

China: Palestine has right to armed struggle

By John Catalinotto

Senior Chinese official Ma Xinmin made a powerful statement Feb. 22 before the International Court of Justice that Palestinians have the right to engage in armed struggle, because they live under an illegal Israeli occupation.

Ma, who is director general of the department of treaty and law at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the 15-judge panel in The Hague, Netherlands, that armed struggle differed from terrorism. "In pursuit of the right to self-determination," said Ma, "Palestinian people's use of force to resist foreign oppression and complete the establishment of an independent state is an inalienable right well founded in international law." (Palestine Chronicle, Feb. 22)

Ma's statement marked a break with China's policy prior to Oct. 7, 2023, of normalizing economic and diplomatic ties with Israel. China's latest statement confronted the U.S.-European Union policy of supporting Israel with military, diplomatic and economic assistance.

While avoiding any military provocation, the Chinese government and Communist Party have consistently defended Chinese sovereignty and Chinese national interests against any challenge from U.S. imperialism and its allies. Ma's statement extends that defense in the diplomatic arena to the right of the Palestinian people to fight for self-determination.

Reflects worldwide support for Palestine

That China's policy makers would make such a bold challenge illustrates the worldwide shift in popular support for Palestine and the growing mass anger against



Some of China's aid shipments to Gaza.

WWW PHOTO: XINHUA

the Israeli occupation state and its imperialist enablers. It indicates that political leaders are well-aware that hundreds of millions of people around the world are pressuring political actors regarding what position they are taking to stop the genocide in Gaza.

The massive international solidarity with Palestine emboldens those in leadership or vital positions to take steps to stop the massacre of Palestinian civilians, stop the slaughter of children, stop killings that much of the world sees as genocide.

Now a representative of People's China has said that international law is on the side of the Palestinians. That Palestine has a legitimate fight for self-determination. That Palestinians have the right to wage armed struggle.

"The struggle waged by peoples for their liberation, right to self-determination, including armed struggle against colonialism, occupation, aggression, domination against foreign forces should not be considered terror

acts," Ma said. (Palestine Chronicle, Feb. 22)

The Chinese statement not only reflects the strength of a massive worldwide movement, it adds to that strength. After all, as much production takes place in China as the next nine countries combined — including the U.S., Germany, Japan, Britain and India. That's according to the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) in Europe.

Even if China's actions were limited to diplomatic support, the Palestinian position would be strengthened. But the Chinese government has also announced plans to send its third shipment of material aid to Gaza.

Through much of 2023, it seemed the U.S. corporate media, including establishment media like The New York Times, went out of their way to attack some aspects of life in People's China or policies of the Chinese Communist Party. Strangely enough, there has been no or little coverage of Ma's statement to the court, not even an attack, as of Feb. 26.

Media based in the Middle East and South Asia, on the contrary, gave Ma's statement full coverage.

China's positions hold authority with many anti-imperialist and pro-socialist activists and organizations worldwide. Should this statement be publicized it can help build solidarity of communist and workers' organizations in the imperialist countries with the organizations of different ideologies who are leading the struggle for self-determination in Palestine and in all of West Asia.

China's leaders have aided the peoples' struggles worldwide by taking this bold position in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance. □

The sacrifice of Aaron Bushnell

By Bronx Anti-War Coalition

Workers World is in full solidarity with this statement.

1. "FREE PALESTINE!" were his last words and his motivation — this must always be centered.

Aaron Bushnell's final words, "Free Palestine," encapsulate both his last breath and his driving force. It is imperative that this message remain at the forefront. The fact a U.S. soldier must resort to such extreme measures to shed light on U.S. imperialism's crimes should not be normalized. Such an act can spark mass struggle with revolutionary goals.

We owe it to Aaron to safeguard the integrity of his message by amplifying the voices of the Palestinian resistance, who have already recognized his contribution.

More and more people will be affected by this soldier's act. The Palestinian resistance — in all its forms and from all nations — should also be openly and vocally supported and embraced in the same way and by the same people who are

now — or who will be — in awe of Aaron Bushnell's act of resistance.

2. Give resistance fighters the same energy you're giving Aaron Bushnell.

What Bushnell committed to — self-sacrifice for a greater cause — is what Palestinian, Arab and Islamic resistance fighters have done for decades to liberate Palestine and the world from Zionism. Palestinian resistance fighters deserve the same honor and acknowledgment as Aaron Bushnell.

Every day, resistance fighters risk their lives and die as martyrs fighting the Zionist occupation. Palestinians from the resistance selflessly confront Zionist tanks, snipers and battlefronts, facing a much more equipped army, expecting a slim chance of survival, yet doing so to defend their families, people and land.

Bushnell burned himself alive to call attention to the martyrdom and struggle of the Palestinian people. He is immortalized as a defender of humanitarian values and the plight of the oppressed Palestinian peo-

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Students walk out for Palestine

Over 150 youth from Philadelphia high schools walked out of classes on Feb. 23 to demonstrate for Palestine. Marching from a number of different high schools, they converged on City Hall where several students spoke out or recited poems reflecting the horror and anger at the genocide the U.S. and Israel are inflicting on the youth of Palestine. One student expressed her fear and anxiety over

the whereabouts of her Palestinian friend who lives in Gaza but hasn't responded to her calls since November.

The 15-to-17-year-old students marched around the City Hall circle with their signs, energetic chants, banners and signs, one of which asked, "Do you condemn the murder of children or is it complicated when it's Middle Eastern children?"

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

Gaza: Hunger as a weapon

By G. Dunkel

According to the United Nations World Food Program, 80% of the people of the world threatened with famine — dying because of a severe lack of food or water — are Palestinians living in Gaza.

Al Jazeera reports that “Half a million people in Gaza face starvation, and all 2.3 million people living there are suffering from acute food shortage.” (Feb. 26)

Before October 7, when Hamas and the resistance coalition it led managed to bust out of the prison walls Israel had wrapped around it, Gaza received around 500 supply truckloads daily. The trucks entered from either an Israeli checkpoint in northern Gaza or a facility in Egypt near Rafah, both under the control of the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).

Currently, the IOF has limited truckloads to 100 a day with a much more rigorous inspection, rejecting many items, such as toilets, which the Israeli Civil Administration has declared a dual use item. This inspection procedure ignores the fact that a major portion of Hamas’ armaments come from unexploded Israeli ordnance. Frequently, far fewer than 100 truckloads get delivered.

While 1.5 million Palestinians, following dictates from the IOF, have set themselves up in temporary, overcrowded shelters near the Rafah crossing into Egypt, there are still 300,000 to 400,000 Palestinians in northern Gaza, the site of devastating mass bombing and

recent skirmishes between Hamas and the IOF.

The security situation in the north is so desperate, with Israeli naval attacks on aid convoys and the IOF’s refusal to grant permits for “humanitarian” operations from the U.N. or NGOs, that UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, suspended operations Feb. 24.

“The desperate behavior of hungry and exhausted people is preventing the safe and regular passage of our trucks,” said Tamara Alrifai, UNRWA Director of External Relations and Communications. She added that she was “very wary of how to explain this so as not to make it sound like we are blaming people or describing these things as criminal acts.” (tinyurl.com/ynnp7hax)

The U.N.’s World Food Program reports that older people in northern Gaza are dying because they don’t get enough nourishment from the weeds and the animal feed ground into the flour used to make ersatz bread.

In southern Gaza, access to nutrition is also a problem. Medical personnel say that infants are more prone to diarrhea and other ailments and have difficulty recovering because they don’t get enough nutritious food. About one in five children is suffering from severe malnutrition, which will produce lifelong development problems.

The sharpest problem in southern Gaza is access to sanitation. The lines can be hours long and the facilities themselves are filthy. While UNRWA and the NGOs have toilets, they can’t get permission to bring them in. This is a deliberate attempt to humiliate and denigrate. Women also can’t get the sanitary products they need. □



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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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Imperialist hypocrisy marks Assange persecution

By Otis Grotewohl

The contrast of Western treatment and coverage of the cases of Julian Assange and Alexei Navalny typifies imperialist hypocrisy. There is a double standard in the way Washington officials and the corporate media discuss “free speech” and “freedom of the press,” or justify who they endorse and who they disparage.

WikiLeaks founder and journalist Julian Assange made his final appeal to the High Court of Justice of England and Wales (EWHC) in London against the U.S.-initiated extradition proceedings. At hearings on Feb. 20 and 21, Assange’s lawyers and advisers presented arguments to two judges. During that time, Assange’s supporters gathered outside the British courthouse to express solidarity. His spouse Stella Assange, among others, addressed the crowd.

Assange faces 17 charges under the U.S. Espionage Act. A citizen of Australia, he is the first journalist to face similar charges. He could be sentenced to 175 years in prison or worse. Assange’s defenders worry aloud that he will likely be killed if extradited to the U.S.

Reported to be in ill health, Assange was unable to attend the EWHC hearings. He remained incarcerated at Belmarsh maximum security prison in London, where he has been confined since 2019. The EWHC judges have delayed a decision, which is not expected before early March. This move is detrimental to Assange’s case, as well as to his health.

Why the imperialists hate Assange

Assange is being persecuted because through his organization, WikiLeaks, Assange was able to help release documents that exposed U.S. war crimes, particularly in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay prison. He released them to the corporate media, including establishment publications such as The Guardian in Britain, The New York Times in the U.S. and Der Spiegel in Germany.

Journalists all over the globe admire and respect Assange for showing how genuine journalism should be practiced. But exposing U.S. war crimes and human rights violations made him an enemy to U.S. imperialism.

The “Collateral Murder” video, one of the most famous WikiLeaks releases, contained rare footage filmed from a U.S. Apache helicopter that shows the U.S. helicopter crew gunning down 11 civilians in Iraq in 2007. Among those murdered by the careless slaughter was a journalist-photographer employed by Reuters.

Following the leak of the “Collateral Murder” video, the Reuters’ Baghdad bureau chief at the time, Dean Yates, said: “What he (Assange) did was 100% an act of truth-telling, exposing to the world what the war in Iraq looks like and how the U.S. military lied. ... The U.S. knows how embarrassing Collateral Murder is,

how shameful it is to the military — they know that there [are] potential war crimes on that tape,” Yates said. (The Guardian, June 14, 2020).

Why the imperialists loved Navalny

In stark contrast to Julian Assange, the late Alexei Navalny had been propped up by the Joe Biden administration and the U.S. corporate press as a pillar of “free speech.” Upon Navalny’s unexpected death in a Russian prison Feb. 16, U.S. officials and media pundits immediately cried foul and accused the Russian government of causing his death.

National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby prepared reporters for U.S. actions: “Whatever story the Russian government decides to tell the world, it’s clear that President Putin and his government are responsible for Mr. Navalny’s death.” (New York Times, Feb. 20) Then Washington announced 500 new sanctions against Russia a few days later.

In all their mourning and martyrdom of Navalny, neither the Biden administration nor the U.S. media bothered to mention the fact that Navalny was a xenophobic bigot who helped organize the white supremacist “Russian March” in the 2000s. Navalny collaborated with neo-Nazis in calling for the violent removal of oppressed people from Russia. In 2007, his fascist affiliations led to his expulsion from the moderate Yoblako opposition party.

Navalny was a proponent of privatization, union-busting and “free-market” capitalism, which is why he was a darling of the U.S. and other Western leaders who avoided mentioning his reactionary politics and instead portrayed Navalny as a “victim” and “political dissident.” Netflix even released a carefully crafted documentary about him in 2022.

The U.S. and the West ignored Navalny’s history as a Nazi sympathizer. Prior to the NATO-backed proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, Washington desperately needed a “hero” to counter Russian President Vladimir Putin as a “villain,” and Navalny was the only one they could find.

U.S. officials are presenting a false narrative that portrays Navalny as a purveyor of free thought, while they seek to extradite an actual journalist for exposing their murderous war crimes.

Other examples of imperialist hypocrisy

There are thousands of actual political and class-war prisoners in the U.S. and around the world that the Biden administration and the corporate press refuse to discuss.

On Jan. 11, 2024, Chilean-American war commentator Gonzalo Lira mysteriously died at the hands of Ukrainian forces. Lira was a strong critic of the Kiev-based regime. He had been arbitrarily arrested at least twice following the Russian intervention of February 2022, and was never released after his second arrest in May 2023.

Lira’s father, Gonzalo Lira Sr., blames both the U.S. and Ukraine regimes for what happened. In an email



announcing his son’s death, Lira Sr. wrote, “I cannot accept the way my son has died. He was tortured, extorted, held incommunicado for eight months and 11 days and the U.S. embassy did nothing to help my son.” (Helsinki Times, Jan. 13)

There are other examples of people who have been arrested without charge, and even assassinated in Ukraine for expressing opposition to the country’s President Volodymyr Zelensky and the U.S.-led proxy war against Russia.

Mikhail and Aleksander Kononovich are another case in point. These Ukrainian brothers have been wrongfully incarcerated since 2022 simply for being Communist youth leaders in Ukraine. The Kononovich brothers made an appeal to the World Federation of Democratic Youth in July 2023, which was reprinted in Workers World. In it, they declared that the Zelensky regime was planning their assassination.

U.S. politicians obsessively spew hatred against the Hamas Islamic Resistance movement, while refusing to acknowledge the genocide and war crimes being committed by the racist, Israeli government. There are nearly 3,000 Palestinian prisoners who are being held without charge, and no one from the Biden administration has mentioned a word about their wrongful detention. Since October 7, at least 10 Palestinian detainees have died in Israeli prisons. (tinyurl.com/4vj5pe7t)

Representatives of Washington have no right to talk about the conditions of prisoners in other countries. The U.S. has more prisoners than any other country in the world, even those with much larger populations. Among the workers incarcerated are political prisoners being held captive for their political convictions. Two of the most well-known U.S. political prisoners are Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier. Both Mumia and Peltier have been wrongfully incarcerated for over 40 years and suffer from severe health problems.

U.S. leaders only care about “free speech” and “freedom of the press” when it suits their narrative. Ruling-class surrogates and pro-imperialist propagandists who shed tears over Navalny’s death are the same ones who wish to silence political prisoners such as Mumia, Peltier and Assange for challenging their power and exposing their lies. □

The sacrifice of Aaron Bushnell

Continued from page 1

ple, but let’s also recognize the martyrs who came before him. We now carry on the struggle and turn our eyes back to the resistance with renewed vigor and clarity of purpose.

3. A U.S. soldier lighting himself on fire to protest a genocide the U.S. is perpetrating is a severe blow to imperialism.

Aaron’s declaration that he “will no longer be complicit in genocide” underscores a crucial point: He wasn’t protesting “some other country’s war” but the U.S.’s direct role in not only funding the genocide but actively orchestrating it.

Last month, it was revealed that the Biden administration sent U.S. Air Force officers to assist the Israeli Occupation Force with targeting in Gaza, directly implicating the Pentagon in the IOF’s actions. Orders for Air Force members like Bushnell to deploy to occupied Palestine were labeled “mandatory.”

By forcing Bushnell and others to participate, the U.S. military effectively killed him, redirecting his oath to “defend” towards aiding genocide. Every active duty member in the U.S. military is being forced into complicity in genocide, like the soldiers in a Nazi military. They must learn that this crime serves only the billionaire imperialist class that the Pentagon serves. The movement must explain this.

Acts of self-sacrifice often ignite greater movements that involve mass action and can directly disrupt the military killing machine. May Bushnell’s sacrifice be a call to action for more U.S. active duty personnel to reject imperialism, and may his memory and U.S. crimes haunt all who remain silent or complicit in the genocide in Gaza.

4. Aaron Bushnell made the ultimate sacrifice to combat the ultimate crime.

Self-immolation is not suicide or a manifestation of mental illness. Instead, it is a reflection of a deeply diseased society rooted in deeply flawed policies, not a reflection of an individual’s mental state. The same individuals who condone the starvation and bombing of children in Gaza seek to portray those who oppose such atrocities as mentally unstable.

Aaron Bushnell made the ultimate sacrifice to combat the ultimate crime. Contrary to the notion that mental illness implies a detachment from reality, Bushnell’s final Facebook post and its video introduction demonstrate a keen awareness of the grim realities often hidden by mainstream narratives. The weaponization of alleged mental illness is yet another deplorable tactic employed by Zionists and corporate media to perpetuate their own delusions.

We mourn the loss of Aaron Bushnell because the world cannot afford to lose such morally conscious individuals.

Aaron Bushnell, you are in the hearts of all the free people in the world.



This is a good time to remind everyone speaking on Aaron Bushnell and the ongoing genocide in Gaza that the best source for information is directly from the Palestinian resistance on the ground and from the wider camp of resistance.

Follow Resistance News Network on Telegram: <https://t.me/palestineresist>

Long live resistance! Long live Palestine! □