

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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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 of Israel with more deadly military hardware, while at the same time crying crocodile tears for the besieged population of Gaza. Over 32,000 Gazans have been slaughtered and over 75,000 more wounded by the armaments provided by the U.S., Germany and other imperialist countries since Hamas carried out the heroic Al-Aqsa Flood operation on October 7.

According to a report on Resistance News Network: "The new transfer includes over 1,800 MK84 2,000-pound bombs and 500 MK82 500-pound bombs. This comes following revelations earlier this month that the U.S. conducted 100 such secret arms deals with the Zionist entity, amidst an ammunition and vehicle shortage for the Zionist occupation army. Such massive bombs can demolish entire blocks and are rarely, if ever, used by militaries because of the risk of civilian deaths.

"Yet, the Zionist entity has used them extensively since October 7. The Zionist entity has dropped 70,000 tons of explosives on Gaza since October 7, with weapons supplied mostly from the U.S. and Germany.

"Last week, the U.S. transferred 25



PHOTO: PALESTINE ACTION

On April 1, 2024, Palestine Action occupied roof of Teledyne Defence and Space weapons factory for seven hours in Shipley, England, halting export of components for missiles and warplanes used by Israeli Occupation Forces.

F-35A warplanes to the Zionist entity, worth \$2.5 billion, stating that the deal was approved 16 years ago so it did not require public notification, and stated the same for the new package of 2,300 bombs. The U.S. continues to be the main actor driving the genocide in Gaza. It feigns concern for Gaza and public disagreement with the Zionist entity, as it builds a suspicious port and sends miniscule amounts of aid in deadly airdrops, while at the same time sending massive amounts of deadly bombs." (March 29)

There may be some truth projected in the bourgeois media of growing tensions between the U.S. administration and Israeli war criminal Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu over the staggering numbers of civilian casualties in Gaza, but these amount to only tactical differences.

No one should be fooled into thinking for one second that U.S. imperialism and its bulldog in West Asia, Israel, do not share the same goals: to destroy Hamas, the democratically elected government in Gaza since 2006, along with the terrorist ethnic cleansing of Gaza's population with airstrikes and mass starvation.

U.S. politicians advocate genocide

Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Michigan) summed up in a horrific fashion how many U.S. politicians, Democratic and Republican, view the Palestinian people.

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 Ogles (R-Tennessee) told a Palestinian protester that "we should kill

Continued on page 4

Assassination of Iranian general

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

The "Israeli" aggression on the Iranian consulate in Damascus [Syria] could not happen without a green light from the U.S. The assassination of Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and

those with him is a loss for the Axis of Resistance and the Palestinian people.

Brigadier Zahedi was keen on developing capabilities in Gaza and the West Bank as an important factor to destabilize the entity. The martyr Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi focused on mobilizing all capabilities towards resistance.

The martyr Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi was following up on coordination with the relevant parties to deliver weapons to Gaza. □

Resistance 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 Arab masses in the occupied interior demonstrated their insistence on clinging to their land and not abandoning it, and the unity of the land, identity and destiny.

We call on our masses in the occupied territories in 1948 to unite and confront the racist Zionist policies and laws, and the necessity of abandoning any illusions regarding political, electoral and parliamentary participation in the enemy's institutions, and to reject all justifications that have been undermined by the aggressive nature of the entity and its racist view of the Arab masses as minorities and as a demographic and strategic threat to the future of the entity.

We affirm our people's adherence to our entire land, from its river to its sea, and to our 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 from 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 genocidal 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 are facts that carry within them important historical transformations, through which the Palestinian cause returns to the forefront of events in the world and tops 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-implosion within it.

Despite all forms of killing, destruction,

massacres, starvation wars and siege, the Zionist enemy has failed to achieve any of the declared goals of its aggression against the Gaza Strip, and the resistance continues steadfastly 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 even in areas that were invaded and destroyed, indicate that the Zionist enemy 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 peace forces, imposing administration on the Gaza Strip, or interfering in Palestinian affairs under humanitarian or relief justifications, are suspicious attempts that are inevitably doomed to failure.

The Palestinian people are the ones who will determine the future of the Gaza Strip and its political system, and will resist and confront these plans. On the anniversary of Land Day, we renew the call to restore respect to the Arab and international dimensions and to mobilize all the energies of friendly peoples, parties and global movements to innovate and escalate forms



PHOTO: ISLAMABAD POST

of 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 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

Continued on page 3

People of the world demand action now!

The world cheered when the International Court of Justice, the United Nation’s highest 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 assistance to be provided to Gaza and reporting back to the court by Feb. 26. Even though the court failed to call for an immediate ceasefire to halt Israel’s indiscriminate bombing, it seemed to be a step forward at the time.

Now, over three months later, the lack of teeth in the ICJ ruling is glaringly evident. While the ICJ ruling is binding, it lacks the apparatus to concretely enforce or police any of its rulings.

After repeated U.S. vetoes of ceasefire resolutions since October 7, on March 25 the U.N. Security Council finally adopted Resolution 2728. Not vetoed by the U.S. or other permanent UNSC members, the resolution demanded a ceasefire in Gaza during Ramadan. The resolution also calls for the unconditional release of hostages and the end to barriers to humanitarian aid.

Like the ICJ ruling, this latest UNSC resolution was welcomed by liberation forces in Palestine and progressives everywhere. Unlike the U.N. General Assembly votes, Security Council votes are “binding.” The SC can authorize “peacekeeping” interventions, and it could take punitive measures including imposing sanctions on Israel.

Author Vijay Prashad noted: “According to Article 5 of the U.N. Charter (1945), if Israel violates the UNSC Resolution 2728, it must be suspended from the U.N. If it persists in its violation, according to Article 6 it must be expelled.”

However, the Security Council has limited means to enforce the resolution without full U.S. support, and that is unlikely to happen in Gaza. Ignoring the recently passed Resolution 2728, Israel has continued its bombing and 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 ago over Ukraine 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 power 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.N. agreed to the illegal creation of Israel on Indigenous Palestinian lands 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 U.N. 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 25, 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 neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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◆ **In the U.S.**
U.S. sends more arms to Israel.1
Baltimore bridge collapse: Profits before people . . . 3

◆ **Around the World**
Assassination of Iranian general1
Resistance demands ‘land back!’1

◆ **Editorial**
People of the world demand action now! 2

◆ **Mundo Obrero**
Trabajadores por la Resistencia Palestina 4

Online articles

◆ **In the U.S.**
Ralph Poynter – A revolutionary life.LINK
UAW organizing at VW moves forwardLINK
Pro-Palestine protest: ‘no’ to National Guard .LINK
On the picket line.LINK
Racism, sexism during March MadnessLINK
UNAC’s decolonization Conference.LINK

◆ **Around the World**
Activists demand: Israeli ceasefire now!LINK
Cuba responds to protests over shortagesLINK
 Hamas and Islamic Jihad meet in TehranLINK
Resolution on the terrorist attack in Moscow. .LINK
TikTok ban serves U.S. trade war and Meta . .LINK
Palestinians on murders of WCK workersLINK
Linking struggles at home, abroad: Dr. King . .LINK
World solidarity with Palestine on Land Day. .LINK

◆ **Mundo Obrero**
Ralph Poynter: Una Vida RevolucionariaLINK
Detener la entrada de la OTAN en Ucrania . . .LINK

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Baltimore bridge collapse: Profits before people

By **Betsey 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 Brawner Builders.

They deserve to be acknowledged by name. **Miguel Luna**, from El Salvador, was a father of three who had lived in Maryland for over 19 years. **Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera**, 26, was originally from Guatemala. **Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes**, 35, living in Baltimore, was originally from Mexico. **Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval**, 34, 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 Fuentes and Cabrera were recovered in a pickup truck 25 feet deep in the Patapsco River. The other four have yet to be found.

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

But one thing is certain: All those 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 vessel struck 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 10,000 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 its passage from its berth, but then pulled away. When power on the vessel stopped working at 1:24 a.m., the

pilot belatedly called for assistance from tugboats in the area and notified the Maryland Transportation Authority about a power outage on the ship that left it in total darkness. 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 reach the workers on the bridge before the collapse.

Constructed in 1977, the Key Bridge was a cantilever-type bridge which lacked “redundant structures” — extra base protection for its essential supporting span columns — that may have lessened 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 carrier past the bridge. “I’m a big fan of tug escorts,” said Joseph Ahlstrom, a member of the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York, which regulates the state’s harbor pilots. “If applied early enough and effectively, yes, a tug escort could prevent a collision with the bridge or with another ship or going aground.” (AP News, March 29)

David Heindel, president of the Seafarers International Union, representing U.S. merchant mariners, noted: “One of the things that was hard for me to believe is that they didn’t require tugs on the vessel as it was traversing towards the bridge.

“Some ports require tugs, depending on the vessel, usually tankers. You see where tugs have to escort ships in and out of port, especially narrow ports,” Heindel said. “In the end, I think that that may be exactly what happens in the Port of Baltimore.” (AP News)

Profits vs. workers’ safety

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 out of a port like Baltimore’s. They could have saved the lives of the six workers.

The Dali was chartered by Maersk Line Limited, which had been sanctioned eight months earlier by government regulators for blocking its workers from directly



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

reporting safety concerns to the U.S. Coast Guard and for retaliating against a Maersk worker for reporting unsafe conditions. One of the world’s largest shipping companies, Maersk operates in 130 countries, employing 100,000 workers and reporting over \$51 billion in revenue in 2023.

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 accompany these gigantic freighters 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 globalization — the export of entire production structures from the U.S. and other imperialist countries to the developing world. This technological revolution in capitalist production totally transformed international shipping.

Globalization required bigger and bigger container ships. A 2021 United Nations’ report found that cargo ship capacity had increased by 155% from 2006 to 2020. Safety incidents involving large vessels globally increased 9% in 2022. (The Guardian, March 29)

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. These enormous ships can carry 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 30 years, China has expanded port 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 growth 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. harbor, with cargo including cars and liquefied natural gas regularly passing through. In 2023, the port handled around 50 million tons of cargo, valued at \$80 billion, moving between the U.S. and other countries. The port processed over 840,000 cars — 70% imported — in 2023. (Al Jazeera, March 30)

It is estimated that the port’s closure could cost the economy \$15 million 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. Port workers may be able to access unemployment insurance, but immigrant day laborers, like the six who died on March 26, could find themselves with no source of income in the event of an accident — if they survive.

With the Baltimore port shut down for months, and with years 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 laws. When safety measures are ignored, as happened in Baltimore, it can be considered murder, but there are too many loopholes in these laws to really guarantee worker safety. What is clear, however, is that the corporations responsible should be made to pay. □

Resistance demands ‘land back!’

Continued from page 1

Intifada and resistance, and to escalate the confrontation and open clash with the Zionist enemy throughout our Palestinian land, until we achieve our rights to return, self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state from its river to its sea, with Al-Quds as its capital.

Regional joint statement: ‘Palestine, an indivisible land for an indivisible people’

Today marks the 48th anniversary of Land Day, immortalizing a battle that continues to form the core of the struggle in occupied Palestine. The land remains the title of the Palestinian people’s battles since the inception of the Zionist project as an advanced tool for global imperialism to seize the region’s resources and quash its aspirations for liberation and independence.

This year’s anniversary coincides with the brutal, genocidal war ongoing for about six months against the backdrop of the heroic “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation organized by the brave Palestinian resistance.

The parties and organizations signing below:

- Commemorate Land Day, united in the streets, squares, and arenas with all peoples and free forces opposing imperialism, zionism, and colonialism.
- Salute the Palestinian people and their brave resistance, especially the armed resistance as a legitimate and just revolutionary response.
- Salute the armed resistance in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen for supporting the Palestinian resistance and all the free people of the world who have exposed the essence of Zionism as a racist colonial ideology.
- Consider that the land was and still is the core of the conflict, which can only be resolved by liberating the land — all the land, from the sea to the river — returning all refugees, and establishing a secular democratic state, with Al-Quds as its capital, on the entire Palestinian territory.
- Renew their condemnation of the shameful complicity of the Arab regimes, agents of Zionism and imperialism — especially the normalization regimes that fly the flag of the occupation entity in their capitals, suppress the free by arresting them (Jordan, Bahrain), fabricating cases against them and prosecuting them (Morocco), or assaulting them in the streets (Egypt). In this regard, they stand in solidarity with all activists and free individuals, women and men, victims of oppression and tyranny.
- Urge all progressive forces in the region and the world to double their efforts to support the Palestinian people and their brave resistance, boycott the occupation entity, expose its crimes of genocide, starvation, land theft, and violation of human dignity across occupied Palestine, in Gaza, the West Bank, and the occupied interior, and escalate mobilization for the immediate cessation of aggression, opening of crossings, and delivery of aid.

Honor to the resistance! Glory to the martyrs! Victory to Palestine!

The signing parties and organizations are:

Workers’ Party — Tunisia; Democratic Working Path Party — Morocco; Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; We Can Movement — Mauritania; Democratic People’s Party of Jordan (Hashd); Lebanese Communist Party; Democratic Popular Unity Party — Jordan; Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Sahrawi Association of Human Rights Defenders CODESA; Unified Democratic Patriots’ Party — Tunisia; Popular Socialist Alliance Party — Egypt; Progressive Movement of Kuwait; Jordanian Communist Party; Sudanese Communist Party

The statements were lightly edited.



La Habana, Cuba, 11 de noviembre, 2023

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.

U.S. sends more arms to Israel

Continued from page 1

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

Annelle 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 State Department post in the middle of October for similar reasons.

Regarding her resignation, Sheline told the Guardian, "The fundamental reason was — I no longer wanted to be affiliated with this administration. I have a young daughter. She's not yet two, but if some day in the future, she is learning about 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 remarked 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 speak for their silence and support for Israel.

This was never more obvious than on March 29 when Presidents Biden, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton appeared in a Democratic Party election fundraiser at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. A handful of demonstrators disrupted the event inside with chants denouncing Biden for supporting genocide. Right outside the fundraiser were thousands of pro-Palestine protesters.

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 Kiryat 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. Exports 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 maritime freight shipping issues, 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 Cambridge, 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 demonstrations 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. □