Message to DNC

Stop the genocidal

When Vice President Kamala Harris, Democratic presidential candidate, announced her running mate on Aug. 6 — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz — there were probably more than a few sighs of relief. At least she didn't pick Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a virulent Zionist who boasts of having once served in the Israeli Occupation Force.

Anxiously distancing from President Joe Biden's full alignment with Israel on the part of Vice President Harris and Walz could be seen as conciliatory toward the mass movement in support of Palestine. Or toward public opinion, as polls show a majority of people in the U.S. disapprove of Biden's backing of Israel's massacres in Gaza.

But neither Harris nor Walz represents a major shift away from the anti-Palestinian position of “Genocide Joe.” The Democratic Party platform, released in July, reaffirms Washington’s “ironclad” support for Israel. As Middle East Eye points out: “The platform lists examples of Biden’s unwavering support for Israel’s war on Gaza, including the sending of arms shipments and providing a diplomatic shield for Israel at the United Nations during votes for a ceasefire and regarding concerns about human rights violations.” (July 8)

And when it comes to supporting the Zionist state, the Democrats do, as the saying goes, “put their money where their mouth (or platform) is.” On Aug. 10, the U.S. State Department notified Congress that the Biden administration had authorized releasing $3.5 billion of the funds approved by Congress in April to arm Israel.

Al Jazeera reported: “Part of the new financial aid will go to an Israeli military unit, which is accused of carrying out human rights abuses against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. The State Department said it had decided against sanctioning the unit — which would have been the first-ever blocking of aid to the Israeli military — saying it was satisfied with Israeli efforts to address ‘violations by this unit’ which have been ‘effectively remediated.’” (Aug. 10)

When Harris castigated pro-Palestine demonstrators who disrupted her speech in Detroit, she wasn’t just speaking for herself or her campaign. Phil Gordon, an adviser to the vice president, said on social media that “she does not support an arms embargo on Israel.” (motherjones.com, Aug. 9) Harris’s position is the Democratic Party’s position.

Continued on page 4

Following Al-Tabaeen School massacre

Hamas calls for worldwide response

The following statement from Hamas was published on Resistance News Network on Aug. 11, 2024.

In light of the brutal and systematic Zionist targeting of unarmed civilians in Gaza, the ongoing massacres for more than 10 months, and the crime committed at dawn yesterday by the Zionist terrorist army against worshippers in Al-Tabaeen School in Al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City, where more than a hundred displaced people were martyred, their bodies torn apart by three U.S.-made bombs, joining nearly 40,000 martyrs who have fallen due to the crimes of the Zionist Nazis, we in the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) affirm the following:

First: We hold the U.S. administration directly responsible for the brutal massacres committed in Gaza and affirm that the described war crimes and genocide being practiced by the occupation government in Gaza would not continue without the support it receives from Western capitals, primarily Washington, that the described war crimes and genocide being practiced by the occupation government in Gaza would not continue without the support it receives from Western capitals, primarily Washington,

Continued on page 5
The month of August holds special meaning for the Black Liberation struggle. This August marks the 405th anniversary of the arrival of the first ship of Africans brought in chains to the shores of the British colony of Virginia in 1619. This August marks 246 years of the enslavement underlying the establishment of the U.S. colonial state—with its injustices, brutality, institutionalized crimes against humanity. The legacy of enslavement continues today in this white-supremacist, capitalist society.

But August is also a time to commemorate the Black Liberation Movement, he participated in the August 1970 Marin County Courthouse Rebellion. Following a 1971 New York court case, Flannery and include Marcus Garvey, Fred Hampton and Russell Maroon Shoate, while several died in that month, including W.E.B. Du Bois, Huey P. Newton and Jonathan Jackson. Jackson was killed Aug. 7, 1971, while attempting to free the imprisoned Soledad Brothers, including his brother, Black Panther Party leader George Jackson. On Aug. 21, 1971, prison guards executed George Jackson. His assassination was a spark that led to the heroic Attica Prison Rebellion in September 1971.

WW continually writes about the Black Liberation movement and its heroes. Our Tear Down the Walls section supports political prisoners—past and present. Your help is needed! This pro-worker, pro-socialist newspaper depends on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help print and mail this socialist newspaper and for 30 years has supported 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 and anti-imperialist struggles and help build people’s movements against racism and war—and for the rights of Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Arab peoples, women, gender-oppressed people, workers, migrants, LGBTQ+ and disabled individuals. This website is a resource for political activists.

Your WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 issues published yearly 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 12 print issues a year, email links to articles posted online, and, upon request, a copy of the book “What Road to Socialism?” Your donations help get class truth to more readers and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Include your name, address and email; write “Supporter Program” on the memo line. Mail to: Workers World at 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.

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Anatomy of U.S.'s wasteful prison-industrial complex

By Bryant Arroyo

Bryant Arroyo is a jailhouse lawyer, environmental activist and advocate for aging and elderly prisoners. He was a rank-and-file union worker before his unjust incarceration in 1994 and he repeatedly exposes the corporate interests which profit off the prison-industrial complex. Arroyo successfully organized prisoners and neighboring community members to shut down a toxic coal gasification plant and helped win the release of fellow prisoners suffering from major health issues. He advocates for the rights of disabled and mentally ill prisoners.

A regular contributor to Workers World newspaper, Arroyo has faced severe repression for writing about the capitalist machinery of the prison system. To the great chagrin of prison authorities, he also exposes the individuals within the “corrections” industry who operate that machinery. He is a tireless crusader for the right of all prisoners to free speech, which has often led him to put his body and mind on the line to protest censorship of this newspaper. Arroyo is currently incarcerated at SCI Coal Township, where he is serving a life sentence for a crime he did not commit. (Feddie Kelly)

America, America, land of the free. The society filled with justice and equality. This is a clear misconception. For those who do not have the ability to pay their fines, they are not free anymore. The system monopolizes resources, not for the benefit of the masses, but for the masses. The state-sanctioned violence is a sign of fear and trepidation that those in power always have for the masses.

The majority of defendants are victimized and doomed long before entering the courtroom. The vocabulary and legal terminology used leave most inmates confused. And the attorney who’s allegedly protecting your constitutional rights, is secretly drinking martinis with the DAs and judges. Quick to offer some type of plea deal or make you wait many years for an appeal.

Court officials share a bond of which we’re not part, stacking the odds against you from the very start, just like black masters by selling slaves, working them till they’re dead in their graves. At so times it seriously baffles me why America is called the Land of the Free, especially when the United States of America is warehousing the largest nation of prisoners in the country.

For Prison Radio, by Bryant Arroyo, CU1126, at SCI Coal Township, inside the nation of prisons.

This commentary was recorded by Prison Radio.

Legacy of George Jackson, Attica lives on

By Monica Moorehead

The following edited remarks were made on a Sept. 2, 2021 live broadcast, “50 Years of Resistance: Black August & Attica,” sponsored by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party.

Moorehead is a Workers World newspaper managing editor and a member of the PSC.

For many revolutionaries and activists of my generation, Black August especially in the early 1970s and the Attica prison rebellion played a significant role in our political development and activism. I had just graduated from high school in Hampton, Virginia, when Jonathan Jackson attempted to free his brother, George Jackson, an imprisoned “leader of the Black Panther Party. Rachel Magee, another political prisoner who had been incarcerated for over 60 years, and others, when he took a judge hostage and was killed in a courtroom in San Rafael, California, on Aug. 7, 1970.

It was a prelude of what was to come at Attica in 1971. And even though Jonathan, at the tender age of 17, and others were brutally slaughtered by the police during the daring escape attempt had a profound impact on the movement over 50 years ago and even now.

Our Party declared Jonathan and his companions as heroes, while others in the movement were critical of their actions. This daring raid reflected the desire for oppressed peoples here and worldwide — Black, Asian, Latinx and Indigenous — to free themselves from centuries-old racism, colonialism and imperialism by any means necessary, including armed resistance.

This daring raid also exposed the only response from the US state apparatus to such an attack: if the oppressed are the most oppressed, is legalized terror on behalf of the oppressor with no compromise. And that the brutality of this state-sanctioned violence is a sign of fear and trepidation that those in power always have for the masses whenever their class rule is challenged.

George Jackson was assassinated at San Quentin Prison, on Aug. 21, 1971. George's book, “Soledad Brother,” had resonated throughout the movement inside and outside the prison. His second book, “Blood In My Eye,” was released days after his murder.

Huey P. Newton, a founder of the Black Panther Party, gave the eulogy at George’s funeral. Part of that eulogy states: “George was a legendary figure all through the prison system, where he spent most of his life. You know a legendary figure is known to most people through the idea or through the concept or essentially through the spirit. So I met George through the spirit. "He set a standard for prisoners, political prisoners, for people. He showed the love, the strength, the revolutionary fervor that’s characteristic of any soldier for the people."

Attica: ‘The sound before the fury’

Huey’s words reflected how much George was loved and respected by incarcerated revolutionaries everywhere, including Attica. In less than a month after George’s death, Attica prisoners went on a hunger strike, wearing black armbands in honor of their fallen hero in protest of horrid conditions and treatment.

On Sept. 9, 1971, they had taken guards hostage before taking over the prison. And the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War and Fascism was so honored to have the late Tom Sotolov provided by leaders of the uprising to help give voice to the prisoners’ demands to the outside world.

I want to quote from a commentary written by VWP’s First Secretary, Larry Holmes, back in 2016: “The significance of the Attica uprising as a prison rebellion transcends prison. It was almost the Black Liberation Movement’s Paris Commune, of 100 years before in France, in 1871.”

“Attica was spontaneous but to the extent that it was led, it was organized by revolutionaries — high-level political individuals who considered themselves Marxists, Maoists, Black liberationists. They organized committees for food, for negotiations.”

“Their demands included: Prisoners should be considered workers. The workday should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be made to conform to New York state labor laws, including wages and workers’ compensation for accidents. Prisoners should have access to vocational training, union pay scales, union membership.”

The prisoners also demanded that they be granted asylum to an anti-imperialist country.

The lessons of Black August and Attica are not just about the past but the present and the future. Their legacies today are about resistance and fightback against capitalism that apply to so many fronts, be they Black Lives Matter, the climate crisis, evictions and more. Their legacies are about freeing all political prisoners and shutting down all aspects of mass incarceration.

When Attica martyr, L.D. Barkley stated that Attica was the sound before the fury of all the oppressed, he was referring to the multinational voices of workers using rebellion to be heard and visible then, but also now with the global working class that will one day take its rightful place as being the gravediggers of capitalism.
Olympic games once again marred by Western bias and controversy

By Monica Moorehead

The 2024 Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, in Paris, France, officially ended on Aug. 11. There were certainly some historic moments, with athletes who hail from the Global South. These included gold medal winners Julian Alfred from Saint Lucia, Martílde Paulino from the Dominican Republic and the legendary Cuban wrestler, Mijaín López, the only athlete in Olympics history to win individual gold medals in three Olympic games in a row. And Palestinian athletes were allowed to compete in the aftermath of the games.

During the opening ceremony, 88 Israeli athletes were rightfully booted by the whole delegation sailed down the Seine River while a small group of 12 Palestinian athletes were cheered as they flew their flag. Over 230 Palestinian athletes have been murdered by Israel since October 7.

After she became an Olympic champion, Khelif publicly stated: “I was born a girl, I grew up a girl, I studied as a girl, I became a girl. I never had a choice.” (@ShaykhSulaiman, Aug. 4) She draped the Palestinian flag on her shoulders following her win.

Khelif won the gold medal, Aug. 9, 2024.

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Algerian boxer comes under gender attack

Secondly, there was the unfounded controversy around the Algerian boxer Imane Khelif. This talented athlete, who was assigned female at birth, was heavily scrutinized and questioned about her gender by bigots as she earned the gold medal for boxing in the welterweight category. Before her victory, she stated, “I have being boxing for years in the International Boxing Association, which has committed injustices against me. But I have Allah with me, Allahu Akbar.” (@ShaykhSulaiman, Aug. 3) She draped the Palestinian flag on her shoulders following her win.

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When a journalist asked her to answer a question in French, Khelif refused and instead answered the question in Arabic. France was the brutal colonizer of Algeria for 132 years until a heroic struggle liberated the country on July 5, 1962. Khelif filed a legal complaint Aug. 2 in France saying she has been a victim of online harassment.

Boxer Lin Yu-ting, representing Taiwan, faced similar scrutiny regarding her gender when she won the gold medal in the featherweight category.

Other political issues

Thirdly, track and field officials allowed the U.S. runner Noah Lykes to participate in the final of the 200 meters race knowing that he had tested positive for COVID-19 before the race. He should have been immediately disqualified and quarantined as a risk to the other competitors.

Fourthly, according to The Guardian, more than 12,000 houseless people in hosts cities of the Olympics were removed from pre-Olympic areas as early as April 2023. This “social cleansing” targeted people, including migrants, drug addicts and sex workers.

Fifthly, swimmers were allowed to participate in the triathlon relay in the highly polluted Seine River. High levels of two types of E. coli, a hazardous bacteria that can lead to illnesses including intestinal infections, were found. Multiple swimmers fell ill.

“They didn’t think about the athletes at all,” Spanish triathlete Miriam Casillas, who took part in both the mixed relay and women’s triathlon, told Spanish sports daily MARCA. “They thought more about the scenery, the image, to make it look nice and marketable with the Seine.” (France Today, Aug. 9)

Sixthly, the French government banned Muslim women athletes competing for France from wearing the hijab during their competition in the games, a clear violation of their religious and cultural beliefs.

Chinese athletes spared for doping

A constant theme throughout these Olympics has been doping charges leveled against Chinese athletes, especially the swimmers. Chinese swimmers doubled their overall total of medals during the Paris games compared to the Tokyo Olympic games in 2021.

Male Chinese swimmers unexpectedly won the gold medal in the 4x100m relay on Aug. 4. Pan Zhanle, who swam the final leg of the relay, also won an individual gold medal in the 100m freestyle race.

This particular gold medal broke the stranglehold that the U.S. held in this event since the 1980 Olympics, with the exception of the 1980 games, which the U.S. boycotted due to the Soviet Union’s support for the then revolutionary government in Afghanistan.

Pan Zhanle stated after winning the individual gold medal that he was tested for use of illegal drug substances an incredible total of 21 times between May and July right before the Olympics. He stated, “The test was essentially done under all the regulations, so I don’t feel there was any difference or influence.” (New York Times, Aug. 4)

By Vince Copeland

Market Elections: How democracy serves the rich

An invaluable resource for students, this book offers an easy-to-understand the complexities of how the ruling class has been able to use the ‘democratic process’ to stay in power for more than two centuries — and how mass movements can break through the two-party straitjacket to bring about real change.

Paperback (296 pages) published in 2000. Free PDF and Epub available at workers.org/books

Chinese swimmers Xu Juayu, Qin Haiyang, Sun Siqian and Pan Zhanle win the 4x100m medley relay on Aug. 4, 2024.

Continued from page 1

It’s the Republican Party’s position. It has the general support of the U.S. ruling class and its strategists.

Whatever other issues the Democrats and Republicans may seem to tactically differ on, there has been unswerving bipartisan support for Israel since the apartheid state was created in 1948. Even the few “progressive” Democrats in Congress have, for the most part, failed to go beyond calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. And they are a small minority, which will be made smaller by the defection—orchestrated and financed by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee—of current Congress members Jamiel Bowman and Cori Bush in Democratic primary elections.

Efforts to convince the Harris/ Watz team to take a pro-Palestine position, or similar attempts to exert influence on the Democratic Party platform, have little to no chance of success unless they are accompanied by massive struggles.

That’s because both the Democratic and Republican parties are capitalist political parties and are subservient to U.S. imperialism and its main ally in West Asia, Israel. Of course, there are reasons why millions of people want the pro-fascist form of anti-Semitism called Zionism to lose in November. But right now stopping the genocide in Palestine is foremost obligation for all global workers, especially in the U.S. That means breaking with the so-called “two-party system,” strengthening the pro-Palestine movement and building international class solidarity.

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Chinese swimmers Xu Juayu, Qin Haiyang, Sun Siqian and Pan Zhanle win the 4x100m medley relay on Aug. 4, 2024.
Meeting Palestinian hero Leila Khaled

By Saher Al Khamash

The writer was part of a Solidarity Delegation of members of Workers World Party and the Bronx Anti-War Coalition that traveled to Nicaragua in July for a commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the victory of the Sandinista Revolution.

During our trip to Nicaragua, we never thought we would meet Leila Khaled. However, her visit during this time in July is actually not surprise to those familiar with the details of her life and the parallels between the Palestinian and Nicaraguan liberation struggles. 

Palestine and Nicaragua are both in their infancy, full of young and guerrilla fighters. Leila Khaled is famous for hijacking passenger planes in 1969 and 1970. As she explained: “Our goal was to release our prisoners, especially women, and to raise awareness internationally about the Palestinian cause. We wanted the world to know we are not just refugees who need aid and live in tents, we are a people with a cause.”

Few people know that her comrade in the second operation was revolutionary Nicaraguan fighter Patrick Argüello. He connected with members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, including George Habash, for guerrilla training to support the Sandinista cause. During the 1970 plane hijacking with Khaled, he was martyred. His legacy lives, as the bond between Palestine and Nicaragua remains strong.

Because of their shared fight against Western imperialism, the people of Nicaragua have an intuitive understanding of the Palestinian struggle and the necessary means to achieve national liberation. Just as the Zionist project worked — and still works — at the behest of U.S. capital, so did the brutal dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, trampling on the dignity of Nicaraguans through the use of the U.S.-created Guardia Nacional. 

After a series of striking blows at the Somoza regime, the people’s insurrection against U.S. imperialism was solidified through guerilla tactics when Managua was liberated on July 19, 1979, by the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

On the 45th anniversary of the victorious revolution, Khaled spoke alongside Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and other international anti-imperialist figures. In her speech on the evening of July 19, Khaled spoke about the Palestinian struggle as one waged against Zionism, fascism and Nazism. She also mentioned the essential role women hold in the revolution as the servers of life. We see this truth in the Sandinista revolution, as women made up 30% of the guerrilla fighters.

We honor Leila Khaled by learning from her life-long dedication to liberation. We call on folks to escalate their sacrifice and struggle for liberation, to dedicate themselves to study and political education and to observe the Thawadi (‘fundamental principles,’ often referred to as ‘Palestine’s red lines’).

Palestine will be free — from the river to the sea! Long live international solidarity!

More from the solidarity delegation to Nicaragua: workers.org/2024/07/79966/
workers.org/2024/07/79848/

Hamas calls for worldwide response following Al-Tabaeen School massacre

Continued from page 1

VII. obliging the occupation to stop the aggregation and genocide and to halt its blatant violations of laws and treaties, which have become an effective recipe for destabilizing regional and international peace and security and to immediately force the occupation to implement the Council’s resolution issued on May 20, calling for a ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Strip.

Fourth: We call on the international judicial system to activate its mechanisms and hold Zionist war criminals accountable for their crimes and to send an international investigation committee to continue full responsibility of the occupation government and army for committing the Al-Tabaeen School massacre and all massacres against unarmed civilians.

In this context, we emphasize that the fascist occupation government ignored the International Court of Justice’s ruling to halt the military operation in Rafah and to deliver aid to all areas of Gaza and escalated the campaigns of genocide and starvation against civilians. We also stress the necessity for the International Criminal Court to play its role in bringing occupation leaders to trials to hold them accountable for their crimes against innocent civilians.

Fifth: The fascist occupation will not succeed, through these brutal crimes, in breaking the will and resilience of our people and the determination of our brave fighters to continue resisting the occupation until it is expelled from our land. Its massacres, aimed at revenge, intimidation and terrorism as part of its attempts to subjugate our people and force them to migrate from their land and abandon the option of resistance and adherence to their rights, will only increase our people’s resistance, steadfastness and resilience.

Sixth: We call on our Arab and Islamic peoples and the free people of the world to escalate their movements and solidarity with our Palestinian people, to act by all means to stop the ongoing massacres against children, women and the elderly and to rise up in the streets and squares and protest there as long as the aggression continues, to pressure governments to isolate this fascist entity, stop all forms of military and political support for it and support our Palestinian people in their just struggle to reclaim their land, holy sites and self-determination.

The statement was lightly edited.

Philadelphians protest Israel’s assassinations

By Betsey Piette

Philadelphia

Hundreds of people demonstrated on Aug. 3 in Center City Philadelphia in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

The march ended at Logan Circle on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway just as a heavy thunderstorm hit the area.

Free Palestine!

Maryland Apple Store workers win first contract

By Martha Grevatt

Inspired by Starbucks Workers United, which now represents workers at close to 500 of the coffee chain’s stores, Apple Store employees in Towson, Maryland, decided to form a union. They won the union election in June 2022. Now, over two years later, they have their first contract.

The approximately 85 workers are represented by International Association of Machinists – Coalition Of Retail Employees (IAM CORE). The union began negotiating with the company to agree to a contract that not only meets but exceeds the needs and expectations of our members but sets a standard for Apple workers.” (Goliam.org, Aug. 6)

Meanwhile, workers.org was released with the message: “JOIN THE RALLY: June 22!”

The campaign for union recognition, which began in January 2023, was sparked by the company’s firing of a worker at a Jacksonville, Florida, Apple Store who posted a sign on Facebook accusing the company of retaliating after she asked for further protections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The contract, ratified by a large majority of IAM CORE members, contains pay raises, scheduling improvements, job security language and “a fair and clear disciplinary process with protections and accountability.” The negotiating committee explained, “Through tireless dedication, the IAM CORE Negotiating Team secured a contract that not only meets but exceeds the needs and expectations of our members but sets a standard for Apple workers.” (Goliam.org, Aug. 6)
As stock markets plunge

Intensify the class struggle!

By James Foster

The Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced a significant downturn following the latest employment report, released Aug. 2, which revealed a modest addition of 144,000 jobs and an uptick in the unemployment rate to 3.5%. The news on the U.S. economy prompted similar drops in stock market indexes across Asia and Europe. The Bureau of Labor Statistics. July jobs report was a shock to many, as bourgeois economists had anticipated a much stronger performance. Predictions had ranged from between 150,000 and 200,000 new jobs, but the actual figure fell short, suggesting a downturn in job creation. Adding to the unease was the increase in the unemployment rate from 4.1% to 4.3%, the first noticeable rise in several months. The “blue chip” S&P 500 (1.8%), as well as the tech-heavy NASDAQ composite (2.4%) – all benchmarks for U.S. stock market performance – reacted swiftly to the news with steep declines on Aug. 2 and even steeper again on Aug. 5. Amazon, Tesla and Intel all had meager earnings this quarter. The drop reflects a broad apprehension among capitalists concerned about the potential implications of slower job growth combined with a rising unemployment rate. It underscores their growing worries about the health of the U.S. economy. The creation of only 144,000 jobs, far below the projected number, as a failure of the capitalist economy to generate sufficient employment opportunities to keep pace with growth in the labor force. The increase in unemployment to 4.3%, combined with the persistent problem of underemployment, underscores the fact that there is a surplus labor force that capitalism cannot absorb.

The Dow’s decline is not merely a “market reaction,” but a reflection of the underlying contradictions of capitalist production. The stock market, driven by the profit motives of capitalists, reacts to perceived threats to profitability. As job creation slows and unemployment rises, it signals to investment capitalists that the economy might not be able to sustain high profit margins, prompting a sell-off in stocks. The stock market reaction makes crystal clear the dependency of capitalist markets on continuous growth and the precariousness of an economic system that cannot effectively address labor surplus and economic inequality.

Intensify the class struggle!

The rise in unemployment and stagnation in job creation highlight the broader issue of capitalist production being oriented towards private profit rather than meeting social needs. While the capitalist class benefits from economic growth and stock market gains, the working class bears the brunt of job insecurity and economic instability. The capitalist system inherently prioritizes private capital accumulation over collective welfare, leading to periodic crises that manifest as unemployment and underemployment.

As Marxists, we hold that neither presidential candidate, from either capitalist party, is able to fix the problem. This is because the crisis is a result of the functioning of capitalism itself and not of the politicians that the capitalists choose to support. Workers are experiencing this current crisis under a Democratic administration that has seen the same under previous Republican administrations.

A real threat posed currently is that the most far-right candidates represent the most reactionary and chauvinist elements of finance capital, who are dead-set on breaking unions and possibly even overturning bourgeois democracy entirely.

The answer for the masses lies in their ability to wage an independent political struggle based on the unity of all working-class formations. Unions such as the United Auto Workers and the American Federation of Teachers have lined up the expiration dates of their collective agreements for May Day 2028, and they are calling on all unions to do the same.

This strategy could lead to a united front of labor organizations and offer the potential for mass strikes. But what is truly needed to counter rising unemployment, inflation, stagnant wages, racism, xenophobia, misogyny, anti-LGBTQIA+ bigotry, ableism and all the sufferings caused by capitalism? It is the global classwide unity of all workers, organized and unorganized, from the U.S. to Africa, Asia and Latin America – and especially to Palestinian and Arab workers.

We mustn’t succumb to the vile fascist propaganda that seeks to fragment the working class. Whether in the workplaces or in the streets, workers and oppressed people can bring about the greatest amount of change by intensifying the class struggle.

Unemployed workers march during the 1930s Great Depression.
Torture of Palestinian prisoners is Zionist crime against humanity

The following statement was issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Office of Martyrs, Prisoners, and Wounded on Aug. 8, 2024, on the Resistance News Network:

The leak of rape and torture scenes that Palestinian detainees are subjected to in the extermination camp at “SIDE Tamam” is a new Zionist crime against humanity, reminiscent of what happened in the American Guantanamo camp.

The anger of Zionist officials over the leak of the torture scenes and their demand for the formation of an investigation committee reflects their direct responsibility for these crimes and confirms that the decision to torture was made by the political leadership.

This reiterates that the Zionist entity is managed by a gang of murderers and criminals, and its leaders deserve to be brought before international courts as war criminals.

The silence of the international community and international institutions, especially the United Nations, regarding these crimes raises a big question mark about the credibility and neutrality of these institutions. These institutions have not fulfilled their legal and ethical responsibilities to investigate these atrocities or to send international committees into the prisons, especially since international media has repeatedly revealed the unprecedented crimes occurring in the camp against Gaza Strip prisoners.

The U.S. stance, which overlooks these atrocities happening in the Zionist extermination camp at “SIDE Tamam,” and then laments what happens after some torture scenes are leaked, confirms the U.S. administration’s involvement in these crimes and its prior knowledge of the grave violations against the prisoners from Gaza Strip, including torture, rape, starvation, medical neglect and other horrific means of torture.

The Front affirms that these crimes will not go unanswered by the resistance, and Palestinian priority will remain ending the suffering of the prisoners and freeing them from the Nazi occupation prisons.

The statement was lightly edited.

Assassination of Hamas political leader, bombing of Dahiye, Lebanon, will lead to defeat of Israel

Workers World Party sends our revolutionary respect and condolences for Hamas leader and martyr Ismail Haniyeh and his decades of unbending resistance to Zionist occupation. This cowardly murder of the chief Palestinian negotiator and leader of the Popular Mobilization Units.

Israel’s bombing on July 30 in the southern part of Beirut, in Dahiye, is in the most densely populated, poorest part of Beirut. The bombing once again directly targeted civilians. A senior leader of Hezbollah, Fouad Shukr, was also killed.

It is not an accident that Israel struck the Dahiye neighborhood of Beirut. It was intended to recall the notorious Israeli military strategy of directly targeting civilians and essential civilian infrastructure called the “Dahiye Doctrine.”

The Dahiye Doctrine employs disproportionate force against defenseless civilians. It is a military doctrine that was employed by Nazi Germany. Israel previously committed bombing and leveled into rubble the entire section of Southern Beirut, called Dahiye. Israeli General Gadi Eisenkot, the commander of the operation declared: “What happened in the Dahiye quarter of Beirut in 2006 will happen in every village from which shots will be fired in the direction of Israel. We will wield disproportionate power and cause immense damage and destruction. This isn’t a suggestion. It’s a plan that has already been authorized.”

Despite massive destruction and saturation bombing in 2006, Israel was defeated by Hezbollah fighters and forced to totally withdraw from Lebanon. Like Israel’s resounding defeat in Lebanon in 2000, the defeat of 2006 confirmed the limits of Israel’s U.S.-supplied military equipment. It was no match for armed people’s resistance.

After 2006, Dahiye was painstakingly and entirely rebuilt with the assistance of Iran and aid from throughout the entire Arab world. Criminally widening the war by again bombing Dahiye will lead to a far greater defeat for Zionism and its U.S. backers.

PFLP support for Venezuela and Maduro

The following is a lightly edited statement from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in support of Venezuela and President Nicolas Maduro that appeared in the Resistance News Network, on Aug. 3, 2024:

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine expresses its full and principled support for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its comrade President Nicolas Maduro in confronting the coup plotters led by the zionist-aligned right-wing supported by U.S. imperialism. These coup attempts come after President Maduro successfully gained the confidence of his people and secured a third presidential term, thwarting the right-wing’s attempts to seize power under direct orders from U.S. imperialism and Zionist lobbies worldwide.

U.S. imperialism has used all its political, media and financial capabilities and tightened the siege to support these coup plots, spread chaos in Venezuela and incite public opinion against President Maduro and his legitimate government. The stability of Venezuelan national security is considered stability for all South American countries and represents a victory for the values of freedom, democracy and dignity, as well as strong support for the Palestinian cause.

The Front calls on South American countries, governments and the free people of the world to stand by Venezuela to confront the U.S. plots that not only target Venezuela but all South American countries and the free world. We affirm that these confidence and sabotage attempts led by the U.S. will undoubtedly fail and will be shattered by the steadfastness of the Venezuelan people and the resilience and courage of President Maduro, the faithful leader to the path of the late Hugo Chavez and the heir to the Bolivarian revolution.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Central Media Office Aug. 3, 2024

Workers World Party congratulates President Nicolas Maduro and the Venezuelan people on their successful election.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the National Constituent Assembly, elected in an election that was the fairest and most democratic in Venezuela’s history, is a victory for the Bolivarian revolution. This is a victory for the Socialist Unity Party of Venezuela. The U.S. coup attempts have intensified following the orderly election with international condemnation and violent right-wing protests.

More than ten years of increasingly torturous U.S. economic sanctions have attempted to push back every gain of the Venezuelan working class and sow disruption and demoralization. Venezuela’s economy is declining, its oil is sold at below-market rates and its oil is mined at rates below market prices.

As this electoral victory again confirms, the people of Venezuela have determined to defend their sovereignty and build toward a brighter socialist future.

Venezuela wins!

Workers World Party congratulates President Nicolas Maduro and the Venezuelan people on their successful election.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela organized, in painstaking detail, a successful and fair election. President Maduro’s reelection, with a majority of the vote, is a victory for the Bolivarian revolution. Approximately 1,000,000 solidaristic delegates and election observers witnessed the July 28 presidential election. The elections were orderly and well-organized, much improved compared with great enthusiasm, despite weeks of dire predictions of violence and disruptions in the capital media.

The U.S. imperialists remain determined to overturn the gains of the Venezuelan people. They invested heavily in creating and funding opposition parties and opposition media. Daily announcements of fraudulent polls were part of the effort. Right-wing forces in Venezuela and throughout Latin America were mobilized to declare, in advance, that they would not accept the reelection of President Maduro, representing the Socialist Unity Party of Venezuela. U.S. coup efforts have intensified following the orderly election with international condemnations and violent right-wing protests.

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As this electoral victory again confirms, the people of Venezuela have determined to defend their sovereignty and build toward a brighter socialist future.
Biden se retira

Nuevo candidato, mismo partido genocida

Declaración del Partido Mundo Obrero

Mundo Obrero publicó por primera vez esta declaración, que ha sido actualizada, el 25 de julio.

Mundo Obrero se ha enterado de que, desde que el presidente Joe Biden abandonó la carrera entre él y el ex presidente Donald Trump y Kamala Harris fue elegida para postularse en lugar de Biden, Harris ha elegido al gobernador de Minnesota Tim Walz como su compañero de fórmula.

Sea cual sea el resultado de la retirada de Biden, no promete ningún cambio significativo en las posiciones políticas del Partido Democrata. Incluso si el “genocida” Joe como candidato, su apoyo al genocidio en Palestina continuará, con el apoyo demócrata y republicano a la ayuda militar continuada al Estado de apartheid sionista. Esto no cambiará con la elección de Trump o Harris.

Mundo Obrero se opondrá al racismo y la misóginia cada vez que levanten sus fea cabezas, y eso está ocurriendo ahora que Kamala Harris podría ser la primera mujer negra y sudasiática presidenta y la segunda presidencia de color de EE.UU.

Pero no nos hacemos ilusiones de que la mera elección de alguien que no sea Biden vaya a suponer ningún cambio de política en lo que respecta a la limpieza étnica en Palestina y a la guerra por poderes de Estados Unidos y la OTAN contra Rusia. No esperamos que disminuya el número de asesinatos cometidos por la policía racista, que en general ha actuado con impunidad independientemente de quién se siente en el Oficina Oval.

No esperamos que empresas como Starbucks, Amazon y Tesla den marcha atrás en su agenda antisindical, una sentencia histórica conseguida mediante la lucha de las masas que legalizó el aborto en 1973.

Detener estas injusticias requerirá una lucha masiva, y haremos todo lo que podamos para ayudar a que esto ocurra.

Tanto la explotación capitalista en casa como la guerra imperialista en el extranjero continuarán haciendo a la vieja infortunada para la clase obrera, especialmente para los más oprimidos —como ha sucedido bajo Biden. Mundo Obrero comprende la amenaza de fascismo que suponen Trump, J.D. Vance, el Proyecto 2025 y la Agenda 47. Muchos trabajadores están legítimamente asustados.

Pero la única manera de ganar, especialmente en esta era de capitalismo tardío donde los antagonismos de clase son muy agudos, es construir un movimiento global unido de toda la clase obrera y los oprimidos. Ese movimiento debe actuar en total solidaridad con la valiente lucha de resistencia por la liberación de Palestina y combatiendo cada paso del régimen imperialista estadounidense para arrastrarlo al pueblo a la guerra.

Mundo Obrero apoya incondicionalmente las protestas masivas por Palestina que tendrán lugar el 9 de agosto y durante la Convención Nacional Democrática. La marcha está exigiendo el “Fin de la ayuda de EE.UU. a Israel”, que los delegados de la convención deben ser presionados para pedir. Los delegados que representan a los votantes “no comprometidos” de las primarias en varios estados van a la convención a exigir “Ni una bomba más”. Lamentablemente, miembros del ala “progresista” del Partido Democrata, incluidos el senador Bernie Sanders y la representante Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, dieron vergonzosamente su respaldo a Biden poco antes de su retirada.

Afirmamos esto con firmeza: La capitulación y el compromiso en el tema del genocidio son aceptables.

Sube el desempleo: ¿Qué pueden hacer los trabajadores?

Por James Foster

El Promedio Industrial Dow Jones experimentó una importante caída tras el último informe de empleo, publicado el 2 de agosto, que reveló una modesta adición de 114,000 puestos de trabajo y un aumento de la tasa de desempleo hasta el 4,3%. Las noticias sobre la economía estadounidense provocaron caídas similares en los indices bursátiles de Asia y Europa.

El informe de empleo de julio de la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales fue una sorpresa para muchos, ya que los economistas habían anticipado unos resultados mucho mejores. Las predicciones medias oscilaron entre los 150,000 y 200,000 nuevos puestos de trabajo, pero la cifra real se quedó corta, sugiriendo una desaceleración en la creación de empleo. A la inquietud se sumó el aumento de la tasa de desempleo del 4,1% al 4,3%, la primera subida notable en varios meses.

El índice “más amplio” S&P 500 (caída de 2,4%) -todos ellos puntos de referencia del rendimiento de los mercados bursátiles estadounidenses- reaccionaron rápidamente a las noticias con fuertes caídas el 2 de agosto y aún más pronunciadas el 5 de agosto. Amazon, Tesla e Intel obtuvieron escasos beneficios este trimestre. La reacción del mercado de valores deja muy clara la dependencia de los mercados capitalistas del crecimiento continuo y la precariedad de un sistema económico orientado hacia el beneficio privado en lugar de satisfacer las necesidades sociales. Mientras la clase capitalista se beneficia del crecimiento económico y de las ganancias bursátiles, la clase trabajadora se lleva la peor parte de la inseguridad laboral y la inestabilidad económica. El sistema capitalista prioriza intrinsicamente la acumulación de capital privado sobre el bienestar colectivo, lo que conduce a crisis periódicas que se manifiestan como desempleo y subempleo.

La producción capitalista. El mercado de valores, impulsado por el afán de lucro de los capitalistas, reacciona ante las amenazas percibidas a la rentabilidad. Cuando la creación de empleo se ralentiza y el desempleo aumenta, los capitalistas de inversión perciben que la economía podría no ser capaz de mantener los altos márgenes de beneficio, lo que provoca una venta masiva de acciones.

La respuesta para las masas reside en su capacidad de resistencia por la liberación de Palestina y consolidar la unidad de todas las formaciones de la clase obrera. Sindicatos como United Auto Workers y American Federation of Teachers han alineado las fechas de expiración de sus convenios colectivos para el Primero de Mayo de 2028, y están llamando a todos los sindicatos a hacer lo mismo.

Esta estrategia podría conducir a un frente unido de organizaciones sindicales y ofrece la posibilidad de huelgas masivas. Pero, ¿qué es lo que realmente se necesita para contrarrestar el aumento del desempleo, la inflación, el estancamiento de los salarios, el racismo, la segregación, la violencia anti-LGBTQIA+ y el capitalismo en su totalidad? Es la unidad global de clase de todos los trabajadores, organizados y no organizados, desde Estados Unidos hasta América Latina y Palestina.

No podemos sucumbir a la vil propaganda fascista que pretende fragmentar a la clase obrera. Ya sea en los lugares de trabajo o en las calles, los trabajadores y los trabajadoras deben lograr la mayor cantidad de cambios intensificando la lucha de clases.