

Stop the invasion of Rafah!

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza is reaching another turning point.

As if in competition for war criminal of the decade, Benjamin Netanyahu has doubled down on his threat to invade Rafah, at Gaza's southern end. That's after driving most of the 2.3 million Palestinians out of the north and middle of the Strip by bombing and killing 30,000 people, mainly civilians — including 12,500 children — and wounding over 70,000 more people. The Israeli assault on Rafah began Feb. 11 and massacred 100 civilians, most of them children, the first day.

No one expects the Israeli regime or its U.S. accomplices to act mercifully to prevent what many people have described as a looming humanitarian catastrophe.

That means it's up to the massive worldwide movement in solidarity with Palestine to redouble its efforts to isolate Israel and its imperialist backers.

That the Israeli prime minister has outlived his shelf life has long been obvious. Netanyahu told George Stephanopolous of ABC News and his viewers Feb. 10 that if Israel agrees to a ceasefire, it loses the war. What Netanyahu omitted is that if the war ends, it also means he will lose the next election and would face prison on corruption charges.

Netanyahu's personal political predicament coincides with the genocidal push of the entire Zionist project. To achieve a victory — expulsion or elimination of the Palestinian population — no crime is too heinous, be it starving a million civilians or wrecking every home, hospital, school, university and mosque in Gaza.

Yet Netanyahu sounds desperate. Despite Israel's relentless assault on Gaza's people, it has failed to

dismantle the Palestinian resistance. Hamas and the other liberation organizations are still fighting.

The Palestinian people have endured horrific concentrated bombing, witnessed by the world. Now the Israeli Occupation Force demands the Palestinians move away from the south of Gaza, where the Israeli assault had driven them. The Feb. 11 New York Times reports that many Palestinians are refusing to make what would be a third or fourth move since October 2023.

Netanyahu's Washington cronies, who have aided his war crimes and given support to all his lies, are now trying to fake some distance from him. President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken declare that they have demanded of Netanyahu that Israel protect civilian lives should the IOF invade Rafah.

While he talks of mercy, Biden demands more billions of dollars from Congress for weapons for Israel — along with Ukraine and Taiwan. Biden and Blinken just want to avoid blame for Israel's war crimes in its region.

But Israel is the U.S. ally, its tool to maintain imperialist control of the region. Netanyahu and Co. are carrying out genocide. Biden and Co. are arming it.

The International Court of Justice ruled that Israel is plausibly committing genocide. A U.S. federal court ruled that Biden, Blinken and their cronies are plausibly complicit.

The court rulings legitimize the popular struggle against Israel's genocidal acts. That means the movement in the U.S. that demands an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza has the legal and moral authority to obstruct Israel's further attack on Palestinians in Gaza. It has the right to boycott, divest, sanction and throw shoes

WORKERS WORLD editorial



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Feb. 5, 2024. Vibrant movement in the U.S. demands no funding for Israel.

in the gears of the war machine sending arms to Israel.

Authorities who try to repress this movement's activities or slander it as anti-Jewish, be they elected officials or university administrators, are themselves complicit in genocide.

The urgent demand worldwide is: Stop the invasion of Rafah!

The urgent demand within the U.S. is: No U.S. aid to Israel! □

Protest hits Hulu for defending genocide

By Tony Murphy
New York City

Responding to a vicious ad Hulu ran that defended Israel's genocide against Palestinians, which aroused justified hostility on social media, activists held a 200-person protest that took the anger to Hulu's New York City office Feb. 9. Workers World Party and the Bronx Anti-War Coalition led the ad-hoc united



WW PHOTO

The blame for promoting genocide is laid at Hulu's doorstep at 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, Feb. 9, 2024.

front at the action, which included the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Network.

The International Court of Justice had ruled that Israel was plausibly committing genocide in Gaza. Disney-owned Hulu then started running an ad, paid for by Israel, that blames Hamas for the massive suffering of the people of Gaza, which lies in rubble caused by Israeli bombing.

The ad used AI-generated images to depict Gaza as a fictional, tourist destination that might exist — "if it weren't for Hamas."

Israel's 75-year occupation of Palestine; the siege of Gaza by Israel since 2006; the 30,000 civilians, about 12,500 of them children, killed since October 7; the amputations without anesthesia; the Israeli Occupation Force's bombing of schools, hospitals and cultural institutions — the ad stood truth on its head by blaming all of that on the Palestinian resistance.

The social media outrage to Hulu's propaganda — which serves to defend Israel's genocide against Palestinians — was swift and strong. The street action concretized that outrage.



Outside Hulu's NYC office, Feb. 9, 2024.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Since the Feb. 9 protest, Israel launched a vicious bombing campaign on the city of Rafah — where the Israelis had directed Palestinians to flee earlier. Some 100 people were killed, with social media users seeing horrific scenes of survivors, all civilians, emerging bloodied and dazed from bombed areas.

The New York Times headline that evening reinforced the distorted coverage: "Israel Says It Will Protect Civilians."

Protest laid at Hulu's doorstep

The building housing Hulu's offices was protested early Feb. 9, when activists left body bags and a sign saying "Hulu promotes genocide" at the door.

Later that day, students, leaders in

the Puerto Rican struggle, anti-Zionist Orthodox Jewish groups, socialist organizations, Palestinian rights organizations, LGBTQIA+ groups, speakers from Peru and Swaziland and the Rude Mechanical Orchestra gathered at New York subway hub Union Square during after-work rush hour for a rally, before marching to Hulu headquarters.

Before the night was over, the IOF-trained New York Police Department arrested one of the organizers, Richie Merino, charging him later with making "unreasonable noise." Cops violently shoved another to the ground. Arbitrary arrests, aggressive tactics and violent police repression have increased against

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pro-Palestine actions here recently.

That same day, Instagram management took down the social media account of Within Our Lifetime, the largest Palestinian rights organization in New York, which has led numerous marches of thousands of people.

At Union Square, Neturei Karta, an anti-Zionist Orthodox Jewish group, sent seven of its members with placards that said “Free Palestine,” “State of Israel does not represent world Jewry,” and “Israel is responsible for 75 years of tragic bloodshed.”

Rabbi David Feldman told the crowd: “We stand here as Jewish people, and we say that we are even more pained when all of this is being done supposedly in our name. The Jewish religion is sadly being misused to justify all these crimes [against Palestine]. People think that standing up against this occupation is antisemitic. People think that all Jews support this occupation and this genocide. This is not the case. Masses of Jewish people are disturbed by and are against what is taking place.”

Larry Holmes, First Secretary of Workers World Party addressed the offensive nature of the AI segment of the ad, calling it “an insult to every people who have fought against colonialism everywhere in the world down through history. It’s saying they could turn Gaza into the French Riviera if there was another Nakba to push people off their land, and the ones who don’t go will get killed.”

A standout moment of the Union Square pre-march rally came when Kneeco from Bronx Boricua Resistance was speaking. The NYPD arrogantly demanded the sound equipment be shut off. As protesters yelled “Shame!” at the

cops, Kneeco continued in a voice that could be heard for blocks without amplification.

“I don’t need a megaphone!” Kneeco said as the crowd roared. “Everything that I have to say right now is being amplified on a global scale! As a media streaming service, with licensing for countless visual works, Hulu has proven that the roots of its interests and services are in increasing its capital and in siding with the Zionist settler-colonialist entity.”

The crowd then marched to Hulu’s offices nearby, crowding into the sidewalk in front of the building. After brief speeches and chants of “Hulu, Hulu, you’re a liar, stop protecting colonizers,” and “Hulu, hulu, you can’t hide, you’re promoting genocide!” the people marched 30 blocks to Times Square, stopping along the way at Starbucks to protest bosses’ anti-union policies.

Police used protesters’ use of amplified sound as a pretext to arrest one of the protest leaders, laughably issuing a summons for “unreasonable noise.” Organizers said no noise could be too loud to demand a ceasefire and an end to the Israeli occupation. And they saw other reasons for the arrest.

Merino, a leader of the Bronx Anti-War Coalition, said: “People all along the march supported us, and some joined us. That’s why the IOF-trained police made their arrest. They fear the solidarity of the masses here with the Palestinians. But they can’t stop people from identifying with the people suffering and wanting to join the movement to stop it.”

Bronx Antiwar Coalitions response to Hulu’s ad: tiktok.com/t/ZT8cpxDt5/

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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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