Biden’s phony calls for restraint
U.S. sends more arms to Israel

By Monica Moorehead

The “Genocide Joe” administration recently equipped the Zionist apartheid regime with more deadly military hardware, while at the same time sending massive bombs can demolish entire blocks for the Zionist occupation army. Such amounts of deadly bombs amounts of deadly bombs. The U.S. continues to be the main sponsor from the U.S. administration for the massive and angry demonstrations in the squares of some workers supplied mostly from the U.S. and Germany. Last week, the U.S. transferred 25 massive and angry demonstrations in the squares of some workers supplied mostly from the U.S. and Germany. Last week, the U.S. transferred 25

The following statement was released by the Resistance News Network on April 1, 2024, from the official for Arab and Palestinian Resistance. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Abu Ahmad Fouad, to Al-Mayadin.

“The ‘Israel’i’ aggression on the Israeli consulate in Damascus [Syria] could not happen without a green light from the U.S. The assassination of Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and he answered a question at a March 25 virtual town hall meeting by saying that the U.S. “shouldn’t be spending a dime on humanitarian aid” and “It [Gaza] should be like Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Get it over quick.” (Washington Post, March 30)

Of course, he was referring to the two U.S.-made atomic bombs dropped on these Japanese cities at the end of World War II in August 1945, killing an estimated 200,000 people. Michigan, the state that Walberg represents, has the highest percentage and number of Arab people of any U.S. state.

Andy Ogle (R-Tennessee) told a Palestinian protester that “we should have killed more people.” (Continued on page 4)

Resistence demands ‘land back!’

The following statements were issued by Resistance News Network on Land Day, March 30, 2024.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Land Day was a qualitative, cumulative event in the context of the ongoing and comprehensive battle that our people are waging against the Zionist colonialist and racist settler project. On this day, the massive bombs that the occupier demonstrator wants to see the land and not abandoning it, and the unity of the people of any U.S. state.

We affirm our people’s adherence to our own land, from its river to its sea, and to the legitimate and established rights for the return of refugees to their land and homes from which they were forcibly displaced. Preserving identity and defending the Palestinian existence require comprehensive resistance and broad popular field engagement outside the enemy’s institutions, on the principle that rights are taken, not begged for. What was taken by force cannot be recovered except by force, and not by the begging, settlement and negotiations that have led to a real disaster for our people.

The epic of Al-Aqsa Flood accomplished important field achievements and a strategic defeat for the Zionist entity and its military and security system. The ongoing and unprecedented Zionist genocide war on the Gaza Strip has revealed the true face of this criminal Zionist entity and its sponsors from the U.S. administration and the West, which for the first time in its history stands in the dock as a criminal and shunned terrorist entity before the International Court of Justice.

What is happening is facts that carry within them important historical transformations, through which the Palestinian cause returns to the forefront of events in the world and in the international agenda, with the Zionist entity facing a real existential crisis from which it will not be able to recover, and will reinforce the state of rift, fragmentation, contradictions, and self-destruction within it. Despite all forms of killing, destruction, massacres, starvation wars and siege, the Zionist entity has failed to achieve any of the declared goals of its aggression against the Gaza Strip, and it continues steadily to exhaust the Zionist enemy and is waging a battle of attrition against it. The large losses incurred by the Zionist enemy, and the ability of the resistance to direct its strikes in areas that were invaded and destroyed, indicate that the Zionist entity is drowning in the quagmire of the Gaza Strip, and that it is far from and unable to achieve any of its goals.

We affirm that all plans of the occupation and the U.S. administration for the so-called “day after” the war on the Gaza Strip, guardianship, bringing in international institutions, in support of the Palestinian people. We see in the massive and angry demonstrations in the squares of some Arab countries, especially those that have relations with the Zionist entity, a glimmer of hope that the Arab peoples will regain the initiative, rise up for Palestine, renounce normalization, and sweep the Zionist entity from our Arab lands.

On the anniversary of Land Day, we renew our pledge to continue the struggle to support the Palestinian people, and to continue besieging Zionist and Western embassies and the headquarters of international institutions, in support of the Palestinian cause. We affirm our people’s adherence to our own land, from its river to its sea, and to the legitimate and established rights for the return of refugees to their land and homes from which they were forcibly displaced. Preserving identity and defending the Palestinian existence require comprehensive resistance and broad popular field engagement outside the enemy’s institutions, on the principle that rights are taken, not begged for. What was taken by force cannot be recovered except by force, and not by the begging, settlement and negotiations that have led to a real disaster for our people.

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On the anniversary of Land Day, we renew our pledge to continue the
People of the world: demand action now!

The world cheered when the International Court of Justice, for the United Nations High Court, issued a preliminary decision. Jan. 26 on the complaint submitted by the South African government on Dec. 29, 2023, that documented Israeli genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The ICJ’s ruling instructed Israel to do everything to prevent a genocide. The instructions included allowing humanitarian aid to be delivered to Gaza and lifting restrictions of essential aid to Gaza where starvation is imminent for hundreds of thousands of people, particularly children.

While the U.N. actions may be unenforceable, they do expose the growing isolation of the United States as a world power. The previous U.S.-supported Security Council resolution favoring Israel was vetoed by China and Russia with Algeria voting no and Guyana abstaining. U.S. efforts to use the U.N. to sanction Russia two years after the Ukraine invasion in 2022 resulted in growing pushback from the Global South. (www.workers.org/2022/03/62261/)

U.S. losing its grip on the world

Since the United Nations was founded in October 1945, the U.S. has dominated the Security Council, using its veto to block progressive measures. It had already used its military might, including dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to tell the world not to challenge U.S. dictates. This was just two years before the U.S. invasion of the Philippines in 1947.

Over 76 years later, it’s a wholly different situation. The power of the world’s people, especially the Arab masses, is causing a shift, burning through the bureaucracy in the UN and the ICJ and forcing states to take action. Over 70 states, including 57 members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, supported South Africa’s ICJ case against Israel.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Amman, Jordan, have held daily, militant demonstrations outside the Israeli Embassy since March 23, calling for Jordan to support the resistance in Gaza, cancel the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and cut all ties with Israel. Over half of the population in Jordan is of Palestinian origin, and there have been regular rallies across the country since the start of Israel’s genocidal onslaught in October.

Massive demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza and the Palestinians have been taking place across the world since October 7, often defying attempts by pro-Zionist governments to prohibit them. There is no indication of any let-up in these protests. It’s a new day.

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 immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+* oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means homelessness, 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 gnawed down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of hard-won benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigendered and multigenerational working class. 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 1930, 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, please contact:

National Office
Central of Workers Party
27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18213
Atlanta, GA 30316
212.627.2995
atlanta@workers.org

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

Boston
82-84 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02129
781.582.0657
boston@workers.org

Buffalo
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14223
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

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

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

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

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

Minneapolis
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
PO Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
philadelphia@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
SLC@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

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Editorial Office: 121 W. 27th St., 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: wwp@workers.org

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Web Editors: Albeer, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

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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

Join us in the fight for socialism!
By Betsy Piette

Six highway maintenance workers died while fixing potholes on the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore when it collapsed after being hit by a massive container ship on March 26. All six worked for Bravner Builders.

They deserve to be acknowledged by name. Magdi Luna, from El Salvador, a father of three who had lived in Maryland for over 19 years. Dorlisson Castillo Cabrera, 26, was originally from Guatemala. Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 35, living in Baltimore, was originally from Mexico. Mary Hernandez Fuentes, 35, a father of two children, migrated from Honduras. Jose Mynor Lopez, 35, came to the U.S. from Guatemala 19 years ago. The sixth worker, also from Mexico, was a man named Carlos whose full name has not been released. (Washington Post, March 26)

Emergency responders rescued two other workers from the water. The bodies of Magdi Luna and Cabrera were recovered in a pickup truck 25 feet deep in the Patapsco River. The other four have yet to be found.

The National Transportation Safety Board also reported that several vehicles were on the bridge when it collapsed and likely went into the water. These people in them would be presumed dead, yet there is scant information about this in corporate news sources covering the bridge collapse.

Baltimore bridge, all: Those all who died were victims of capitalist greed. Had worker safety standards been followed, this accident could have been prevented.

95,000-ton-out-of-control container ship hits Baltimore bridge

The Key Bridge, named after enslaver Francis Scott Key, author of the racist military anthem “The Star-Spangled Banner,” was struck by the Dali. This 95,000-ton, 948-foot-long cargo ship was attempting to exit the Port of Baltimore shortly after midnight on March 26. The Dali, with capacity to hold 5,000 containers, was sailing under the Singapore flag with 22 crew members.

The National Transportation Safety Board reported that the Dali left port at 12:39 a.m., traveling at about 8 miles per hour. Two 5,000-horsepower tugboats assisted it as it made its way toward Baltimore. But then pulled away. When power on the vessel stopped working at 1:24 a.m., the ship ran aground. Some reports say it hit the bridge.

Workers on the bridge heard a loud noise and saw a large ship, suspecting it was a container vessel. The workers on the bridge tried to form a human chain to warn the ship. They even threw a rake at the ship to try to get its attention, but it continued on.

The Dali eventually ran aground, and the crew was able to abandon ship. The crew was rescued by a cargo carrier Dali under portions of collapsed Key Bridge. Baltimore, Maryland, March 29, 2023.

Cargo carrier Dali under portions of collapsed Key Bridge. Baltimore, Maryland, March 29, 2023.

The ship reportedly tried to drop anchor as it approached the Key Bridge. The MTA rushed to close the bridge to additional traffic but claimed there was no time to warn the workers on the bridge before the collapse.

Construction in 1977, the Key Bridge was a cantilever-type bridge which lacked “redundant structures” — extra base protection for its essential superstructure. The bridge has apparently lost the ship’s impact. Yet U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, speaking in Baltimore on March 26, admitted: “I do not know of a bridge that has been constructed to withstand a direct impact from a vessel of this size.”

(Washington Post, March 26)

Maritime experts say it could have made a difference if the tugs had escorted the KEY PORT past the bridge. “If it was a war, it’s a war. If it was a ship, it’s a ship. If it was a harbor, it’s a harbor.” Some experts say it was “beyond the point of repair.”

One of the things that was hard for me to believe is that they didn’t require tugs when this ship ran aground as it was traversing towards the bridge.

“Some ports require tug, depending on the vessel, usually tankers. You see tugs usually tug in front of the port, especially narrow ports,” Heindel said. “In the end, I think that may be exactly what happened when it was operating towards the bridge.”

Protests and workers’ rights

At $15,000 per vessel, tugs are upfront costs which a lot of shipping companies don’t want to pay, even when pilots consider them a safety factor while navigating tricky waters. But they don’t want to pay, even when pilots consider them a safety factor while navigating tricky waters. They deserve to be acknowledged by name. Magdi Luna, from El Salvador, a father of three who had lived in Maryland for over 19 years. Dorlisson Castillo Cabrera, 26, was originally from Guatemala. Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 35, living in Baltimore, was originally from Mexico. Mary Hernandez Fuentes, 35, a father of two children, migrated from Honduras.

One of the world’s largest shipping companies, Maersk operates in 130 countries, employing 100,000 workers and reporting over $3 billion in revenue in 2022. Approved by company executives, Maersk had “a policy that requires employees to first report their concerns to Maersk … prior to reporting it to the [Coast Guard] or other authorities.” (Transportation, The Lever, March 26)

Bridge construction vs. globalization

Safety concerns surfaced a short time after construction of the bridge was completed. In 1980, the Army Corps of Engineers warned about the danger created by the lack of procedures in either direction to stop traffic. But even after 45 years of warnings, no law was passed nor policy put in place to mandate that tugs remain close to the port. Tugs typically go out to open ocean water. Despite numerous accidents, the concerns of the shipping industry to cut costs in order to maximize profits were always given priority.

When construction on the Key Bridge began in 1970, container ships were a new phenomenon, adopted in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The growth of container ships — both in numbers and size — paralleled the expansion of global capitalism, especially the exploitation of ports and container ships from the U.S. and other imperialist countries to the developing world. This technological revolution in capitalism production transformed traditionally international shipping.

Globalization required bigger and bigger container ships. A 2022 Wall Street Journal report found that cargo ship capacity had increased by 152% from 2006 to 2023. Safety incidents involving large vessels globally increased by 9% in 2022. (The Guardian, March 20)

The Dali is not the largest container ship today. The Ever Given, notorious for blocking the Suez Canal in March 2021, was 1,312 feet long. The Dali, at 95,000 tons, carried up to 10,000 shipping containers. At the time of the wreck, the Dali was using under 5,000 of its available containers.

Planned vs. unplanned economies

During its massive economic growth over the past 40 years, Baltimore has experienced both planned and unplanned construction in a planned way to account for the ever-increasing size of carrier ships. In the U.S., where the primary concern is to increase the rate of profits, few changes have been made to infrastructure in general from the 1980s to today. Despite the enormous increase in the size and weight of container ships — it is much more profitable to send one big vessel than to send more smaller ones — ports and bridges have been left as they were in 1980.

This is symbolic of the development of capitalism which always puts profits before human needs.

What’s next for Baltimore workers?

The Port of Baltimore is the ninth busiest U.S. port, with cargo including cars and liquefied natural gas regularly passing through. In 2023, the port handled 13.9 million tons of cargo, valued at $80 billion, moving between the U.S. and other countries. The port processed over 1.1 million containers, up from 848,000 reported in 2023. (Al Jazeera, March 30)

It is estimated that the port’s closure could cost the economy $4.5 billion per day. More than 20,000 jobs are directly impacted by the port’s closure, with an additional 140,000 jobs dependent on port activity. Many workers may be able to access unemployment insurance, but immigrant day laborers, like the six who died on March 26, could find themselves without any source of income in the event of an accident — if they survive.

With the Baltimore port shut down for months, and workers who died or were injured needed to rebuild the bridge, it will be the workers who pay the price. It is clear that the shutdown will lead to mass layoffs, with Maryland’s economy taking a hit.

Workers in this country have fought and many died for worker safety rules and rights. In the wake of the accident, it is being asked how as happened in Baltimore, it can be considered murder, but there are too many loopholes in these laws to really guarantee workers a safe workplace. One of the things that the corporations responsible should be made to pay.
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. Este 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 necesariamente, de cualquier otro llamamiento que se esté formulando entonces.

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 alinearse audazmente con las luchas de liberación de Palestina 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 sean las que corresponden a las luchas que actualmente están reconstruyendo la lucha mundial.

La conciencia de clase y la conciencia de clase global, que son los significados del internacionalismo, están creciendo. 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 trabajar a dar un nuevo impulso al movimiento obrero.

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 vuelve 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 AFL-CIO, 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 lucha etnica 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 hacer un cambio radical, 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 proviene de la clase obrera. 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 tomo a luchas políticas críticas.

La nación por organizar a los trabajadores en solidaridad con la liberación y la autodeterminación debe librase 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 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 rebeldía 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.

El sueño de paz es realizable.

U.S. sends more arms to Israel

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them all” in reference to Palestinians. Michelle Salman, Republican member of the Florida House of Representatives, made a similar statement on Nov. 10 during a debate in the state legisla tuare. None of these racist white polit icians have been censured for their public calls for genocide, but Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan), the only Palestinian representative in Congress, was criti cized and censured for her call for a mere ceasefire. (Al Jazeera, Feb. 21)

Anzell Sheline, a U.S. State Department official, resigned from her post on March 27, in protest of Biden’s policy on Gaza. Josh Paul resigned from his post as spokesman of the UNRWA by the middle of October for similar reasons.

Regarding her resignation, Sheline told the Guardian, “The fundamental reason was — I was once asked to be affiliated with this administration. I have a young daughter. She’s not yet two, but if some day in the future I can have this and knows that I was at the state department and she asked me [about it] — I want to be able to tell her that I did what I could.” (March 27)

Sheline demanded on a Democracy Now! March 28 broadcast that the self-immolation of Aaron Bushnell on Feb. 25, in protest of the U.S. complicity in committing genocide, also had a profound impact on her decision.

Impact of resistance and global solidarity with Gaza

As the genocide of Gaza enters its sixth month, local, state and national political figures in the U.S. are being hounded by pro-Palestine protesters wherever they go. (March 27)

Elbit, Israel’s largest weapons manufacturer, has admitted that it was forced to shut down operations of a subsidiary in the U.S. Its profits have decreased by 22% since October 7, Elbit closed factories in occupied Kirty Shmona in 2013 and Sderot, which have been targeted by the Palestinian resistance.

This decline comes after some countries have banned supplying weapons to Israel. Export to and sales in the U.S. and Canada declined during the last quarter of last year. Production has also declined due to the drafting of 2,000 Elbit employees into the Israeli Occupation Forces and the killing of five of its workers by the resistance.

Supply chain disruptions are attributed to many factors, including dips in demand, taking longer and becoming more expensive because of Yemen’s sea blockade against all pro-Israeli shipping and Palestine Action’s international direct action campaign. There have been effective protests carried out against Elbit subsidiaries in California, Massachusetts, England and elsewhere globally.

The crisis that Elbit is facing reflects the ever-growing isolation of Western imperialism in its support of the fascist state of Israel. Even Germany, the second-largest supplier of weapons to Israel behind the U.S., is rethinking its policy of sending weapons to Israel due to mass pressure by thousands of pro-Palestine demonstrators in Berlin and other German cities — despite brutal repression by the police.

Germany announced its plans to resume partial funding of the besieged UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, that came under attack when, in February, Israel accused some UNRWA workers of supporting Hamas.

In Tel Aviv, thousands of protesters are demanding the resignation of Netanyahu, who continues to refuse the offer to exchange the remaining hostages held by Hamas since October 7 for the release of 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners. Hamas is also demanding the unimpeded flow of 1,500 trucks of life-and-death humanitarian aid to northern Gaza. That's an added crisis for the United States as it builds up its already formidable military presence in the region.