



As Israel attacks Rafah

Protests demand— Stop racist genocide



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia solidarity

By Joe Piette

As we go to press, Israel has escalated its airstrikes in southern Lebanon, resulting in an increased number of civilian casualties and destruction of homes and industries.

Organized by the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition, over 5,000

people came out on Feb. 13, to express their outrage and disgust at the U.S./Israeli attacks on Rafah, and the threats of a full-scale invasion by Israeli Occupation Forces into southern Gaza.

Demonstrators gathered at City Hall for a spirited march to Rittenhouse Square in the early evening. As the march circled

City Hall, and during the march down South Broad Street, more protesters joined in. After circling Rittenhouse Square, a rally was held at Locust and 18th streets, where speakers included Asantewaa Nkrumah Ture with Black Alliance for Peace, Justin Roig from Philly Boricua, and activists Brice Patterson, and Samantha Rise. □



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

End Northeastern's complicity!

On Feb. 4, over 1,200 demonstrators gathered at Roxbury Crossing station in Boston to demand Northeastern University end its support for the ongoing genocide in Gaza and drop frame-up charges against three NEU students, accused of “violating the student code of conduct.”

The action was organized by the Boston Coalition for Palestine, which include Palestine House of New England, Workers World Party, Huskies for a Free Palestine and United American Indians of New England (UAINE). Read more at workers.org/?p=76918.

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WORKERS WORLD
editorial

ICJ's second ruling of 'plausible' genocide

Philippe Sands, Palestine's representative at the Feb. 19, 2024, ICJ hearing stated, "Israel's occupation is illegal and all U.N. member states must act to bring it to an end. No aid, no support, no complicity."

The latest ruling — or better, the lack of a ruling — by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands, on South Africa's second round of charges

against the Israeli military's genocidal assault on Rafah has clarified what will be required to stop Israel's aggression.

To enforce justice, to win liberation, even to stop the most horrible crimes of genocide, requires heroic popular struggles. It requires worldwide direct action by those in solidarity with these national liberation struggles. This was required before the Court's decision and it is required following the Court's decision.

No one can expect to win liberation or even to stop imperialist crimes based solely on a decision by an international court, even if that decision is a clear condemnation of the criminals.

It remains valuable for the workers' and peoples' movements to absorb the experience provided by the ICJ, to learn from the experience and to determine how, and if, events like the ICJ ruling can be used to advance the people's struggle.

The rulings provide at least two important lessons for the working-class movement.

The first and negative lesson is that the imperialist regimes — the U.S., its historic NATO allies, plus Japan and Australia — still dominate the existing international institutions like the United Nations and its international courts. What was significant in this case is that the ICJ seemed to

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Black History means struggle

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Honor Black History Month! Support WW!

During this Black History Month, Workers World newspaper expresses solidarity with the resistance movements fighting against the U.S.-backed Israeli siege of Gaza, which, in its ruthless military campaign, has killed thousands of Palestinians, starved many more, destroyed most buildings and attempted to obliterate their history and culture.

Our newspaper hails these heroes and their courageous allies in the Arab world who are confronting the Zionist behemoth. We are proud to print and post their statements online. WW congratulates South Africa for charging Israel with deliberate genocidal acts at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The white supremacy that underlies the Israeli state's warfare and its unending brutal mistreatment of the Palestinian people also permeates life under capitalism in the U.S. and worldwide.

Every struggle — from fighting for living-wage jobs and health care to ending police terror, from winning affordable housing to defending voting rights — is rooted in the centuries-long battle to end this country's horrific history of racism.

The ongoing legacy of enslavement — that violent form of superexploitation — reemerged in new forms with the demise of Black Reconstruction. That's why every month, not just February, WW chronicles the struggles of peoples of African descent and their allies to eradicate systemic white supremacy in every sphere.

Throughout WW newspaper's history, our pages have commemorated Black History Month and celebrated Black Liberation Movement heroes. Our pages and website workers.org cover the movements to free political prisoners — such as Mumia Abu-Jamal and Imam Jamil Al-Amin — and to honor the legacies of trailblazing

Black women, such as Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks, Ella Baker and Fannie Lou Hamer.

WW gears our coverage of the Black struggle here and elsewhere in the African diaspora toward breaking imperialist chains and promoting the principles of self-determination and sovereignty. Oppressed nationalities — including the Palestinians — have the right to fight to end all inequality, injustice and white supremacy — by any means necessary!

WW needs your support!

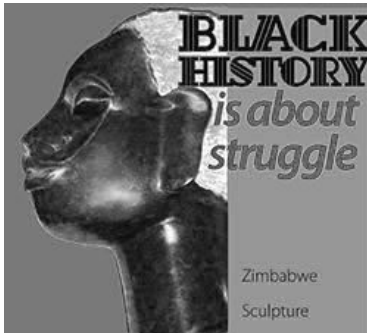
This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help print this socialist newspaper and support workers.org., which was founded in the early 1990s, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper's PDF is displayed.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people's movements against racism and war and for the rights of women, workers, migrants, LGBTQ2S+ people and disabled people. The website is a resource for political activists.

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

Join the WW Supporter Program: Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 a year? Contributing \$50 or more will entitle you to receive the 12 print issues a year, email links to articles posted online and, upon request, the book "What road to socialism?"

Your donations can help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email address to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10001.



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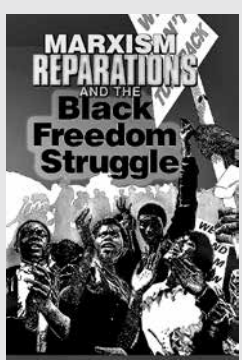
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Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

Edited by Monica Moorehead

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

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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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No slam dunk for 76ers arena

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

When the billionaires who own the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team made their announcement on July 21, 2022, that they intend to build a new arena — 76 Place — on the edge of the city’s Chinatown community, they didn’t expect the opposition pushback to last this long. Now, 18 months later, the No Arena Coalition is stronger and larger than ever and shows no sign of going away.

When the Philadelphia City Council held their first 2024 session on Jan. 25, which included all the newly elected council members, Chinatown community members and their supporters held a packed press conference in the rain behind a large banner reading: “No Arena in the Heart of our City!”

Speakers emphasized that Council member Mark Squilla, in whose district the proposed arena would fall, promised to oppose any public funds being squandered on the unneeded sports arena. Many participants entered City Hall after the press conference to personally tell each council member that a large majority of city residents oppose the

\$1.5 billion project. Activists are being asked to turn out every Thursday to keep pressure on the City Council.

Fight against predatory developers

What started a year and a half ago as Chinatown’s battle for survival has grown into a citywide fight against predatory development. People across the region who cherish Chinatown and will fight to defend it are linked with everyone who wants a say in the future of the city.

A favorable impact study on 76Place, conducted by economic consultant CSI, was commissioned and paid for by the sports team. CSI has been the go-to consultant used to justify arenas and other big development projects around the U.S. But several other studies, which use more recent data, conclude that arenas provide little to no benefit to cities, and can result in loss of revenue and jobs for existing businesses.

Timothy Kellison’s “Studies on Sports Stadiums and Environmental Justice,” found, among other concerns, that: “Stadium development catalyzes gentrification and contributes to the displacement of marginalized populations.” (tinyurl.com/4y9vvcpy)

Hundreds of activists from many of Philadelphia’s neighborhoods, also threatened by gentrification and displacement, converged on the Arch Street United Methodist Church on Feb. 3 to meet in person and discuss strategy, tactics and mobilization. No Arena Washington Square West, a neighborhood group opposed to the proposed arena on Market Street just north of their community, attended the event and

brought their own fact sheet citing recent research that disputes the CSI study.

The displacement-for-profit model is all over Philadelphia. No neighborhood should have to step aside and get out of the way when a project poses an existential threat to the neighbors, businesses, and families that make our city special. The people deserve a say in our city’s future!

No Arena in Chinatown! □



Hundreds of Chinatown supporters denounce proposed 76ers arena, Philadelphia, Jan. 25, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Solidarity with migrant workers! Smash racism!

By Daphne Barroetad

This talk was given at a Workers World Party branch discussion in Buffalo, New York, on Feb. 13.

The “border crisis” is a human ethics crisis in the greater class war.

Over the past two weeks, a grouping of Christo-fascists who call themselves the “Army of God” and the “Take Our Border Back” convoy, has assembled a car caravan for the purpose of protesting the large influx of immigrants seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. While they claim they will eventually wield over 700,000 cars in their caravan, as of this writing the average estimate across multiple news sources yields a total of 300 cars.

Ultra-conservative political and media figures ranging from Sarah Palin to Alex Jones are participating in this racist convoy. What may not seem apparent is that politicians from both bourgeois parties are, in effect, supporting the underlying sentiment behind this fascist spectacle through the establishment and support of Congress’s newest “bipartisan border deal.”

This bill contains several components, including military and other financial assistance for Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan; establishment of partial border shutdowns; a tightening of asylum rules to increase the burden of proof to establish “cause for asylum;” and allowing ICE and Border Patrol officers to make asylum determinations in detention center hearings without the presence of lawyers unless specifically requested and paid for by the plaintiff or aid organization. (PBS NewsHour, Feb.5).

While debate rages on in the Senate and House of Representatives, corporate media outlets from across the U.S. mainstream political spectrum are focusing on this “special news segment,” and the varying debates between Republicans and Democrats. U.S. government officials have, for decades, created a media spectacle out of so-called “crises at the border” and other “Latin American crises.”

Ruling class foments anti-immigrant racism

What hides behind extreme or alarming rhetoric wielded by the ruling class and their puppets is a political fire set by decades of U.S. imperialism and by the remnants of colonialism on these lands.

Here are some noteworthy examples: Under President Reagan, the U.S. funded and sent CIA operatives to distribute training manuals and arms to the “Contras” in Nicaragua to destabilize the revolutionary Sandinistas because of the U.S. fear of communism. President Nixon declared the “War on Drugs” — a massive media spectacle — which the CIA was behind through their use of cocaine and other drug sales to add funds to their arms-dealing operations in Latin America.

From 1953 through 1954, President Eisenhower

deported over 1.3 million Mexican and other Latiné people, including those with U.S. citizenship and those who were living on their ancestral lands in what is now the U.S. Southwest.

In each of these examples, consent of the public was manufactured by the use of “public safety” or “national sovereignty” rhetoric. The degree to which racism behind this language is overt or covert, depends on the public figure in question.

Every time a U.S. official creates a spectacle out of these actions, they are doing it to preserve the power of the U.S. settler-colonial project and its imperialist empire by turning groups of working-class and oppressed people against one another. The variety of argumentation in public mass media ranging from liberal to fascist is all beholden to the same structures of white supremacy and capitalism, but just dress it in different ways.

Granting asylum to Latiné people within the colonial borders of this country is not just a “nice thing to do.” Rather, it is a necessary part of reparations for over two centuries of damage done by the U.S. to the peoples of Latin America. To those living in the U.S., on reading the previous sentence, many are wondering, “How will we be able to do this if the U.S. doesn’t have enough money or resources to help the working-class folks already living here?”

‘Fund people’s needs, not imperialist wars’

Know that this contradiction is created by our class enemy — the bourgeoisie — which willingly gives away billions of dollars in military aid to the ruling classes of other capitalist states which in turn use it to oppress more members of our class.

This same class enemy is willing to spend millions of dollars on the prison-industrial complex and target Black and Brown, trans feminine and undocumented persons, instead of repairing the infrastructure like roads and city plumbing or investing in public education. This ruling class needs the support of working-class and oppressed people to keep its systems of power and domination alive for the foreseeable future.

It is time for these countries’ governments — especially those which are part of running the imperialist world order — to take responsibility for the climate crisis, wars, famines and other disasters they have directly or indirectly caused and make reparations and shelters for those they have harmed.

Liberation movements = powerhouses

In the mid-20th century in the U.S., the liberation movements of nationally oppressed peoples were powerhouses for our class. Groups like the Brown Berets and Black Panthers revealed to many in our class the class contradictions present and engaged them in a people’s movement that won many concessions from the ruling

class, many of which we still hold (at least on paper) today. Both the FBI, working inward, and the CIA, working outward, managed to destabilize our movements and attempted to divide us against one another.

To this day, liberal ideologues and conservative media messaging aim to divide our class and convince many people that pushing within the state apparatus will bring about the liberation of a specific group of people. This is a lie.

At the border lies a crisis of human ethics. Children are ripped from their families. They often are “sponsored” entry into the U.S. by individuals who work for larger capitalists who are looking for a source of cheap “underground” labor in factories and construction sites.

The detention facilities migrants are forcibly placed in are, in effect, concentration camps. Razor wire and recycled circular saw blades lay bare in rivers and maim migrants who have traveled hundreds or thousands of miles in the desperate search for a new home and who mistakenly thought they found a semi-safe place to cross.

Fascist gun store owners in Texas and other states near the border profit off the “great replacement” theory and other racist conspiracies directed at Latiné immigrants and other peoples of color. This xenophobia is not isolated to the Americas. But the working-class peoples of South and Central America are expressing a deepening solidarity with others throughout the Global South.

Latin American solidarity with Palestine

In much of Latin America there is a protest slogan which, when translated, says: “From Mexico to Palestine, tear down the walls!” This is referring to the security apparatuses of both Israel and the U.S., as well as the imprisonment of refugees. While the exact figures are still being calculated by U.N. officials, current reports available on the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) website show that there were over 100 million refugees in 2022 and 2023.

The genocide in Palestine has undoubtedly increased this number by a significant amount. The violence enacted, ultimately by settler colonialism and the global imperialist powers, exists as an ongoing force of destruction and displacement across continents.

All of this violence and these problems are part of the greater contradictions, and ultimately war, between the working class and the ruling class. The only salve to these problems is the one detailed by thinkers like Marx and Lenin: The working class and oppressed peoples of the world, as a global class, must overthrow every appendage of capital and usher in a new order that they run themselves.

In the meantime, we must take every opportunity to act in solidarity with working-class and oppressed peoples everywhere and organize to fight back. □

After years of prison neglect

Mumia Abu-Jamal's health deteriorates



By **Betsey Piette**

Family, friends and supporters of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal are once again sounding the alarm regarding his deteriorating health. Recent visitors are reporting that the severe long-term skin condition that causes him great discomfort, including painful around-the-clock itching, has returned with a vengeance.

Mumia, who will turn 70 on April 24, has been unjustly incarcerated for over 42 years, much of that time in solitary confinement on death row in Pennsylvania. In late 2011, he was finally released from death row and moved into the general population at SCI Mahanoy, where he is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole – in other words, death by incarceration.

As a result of a 2016 appeal filed by attorneys Judith Ritter and Sam Spital, in late December 2018 Common Pleas Judge Leon Tucker granted Mumia the right to appeal his 1982 murder conviction. In early 2019, new evidence was discovered by the attorneys in six previously undisclosed evidence boxes uncovered by Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner.

However, in late March 2023, Mumia's ongoing legal battle for release was dealt a setback when Judge Lucretia Clemons from the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas filed notice of her intent to dismiss Abu-Jamal's appeal petition based on that new evidence. Appeals of Clemons' ruling are in process.

With ample evidence of police, prosecutorial and judicial misconduct in the case, supporters continue to demand that Krasner use his authority to free Mumia.

Years of poor prison diet, limited exercise and possibly toxic prison water have jeopardized the health and well-being of Mumia and all the other incarcerated men who



are experiencing skin irritation and unexplained sores. Since 2016, Mumia has experienced bloodied open wounds all over his body, severe itching and hardening, leather-like skin conditions, thought to be related to a hepatitis C infection which had gone untreated for years.

After taking the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) to court in January 2017, Mumia won a lawsuit when U.S. District Court Judge Robert D. Mariana determined that not awarding Mumia treatment for hepatitis C would be "cruel and unusual punishment." But the unnecessary delay in treatment appears to have left him with other health issues.

In March 2021, Mumia lost 30 pounds while ill from COVID-19; at the same time he was still dealing with the severe skin condition. On April 19, 2021, he underwent double bypass heart surgery. His doctor then prescribed a cardiac-healthy diet and regular exercise. However, for nearly three years the prison has failed to provide Mumia with the required diet. Exercise for all prisoners at SCI Mahanoy, including Mumia, has been restricted for months.

Prisoners deserve health care!

Activists concerned not just with Mumia's health, but also with the prison conditions impacting thousands of aging incarcerated people, issued a Call to Action that began Feb. 15.

Calls on behalf of Mumia should be made to the following prison officials, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET: Superintendent at SCI Mahanoy Bernadette Mason, 570-773-2158; and Secretary of Corrections at PA DOC, Dr. Laurel R. Harry, 717-728-4109; and Deputy Secretary Central Region, Robert Gimble 717-728-4122, ext. 4123.

A suggested sample script is: "Mumia Abu-Jamal (aka Wesley Cook) #AM 8335, had double bypass heart surgery in 2021 and has had other serious health issues, including COVID 19 and hepatitis C. We are therefore demanding that Mumia be provided with regular daily exercise, clean water, a cardiac-healthy diet and preventive care and screening."

The Call to Action concludes with this statement by the American Medical Association Journal of Ethics: "There are legal, ethical, social and public health reasons why prisoners, as wards of the state, must be supplied with health care. The legal reasons for providing health care to prisoners were stipulated in the 1976 Supreme Court Estelle v. Gamble decision, in which the Court held that deprivation of health care constituted cruel and unusual punishment, a violation of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution." □

Stop First Amendment rights violations in Pennsylvania prison!

By **Joe Piette**

Bryant Arroyo has been held in Administrative Custody (AC) in the Restricted Housing Unit at State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Coal Township in Pennsylvania since Jan. 29. His only "crime" was insisting on the rights supposedly guaranteed by the First and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Under Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) regulations for AC status, Arroyo is denied any rights to "radio, tablets/kiosk access, television, or telephone calls (except emergency or legal telephone calls)." The loss of tablet use means he cannot communicate with anyone by email. He may be held in his cell for 23 hours a day. "The opportunity to shower and shave shall be offered three times per week" is in the regulations, but in fact Arroyo is only allowed to shower on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (tinyurl.com/29red648)

It's not total isolation, Arroyo told Workers World newspaper: "We're all in the block, everybody, usually single cells by ourselves but you can talk, you can yell, you know by raising your voice up through the window and then have a conversation like that or next door through the vent with the person who's next to you."

SCI Coal Township officials removed Arroyo from the General Population because of an article William "Billy" Rinick wrote for Workers World describing his struggles for disability rights and justice there. (workers.org/2024/01/76247/)

Rinick – an incarcerated person with disabilities – has filed multiple grievances and lawsuits in the last year on disability issues including:

- The failure to provide disability gym sessions for disabled incarcerated.
- The failure to include disability ramps in all of the prison's fire exits, in violation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.
- The failure to hire people with disabilities in the gym or law library.
- The failure to provide a necessary prosthetic foot that Rinick needs.

Those were some of the issues raised in the WW article published Jan. 18, which SCI Coal Township officials refused to allow into the prison for dozens of WW readers there. They claim that including the names of prison staff accused of violating ADA policy constituted a threat to their safety.

As WW wrote in a Feb. 3 letter to the PA DOC, the article is a "whistleblower" article concerning ADA issues. "The right to speak out over perceived violations of the ADA is protected by the First Amendment and extends to incarcerated individuals. Turner v. Safely, 482 U.S. 78, 84 (1987)." (workers.org/2024/02/76705/)

Too many subscribers, too much influence

As a well-known jailhouse lawyer and writer for WW, Arroyo is being retaliated against, charged with "colluding with inmate Rinick (FN9690) to get an article from the Workers World newspaper introduced into the facility ... that could cause a threat to the inmate, staff, or facility security." (DC 141, Misconduct Report F-024154)

Even though charges against Arroyo were dismissed after two hearings, he is still being held in isolation in AC status and is facing a transfer to another state facility.

At one of Arroyo's hearings, a prison official stated: "Although Arroyo and Rennick say they do not have any

influence over the block, the Workers World magazine subscriptions now stand at over 43 on Charlie Block. The increases in subscriptions on CB are indicative of Rennick and Arroyo's influence and demonstrate their ability to organize the inmate population. There was a drastic increase in subscriptions after printing the Jan. 18 article and then again after posting the Feb. 3 article.

"In the Feb. 3 article, Arroyo was quoted as saying all correctional staff members waived their lives to become employed by the PA DOC. If distributed to the general population, this statement could create an unstable security environment."

Arroyo was arguing prison staff are exposed to dangers every day – it's part of their job and why they sign a waiver when they get hired. As employees of the state whose salaries are paid for through tax funds, the public has a right to know when DOC staff members violate state or federal laws. Officials cannot deny the constitutionally protected right to free speech with the excuse that publishing staff names in an article is dangerous.

As Arroyo argued at his hearing (DC 141, F-024154), "prison walls don't form barriers that separate us prisoners from the protections of the U.S. Constitution."

Readers are asked to call PA DOC Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs Diana Woodside, who's in charge of what publications are allowed into PA DOC facilities, at 717-728-4119. Demand that she uphold the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment and allow Workers World newspaper issue Vol. 66, No. 3 into SCI Coal Township.

Also call SCI Coal Township Supervisor Thomas McGinley at 570-644-7890. Tell him Bryant Arroyo (CU-1126) is being unfairly punished for exercising his constitutional right to free speech and tell McGinley to release Arroyo from Administrative Custody and return him to the General Population. Demand that if he is to be transferred to another facility, send him to one of his choosing, so he can be close to his family.

Arroyo needs funds to continue his lawsuit against the state's unconstitutional actions. You can contribute through JPay.com, inserting Bryant Arroyo (CU-1126) when asked. □



Grievance and hearing documents arrayed behind the Jan. 18 Workers World article. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Women detainees in Israeli jail describe cells as 'burial chambers'

By Palestine Information Center

As we go to press, a United Nations Human Rights report was issued Feb. 19, 2024, stating that Palestinian women and girls under Israeli detention in Gaza have systematically suffered from various forms of sexual assault including rape, stripped naked and searched by male guards. The article below was published by the Palestine Information Center on Feb. 15. (palinfo.com)

The Commission of Detainees Affairs stated that 60 Palestinian female detainees in the Israeli Damon prison are living in tragic conditions, quoting one of the prisoners as saying that their prison is like a "burial chamber."

The Commission pointed out that the female detainees are "completely isolated from the outside world, with no communication or visits allowed, and there are significant restrictions on lawyer visits."

This comes "amid severe sanctions imposed since the start of the Israeli aggression on Gaza on October 7, with complete absence of the role of the Red Cross, and all humanitarian and rights organizations," it said, warning that "detainees are in real danger."

The Commission shared the testimony provided by the prisoner Dina Khoury, 24, from the city of Haifa, who told a lawyer from the Commission, "We are living in burial chambers."

According to the Commission, Khoury recounted details of her ordeal since her arrest on Oct. 11 last year, stating that she faced "threats of murder, rape, insults, beatings, isolation, and deprivation of the most basic human necessities," on charges of "incitement via social media."

Khoury said: "A police force raided my house and arrested me. I remained bound hands and feet, then an interrogator came and told the policeman to open the closet and put her head in it so that our youth

could come and rape her, and they also threatened to kill me and shoot me in the head."

Khoury continued, "I was transferred to Sharon Prison, where the series of torture and abuse continued, and I was transferred to a room resembling a cell, which is narrow and contains nothing. Its windows are high and have iron bars on them without plastic or glass, letting in very cold air, and it's full of bedbugs, with very thin mattresses, and full of polluted water."

Khoury says, "Female prisoners are constantly subjected to strip searches, we almost die from cold and hunger, there are no clothes or even soap for bathing, and the daily break (outside cells) is prohibited, and the food is extremely bad."

The statement explained that Khoury "suffered a seizure and lost consciousness, and when she was transferred to the clinic, it was found that she was suffering from low blood pressure, low blood sugar,



PHOTO: ALI JADALLAH - ANADOLU AGENCY

Protest demanding freedom for Palestinian women held in Israeli jails, Gaza City, May 2023.

and rapid heart rate, while the prison doctor merely advised her to drink water."

The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) have detained 70 female prisoners in their prisons, according to a previous statement by the Commission.

The IOA has launched a series of arrests since October 7, targeting Palestinians from the West Bank, Jerusalem, and 1948 occupied territories, coinciding with a devastating war on the Gaza Strip that left tens of thousands of civilian casualties, most of them children and women.

The war on the Gaza Strip caused an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe and massive infrastructure damage. □

Israeli forces named in attack on Iran

By Otis Grotewohl

U.S. and Israeli criminal military actions in the Middle East hit a new low with the attacks on two major gas pipelines in Iran. The detonations occurred simultaneously in two different regions of the country in the early morning of Feb. 14.

One explosion hit the mainline gas route that runs from Iran's central provinces of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, while the other hit in the southern Fars province.

Strong evidence suggests that the Israeli state carried out the attack. Even the historically pro-imperialist and pro-Zionist New York Times published an article Feb. 16, entitled, "Israel Was Behind Attacks on Major Gas Pipelines in Iran, Officials Say."

The Feb. 16 article reports: "Israel carried out covert attacks on two major natural gas pipelines inside Iran this week, disrupting the flow of heat and cooking gas to provinces with millions of people, according to two Western officials and a military strategist affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps." The same piece highlights how energy experts believe the attacks knocked out an estimated "15%

of Iran's natural daily gas production."

The article continues: "Israel has long targeted military and nuclear sites inside Iran — and assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists and commanders, both inside and outside of the country. Israel has also waged cyberattacks to disable servers belonging to the oil ministry, causing turmoil at gas stations nationwide."

The corporate media had refused earlier to acknowledge the possibility of U.S. or Israeli involvement in the attack. Just a few years ago, such a critique of Israeli actions seemed unimaginable in any U.S. bourgeois publication. The Times article still downplays U.S. complicity.

U.S., Israel commit terror on massive scale

U.S. forces themselves have been responsible for other attacks on Iran in recent weeks. Many Western media outlets recently disclosed how the U.S. conducted a "covert" cyberattack against an Iranian military ship. The reports claim the ship had been collecting intelligence on cargo vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, with the goal of obstructing any successful collaboration between Iran

and Ansarullah forces in Yemen.

The U.S. has openly carried out air strikes against Yemen, Syria and Iraq in recent weeks. The air attacks aim to intimidate all anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist forces in the region, including those in Iran. The Biden administration often uses alleged alliances with Iran as a major pretext for its orders to bomb Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

Meanwhile, Israel has continued to commit horrific crimes against the people of Gaza by specifically targeting hospitals and other health care facilities. United Nations organizations demanded access to Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza after Israeli terrorists raided the complex Feb. 15.

World Health Organization spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic held a press briefing



Times Square, New York City protest VVV PHOTO

and told reporters, "We are, at the U.N., coordinating, asking, and looking for — urgently — access to the hospital." (Washington Post, Feb. 15). Israel's raid on the hospital displaced many patients and workers and left the facility without power, oxygen supplies or water, resulting in deaths.

Less than a week earlier, Israeli forces raided Al Amal Hospital in western Khan Younis in Gaza. This raid also forced relocation and mass suffering.

Iran has proven to be a key ally to the Palestinian resistance against the ongoing genocide in occupied Gaza since October 2023. Iranian leaders may be able to offer more resources to the Palestinian liberation struggle than governments of other countries who also want to see an end to the continuous killings in Gaza. The U.S. and its settler-colonial client state, Israel, view Iran as a threat to their power and hegemony in West Asia.

Anti-imperialist activists and advocates of Palestinian freedom must defend Iran against violent attacks, as well as uphold its material ability to support the justified resistance. □

U.S.-NATO war on Russia in Ukraine ends second year

By G. Dunkel

On Feb. 16, the Kiev regime withdrew Ukraine's army from the key town of Avdiivka in a precipitous, disorganized fashion. It is not clear if Ukrainian forces have a stable, fall-back defensive line. This development followed months of turmoil within the Ukraine regime and among the top military leadership.

The conflict between Russia and Western imperialism over Ukraine, which had been simmering since 2014, escalated in the months before Feb. 24, 2022, as NATO held maneuvers in Eastern Europe and up to the borders of Russia. The U.S. and NATO ignored invitations from the Russian government for negotiations to end the threats to its sovereignty.

That Feb. 22 the Russian government moved decisively to stop U.S. and European imperialism's maneuvers aimed at absorbing Ukraine and weakening Russia, and Russian forces entered Ukraine.

At that time, instead of supporting

efforts for quick negotiations, Washington imposed sanctions on Russia, designed to smash and crush Russia's economy quickly. Military and economic aid poured into Ukraine's regime. According to a European Union report, the EU has provided \$96 billion in financial, military, humanitarian and refugee assistance, with \$30 billion of this sum being direct military aid.

Meanwhile, as of last October, the U.S. had provided "over \$60 billion in funding and equipment through military, economic and humanitarian aid." (usafacts.org, Oct. 4, 2023)

As a result of the U.S. pushing NATO countries to continue pouring arms into Kiev's army, tens of thousands of Ukrainian and Russian soldiers have died or been seriously injured in this conflict. Some 15% of the people living in Ukraine are external refugees, and another 20% are internally displaced. Many of the small cities and towns where the fighting has been most intense — like Avdiivka or Bakhmut — have been left in ruins.

The sanctions that the EU, and British and U.S. regimes were in such a hurry to impose in early 2022 have failed to destroy Russia's economy. That country's economy has continued to grow, albeit slowly. A report from the U.S. Congressional Research Service indicates that sanctions on Russia have had a negative impact on the world economy.

The struggle over Avdiivka began in October 2023 after the failure of the much ballyhooed Ukrainian counteroffensive. (The Ukrainian forces couldn't breach the Russian minefields, and their attack brigades were effectively targeted by Russian airpower.) Using its superiority in soldiers, while accepting heavy casualties, Russia maintained multiple ground assaults, which wore away Ukrainian defenses, which were also subject to major air assaults.

Ukraine has a population of 36.7 million people while Russia's is 143.4 million, and its economy is much larger. Only the U.S.-NATO decision

to keep supplying weapons to Kiev keeps the war going — with Ukrainians serving as cannon fodder for imperialist interests.

While most European NATO governments have mobilized to support the war aims — to the detriment of the working class in Europe — the Joe Biden administration has up to now been unable to get a new \$60 billion aid package through the House of Representatives. □



Munich, Germany, Feb. 17, 2024. Antiwar forces protest NATO forces at warmongering Security Conference, where a focus was NATO support for the Kiev regime's war with Russia. Sign in foreground reads, 'Make war on war; For peace and socialism.'

No queer liberation without a free Palestine!

By Alice Y.

LGBTQIA2S+ solidarity with anti-colonial movements has existed for some time. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Gay Liberation Front, a group fighting for civil rights in the United States, had famously borne the flags of North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front in demonstrations and processions — an act done explicitly in support of the Vietnamese resistance.

The Palestinian Aswat — Palestinian Feminist Center for Gender and Sexual Freedoms — expressed solidarity with the Cuban Five during their unjust imprisonment. In 2006, Helem — an LGBTQIA+ rights organization in Lebanon — helped inspire the boycott of Pride celebrations taking place that year in Jerusalem.

In turn, working-class political organizations have recognized the need to show solidarity with queer peoples. Huey P. Newton of the Black Panther Party issued a statement of support for the gay liberation movement in his party's newspaper on Aug. 21, 1970. Likewise, the Young Lords Party formed an internal gay caucus.

In 1971, Youth Against War & Fascism, the youth wing of Workers World Party, formed its own Gay Caucus — now the LGBTQIA+Caucus. WWP's Chairperson Sam Marcy made the following statement soon after: "The degeneration of monopoly capitalism into state monopoly capitalism carries to an extreme all the forms of oppression which the capitalist system, in the previous epoch, had engendered and developed.

"As the crisis of the social system becomes more and more apparent, the need of the ruling class to unload its burden on the most oppressed sections of society becomes more evident. Only by dividing, only by fragmenting and continually pitting different elements of the oppressed masses against each other, can the capitalist establishment maintain its sway over all society, and hope to survive." (workers.org/2006/us/lavender-red-80)

Capitalism fosters division

Capitalism survives on the exploitation of queer people, in addition to oppressed nationalities, migrants, women, gender-oppressed people, disabled people and others. The continuous push to divide the working class and pit oppressed sections of society against each other is the innate tendency of a social order driven by, not divorced from, capital.

There is a central tendency of the owners of capital to influence society in such a way, wherein groups of people are first oppressed and then prevented from uniting with other oppressed groups. This

divide proves advantageous for the maintenance of political and economic power and the hoarding of capital.

This also prevents the oppressed masses from building power and realizing that their oppression is shared and cut from the same cloth. For oppressed groups to be in solidarity and unity with one another is to hold a knife to the throat of those who possess a monopoly on power. It is for this reason that there has been an active and painfully enduring effort to strengthen these divides. Once we are united and are conscious of our oppression, the paper-thin lie of division will crumble.



Within the context of the Palestinian genocide, it is of the utmost importance for the LGBTQIA2S+ community to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinians. We must do so, not only as individuals, but also as members of our community.

It is also important that we thwart and repudiate any attempts at pinkwashing — a deliberate endeavor designed to blur the lines as to who our friends and enemies are, such as by presenting Israel as "queer-friendly" and ignoring the oppression of Palestine. Pinkwashing is not a brand new phenomenon. It will exist as long as claims around queer rights or their suppression can be misused to delegitimize liberation movements whose aims are antithetical to that of imperialism.

Bogus rationale for pinkwashing

An article published on Oct. 27, 2023, "The Contradictions of 'Queers for Palestine'" by Billy Binion in Reason Magazine is a good example of the talking points of Israel and its demagogues. The overarching idea of the article can be summed up in its writer's own words: "Queers for Palestine" is about as convincing as 'minks for fur coats.'" This offensive statement implies that the struggle for queer rights is at odds with the liberation of Palestinians. At the heart of this argument is the idea that queer rights are entirely absent within Palestine.

Although "less than perfect," the author claims that Israel is one of the most tolerant societies for LGBTQIA+ people. Binion's reasoning negates the processes of colonization, of the specific history of Israeli occupation, and of queer history. How can it be that one of the most "tolerant societies for queer people" is currently slaughtering Palestinians, including queer Palestinians, at an unprecedented rate?

Is it true that Israeli munitions are somehow capable of differentiating queer Palestinians from the others? Is it true that Israeli bomber pilots are somehow tasked with taking tallies of queer people

Israeli propagandists do precisely this when they proclaim that LGBTQIA+ people would be "summarily executed" — in Binion's words — if they were to demonstrate in Palestine. Firstly, if one calls into question the moral character of the Indigenous population, we must then question the unstable grounds upon which the settler poses such a question.

Secondly, social phenomena are not random. If it is true that the governing authority in Gaza is explicitly against queer rights, it was settler forces that led to the creation of such a sentiment. British Mandate Criminal Code Ordinance, legislated in 1936, criminalized same-sex activity in the occupied territory of Gaza.

Colonialists imposed anti-LGBTQIA2S+ bigotry

It is the colonialists who first brought or exacerbated anti-queer sentiment and legislation into territories they occupied. This was true of Puerto Rico, Mexico and Cuba, where the Spanish colonists and their Catholic monarchs imposed great penalties on previously free sexual and gender expression.

It is true again of Palestine. The colonialists — in the wake of a Palestinian liberation movement — to manufacture public consent for their genocide, have resorted to preying on supporters of queer liberation — a liberation movement that itself existed due to the oppression of the colonists. To quote internationally renowned trans author and revolutionary Leslie Feinberg, "The white supremacist ideology replaces the colonial claim of 'bringing civilization' into imperialist claims that they are 'bringing democracy.' But Washington and Tel Aviv have brought ruthless reactionary occupations to the Middle East." (workers.org/2007/world/feinberg-0419)

It must be understood clearly who our friends and who our enemies are. If we are to advance in our struggle for queer liberation, it must be hand in hand with our siblings in Palestine — nothing short of it. We must push for the victory of the Palestinian resistance against its occupiers. We must push for a full decolonization of Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. To do anything less is concessionary, not only for the Palestinian struggle and the struggle for all nationally oppressed groups, but for our struggle as queer people.

Insofar as Palestine remains under the yoke of the Zionist regime, we must strive to break that yoke. Insofar as the burdens of a moribund system are unloaded bomb by bomb and bullet by bullet, there can never be peace. There can never be freedom for LGBTQIA2S+ people without a free Palestine. □

Palestine solidarity wins at UC Davis

By Martha Grevatt

University campuses have become a major battlefield for the Palestine solidarity movement in the U.S. Students and faculty who support Palestinian liberation have been subjected to doxxing, university discipline, arrest, firings and more. School administrators, even if they are not anti-Zionist, have been removed simply for not being strong enough in backing Israel.

But solidarity groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine have persevered and have scored some victories. "From McDonald's to Sabra to Chevron, none of our student fees that fund ASICD (Associated Students, University of California, Davis) operations will be used

to financially support 30+ companies that are complicit in Zionist violence," the University of California Davis SJP chapter said on Instagram. (middleeasteye.net Feb. 16)

The ASUCD, which is the student body government, voted 10-2 with two abstentions in favor of divesting the \$20 million in university funds drawn from student fees. The vote was for a "bill," not a "resolution," which means it changes the ASUCD bylaws — as opposed to merely expressing an opinion.

Graduate student workers, represented by the United Auto Workers, worked with SJP to get the bill passed. Activists will build on this victory to push UC Davis to divest all of its funds, including its multi-billion dollar endowment fund. □



UC Davis student rally against Israel's bombing of Gaza, Oct. 19, 2023. PHOTO: DAVISENTERPRISE.COM

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 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.

Since the Feb. 9 protest, Israel launched a vicious bombing campaign on the city of Rafah — where the Israelis had directed



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

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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 person to the ground. Arbitrary arrests, aggressive tactics and vio-

lent police repression have increased against 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 Coalition's response to Hulu's ad: [tiktok.com/t/ZT8cpxDt5/](https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT8cpxDt5/)

Philly protest demands: Free Palestine! Free Puerto Rico!

By Workers World Philadelphia bureau

Hundreds marched in a show of solidarity between Puerto Rican and Palestinian activists in Philadelphia Feb. 17. In a mile-long march from Norris Square Park to the intersection of Front and Allegheny in the Kensington section of the city where many Puerto Ricans live, participants carried signs and banners and chanted in English, Spanish and Arabic in support of a free Palestine and a free Puerto Rico.

Both nations live under forms of imperialist occupation that denies them their

self-determination and freedom. Like Palestinians who have been forced to leave their homeland by Israeli settlers, hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have been forced to leave their island nation, pushed out by the policies of the unelected fiscal control board named La Junta which incentivizes, through tax breaks, U.S. corporations and privileged non-residents to move to Puerto Rico.

Occupation is a crime, from Puerto Rico to Palestine! □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Portland, Oregon

Unions demonstrate for a free Palestine

Members of the Oregon American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1790 hosted a Unions for a Free Palestine rally in front of the Pioneer Courthouse in downtown Portland, Oregon, Feb. 11, where nearly 100 people gathered in support. Protesters demanded a complete withdrawal of the Israeli state from Palestine, citing the undemocratic use of U.S. workers' income taxes to fund the Zionist military occupation.

In a series of speeches, demonstrators identified the material connection between anti-colonialist struggles and labor struggles. One health care worker from Local 88 explained that the deteriorating

living conditions in the United States are inextricably linked with the increased militarization of the Western-backed

settler-colonial project in Israel.

The AFSCME Local 88 speaker drew parallels between her own patients, who cannot afford to treat their ailments because of the privatized health care system in the U.S., and the people of Palestine, who do not receive enough medical supplies for basic medical care.

An educator from AFSCME Local 328 added that the lack of funding for U.S. public schools is related to the systemic attack on public education in Gaza.

The event was sponsored by AFSCME Locals 88 and 328, the All-African People's

Revolutionary Party, the Party for Socialism and Liberation and Workers World Party.

Protesters asserted that their skills in medicine, education and manufacturing will not be used to increase the wealth of global capitalists and further exploit the Palestinian people or any other superexploited nations in the Global South without resistance.

Theresa from the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party said, "The implementation of scientific socialism and the collective ownership of production is the only path to liberation for all workers and all colonized and imperialized peoples."

— By Workers World Portland bureau



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Prisons, Black Liberation Movement and struggle for Palestine

By Ahmad Sa'adat

The following article, posted Oct. 15, 2018, by imprisoned Palestinian national liberation movement leader Ahmad Sa'adat — the General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — was originally published in French as the preface to the new French-language edition of "Revolutionary Suicide," by Huey Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party.

On 15 October — the anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party — we salute the profound legacy and ongoing struggle of the Black Liberation Movement, on the front lines of confrontation against U.S. racism, imperialism and capitalism. Sa'adat's article, published in English for the first time here, elucidates the common struggles and revolutionary alliances of the Palestinian and Black movements. It focuses particularly on the struggle against racist and colonial imprisonment.

— **Samidoun Palestinian Political Prisoners Network**

It is an honor to write an introduction to this book by a great leader of the Black liberation struggle in the United States, Huey P. Newton. From inside the occupier's Ramon Prison on behalf of myself, my comrades and the Palestinian prisoners' movement, we extend our clenched fists of solidarity and salute and our arms of embrace to our Black comrades whose struggle for liberation in the belly of the beast continues today against fierce repression.

From Ansar to Attica to Lannemezan, the prison is not only a physical space of confinement but a site of struggle of the oppressed confronting the oppressor. Whether the name is Mumia Abu-Jamal, Walid Daqqa or Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, political prisoners behind bars can and must be a priority for our movements. These names illustrate the continuity of struggle against our collective enemy — their legacies of organizing that reach back to the anti-colonial, liberation movements of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s to today.

Political prisoners are not simply individuals; they are leaders of struggle and organizing within prison walls that help to break down and dismantle the bars, walls, and chains that act to divide us from our peoples and communities in struggle. They face repeated isolation, solitary confinement, cruel tortures of the occupier and jailer that seek to break the will of the prisoners and their deep connection to their people.

So when we witness the escalation against our movement as we see today in the Philippines, as we see the murderous and orchestrated attacks on our Palestinian resistance, as we see the criminalization of Black people and movements, it is clear that we are still facing the situation that Huey Newton identified and confronted.

We are still seeking to defend our peoples from the relentless assaults of capitalism, Zionism and imperialism and their police and military forces. We have not yet been able to realize our dreams and transform the prisons into museums of liberation. Revolutionaries across the world struggle and dream for this future, in every movement of oppressed people. Indeed, when we speak of the prisoners movement, we are in essence speaking of Resistance.

Prisons criminalize resistance and liberation

Prisons exist for a reason, for the needs and interests of those with power. And when there are prisons to lock up the people, when there is occupation, colonialism, oppression; where there is occupation and colonization, there will be prisons and all of the laws and legal frameworks erected to legitimize exploitation, oppression and injustice and criminalize resistance and liberation.

From the Fugitive Slave Acts of the 1800s to the "terrorist lists" that seek to criminalize and isolate the resistance movements of the peoples of the world, these are reflections of a war on the people. We salute sister Assata Shakur, still struggling and free in Cuba, while facing renewed threats and "terrorist" labeling to justify hunting down this global symbol of freedom.

This also illustrates clearly that the struggle, the cause, and the movement of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Movement are not a closed file. It is an open file, an ongoing struggle and a continuing movement for justice and liberation.

As I write today, the revolutionary Palestinian left, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is marking its 50th year of struggle, a time for both celebration and review of this legacy in order to sharpen and strengthen our march toward revolutionary victory. Similarly, we have just passed the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party, whose vision for revolutionary change continues to be just as relevant today.

This is a legacy that is carried on both with ideas and with people themselves, whose histories of struggle continue to animate and inspire their communities. You could pass by the first prisoner of the PFLP somewhere on the streets of Berlin, still organizing Palestinians. You could feel the legacy of the Black Panther Party and the continuing Black struggle on the streets of Chicago, Oakland [California] and Harlem [New York].

Elders carry 'legacies of struggle as a human treasure'

There are people who carry within them the legacies of struggle as a human treasure. The experiences of the elders of our movement, especially those who have



Huey P. Newton and Ahmad Sa'adat

come through prison, stand alongside the ideas passed down through writing, books and literature in carrying on, from one generation to another, the trajectory and path of struggle toward a future in which youth are coming forward to lead Black and Palestinian revolutionary struggles for liberation.

Every political prisoner, whether they are currently in prison or not in prison, carries within them the dream and reality of liberation and what it can and must mean in practice. Today, when we look at the Black Liberation movement or the Indigenous and Native struggles in the United States and Canada, we are talking about the same enemy camp that we confront in occupied Palestine.

The bullets that assassinated Malcolm X or Fred Hampton could have been used to kill Ghassan Kanafani or Khaled Nazzal or Mahmoud Hamshari, and today we see the same tear gas and bullets shipped around the world for use against the people. We see corporations like G4S profiting from the attacks on our movements and the mass imprisonment of our people and U.S., European and Israeli police forces exchanging training with one another to escalate

racism, "counter-insurgency" and repression on the streets of our cities, camps and villages.

In our circles here in prisons, we always hope and wish to communicate to movements elsewhere and political prisoners everywhere. We want to share our experiences with one another to strengthen all of our movements for liberation and the movement to free our prisoners. The political prisoners have a firsthand experience of confrontation, and the experience of the prison can be a transformative one for a political prisoner.

It is not an individual experience but a collective one; the heroism of a prisoner is not simply to be in prison but to understand that they carry with them the leadership of a movement and a continuing struggle in a new location that continues to have international

reverberations. Georges Ibrahim Abdallah today is struggling in Lannemezan prison [in France] just as Mumia Abu-Jamal is struggling in Mahanoy [in Pennsylvania]. The heroism also does not come simply in that one has spent years in prison and now has been released; but in being a veteran of struggle who continues to carry the message of liberation for those who remain.

Political prisoners 'safeguard the flame'

The political prisoner is not weak and is not broken, despite all of their best efforts. The responsibility of the political prisoner is to safeguard the flame. This is not a role that we have sought out or worked for. But now that we are in this position we must hold our position to set an example, not to our people, who are rooted and steadfast, but to the enemy, to show that imprisonment will not work to defeat us or our people.

We carry a cause, not simply an individual search for freedom. Israel or France or the U.S. would free us, or Georges Abdallah, or Mumia Abu-Jamal, if we were willing to become tools of the system or betray our people. But instead, the prisons have generated striking examples of a culture of resistance, from art to literature to political ideas.

Today, our movements and the revolutionary movements around the world are facing very difficult times.

However, these difficult times can also hold value if we look more closely. We are paving the way for new generations of revolutionaries around the world who can still carry the demand for socialism, for people's democracy, for an alternative world.

In the era in which Newton wrote, movements and prisoners shared experiences and communicated through letters, books and art, often smuggled out of or into prisons, past censors and iron walls. Today, with all of the great revolutions in technology, political prisoners are struggling to have their words heard at all, denied access to even telephones to speak with our families and loved ones.

Why do we still consider and read and reprint the writings of Huey Newton today? Fundamentally, because his analysis and that of the Black Panther Party was right and continues to be right, valid and essential. Today, when we see the ravages of U.S. imperialism, the threats of Trump against the world and the shooting down of Black people on U.S. streets by cops, then the fundamental correctness and necessity of the Black Panthers' work is underlined.

Today, when popular movements are under attack and liberation struggles labeled as "terrorist" and criminalized, we see a massive coercive attack on our peoples. Prisons are only one form of coercion in the hands of the occupier, colonizer, capitalist and imperialist. Stripping the knowledge of the people and imposing new forms of isolation are yet more forms of coercion.

The imposition of consumerism, the stripping of peoples from their humanity, the isolation of peoples are all forms of coercion alongside the prisons that act to undermine our movements, our peoples and our visions of liberation. They want to see all of our movements isolated from one another, through the terror of the "terrorist list" and the silence of solitary confinement.

Capitalist and imperialist media blanket the world, so even here in an Israeli prison we hear about the latest technologies in the U.S. while the repression of Black people is rendered invisible. But the reality today is that every day, a little Huey or Assata or Khalida or Ishaq is being born who can carry forward the vision of their people.

Huey Newton and the Black Panthers stood for socialism, for social justice, against racism, imperialism and war, from the streets of Oakland to the refugee camps of Lebanon.

'We support the Palestinians' struggle 100 percent'

Huey Newton said: "We support the Palestinians' just struggle for liberation one hundred percent. We will go on doing this, and we would like for all of the progressive people of the world to join our ranks in order to make a world in which all people can live."

Of course, I cannot speak as an expert about incarceration in the United States today. But just looking at

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Assata Shakur

From Reconstruction to Malcolm X

Black history is about struggle

By Monica Moorehead

This article, originally entitled “Taking back Black history from the 1%,” is based on a speech given by Monica Moorehead, a Workers World newspaper managing editor, at Black History Month forums in February 2014. It has been updated and lightly edited.

Karl Marx said in 1845 that “the ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e., the class which is the ruling material force of society is at the same time its ruling intellectual force.”

Marxist theory applies to all contemporary issues, including the unfinished revolution in the U.S. known as Black Reconstruction, an outgrowth of the Civil War. Marx characterized that war as a struggle between two social systems — slavery and capitalism — which could no longer exist side by side. In supporting the North, he said in his famous work “Capital” that, “Labor in the white skin can never free itself as long as labor in the black skin is branded.”

Black Reconstruction represented the aspirations of millions of formerly enslaved people to win bourgeois democratic rights. This radical period was violently cut short by a terrorist counterrevolution, led by the former slavocracy with complicity from the federal government.

Black History Month is an important concession, rooted in this ongoing liberation struggle, but the 1% have reduced it to a shameful tool for making profits at all costs.

Take this example: “Henry Ford recognized the value of a skilled workforce — regardless of race. And when Ford became the first major corporation to pay African-American workers equal pay for equal work, it helped give birth to the Black middle class.” (“Black History and Ads Don’t Mix, Activists Say,” Washington Post, Feb. 23, 2005)

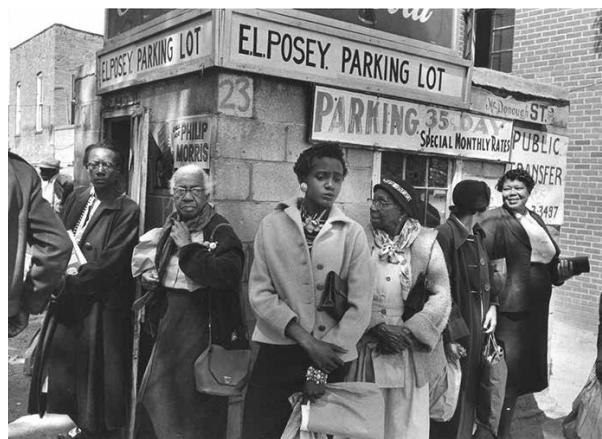
What they don’t say is that Ford promoted segregation in the cities of Inkster for Black workers and Dearborn for whites, presently an Arab and Muslim immigrant city. Ford was also a well-known Nazi sympathizer.

Many Fortune 500 corporations —

including those which employ low-wage workers or are non-union, like McDonald’s, Burger King, Wendy’s and Walmart — exploit Black History Month.

History books have demonized militant anti-slavery fighters like Nat Turner and John Brown as “fanatical.” Denmark Vesey and Gabriel Prosser, who led heroic rebellions against their slave masters, are marginalized or erased from bourgeois history.

Marcus Garvey, founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association — a million-strong worldwide organization that promoted the Back to Africa movement — was politically targeted because he dared to promote the right of Black people to separate from their racist oppressors. Defending this right on the part of the movement shows class solidarity based on the struggle against racism and national oppression.



Black women led organizing of heroic year-long boycott to desegregate buses in Montgomery, Alabama, starting in December 1955.

Bourgeois historians downplay the historical role of African American women like Ida B. Wells, a leader of the anti-lynching struggle, and Civil Rights pioneers Ella Baker and Fannie Lou Hamer. Joann Robinson of the Women’s Political Council, which organized the historic Montgomery bus boycott, wrote: “The Women’s Political Council will not wait for Mrs. [Rosa] Parks’ consent to call for a boycott of city buses. On Dec. 2, 1955, the women of Montgomery will call for a boycott to take place on Monday, Dec. 5.”

The legacies of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X have been co-opted. While representing opposite

sides of the political and ideological barricades, they both supported reparations for people of African descent. Both were expanding their worldview by linking economic and political issues, while exposing capitalism as a system. They were equally targets of the FBI’s repressive COINTELPRO arm, leading to both being assassinated.

Linking anti-racist, class solidarity

Before Malcolm X began developing an anti-imperialist perspective, he advocated the right to self-defense to win national liberation, which was the basis for his “By Any Means Necessary” message. The Black Panthers credit Malcolm X for their view on the right to armed self-defense in relationship to police repression. The Panthers exposed the inability of the capitalist government to meet the needs of the Black community and established free breakfast



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X in 1964.

programs, free health care clinics, free liberation schools and much more.

Many of Malcolm X’s radical perspectives have stood the test of time. For instance, back in 1964, he criticized Zionist Israel, saying: “The Palestinian struggle is not just a cry for justice; it’s a blistering battle for the most fundamental human rights that every living soul on this planet should inherit by birthright.

“It’s an unyielding resistance against the oppressive, suffocating grip of occupation and the callous denial of the most basic human dignity. Just as the Civil Rights Movement in the United States fought against the chains of racial

discrimination, so too do the Palestinian people strive to shatter the chains of occupation and tyranny.

“Never forget, my friends, that the Palestinians, much like African Americans in the United States, have been subjected to a heart-wrenching history of suffering and torment. The birth of Israel in 1948 brought forth the mass expulsion and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their ancestral homes and land. This is a historic injustice that continues to haunt the lives of Palestinians to this very day.

“The situation in Palestine serves as a brutal reminder of the consequences of colonialism and the ruthless dispossession of indigenous people. It is a reminder that the fight for justice knows no borders, and we must stand united in solidarity with all oppressed peoples, whether they reside in the United States, South Africa or anywhere around the world.” (youtube.com/watch?v=GoDNHnQfhHg)

In King’s speech in 1967 — “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence” — he condemned the U.S. as “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world.” He also stated: “When the bombs are dropped in Vietnam, they explode in our communities.” He called for the U.S. to pay reparations to the Vietnamese people.

Revolutionaries and activists should use historic events like Black History Month, International Working Women’s Day, May Day and LGBTQIA2S+ Pride to help push forward class unity.

The historic election of the first Black president in 2008 did not signal a post-racial society. Capitalist relations are more entrenched today than before, due to the irreversible global capitalist crisis. Black people, like immigrants, remain a super-exploited sector within an exploited working class.

It is important to support the ongoing struggle for Black liberation within the overall goal of overthrowing capitalist relations inside the U.S. and replacing them with a socialist society based on meeting the needs of human beings and the planet and winning full democratic rights.

To quote the great anti-slavery fighter Frederick Douglass: “Without struggle, there is no progress.” □

Prisons, Black Liberation Movement and struggle for Palestine

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the numbers is a stunning illustration of what is deeply wrong with the system. As Palestinians, we also face an experience of negation, of attack on our existence, being treated as lesser or non-humans for our designated racial identity. We understand through our own experiences how occupation and capitalism are all about profit and the example that U.S. prisons are creating for the world, where prisons are seen as a source of cheap and coerced free labor and a profit for capitalism.

We see how incarceration is used to control, divide and threaten communities and peoples under attack. Incarceration means a lot of money for corporations at the same time that it means a direct threat to Black children and their futures. And this is the “security solution” that Trump and U.S. imperialism is marketing to the world as a solution to the crisis of capitalism, a solution built on bloody and brutal exploitation.

Here in our cells, we can feel the reverberations of these attacks and the physical impact of them in the invasions and inspections of the special repressive units of the occupier. We also see the potential, and indeed the necessity, for movements to rise inside prisons together with those on the outside.

We see thousands of people sentenced to massive sentences of 20, 30, 40 years in prison and even more, stripping people’s freedom and taking people’s lives. Resistance is critical and it must have a real impact on people’s lives. Our sacrifice in prison has meaning when it can lead to fruits for the poor and liberation for our peoples. Our struggle must impact people’s lives in a material way.

Worldwide: Political prisoners are leaders

From Ireland to the United States to France to Palestine, political prisoners continue to be leaders in movements fighting racism, imperialism and colonialism. We also see the prisoners of the Palestinian movement facing political imprisonment around the world in the jails of the enemy — from the heroic Rasmia Odeh forced from the United States to the five prisoners for Palestine, called the Holy Land Five, held in extreme solitary confinement alongside Black strugglers, for engaging in charity work for our people, to our dear comrade Georges Abdallah who has suffered for 34 years in French prisons.

The prisons and the political prisoners are also an example of the power and necessity of “breaking the law.” The law — the law of the imperialist and the

colonizer — is used to steal the rights and resources of our people and also to justify our imprisonment and repression and criminalization. Through the collective “breaking” of the law and its power to define justice and injustice — when people, collectively, confront and “break” the law, not merely as individuals but as a collective power, it loses its claim to legitimacy. Breaking of the law must become the norm, and not the exception — the law of capitalism, imperialism and exploitation.

Political prisoners are jailed because they fear our actions and they fear our ideas, our power to mobilize our peoples in a revolutionary way against their exploitation and colonization. They fear our communication and they fear the powers of our people. They fear that if we come together we will build an international front for the liberation of oppressed peoples. They know, and deeply fear, that we can truly build an alternative world. For them, this is the terror of defeat, but for us, and for our peoples, this is the hope of freedom and the promise of victory.

Ahmad Sa’adat
Ramon Prison
November 2017

This article was lightly edited.

Hamas reaffirms terms for a liberated Palestine

The following statement was issued by Hamas — Islamic Resistance Movement — on Feb. 17, 2024, on Resistance News Network.



by the fascist occupation will not stand in the way of us from protecting our people and safeguarding our popular cradle by all means.

We also call on our loyal, steadfast masses to be more vigilant and attentive, and to block any attempt to target their resilience and steadfastness, or to target its righteous members in the resistance.

The Hamas movement has worked along with all national forces and factions by all means to alleviate the suffering of our Palestinian people, stop the fascist aggression against them, meet their humanitarian needs, lift the injustice of them, affirm their presence on their land, and affirm their adherence to their rights.

We urge our great people, who have set the finest examples in patience, steadfastness, and heroism, for more steadfastness until the aggression is broken, and it is repelled from our land and sanctities, leading to the realization of our national aspirations for freedom, self-determination, and the establishment of our independent state with Al-Quds as its capital.

This statement was lightly edited.

After the great failure that befell the defeated occupation army on the land of Gaza, the blockage of its plans, and its objectives blown away to the wind due to the steadfastness of our heroic people and the firmness of its valiant resistance, and following its failure to achieve its declared objectives of annihilating the resistance, recovering its captives, or undermining the will and determination of our free people through bombing, massacres, destruction, and starvation, the fascist occupation tries by all means to target the popular cradles of the resistance, through its blatant attempts to spread chaos, lawlessness and promote suspicious calls, relying on unruly elements linked to the occupation's agendas and hostile to our Palestinian people, their resistance, and their struggle against the new Nazis.

We warn all parties against exploiting the current circumstances to tamper with the internal front of our people, and we affirm the engagement of our valiant resistance in confronting the brutal aggression, and the continuous targeting of all aspects of civil, security, and governmental work

ICJ's second ruling

Continued from page 1

slip out of this ironclad control, at least temporarily.

The second and positive lesson is that tens of millions of people around the world have demonstrated their revulsion at the Israeli war crimes in Gaza. They have protested U.S. and European Union complicity in these crimes. Their mobilization has been so strong that, despite the imperialist domination of the ICJ, this court first found South Africa's charges of genocide by Israeli "plausible."

The Israeli and U.S. regimes objected to the decision, but not because they feared any U.N. action. No, it was because the decision implied international condemnation of Israel and its arms suppliers. If Israel is committing genocide, it means that every state, every organization and every individual not only has the right to disrupt the Israeli war machine, they have the duty to disrupt it.

The Yemeni Ansarullah's disruption of shipping in the Red Sea should qualify as carrying out the ICJ ruling. Students who demand their universities boycott, divest and sanction Israel also qualify.

The ruling upset Israeli officials enough that, according to South Africa

Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, Israeli agents and intelligence officers threatened her over the case South Africa brought to the ICJ, and her family was threatened on social media. (Hindustan Times, Feb. 10)

The Israeli regime has doubled down and continued its genocidal attack. Israel is starving the civilian population of Gaza. The ICJ's response was simply to stand by its earlier ruling demanding that the Israeli Occupation Force take all measures to avoid genocide. The ICJ left the genocide "plausible," although to many in the movement of solidarity with Palestine, the genocide is obvious and requires immediate action against the Israeli state.

If someone believes, falsely, that the ICJ can somehow end the occupation of Palestine, or end the assault on Gaza, then the movement can explain the limitations of the ICJ and the need for street demonstrations, strikes, boycotts and the legitimacy of armed struggle for oppressed peoples.

If, however, bringing up the ICJ ruling can help win more forces to solidarity with Palestine or win support to defend the rights of pro-Palestine activists, then the movement can employ the ruling to do this. Every weapon in the struggle for liberation is legitimate. □

Following general strike, Argentina's Parliament rejects economic 'reforms'

By Adam Wetzstein

When Javier Milei was inaugurated as Argentina's president, it was with a promise to break the back of the working class. His goals were clear: Suppress Argentina's labor movement, sell off the country's assets to those corporations he hand-picked, and definitively align Argentina with the Western imperialist power bloc. Milei demonstrated the last point on his recent trip to Israel when, on his first diplomatic mission overseas, he stood by his promise to move the Argentine Embassy to Jerusalem.

While some of Argentina's ruling class were skeptical about the self-proclaimed "political outsider," many Argentine capitalists, big and small, who hire and exploit workers, put their full support behind Milei. The prospect that they could impose low wages and that more of the economy would be privatized was too tempting to pass up.

Now, just three months after beginning his presidency, Milei's entire legislative program has been shot down in the Chamber of Deputies. His inability to deliver on his pledge is becoming clear even to many former allies. Certain bourgeois elements who fervently supported him just a few months ago have grown skeptical of his ability to deliver. Those who once thought of Milei as a capitalist messiah may be forced to admit they placed their faith in a showboating clown.

Why the sudden lack of confidence in Milei among Argentina's rich? Is it a simple case of incompetence on display? Not remotely. Called by the nation's largest union group, the Confederación General del Trabajo (GCT), a one-day general strike in Argentina Jan. 24 rattled the country's capitalist ruling class to its core.

Hundreds of thousands of workers took to the streets and refused to work or shop that day. Demonstrations were not limited to Buenos Aires, Argentina, or even South America. Argentines across the world participated in spontaneous demonstrations at embassies across several continents. Never before has such a demonstration



Argentinian masses protest President Milei's anti-worker policies, Dec. 27, 2023.

PHOTO: PEOPLESDISPATCH.COM

Chamber of Deputies.

Finance capital, too, is distancing itself from Milei, with JP Morgan's Chief Economist in Argentina Diego Pereira urging Milei to change course. Pereira is on record saying, "This is an unprecedented event, and there is no memory of an administration having its first piece of legislation rejected." (CNBC, Feb. 7)

Former allies fleeing 'sinking ship'

Milei's allies may be a who's who of Argentine industrialists and big-money men, but with few friends in government and former allies fleeing the sinking ship, it is doubtful the fledgling president will be able to push his radical right-wing program through.

The Milei administration's efforts to counter the movement of the people reek of desperation. Multimillion-dollar

taken place just 45 days into a president's term.

What sort of resistance can the rulers of Argentina expect after another 45 days, or a year, or two? That Argentine capitalists are beginning to abandon Milei shows they hope to never find out.

Economy remains in crisis

Meanwhile, although hyperinflation is no longer at peak levels, inflation is still out of control. According to Argentine Economics Professor Claudio Katz, Milei intended to tackle the problem using the same playbook President Carlos Menem followed in the 1990s. That is, to induce a recession, lower wages, and hope U.S. dollars will have a stabilizing effect. But the promise of a recession is unattractive to both the working people and Milei's petit bourgeois supporters.

On Feb. 6, lawmakers rejected Milei's Omnibus Bill. This bill has been the cornerstone of Milei's so-called reforms. It proposes the elimination of hundreds of corporate and import/export regulations, the repealing of environmental protections, and the privatization of countless state assets. Now, the Omnibus Bill has failed to pass through even the lower house of Parliament, the

finances placed on unions and individual organizers, violent police tactics, and emergency decrees limiting or outright banning public assembly have failed to silence Milei's opposition. If anything, Argentina's largest labor unions have gained a boost in popularity and are witnessing opportunities they haven't seen in years.

Milei's inability to quiet the people or halt the movement of Argentina's labor unions has no doubt terrified Argentine capitalists, as it should. The members of the ruling class that elected Milei did so hoping he would crush the workers, not embolden them.

Only time will tell the outcome of Milei's destructive tenure as president, and even how long he will cling to power. Argentina's old guard, the conservative Peronist parties, are acting as if they expect this episode with Milei will end quickly, with the reins of society once again passing into their hands.

The working people in Argentina and workers across the world can hope for something better. Not a continuation of Milei's reckless administration, or a return to what was happening before, but something new, with the people taking stronger control of their own destiny. □

Int'l assembly in New York City salutes Palestinian resistance

By Sara Flounders and Monica Moorehead
New York City

The International Assembly Against Imperialism in Solidarity with Palestinian Resistance was held at the historic Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial & Educational Center in New York City on Jan. 21. Workers World Party, the organizer of the event, had chosen the date to honor the centennial of Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin, who died that day in 1924.

The unique assembly challenged U.S. imperialist efforts to isolate and demonize the Palestinian resistance and its allies. Organizers surrounded reports by Palestinian Resistance groups with statements from well-known national and international organizations that have decades of authority in the world movement for resisting U.S. imperialist blockades and sanctions, and by workers' parties and solidarity organizations from around the world.

The live-streamed event attracted participants from the Palestinian territories, South Africa, Vietnam, Australia, Canada, Peru, Spain, Ecuador, Germany, Britain, Croatia and Eswatini (aka Swaziland), according to organizers. Participants from at least 20 U.S. states also joined online.

From the region under imperialist attack, messages arrived from diverse organizations — with both secular and religious leadership — which are a determined part of the heroic resistance in Palestine and West Asia.

Global Leninist solidarity

This international solidarity included a delegation from Nicaragua's mission to the United Nations, and video talks and/or messages by Venezuelan official Carlos Ron Martinez, the Communist Party of Cuba and representatives of Communist parties from Ukraine, Brazil, Kenya, Denmark and Swaziland.

Also, messages were sent by the Rallye

of African Workers in Senegal, Pole for Rebirth of Communism in France — PRCF and Socialist Unity Center of India. Additional Leninist and anti-imperialist authors and commentators sent evaluations of the struggle in this period since the events of October 7 in Palestine.

From the United States, communist, left, anti-imperialist and progressive forces sent representatives who addressed the Assembly. These included the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, United National Antiwar Coalition, BAYAN USA, Black Alliance for Peace, Party of Communists USA, December 12th Movement, A Call to Action on Puerto Rico, Marxist Youth League, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network, Veterans For Peace, Laundry Workers Center and U.S. Peace Council.

U.S. imperialism attempts to marginalize and isolate this revolutionary upheaval by only naming Hamas as Israel's enemy — and then banning statements from Hamas by the media. Messages from: Ansarullah in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, One Democratic State of Palestine, Islamic Jihad and Masar Badil (Alternative Revolutionary Path) confirmed the diversity of views in the region's resistance and their unity in action.

International left forces from International Manifesto Group, Friends of Socialist China, China/U.S. Solidarity Network, a prominent TikTok blogger in China, International Movement for a Just World in Malaysia, a former comrade of African Marxist revolutionary Amílcar Cabral, Alex Saab Support Committee, and the House of Latin America in Tehran, Iran, sent messages that made the event buzz.

Palestinian resistance given a world platform

Monica Moorehead, a Workers World newspaper managing editor, chaired the "Voices and Defenders of Palestinian

Resistance" panel. She referred to two prominent Black Liberation leaders, Malcolm X and Huey P. Newton, who both denounced Zionism during the 1960s. Moorehead underlined how since its 1959 founding, Workers World Party has taken a consistent principled stance defending Palestinians' right to their homeland.

The panel featured Palestinian educator and editor Rabab Abdulhadi, whose presentation linked Lenin's overall contributions on imperialism and national oppression to the struggle for Palestinian self-determination. Prominent Palestinian novelist and activist Susan Abulhawa and National Lawyers Guild President Suzanne Adely delivered recorded video messages.

A religious Jewish anti-Zionist perspective was presented by Neturei Karta representative, Joseph Kohn. A secular view came from Michael Kramer, former Israeli soldier and now Palestinian resistance supporter, who spoke on the growing number of Israeli teenagers refusing military conscription.

What the Assembly sought

Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, opened the Assembly by reading an organizers' collective statement that the program's goal was to assert the political, legal and moral right to hear, discuss and meet with the resistance forces who are under attack with bombs the U.S. supplies Israel.

The statement asserted that all who agree with the charge of genocide, as presented in the lawsuit South Africa brought to the International Court of Justice, at The Hague, in the Netherlands, have a moral obligation to act to break the enforced isolation.

The Assembly organizers were determined to hold a large and secure in-person meeting and a hybrid meeting on Zoom with re-streams to the social media sites of Instagram, YouTube, X and Facebook.

As an added precaution against the widespread shutdowns on corporate platforms — often made automatically by algorithms — they streamed the Assembly on a new channel on Telegram: Workers World Party.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Speakers from more than 45 organizations in 30 countries on five continents expressed their solidarity with the liberation of Palestine at the International Assembly Jan. 21, the centennial of V.I. Lenin's death, in New York City.



Rabab Abdulhadi



Larry Holmes

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

There were two afternoon panels on workers' struggles and building internationalism. Richie Merino from the Bronx Anti-War Coalition chaired the first and Dianne Mathiowetz, a retired autoworker and United Auto Workers member, the closing session. The panels stressed the importance of organizing with working-class and oppressed communities.

Speakers included veteran activists with decades of organizing experience — Brenda Stokely, Omowale Clay and Esperanza Martell — along with young activists and worker organizers — Arjae Red and Alice Yaser.

First Secretary of Workers World Party Larry Holmes highlighted the opening morning panel. He also concluded the Assembly by challenging participants to re-engage with Lenin's perspective of merging the growing class consciousness of workers in the Global North with the revolutionary anti-imperialist movements of the Global South.

The program, including the statements from Palestinian resistance organizations often banned from corporate media, can be viewed on Workers World Party channels on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, X, and Telegram. Everyone in solidarity with Palestinian resistance is invited to re-stream the material and spread it as far as possible.

Contributions to the hall rental and technology expenses are needed and will be appreciated. Send via workers.org/donate.

Authors Sara Flounders and Monica Moorehead were program coordinators, along with Dianne Mathiowetz.

La asamblea internacional de Nueva York

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que están de acuerdo con la acusación de genocidio, tal como se presenta en la demanda que Sudáfrica presentó ante la Corte Internacional de Justicia, en La Haya, Países Bajos, tienen la obligación moral de actuar para romper el aislamiento forzoso.

Los organizadores de la Asamblea estaban decididos a celebrar una reunión presencial amplia y segura y una reunión híbrida en Zoom con retransmisiones en las redes sociales Instagram, YouTube, X y Facebook.

Como precaución añadida contra los cierres generalizados de las plataformas corporativas — a menudo realizados automáticamente por algoritmos —, retransmitieron la Asamblea en un nuevo canal de Telegram: Workers World Party.

Hubo dos paneles por la tarde sobre las luchas de los trabajadores y la construcción del internacionalismo. Richie Merino, de la Bronx Anti-War Coalition, presidió el primero, y Dianne Mathiowetz, trabajadora del automóvil jubilada y miembro de United Auto Workers, la sesión de clausura. Los paneles destacaron la importancia de organizarse con la clase trabajadora y las comunidades oprimidas.

Entre los ponentes se encontraban veteranos activistas con décadas de

experiencia organizativa — Brenda Stokely, Omowale Clay y Esperanza Martell — junto con jóvenes activistas y organizadores de trabajadores — Arjae Red y Alice Yaser.

El Primer Secretario del Partido Mundo Obrero, Larry Holmes, destacó el panel inaugural de la mañana. También concluyó la Asamblea retando a los participantes a volver a comprometerse con la perspectiva de Lenin de fusionar la creciente conciencia de clase de los trabajadores del Norte Global con los movimientos revolucionarios antiimperialistas del Sur Global.

El programa, incluidas las declaraciones de las organizaciones de resistencia palestinas a menudo prohibidas en los medios de comunicación corporativos, se puede ver en los canales del Partido Obrero Mundial en YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, X y Telegram. Todos los solidarios con la resistencia palestina están invitados a retransmitir el material y difundirlo lo más lejos posible.

Las contribuciones para el alquiler de la sala y los gastos de tecnología son necesarias y serán apreciadas. Enviar a través de workers.org/donate.

Las autoras Sara Flounders y Monica Moorehead fueron las coordinadoras del programa, junto con Dianne Mathiowetz.

Flight attendants:

'If we don't get it, shut it down!'

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

The Association of Flight Attendants called a "Worldwide Flight Attendants Day of Action" Feb. 13, mobilizing over 30 picket lines across the continental United States as well as Alaska, Hawai'i and Guam. In Cleveland, union pilots, autoworkers, hotel workers, transit workers and teachers joined the AFA actions. Call and response chants included: "What do we want? Contract! When do we want it? Now! If we don't get it, shut it down!"

The union accuses airline bosses of stalling negotiations. Contracts expired months ago at Alaska, Air Wisconsin, American, Frontier, Omni, Southwest, United and other airlines.

The AFA wrote in its statement announcing the Day of Action: "This moment is not about what uniform we wear. It's about what unites us, and that unity transcends airlines. Our time on the job must be compensated. We need retirement security. We need flexibility and control of our lives. Legacy sexism that traditionally devalued our jobs must be stamped out and replaced with the true value of our work."

"Like every other worker around the world, we need to go to work to live, not just live to work. We are ready to do whatever it takes to achieve the landmark contracts that reflect the profits our work creates. Together, 100,000 Flight Attendants are pushing our careers forward this year — battling corporate greed." (afacwa.org) □



MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

Richie Merino habla ante la asamblea internacional de Nueva York, el 21 de enero.

¡Alto a la invasión de Rafah!

La guerra genocida de Israel contra Gaza está alcanzando otro punto de inflexión.

Como si compitiera por ser el criminal de guerra número uno de la década, Benyamin Netanyahu ha redoblado su amenaza de invadir Rafah, en el extremo sur de Gaza. Eso después de expulsar a la mayoría de los 2,3 millones de palestinos del norte y centro de la Franja bombardeando y matando a 30.000 personas, en su mayoría civiles -incluidos 12.500 niños- e hiriendo a más de 70.000 personas más. El asalto israelí a Rafah comenzó el 11 de febrero y el primer día masacró a 100 civiles, la mayoría niños.

Nadie espera que el régimen israelí o sus cómplices estadounidenses actúen con misericordia para evitar lo que muchas personas han descrito como una catástrofe humanitaria inminente.

Eso significa que depende del masivo movimiento mundial de solidaridad con Palestina redoblar sus esfuerzos para aislar a Israel y a sus patrocinadores imperialistas.

Hace tiempo que es obvio que el primer ministro israelí ha sobrevivido a su vida útil. Netanyahu dijo a George Stephanopolous y a sus telespectadores el 10 de febrero que si Israel acepta un

alto el fuego, pierde la guerra. Lo que Netanyahu omitió es que si la guerra termina, también significa que él perderá las próximas elecciones y se enfrentaría a la cárcel por cargos de corrupción.

El predicamento político personal de Netanyahu coincide con el empuje genocida de todo el proyecto sionista. Para lograr una victoria -la expulsión o eliminación de la población palestina- ningún crimen es demasiado atroz, ya sea matar todos los hogares, hospitales, escuelas, universidades y mezquitas de Gaza.

Sin embargo, Netanyahu parece desesperado. A pesar del implacable ataque

de Israel contra la población de Gaza, no ha conseguido dismantelar la resistencia palestina. Hamás y las demás organizaciones de liberación siguen luchando.

El pueblo palestino ha soportado horribles bombardeos concentrados, presenciados por el mundo. Ahora, las Fuerzas de Ocupación israelíes exigen a los palestinos que se alejen del sur de Gaza, adonde el asalto israelí los había expulsado. El New York Times del 11 de febrero informa de que muchos palestinos se niegan a realizar lo que sería un tercer o cuarto traslado desde octubre de 2023.

Los compinches de Netanyahu en Washington, que han ayudado a sus crímenes de guerra y han dado apoyo a todas sus mentiras, intentan ahora fingir cierta distancia con él. El presidente Joe Biden y el secretario de Estado Anthony Blinken declaran que han exigido a Netanyahu que Israel proteja las vidas de los civiles en caso de que las IOF invadan Rafah.

Mientras habla de misericordia, Biden exige más miles de millones de dólares del Congreso para armas para Israel, junto con Ucrania y Taiwán. Biden y Blinken sólo quieren evitar la culpa por los crímenes de guerra de Israel en su región.



MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

Harrisburg, Pensilvania, 5 de febrero de 2024. Un vibrante movimiento en Estados Unidos exige que no se financie a Israel.

La asamblea internacional de Nueva York rinde homenaje a la resistencia palestina

Por Sara Flounders y Monica Moorehead Nueva York

La Asamblea Internacional contra el Imperialismo en Solidaridad con la Resistencia Palestina se celebró el 21 de enero en el histórico Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial & Educational Center de Nueva York. El Partido Mundo Obrero, organizador del acto, había elegido la fecha para rendir homenaje al centenario del revolucionario ruso Vladimir Lenin, fallecido ese día en 1924.

La singular asamblea desafió los esfuerzos del imperialismo estadounidense por aislar y demonizar a la resistencia palestina y a sus aliados. Los organizadores rodearon los informes de los grupos de la resistencia palestina con declaraciones de organizaciones nacionales e internacionales, bien conocidas, que cuentan con décadas de autoridad en el movimiento mundial de resistencia a los bloqueos y sanciones imperialistas estadounidenses, y de partidos obreros y organizaciones de solidaridad de todo el mundo.

El acto retransmitido en directo atrajo a participantes de los territorios palestinos, Sudáfrica, Vietnam, Australia, Canadá, Perú, España, Ecuador, Alemania, Gran Bretaña, Croacia y Eswatini (alias Suazilandia), según los organizadores. También se unieron en línea participantes de al menos 20 estados de Estados Unidos.

Desde la región bajo ataque imperialista, llegaron mensajes de diversas

organizaciones -con dirección tanto secular como religiosa- que forman parte decidida de la heroica resistencia en Palestina y Asia Occidental.

Solidaridad leninista mundial

Esta solidaridad internacional incluyó una delegación de la misión de Nicaragua ante las Naciones Unidas, y charlas en video y/o mensajes del funcionario venezolano Carlos Ron Martínez, del Partido Comunista de Cuba y de representantes de partidos comunistas de Ucrania, Brasil, Kenia, Dinamarca y Suazilandia.

También enviaron mensajes la Agrupación de Trabajadores Africanos de Senegal, el Polo para el Renacimiento del Comunismo en Francia - PRCF, y el Centro de Unidad Socialista de la India. Otros autores y comentaristas leninistas y antiimperialistas enviaron evaluaciones de la lucha en este período desde los acontecimientos del 7 de octubre en Palestina.

Desde Estados Unidos, fuerzas comunistas, de izquierda, antiimperialistas y progresistas enviaron representantes que se dirigieron a la Asamblea. Entre ellos se encontraban la Organización Socialista Camino de la Libertad, la Coalición Nacional Unida contra la Guerra, BAYAN USA, la Alianza Negra por la Paz, el Partido de los Comunistas de EE.UU., el Movimiento 12 de Diciembre, Una Llamada a la Acción en Puerto Rico, la Liga de la Juventud Marxista, la Red de Solidaridad con los Presos Palestinos Samidoun, Veteranos por la Paz, el

Centro de Trabajadores de Lavandería y el Consejo por la Paz de EE.UU.

El imperialismo estadounidense intenta marginar y aislar este levantamiento revolucionario limitándose a nombrar a Hamás como enemigo de Israel, y prohibiendo después las declaraciones de Hamás en los medios de comunicación. Mensajes de: AnsarAllah en Yemen, Hezbolá en Líbano, Frente Democrático para la Liberación de Palestina, Un Estado Democrático de Palestina, Yihad Islámica y Masar Badil (Sendero Revolucionario Alternativo) confirmaron la diversidad de puntos de vista en la resistencia de la región y su unidad en la acción.

Las fuerzas de la izquierda internacional del International Manifesto Group, Friends of Socialist China, China/U.S. Solidarity Network, un destacado bloguero de TikTok en China, el International Movement for a Just World de Malasia, un camarada de lucha del difunto revolucionario marxista africano Amílcar Cabral, el Comité de Apoyo a Alex Saab y la Casa de América Latina en Teherán, Irán, enviaron mensajes que hicieron vibrar el acto.

La resistencia palestina recibe una plataforma mundial

Monica Moorehead, redactora gerente del periódico Workers World, presidió el panel "Voces y defensores de la resistencia palestina". Se refirió a dos destacados líderes de la Liberación Negra, Malcolm X y Huey P. Newton, que denunciaron el sionismo durante la década de 1960.

Pero Israel es el aliado de Estados Unidos, Israel es su herramienta para mantener el control imperialista de la región. Netanyahu y compañía están llevando a cabo un genocidio. Biden y compañía lo están armando.

La Corte Internacional de Justicia dictaminó que es plausible que Israel esté cometiendo genocidio. Un tribunal federal estadounidense dictaminó que Biden, Blinken y sus compinches son cómplices plausibles.

Las sentencias judiciales legitiman la lucha popular contra los actos genocidas de Israel. Eso significa que el movimiento en Estados Unidos que exige un alto el fuego inmediato y permanente en Gaza tiene autoridad legal y moral para obstruir nuevos ataques de Israel contra los palestinos de Gaza. Tiene derecho a boicotear, desinvertir, sancionar y arrojar zapatos a los engranajes de la maquinaria bélica que envía armas a Israel.

Las autoridades que intentan reprimir las actividades de este movimiento o calumniarlo de antijudío, ya sean cargos electos o administradores universitarios, son ellas mismas cómplices del genocidio.

La demanda urgente en todo el mundo es: ¡Detengan la invasión de Rafah!

La demanda urgente en Estados Unidos es: ¡No a la ayuda estadounidense a Israel! □

Moorehead subrayó que, desde su fundación en 1959, el Partido Mundo Obrero ha adoptado una posición de principios coherente en defensa del derecho de los palestinos a su patria.

El panel contó con la participación del educador y editor palestino Rabab Abdulhadi, cuya presentación relacionó las contribuciones generales de Lenin sobre el imperialismo y la opresión nacional con la lucha por la autodeterminación palestina. La destacada novelista y activista palestina Susan Abulhawa y la Presidenta del Gremio Nacional de Abogados Suzanne Adely pronunciaron mensajes grabados en vídeo.

El representante de Neturei Karta, Joseph Kohn, presentó una perspectiva religiosa judía antisionista. Una visión laica vino de Michael Kramer, ex soldado israelí y ahora partidario de la resistencia palestina, que habló sobre el creciente número de adolescentes israelíes que rechazan el servicio militar obligatorio.

Lo que buscaba la Asamblea

Sara Flounders, codirectora del Centro de Acción Internacional, abrió la Asamblea leyendo una declaración colectiva de los organizadores en la que se afirmaba que el objetivo del programa era reivindicar el derecho político, legal y moral a escuchar, debatir y reunirse con las fuerzas de resistencia que están siendo atacadas con bombas que Estados Unidos suministra a Israel.

La declaración afirmaba que todos los

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