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 should be recognized.” 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. 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 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 embodies 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 genocidal.

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 colonization, 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 the everyday human rights atrocities they witness in 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.

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

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’s “Stop the Beast” operation forced Israel to halt all movement in and out of Gaza, the IFO had limited truckloads to 100 a day. By December 2023, however, Israel was limited to 100 truckloads per day. 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 1.3 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/ynpmbpx)

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 three in five children is suffering from severe malnutrition, which will produce lifelong development problems.

Gaza: Hunger as a weapon

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, minorities, 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—they cannot 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 rulers 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 capital profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1939, 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. (}</p>
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 imperial 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 their acts when they endorse and who they disparage.

When Alexei Navalny was arrested by Russian officials, and then 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 sister 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, footage, and stories in Iraq, Afghanistan, 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 and WikiLeaks as 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, and Assange is the only journalist who dared to make the video public.”

WikiLeaks founder and journalist Julian Assange is a severe blow to imperialism. It is a slap in the face of the “imperial class” and an affront to our national self-esteem. The sacrifice of Aaron Bushnell

Aaron Bushnell, you are in the hearts of all the free people. It is a monumental crime to give Bushnell so little justice, and it is a tragedy that Bushnell’s death is not treated as a war crime.

As 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 the under-funding of JOE’s ads” and the other acts of self-sacrifice he undertook are a crucial point: He wasn’t just 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 U.S. in war crimes. Orders from the White House directed the 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.

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 Palestine, with the ultimate crime. —they know that there are [real] 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 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 racist who supported the dictatorial “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 modern Germany.

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 2020.

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 serious journalist who sought to uncover the truth, 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 Liri’s father, Gonzalo Lira Sr., blames both the U.S. and Ukraine regimes for what happened, in an email released by WikiLeaks in February 2024.

Liri’s declaration that he “will no longer be complicit in the under-funding of JOE’s ads” and the other acts of self-sacrifice he undertook are a crucial point: He wasn’t just protesting “some other country’s war” but the U.S.’s direct role in not only funding the genocide but actively orchestrating it.

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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 resist 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 dishonest media and political 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.

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