endangerment in 2021. Turning Point reportedly pays him \$5,000 for each 30-minute speech. When Rittenhouse attempted to speak at the University of Memphis, he was loudly booed and shouted down, leading him to cut his talk short.

Aciano Rosales, freshman ambassador for the Spanish and Latine Student Association (SALSA), opened the press conference saying: “Kyle Rittenhouse’s presence as a guest speaker mocks the legacy of blood shed by protesters on Kent State’s campus. It optimizes hateful white supremacy that we as Ohio students feel is unacceptable.” (Kentwired.com, April 16)

Rosales was followed by Paul Prediger, formerly Gaige Grosskreutz, who Rittenhouse shot and wounded. For almost four years Prediger kept a low profile but on April 16 felt compelled to speak out, saying, “Enough of the lies and the deceit

that has been told by Kyle Rittenhouse for three years about what actually happened in Kenosha August 25, 2022.”

SALSA President Aimée Flores reminded the crowd of the May 4, 1970, Kent State shootings, in which four unarmed students were killed by the Ohio National Guard at a protest of the U.S. war against Vietnam. Calling out bigotry and white supremacy, she said: “That is why Gov. James A. Rhodes was able to send the National Guard to Kent State 54 years ago on that hill. That is why today we ask ourselves, ‘Who will defend us?’”

Yaseen Shaikh, president of the Kent State chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, told The Progressive that a large portion of the

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



Protest against Kyle Rittenhouse, Kent State University, April 16, 2024.

Money for war, but not for the poor

By Betsey Piette

The Supreme Court of the United States is set to begin hearings in April on a high-profile case that could potentially make it 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 even if adequate shelter is not accessible.

A SCOTUS decision favorable to Grants Pass would open the door for cities across the U.S. to apply even more draconian policies against homeless people, while making no provisions to ensure adequate housing exists. Rather than allocating necessary resources to address problems of chronic homelessness, many cities are already diverting resources to increase policing to round up unhoused individuals and families simply for being poor.

Meanwhile, RentCafe.com estimates that the average cost to rent an 899 square foot apartment in the U.S. as of March 2024 was \$1,713 per month or \$20,556

per year. A worker paid the federal minimum wage would only make \$15,000 per year working 40 hours per week.

The highest court’s battle takes place against a background of housing being unaffordable for a record half of renters, according to a 2022 Joint Center for Housing study at Harvard University. The study found that as rents spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic 2020-2022, renters in every income category paid over 30% of their income for rent and utilities. In some cases, they paid over 50%.

Lower-income workers and families making \$30,000 to \$74,000 a year were hard-hit, but renters earning under \$30,000, already struggling to afford housing, faced an 83% increase in costs. The number of people sleeping outside or in shelters increased 12% in 2023 over the previous year.

The Harvard study found nearly a third of households headed by people 65 and older pay over 30% of their income for housing. Half of that group pays more

than 50%. In 2021, 11.2 million households were headed by seniors.

A SCOTUS ruling against unhoused people could also lead to landlords raising rents, knowing that people must either pay high rents or risk being jailed. Buying homes is also increasingly unaffordable for most households, especially with interest rates for loans now over 7% and wages stagnant or falling after inflation.

Billions for war, crumbs for the poor

Since the start of the U.S./NATO driven war in Ukraine, the Joe Biden administration has sent \$75 billion, mostly military aid, to support the war. Ukraine is slated to receive \$60 billion of the \$95 billion foreign aid bill recently passed by Congress. That bill includes \$26.38 billion for Israel, coming on top of \$18 billion sent in February, and \$14.3 billion sent to the Zionist state in November.

The Biden administration

readily doles out billions of dollars for weapons and to expand wars abroad, while affordable housing projects, if people in need are lucky, may only get millions from Housing and Urban Development.

The direct link between war spending and injustice abroad was addressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who led an anti-war rally on March 25, 1967, in Chicago, where he said: “The bombs in Vietnam explode at home — they destroy the dream and possibility for a decent America.” □



Grants Pass, Oregon, increased enforcement of ordinances, carrying hundreds of dollars in fines and threats of jail against homeless people.

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 raised three big “NOs”:

- No invasion of Rafah!
- No U.S. arms to Israel!
- No war on Iran!

Besides killing or wounding more than 100,000 Gaza inhabitants, half of them children, and pushing a million human beings to the edge of starvation, Israeli bombardments and assaults on the north and center of the Gaza Strip have already driven 1.5 million people to the region around Rafah in the south.

Desperate to defeat the Palestinian Resistance and failing to do so, Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s war cabinet keeps announcing plans to invade Rafah. Such an invasion threatens expulsion if not extermination of Gaza’s population. It is textbook genocide.

Regarding the U.S. role, “Genocide Joe” Biden, with the enthusiastic cooperation of the Republican Party, has, as of April 20, pushed a \$95 billion war bill through the House of Representatives. The bill, which the Senate passed on April 23, finances a drive toward World War III on three fronts: the U.S.-Israeli genocidal war aimed at Palestine, the U.S.-NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, and preparation for a U.S.-led war in the Pacific against People’s China and the Democratic People’s Republic of (North) Korea.

This 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,



Hundreds march to demand that Israel stop its military operations in Rafah. Pittsburgh, March 2, 2024.

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

Israel’s to shield Israeli targets from Iran’s justified April 13 response. Note: Iran targeted no civilian areas in Israel, no one was reported killed.

It is a credit to the movement in the U.S. in solidarity with Palestine that Israel’s attempt to expand the war only expanded the protests. Yes, the U.S. used a G7 meeting to impose more sanctions on Iran. But in the streets of the U.S., starting with the April 15 worldwide day of solidarity with Palestine, the movement showed increased determination to stop business as usual.

Another slogan appeared at many of the demonstrations: No war on Iran! Good that it did, as the threat of a regional war remains — a war that could include sending U.S. troops to kill and be killed.

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 allies in NATO and on the Pacific rim. Nearly all Democratic and Republican establishment politicians have joined the war-mongering.

The Republican establishment politicians are congratulating themselves for voting for the war — as well as for squeezing even more reactionary concessions

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 sell out whatever rights migrants to the U.S. still possess. To the credit of the anti-genocide movement’s pressure, 37 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 misplaced. They have shown the world’s people, including people in the U.S., that the same group of war criminals in Washington back genocide in Gaza, a NATO-provoked proxy war in Ukraine and maneuvers in the Pacific that threaten 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 states whose ruling classes exploit and plunder most of the world, whose systems are in crisis and drive them toward war. These same ruling classes are all complicit in genocide, which both major U.S. 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

virtually and there will be no rehearsals for graduation due to the school being shut down, which the activists say is a victory for their cause.

Weaponizing the right to free speech

The defiant resistance exhibited by Columbia University students against the Zionist college administration and the police spread like wildfire over social media both here and worldwide, including on the Resistance News Network, the main voice for the Palestinian resistance.

This action inspired students to set up their own Gaza solidarity encampments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Charlotte; Washington University in St. Louis; Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; University of Maryland in College Park; Cal Poly Humboldt and UC Berkeley in California; The New School and New York University in New York City; Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee; University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; Tufts University and Emerson College in Boston; and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

In response to Yale University students being arrested April 21 in New Haven, Connecticut, for setting up an encampment demanding “no tuition for genocide,” hundreds of supporters have taken to the streets blocking 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 2015.

More such solidarity actions are sure to spring up in the coming days and weeks.

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



Nine students from University of Minnesota freed after their arrests at Gaza solidarity encampment, April 23, 2024.

PHOTO: UMN SDS

scrutiny by right-wing forces that defend a terrorist regime now isolated and ostracized in every corner of the world. When it comes to defending Palestinian liberation, these attacks have reached a fever pitch.

Whenever pro-Palestine sentiments have been the center of protests, the right wing has used the false narrative of “antisemitism” to attempt to silence the protests, but they are losing this battle on ideological grounds.

Crying antisemitism is a desperate cover for the Zionists’ white supremacist,

settler-colonial ideology, which is denounced by many anti-Zionist Jewish people who say “not in our name.” Many progressive Jewish students are participating in these encampments.

The current campus actions confront the right wing’s fascist ideology, which has been the cornerstone of anti-Arab

and military aid supplied by the U.S. and other Western powers.

As the Biden administration continues to sign bills giving away more billions of dollars in arms to Israel, the White House issued an April 20 statement condemning the Columbia University protests as being “blatantly antisemitic, unconscionable and dangerous.”

That statement called October 7 “the worst massacre committed against the Jewish people since the Holocaust.” There was not one word about the more than 34,000 Palestinian civilians, mainly children, who have been slaughtered over the past six months by the U.S.-backed Israel regime.

As pro-Palestine students have rightfully raised, your right to free speech depends on which side you are on. Asna Tabassum, a Muslim student who was named valedictorian at the University of Southern California, was banned from making a speech during her graduation for 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 elsewhere have shown that no matter the verbal abuse and physical repression hurled their way, the deeper will be their resolve to continue their campaigns until the genocide stops once and for all, and Palestinians inevitably kick out their colonial oppressors in order to reclaim their land, resources and their freedom. This is what real solidarity looks like.

The UC Berkeley Divest Coalition stated: “For Palestine, we must fight. For Gaza, we must win. For all of us, and because of the Palestinian resistance, we will win. Glory to the martyrs, glory to our noble resistance, and glory to the people.” (Resistance News Network, April 23, 2024). □



Popular Front condemns U.S. House of Representatives vote

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Central Media Department issued the following

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 44 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 genocide 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 or 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 outcast 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.



'From the River to the Sea' slogan projected on the wall of Irvine Auditorium at UPenn building, Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 2023.

WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Taking protests from the streets to the sea

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



Pro-Palestine activists wave Turkish and Palestinian flags in send-off to the Mavi Marmara Freedom Flotilla in Istanbul, Türkiye, Dec. 26, 2010.

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 Türkiye, 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 Türkiye with the same goals tried to reach Gaza, resulting in the martyrdom of 10 activists

after Israeli Occupation Forces raided the ship.

This time, the activists say they are more prepared. 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.com/gazafreedomflotilla/) (Instagram), and @GazaFFlotilla (x.com/GazaFFlotilla) (Twitter) 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!

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aérea de Nevatim, lograron atravesarlas todas, por lo que este ataque tuvo más éxito del esperado. Los cazas F-35 utilizados para bombardear el consulado de Irán en Damasco se encontraban en la base aérea de Nevatim.

Acciones de Irán en solidaridad con los palestinos

Según un artículo publicado el 14 de abril en TelesurInglés, todos los misiles lanzados desde Irán llevaban el nombre de Gaza para mostrar que la acción era en apoyo del pueblo palestino. La Intifada Electrónica y Al Jazeera emitieron clips de palestinos en Gaza y en Jordania, junto con iraníes e iraquíes, vitoreando mientras presenciaban cómo los misiles de Irán llenaban el cielo. Hezbolá también llevó a cabo ataques contra Israel desde el sur de Líbano.

Cientos de palestinos derribaron una sección del muro del apartheid que separa Israel de Cisjordania, ocupada por Israel, durante las acciones militares de Irán.

Workers World/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, especialmente tras la repetida agresión de Israel contra Irán, Siria, Líbano y contra los palestinos en los territorios que Israel ocupa ilegalmente.

Durante décadas, Israel ha violado casi todos los

artículos de la Carta de la ONU con su ocupación de tierras palestinas y la expansión ilegal de los asentamientos israelíes. Ha ignorado todos los esfuerzos de la Asamblea General y del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU para limitar su ocupación racista y colonial de Palestina y su obje-

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.

tivo flagrante de aniquilar al pueblo palestino.

No es de extrañar que tras la acción defensiva de Irán, el arrogante régimen israelí apelara inmediatamente al Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU para que interviniera

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 sigue ignorando.

Como parte del eje de resistencia a Israel y al imperialismo mundial, Irán tiene todo 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 por 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 decir tanto al régimen de Netanyahu como al de Biden: "¡NO a la guerra contra Irán!" □



Manifestación de trabajadores por Palestina, Filadelfia, 13 de abril de 2024.

Hagamos de este Primero de Mayo el Día de los Trabajadores por la Resistencia Palestina

Por Larry Holmes

19 de marzo de 2024 — 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 (incluido su derecho a luchar por la liberación por cualquier medio necesario), que en estos momentos se está reorganizando y uniendo sobre una base más amplia en preparación para elevar la lucha de liberación a un nivel aún más alto.

Hacemos este llamamiento en este momento decisivo de la revuelta del mundo en desarrollo contra el imperialismo estadounidense para afirmar que la vía para que el movimiento obrero se restablezca a escala mundial como agente de la transformación revolucionaria es aliarse audazmente con las luchas de liberación del Sur Global y movilizar a los trabajadores hacia este objetivo.

Es hora de que el movimiento obrero, especialmente los sectores más radicales y avanzados del movimiento, tomen consciente y abiertamente la iniciativa 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 muchas reivindicaciones básicas vitales para la supervivencia 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 prioridades en 2024 se correspondan con las luchas que actualmente están reconfigurando la lucha mundial.

La conciencia de clase y la conciencia de clase global, que son los significados del internacionalismo, están cre-

ciendo. Sin embargo, la guerra implacable y desesperada que libra el imperialismo estadounidense para dividir a los trabajadores del mundo sigue dando a la clase dominante capitalista la ventaja en la lucha de clases. Por eso tenemos que ayudar a que se produzca un giro político.

Ha habido un avance fenomenal en el movimiento obrero organizado con respecto a Palestina. Pero la dirección del movimiento obrero organizado no es, ni debe ser, la única voz de la clase obrera.

En Estados Unidos, según el último recuento, nueve sindicatos nacionales han pedido públicamente el alto el fuego, junto con muchas organizaciones sindicales locales y regionales. Incluso el Consejo Ejecutivo de la AFLCIO, que ha estado luchando contra la oleada de apoyo de los trabajadores a un alto el fuego permanente, finalmente tuvo que ceder a la presión de los sindicatos de base y hacer un llamamiento a favor de un alto el fuego, aunque un llamamiento comparativamente débil precedido de apoyo al genocidio en Gaza.

Movilizarse conscientemente como trabajadores

En este momento, nadie puede negar la importancia estratégica del impulso laboral sin precedentes en reacción tanto al genocidio como a la limpieza étnica de Israel y Estados Unidos en Gaza. Es necesario apoyar y ampliar el impulso del movimiento obrero.

Sin embargo, aunque el llamamiento a un alto el fuego permanente es progresista y útil, no va lo suficientemente lejos. En última instancia, es un error considerar que el movimiento a favor del alto el fuego en el movimiento obrero es la única forma de implicar y movilizar a los trabajadores.

Los vínculos de la cúpula del movimiento obrero organizado con el Partido Demócrata, junto con su larga historia de apoyo a Israel y al imperialismo estadounidense, son obstáculos para que el movimiento sindical abrace plenamente la lucha de liberación en un futuro próximo. Debemos luchar para cambiar esto. Pero también debemos tener una estrategia alternativa.

El movimiento obrero organizado es el mayor representante de los intereses de la clase obrera. Pero en la

actualidad sólo el 10% de los trabajadores están afiliados a sindicatos. Aumentar ese porcentaje es vital para el resurgimiento de la clase obrera. Sin embargo, el 90% de los trabajadores que no están sindicados siguen siendo trabajadores. Y muchos trabajadores no sindicados son los partidarios más militantes de la resistencia palestina.

En los últimos cinco meses, millones de trabajadores de todo el mundo han marchado por Palestina. El problema es que, con algunas excepciones, los trabajadores que toman las calles por Gaza no se movilizan abierta y conscientemente como trabajadores. Aunque esto es comprensible por muchas razones, tiende a ocultar que la lucha en solidaridad con la liberación de Palestina forma parte de la lucha de clases.

También oculta la realidad de que la mayor parte del apoyo a Palestina procede de la clase obrera. Hoy, y a largo plazo, sirve a los intereses más amplios del internacionalismo de la clase obrera, además de ser coherente con las realidades de la clase obrera mundial moderna, romper con las viejas tradiciones y organizar a los trabajadores sobre una base de clase en torno a luchas políticas críticas.

La lucha por organizar a los trabajadores en solidaridad con la liberación y la autodeterminación debe librarse tanto dentro como fuera del movimiento obrero organizado. Grupos como Labor for Palestine y Health Workers Alliance for Palestine y muchos otros lo han estado haciendo con un éxito cada vez mayor. Es fundamental que esta tendencia se amplíe y atraiga cada vez a más trabajadores.

Los trabajadores más oprimidos del Sur Global, así como de los centros imperialistas de Occidente, sólo podrán darse cuenta de que los trabajadores del mundo son sus aliados en la lucha por la liberación y la autodeterminación si se toman medidas para que esta revelación sea evidente. Hagamos que el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores de este año ayude a marcar esa dirección.

El autor es Primer Secretario del Partido Mundo Obrero.

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

La agresión de Israel contra territorio soberano iraní —su bombardeo del Consulado de Irán en Damasco, Siria, el 1 de abril— fue un intento de ampliar su asalto genocida a Gaza, que Israel está perdiendo, a una guerra regional contra Irán con la participación del imperialismo estadounidense.

Dado que la agresión de Israel causó la muerte de 16 iraníes, entre ellos el general Mohammad Reza Zahedi, alto comandante del Cuerpo de la Guardia Revolucionaria de Irán, el régimen israelí hizo que la respuesta de Irán no sólo

fuera justificable sino inevitable.

Sin embargo, la primera respuesta de Irán fue diplomática. Teherán apeló al Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, en virtud del artículo 7 de la Carta de la ONU, con el fin de condenar la agresión israelí y castigar al régimen de Benjamín Netanyahu por su agresiva medida bélica.

Sólo después de que esta petición razonada no obtuviera una respuesta igualmente razonable del organismo internacional —un organismo dominado por el imperialismo estadounidense desde su creación en 1945—, Irán ejerció su derecho inherente en virtud del artículo 51 de la Carta de la ONU a responder directamente al ataque de Israel contra su soberanía.

Irán incluso advirtió al mundo de su acción pendiente durante días, incluso informando a los países que los drones iraníes sobrevolarían. Sólo entonces Irán pasó a la acción directa, atacando múltiples bases militares israelíes.

Israel y Estados Unidos afirman que sus ejércitos interceptaron casi todos los cientos de drones que Irán disparó y que apenas se produjeron

daños. Pero tanto los militares israelíes como los estadounidenses y los funcionarios del gobierno son conocidos mentirosos en serie, capaces de crear cualquier escenario que sirva a sus intereses. Estos regímenes confían plenamente en que los medios de comunicación controlados por los imperialistas, incluidos el New York Times, el Washington Post y los medios corporativos de Europa Occidental, informarán de cualquier historia que les suministren el Pentágono o el régimen israelí como si fuera cierta.

Como todos hemos aprendido desde la falsa batalla de la Bahía de Tonkín en 1964, el mito de los bebés kuwaitíes asesinados por Irak en 1990, así como la mentira de las “armas de destrucción masiva” en 2003, la comprobación de los hechos puede esperar años, si es que llega a producirse.

Es importante que la gente que quiera saber la verdad, especialmente en Estados Unidos, lea las declaraciones de quienes luchan por liberarse del imperialismo. En este caso, hay que leer lo que dicen fuentes de dentro de Irán y analistas independientes del imperialismo.

Fuentes iraníes han dicho que los aviones no tripulados que fueron interceptados eran señuelos baratos. Al parecer, el gobierno estadounidense gastó la asombrosa cantidad de 1.100 millones de dólares de los contribuyentes sólo para repeler estos drones señuelo.

Según Irán, siete misiles hipersónicos, utilizados contra las bases mejor protegidas de Israel, incluida la base



Palestinos en Ramala, en la Cisjordania ocupada, vitorean la respuesta militar de Irán contra Israel, el 13 de abril.