As Israel attacks Rafah

Protests demand—Stop racist genocide

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: JOE PIETTE

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.

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, to even 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 continue on page 10
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 buildings and attempted to obliterate their history and culture.

Our newspaper hugs 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 war policy, 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 deportations, 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, in 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, we celebrate Black 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, LGTBQ2S+ people and disabled people. The website is a resource for political activists.

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 printed and online issues each year, and the website itself, are expensive. 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 $5, $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, P.O. Box 34249, Salt Lake City, UT 84134. You can also mail donations to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Room 404, New York, NY 10001.

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, multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, war to expand on imperialist grounds, or to end its own. LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means homelessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or even to live. All citizens and workers are saddled with heavy debt, often in the form of student loans. And renters are saddled with rent as well.

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 workers that are striving to point the blame at — and chair the — the capitalist system.

WWF 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 Worker World Party member near you.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

In the U.S.

Protests demand stop racist genocide........ 1
No slam dunk for 76ers arena........ 3
Solidarity with migrant workers! Smash racism!.... 3
No queer liberation without a free Palestine!..... 6
Palestinian solidarity wins at UC Davis........ 6
Protest hits Hulu for defending genocide......... 7
Philby protest: Free Palestine! Free Puerto Rico!.... 7
Portland, Ore. unisons for a free Palestine........ 7
From Reconstruction to Malcolm X........... 9
Int’l assembly salutes Palestinian resistance.... 11
Flight attendants call for ‘Day of Action’........ 11

Around the world

Israelis forces named in attack on Iran........ 5
U.S.-NATO war on Russia in Ukraine........... 5
Prisons, Black Liberation and Palestine........... 8
Hamas reaffirms terms for liberated Palestine.... 10
Following strike, Argentina rejects ‘reforms’..... 10

 Tear down the walls

Mumia Abu-Jamal’s health deteriorates........ 4
First Amendment violations in Pa............. 4
Women detainees in Israeli jails............. 5

Editorial

ICJ’s second ruling of ‘plausible’ genocide....... 10

Mundo Obrero

¡Alto a la invasión de Rafah!.................. 12
Homenaje a la resistencia palestina........ 12

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When the billionaires who own the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team made their announcement on July 21, 2022, that they had signed a deal to move their arena to 76 Market Place — on the edge of the city’s Chinatown community, they didn’t expect the opposition to be as loud as it was. Within 18 months later, the No Arena Coalition is stronger and larger than ever and shows no sign of going away.

The Philadelphia City Council held their first 2022 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.

Fighting against predatory developers

What started a year and a half ago as a local battle to stop a new arena from turning into a citywide fight against predatory development. People across the region who cherish Chinatown will fight to defend it as linked with everyone who wants a say in the future of the city.

A favorable impact study on 76Place, compiled by a consulting firm 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.

No Arena in Chinatown!

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. New leadership has organized 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 people, businesses, and families that make our city special. The people deserve a say in our city’s future! No Arena in Chinatown!  

Solidarity with migrant workers! Smash racism!

By Oraphat Baroobain

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 political figures 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 title that would allow for asylum seekers to be expelled over the border; asylum seekers to be sent home under false representation, and establishment of camps for children at the border.

Granting asylum to Latiné people within the colonial Latin American context is a “nice thing to do.” Rather, it is a necessary part of reparations for 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 same class enemy needs the support of working-class and oppressed people to keep its systems of power and domination alive.

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; to fight their own contradictions, famines and 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 powerhousees 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.

Today, liberal ideologies and conservative media message us 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 anything but a labor camp. They are concentration camps. Razor wire and recycled circular saw blades lay bare in rivers and main migrants who have traveled hundreds or thousands of miles with the sole desire to search for a new home and were 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 Latin and immigrant 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 wall!” 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 website show that there were over 100 million refugees and 1.6 billion people living under forced displacement. And the genocide in Palestine has undoubtedly increased this number by a significant amount. The violence enacted, ultimately by settler colonialism and the global imperial powers, exists as an ongoing force of destruction and displacement across continents.

All of these violence and these problems are part of the global class war. Members of the working class are looking for a new home and are misevaluating the benefits of new borders.

In the meantime, we must take every opportunity to act in solidarity with working-class and oppressed peoples everywhere and organize to fight back.
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 2021, he was conditionally 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 denied Mumia’s appeal. Mumia has filed an appeal to the Superior Court, which has yet to rule.

Appeals of Clemons’ ruling are in process. With any 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. Mariani 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 2023, Mumia lost 30 pounds while ill from COVID-19; at the same time he was still dealing with the serious skin condition. On April 19, 2023, 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 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, 570-779-2158; 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 9543, 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 preventative care and screening.”

The Call to Action concludes with this statement by the American Medical Association Journal of Ethics: “There are legal, ethical, and public health reasons why, as 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) at SCI 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” with the exception “of 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, with “an opportunity to shower and shave shall be offered three times per week” in the regulations, but in fact Arroyo is only allowed to shower on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (tinyurl.com/2qred648)

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/2024/01/76427/)

Rinick’s story about 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 their safety.

To organize the inmate population. There was a drastic increase in subscriptions after printing the Jan. 18 article and Arroyo’s influence and demonstrate their ability to their safety.

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” (FN6060) 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 717-728-4109. 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 unjustly 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 he 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 PayPal, inserting Bryant Arroyo (CU-1126) when asked.

Grievances and hearing documents arrayed behind the Jan. 18 Workers World article.

Page 4/22/2024 workers.org
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 children in Israeli jails and detention centers have been subjected to extreme violence and abuse.

The Commission of Detainees Affairs stated that 60 Palestinian female detainees in the Israeli Dagon prison are being held in an atmosphere of terror and that 13 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. 1. Last year, she stated that she faced “threats of murder, rape, insults, and humiliation,” and she was subjected to 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 orgs of torture and a force could be used, 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 excreta.

Khoury says, “Female prisoners are constantly subjected to strip searches, we almost die from cold and hunger, there is food poisoning, and the daily break (outside cells) is prohibited, and the food is extremely bad.

World Health Organization spokesper- son Tarik Jasarevic held a press briefing and told reporters, “We are, at the U.N., coordinating, asking, and looking for – urgently – access to the hospital.”

While 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.

Israel 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 advoca- tes of Palestinian freedom must defend Iran against violent attacks, as well as uphold its material ability to support the justified resistance.

Middle East

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, fallback defensive line. This development followed months of turmoil within the Ukrainian regime and among the top military leadership.

The conflict between Russia and Western imperialisms over Ukraine, which had been simmering since 2014, escalated among the top military leadership. This development followed months of preparation and effort. It is not clear if Ukrainian forces had been most intense— like Avdiivka or the areas being defended by the U.S. and NATO— or 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.

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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, fallback defensive line. This development followed months of turmoil within the Ukrainian regime and among the top military leadership.

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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 oil refineries, and their attack brigades were effectively targeted by Russian airpower.

A series of Russian government orders to evacuate civilians from the city of Avdiivka in eastern Ukraine have been issued over the past week.

The Ukrainian government has faced increasing pressure to evacuate civilians from Avdiivka, where Russian forces have been conducting intense shelling.

The evacuations have been carried out by the Ukrainian military and with the assistance of local officials.

Rescue workers and volunteers have been working around the clock to ensure the safety of the residents, who are evacuating to safer areas.

The evacuations are expected to continue as Russian forces consolidate their positions in the region.

Russian forces have been using heavy artillery to target Avdiivka, causing widespread destruction and displacement of civilians.

The evacuations are being conducted in the face of continued shelling and bombardment by Russian forces.

The Ukrainian government has called on international allies to provide additional support and assist in evacuating civilians from Avdiivka.

The United Nations has expressed concern about the situation in Avdiivka and has called for an immediate cease-fire to protect civilians.

Humanitarian organizations are working to provide aid and assistance to those who have been displaced by the conflict.

The evacuations continue as the situation in Avdiivka remains volatile and unpredictable.

The full extent of the impact of the conflict on Avdiivka is yet to be fully assessed, with many civilians still at risk of being impacted by ongoing shelling and bombardment.

The situation in Avdiivka underscores the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the need for continued international support to ensure the safety and security of civilians in the country.

As the conflict continues, it is crucial to prioritize the protection of civilians and ensure that humanitarian aid and assistance can reach those in need.

Endnotes


No queer liberation without a free Palestine!

By Alice Y.

LGBTQIA2S+ solidarity with anti-colonial movements has increased in recent years. In 1960 and 1970s, the Gay Liberation Front, a group fighting for civil rights in the United States, had famously honored the Palestinian struggle in Vietnam and the National Liberation Front in demonstrations and productions—an act done explicitly in support of the Vietnamese resistance.

The Palestinian Aswat—a 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. Huw P. Newton of the Black Panther Party issued the following statement 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 undo its burdens 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.”

Capitalism fosters division

Capitalism survives on the exploitation of queer people, in addition to oppressed nationalities, 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 taps into the innate tendency of a social order driven by, not divorced from, capital.

There is a central tendency of the owners of capital to forecast the future in 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 means that 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 painful occupation of different elements of these divisions. Once we are united and are conscious of our oppression, the paper-thin lie of division will crumble.

Although “less than perfect,” the author claims that Israel is one of the most tolerant societies for LGBTQIA+ people. Binion’s reasoning negates the process of colonialization, 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 the “queers” 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 claim that LGBTQIA+ people would be “summarily executed”—in Binion’s words—for being queer in Palestine. Firstly, if one calls into question the moral character of the Indigenous population, we must then question the rationale behind this rationing of whose lives the settler seeks a position such as a queers.

Secondly, social phenomena are not random. If it is true that the governing authoritarians 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 imposed anti-LGBTQIA2S+ bigotry and discrimination in the name of the greater good for the inclusive colonies. They没关系 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 painful occupation of different elements of these divisions. Once we are united and are conscious of our oppression, the paper-thin lie of division will crumble.

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 similarly for 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 Chevon, none of our student fees that fund ASUCD (Associated Students of the 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 10-0 with two abstentions in favor of diverting 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. 9, 2023. (PHOTO: DAVISENTERPRISE.COM)
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 NYC offices, Feb. 9. Workers World Party and the Bronx Anti-War Coalition led the ad-bloc unified front at the action, which was sponsored by AFSCME Locals 88 and the Oregon American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and endorsed by the Oregon American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Prisoner Network.

The International Court of Justice has 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—which the Israelis had directed Palestinians to flee earlier. Some 100 people were killed, with social media users seeing horrific scenes of survivors, all civilians, emerging bloodied and dazed from bombed areas.

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

Protest 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 IOT—trained New York Police Department arrested one of the organizers, Richie Merino, charging him later with making “unreasonable noise.” Cops violently showed another person to the ground. Arbitrary arrests, aggressive tactics and violence against protesters are a staple.

A standout moment of the Union Square protest was the response of a Lupe who walked among the crowd who was told by police officers: “You’re a liar, stop protecting colonizers,” and “Hulu, huh, 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, laughingly issuing a summons for “unreasonable noise.” Organizers said no noise could be too loud to demand a collective response 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 IOT-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.”

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.

An editorial from the Australian 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

Members of the Oregon American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 9090 hosted a Unions for a Free Palestine rally at 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 editorial from AFSCME Local 328 added that the lack of funding for U.S. public schools is related to U.S. imperialist attack on public education in Gaza.

The event was sponsored by AFSCME Locals 88 and 328, the African-American 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.

“Put an end to the Israeli war crimes and Israeli Occupation and this genocide. This is 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 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 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 protest was the response of a Lupe who walked among the crowd who was told by police officers: “You’re a liar, stop protecting colonizers,” and “Hulu, huh, 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.

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By Workers World Portland bureau

By Tony Murphy New York City

By Workers World Philadelphia bureau

By Workers World Portland bureau

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

Protest hits Hulu for defending genocide

By Tony Murphy New York City

Protest hits Hulu for defending genocide

By Tony Murphy New York City

Protest hits Hulu for defending genocide

By Tony Murphy New York City

Philly protest demands: Free Palestine! Free Puerto Rico!

By Workers World Philadelphia bureau

By Workers World Portland bureau

Unions demonstrate for a free Palestine

By Workers World Portland bureau
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 New York 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 Newton, co-founder of 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 in the full-length of our movements who continue to struggle for liberation in the belly of the beast continues today against fierce repression.

From Ansar to Lanneau, 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 Homero Gómez, George Sa’adat, 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 have imprisoned 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 determination to continue to struggle.

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 not the enemy of the occupying forces or the war and imperialism but of the people of the Palestinian and Black peoples who are its victims. We are not fighting to liberate the oppressors but to win freedom for our peoples.

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 struggle against our collective enemy — the movement for justice and liberation.

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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].

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, the definition of “terrorist,” it means that there will be prisons and all of the laws and islamism and their police and military forces. We have not yet been able to realize our dreams and transform the prison but to understand that they carry with them the experience of the prison and the experience of the prison as a means of coercion and criminalization.

From the Fugitive Slave Acts of the 1800s to the “terrorist lists” that seek to criminalize and isolate and target the leaders of struggles 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 lists” 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.

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 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 him or her 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 could 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 our comrades in struggles all around the world. We want to share our experiences with our people, with the Black Liberation movement and the liberation movement to free our prisoners.

Today, when we see the media and the government refusing to give our people a hand experience of confrontation, and the experience of the prison can be a transformative one for a political prisoner.

Elders carry ‘legacies of struggle as a human treasure’

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 the south of France, and 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 submission to occupation or betrayal or capitulation. 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 entering 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 to war.

In the era in which Newton wrote, movements and prisoners shared experiences and communicated with Georges Sa’adat, Khaled Nazzal, and others, often smuggled out of or into prisons, past censors and iron walls. Today, 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, more than ever, it is clear the world is in the grips of the imperialist forces 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 against the 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 militarized repression.

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 Asata or Khalida or Isahb is being born who can carry forward the vision of their people.

Huey Newton and the Black Panthers stood for socialism, anti-colonialism, anti-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 work hard for all of the Palestinian 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 Continued on page 9
This article, originally entitled "Taking back Black history from the 1%," is based on a speech at the 2008 Black History Month Workers Forum, 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 rousing 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 is 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 free.”

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 counter-revolution, 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 existence 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 and Dearborn for which both he and his company were created by 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 Black 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 working-class Black community is based on the struggle against racism and national oppression.

Continued from page 8

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. Joanna 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. 12.” The legacies of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X have been co-opted. While representing opposite programs, free health care clinics, free liberation schools and much more.

Many of Malcolm X’s radical perceptions 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 blustering battle for the most fundamental human rights that every living soul on this planet should inherit by birthright.”

“He’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 oppression, so too do the Palestinian people strive to shatter the chains of occupation and tyranny.”

“Never forget, my friends, that the Palestinian people — just like African Americans in the United States, have been subjected to a heart-wrenching history of suffering and torment. The birth of Israel was 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 genocide, 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 any where else.”

“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. 12.” The legacies of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X have been co-opted. While representing opposite programs, free health care clinics, free liberation schools and much more.

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 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 oppression. After Egypt forced from the United States to the five prisoners for Palestine, called the Holy Land Five, held in extreme solitary confinement alongside Black sluggers, for engaging in charity work for our people, to 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 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 friends and allies to fight 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 the Palestinians from the heroic Rasmee Odeh death row. Building a movement that 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.
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, freedom, self-determination, and the establishment of our independent state with Al-Quds as its capital.

This statement 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.

After the great failure that befalls the defeated occupation army on the land of Gaza, the bloqueage 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 apparatus and hostile to our Palestinian people, their resistance, and their struggle against the new Nazis. We call on all genuine forces to consider the current circumstances to tamper with the internal front of our people, and we affirm the engagement of our valiant resistance confronting the brutal aggression, and the continuous targeting of all aspects of civil, security, and governmental work 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.

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: Suspend Argentina’s labor movement, sell off the country’s assets, and privatize state-run companies 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.

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 large 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. Argentine industrialists and big-money protesters 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 (CGT), 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 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 unattactive 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 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 economic 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.

Milei administration’s efforts to counter the movement of the people reek of desperation. Multimillion-dollar fines 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 wittingly opportunistic in their sympathy for Milei. Milei’s inability to quiet the people or halt the movement of Argentina’s labor unions has no doubt terrified Argentine capitalists. As a result, the Senate’s rejection 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.
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 V.I. Lenin’s death.

The assembly attracted 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), Peru, Spain, Ecuador, Germany, Britain, Croatia and Eswatini (aka Swaziland), and the Palestinian territories.

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 program is available online on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, X, and Telegram. Everyone in solidarity with Palestinian resistance is invited to re-watch 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.

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 50,000 flight attendants in the United States as well as Alaska, Hawaii and Guam. In Cleveland, union pilots, autoworkers, hotel workers, transit workers, and other workers joined the AFA actions. 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.

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 stirred 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—Arjas Red and Alice Yasser.

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-watch the material and spread it as far as possible.

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