

# Shut it down for Palestine!

## 'Little Yemen' in the Bronx

By Tony Murphy  
Bronx, New York

"Gaza called, Yemen answered. Now Israeli ships are canceled!" was the chant Jan. 6 as thousands marched in frigid temperatures



Protest for Palestine in 'Little Yemen' neighborhood, Bronx, New York, Jan. 6, 2024. WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

through the Bronx's "Little Yemen" neighborhood. The "Flood the Bronx for Gaza" protest was called by Within Our Lifetime. Among those marching were anti-Zionist members of the orthodox Jewish community.

Solidly in support of Gaza, Yemen's leaders have prevented Israeli and Israel-bound vessels from passing through the Bab el-Mandeb strait. Millions jam Yemen's streets to ally with Palestine. The righteous stand of the Yemeni government has caused Israeli ships to take costly detours around the Horn of Africa and stands out as an act of true solidarity on the international stage. □

## Starbucks closed, freeway blocked

By Jim McMahan  
Seattle

Two demonstrations for Palestine impacted commerce and transportation in Seattle Jan. 6. The first was held outside a Starbucks store, which was preemptively closed and boarded up in advance of the protest. A Palestinian speaker gave a very strong solidarity statement supporting Starbucks workers, emphasizing especially the Starbucks boycott due to the corporation's staunch support of, and business dealings with Israel.

The second protest was a well-planned action blocking the Interstate 5 freeway with cars and several hundred pedestrians. Meanwhile, 1,000 supporters were on the overpasses; nearby there were banner drops. I-5 is the main north/south freeway on the West Coast.



Outside Starbucks, Seattle, Jan. 6, 2024. WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN



Outside Starbucks, Seattle, Jan. 6, 2024. WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

These were both Palestinian-led demonstrations with a number of solidarity organizations participating. □

## Philly protests hit 'Genocide Joe'

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Back-to-back actions — Joe Biden out of Philly and Flood Philly for Palestine — took place Jan. 5 in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, and Jan. 6 in Philadelphia. Both events were organized by the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition.

When a forecast of the area's first snowstorm forced President Joe Biden to move the planned launch of his 2024 presidential campaign back a day, he first made a strange, supposedly symbolic appearance at historic Valley Forge National Park, where only his security detail, Dr. Jill Biden, a park ranger and select media were on hand.

However, at his second stop at nearby

Montgomery Community College in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, dozens of demonstrators gathered outside to denounce "Genocide Joe" Biden for his unrelenting support of Israel's campaign of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, financed by the U.S.

Demonstrators, including some students from the college, came from throughout the Philadelphia area, some from as far away as Camden, New Jersey. Trying to keep demonstrators away from any area where Biden might see them, security staff instead let them protest adjacent to the sidewalk where several hundred people attending Biden's speech had to pass by.

The action eventually grew close to 100 people, even picking up some who came to

hear Biden but were unable to get in. The protest was covered by Channel 10 News, there to film the Biden event.

Despite wind, snow and sleet, on Jan. 6, over 150 people took over Philadelphia streets, making it clear they would not stop demonstrating for Palestine. Protesters gathered at Franklin Square near the heavily trafficked entrance to the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. They marched to the Philadelphia Inquirer building at Sixth and Market streets; passed the nearby National Museum of Jewish History, where a huge Israeli flag was on display with the words "We support Israel"; and walked to the nearby Fox



Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, Jan. 5, 2024. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

news offices at Fourth and Market streets.

The action ended with a rally at Second and Market streets, where protesters took over the intersection, blocking traffic. The marchers demanded: "Cease-fire now! Lift the siege on Gaza! Free Palestine!" and "Genocide Joe has got to go!" □

## Hear the voices of Palestinian Resistance

Workers World Party invites you to a revolutionary gathering — an International Assembly Against Imperialism in Solidarity with the Palestinian Resistance — on the 100th anniversary of the death of V.I. Lenin.

The hybrid event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial

& Educational Center, 3940 Broadway, at West 165th Street, Washington Heights, New York City, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. with a 10 a.m. registration. including coffee, videos and music. The venue is disabled accessible.

- Pre-registration is required to attend in-person: [tinyurl.com/jan21nyc](http://tinyurl.com/jan21nyc)
- Or participate online: [tinyurl.com/jan21online](http://tinyurl.com/jan21online)
- To make a donation: [tinyurl.com/jan21donate](http://tinyurl.com/jan21donate)

The party is honored that representatives of the Palestinian resistance and key Palestinian activists in the U.S. will be participating. It is especially moving that liberation and workers' struggles from the Global South, from Latin America, Africa and Asia are participating.

As global anger escalates, it is U.S. imperialism that is isolated and exposed. Voices of resistance are barred

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# Let's crush the capitalist cabal!

Behind the forced resignations of two women Ivy League university presidents, behind the banning of pro-Palestine campus student organizations and behind the censorship and doxing of anyone who dares to challenge the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza is a capitalist cabal of Wall Street bankers, private equity firms, military contractors and major backers of Israel like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Determined to silence dissent, these forces are part of an effort to create an atmosphere of fear, particularly on college campuses. They target students and faculty, including Jewish activists, who dare organize and forcefully speak out in support of the Palestinian people's right to resist Israel's genocide and illegal occupation of Palestinian lands.

Black and Arab student organizers have been particularly targeted.

The attacks on pro-Palestine student activists go hand-in-hand with the vicious right-wing attacks on so-called "wokeness" and "diversity, equity, inclusion" (DEI), steps promoting some justice won by the outpouring of millions of people globally in 2020 in the Black Lives Matter movement. Then, following the police murder of George Floyd, young white workers took to the streets in militant protests side-by-side with their Black and Brown comrades.

It is no coincidence conservative activist Christopher Rufo was at the forefront of the campaign to force Harvard's first Black woman president, Claudine Gay, to resign. Rufo is best known for launching the campaign against the teaching of "critical race theory." One of the first acts of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was to align with Rufo in a hostile takeover of the New College in order to abolish the school's DEI department. (The Nation, Jan. 4)

"Stop WOKE" legislation

in Florida, Texas and several other states represents an effort to purge U.S. history of any references to violence against Black, Brown, Indigenous and Asian people by white supremacists.

Along with their puppet politicians from both bourgeois parties, this capitalist cabal would push society back to a time when only wealthy, white men had access to higher education. History would be taught only from the perspective of the rulers of white, settler-colonial states, whether the U.S. or Israel.

The working class needs to defend anyone facing these racist attacks and false charges of antisemitism, even when those under attack are not strong on the issues. We need a truly broad, anti-capitalist movement capable of challenging all the tools capitalism has historically used to divide the global working class: racism, homophobia, xenophobia, sexism, transphobia, ableism, ageism and more — not to mention being labeled "antisemitic" just for speaking out against genocidal Zionism and in support of Palestine.

The energy of the 2020 anti-racist street actions helped fuel the growing movement of young workers — multinational and multi-gender — to organize unions in workplaces from Starbucks to Amazon and beyond. The last two years have witnessed the success of major union strikes. In 2023, SAG-AFTRA and the United Auto Workers won historic concessions from their bosses.

And 2023 ended with significant demonstrations of solidarity with Palestine from the global union movement and the demand for a cease-fire in Gaza.

The momentum is growing to take on the right wing and the imperialist forces aligned behind Zionism. Let's make 2024 the year to build a multinational movement of students, workers and all oppressed people capable of crushing the capitalist cabal. □

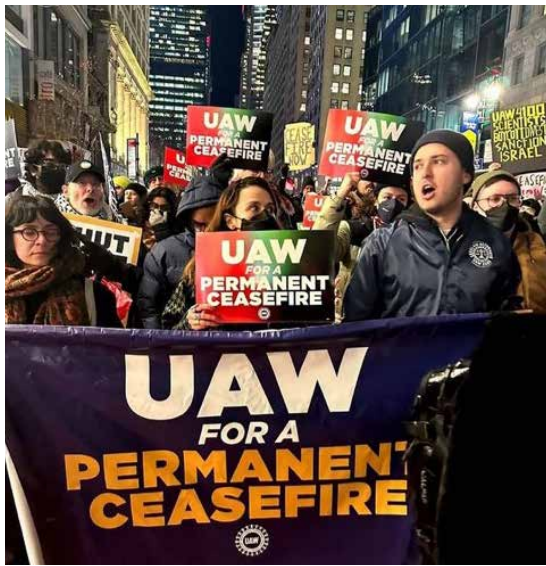


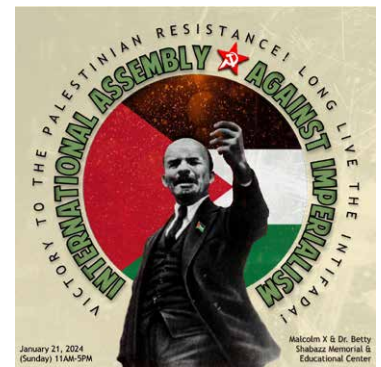
PHOTO: UNITED AUTO WORKERS

UAW contingent in march for Palestine, New York City, Dec. 21, 2023.

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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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## El Partido Mundo Obrero condena el asesinato israelí del líder de Hamás en el Líbano

El Partido Mundo Obrero condena el atroz asesinato del jeque Saleh Al-Aroui, jefe adjunto del Buró Político de Hamás y fundador de las Brigadas Mártires Izz El-Din Al-Qassam. Aquellos en el gobierno israelí y los militares que ordenaron el ataque con drones y aquellos en el gobierno de EE.UU. que han coludido y armado al Estado colono israelí son igualmente culpables de este último crimen de guerra.

El Partido Mundo Obrero insta a las organizaciones de la clase trabajadora de todo el mundo a unirse a las protestas convocadas por las organizaciones de resistencia palestinas para protestar y condenar el asesinato.

Resistance News Network describió las contribuciones de Aroui, de 57 años: “Un preso liberado que pasó 18 años en cárceles sionistas, Aroui, de Arara en Ramala, fue fundamental para unir los campos, galvanizar la creciente resistencia en Cisjordania y establecer el acuerdo de intercambio de prisioneros de Shalit en 2011. Deja tras de sí un legado de desafío y resistencia, y una influencia indeleble en la resistencia regional.”

Este asesinato es, ante todo, una tremenda pérdida para el pueblo palestino, incluida la resistencia que él



Jeque Saleh Al-Aroui

ayudó a fundar. También es una pérdida para los revolucionarios de todo el mundo y para todos aquellos cuyas vidas están guiadas por el internacionalismo de la clase obrera. Un daño a uno es un daño a todos.

Sin embargo, estamos seguros de que el martirio de Aroui profundizará la resolución y la determinación de la heroica lucha del pueblo palestino desde 1948 para liberarse de los grilletes del apartheid sionista. El pueblo palestino debe recuperar y recuperará sus tierras

ancestrales, un componente integral de la autodeterminación. El pueblo palestino debe recibir una reparación.

El martirio de Aroui plantará más semillas para que crezca la resistencia, ahora y en el futuro, contra todas las formas de saqueo y ocupación imperialistas.

Una Palestina libre y soberana será una victoria no sólo para el pueblo palestino, sino también para los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos de todo el planeta, porque asestará un golpe sin precedentes al imperialismo.

Como dijo una vez el dinámico dirigente del Partido de las Panteras Negras, Fred Hampton, martirizado en diciembre de 1969 por un asesinato policial: “Puedes matar a un revolucionario, pero no puedes matar a la revolución”. Esa cita se aplica a todos aquellos que, como Aroui, han sido martirizados en la lucha por la liberación del pueblo palestino.

Jeque Saleh Al-Aroui, ¡presente!

Con solidaridad revolucionaria y profundo respeto,

Larry Holmes

Primer Secretario del Partido del Mundo Obrero  
Estados Unidos □

## Some Israeli youth say ‘No’ to military conscription

By Michael Kramer

Wars of aggression — particularly those that are racist and genocidal in character — will always result in opposition from those who are called on to carry out the war. During World War II, tens of thousands of German soldiers were executed for either desertion or refusing to follow military orders.

And now a small number of Israeli youth are refusing to take part in this most recent phase of the 75-year war against the Palestinian people and the occupation of their country. It began on October 7, 2023, with Palestinian fighters overrunning and capturing numerous Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF, what Israel calls Israeli Defense Forces) military bases.

The tradition of Israeli youth refusing to take part in the defense of the Zionist project is not new. In September 2023 over 200 high school students signed a statement and held a public meeting declaring their refusal to serve in the IOF.

On Dec. 26, the first of the signees, 18-year-old Tal Mitnick, refused mandatory military service and was jailed in a military prison for 30 days. To prevent any

display of solidarity within the prison walls, with all its potential ramifications, he is being kept separate from any Palestinian prisoners.

Mitnick issued a long statement before he was jailed in which he observed, “Before the war [the Israeli assault on Gaza], the army guarded settlements, maintained the murderous siege on the Gaza Strip and upheld the status quo of apartheid and Jewish supremacy in the land between the Jordan [River] and the sea.”

Sofia Orr is also 18 years old and has publicly stated that she will refuse to serve in the IOF beginning on her



Tal Mitnick



Sofia Orr

Feb. 25, 2024, scheduled military induction. She has refused to apply for any exemption based on pacifism, ethics, medical conditions or mental health and has had lengthy interviews on both the Al Jazeera television network and the france24.com website.

When asked how the events of October 7 affected her decision, she replied that it “changed nothing in either direction. It should have been expected, because when you put people under extreme violence, extreme violence will rise back at you. It’s inevitable.” For her actions Orr has been labeled a “traitor” and threatened with murder and rape, according to the Jan. 6 report at france24.com.

Israeli youth who refuse military service should be supported and encouraged. They have opened an internal front against the Zionist project within a fascist-like political and social atmosphere.

*The writer served in the IOF and took part in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war as well as the illegal occupations of Palestine, Egypt and Syria. His experiences led him to become a supporter of Palestinian self-determination and liberation.*

## Hear the voices of Palestinian Resistance

Continued from page 1

from the corporate media. In the face of U.S.-funded and -equipped Israeli genocide, the movement has every political, legal, and moral right to hear these views without U.S. government and corporate media censorship and harassment.

At this moment, millions of people in every corner of the world are taking to the streets to protest the genocidal war against Gaza. Everyone urgently needs to hear from these movements. We can no longer allow any issue to separate and atomize workers fighting on the

many fronts in the global working-class struggle.

The Assembly will address the urgent question of how to raise the level of solidarity with Palestine within the working class and the workers’ movement. A number of U.S. labor unions have issued statements calling for a cease-fire. That’s a good start, but much more can be done and must be done.

One of Lenin’s many contributions to revolutionary struggle was his tireless effort to lead the international working-class movement toward maximizing concrete solidarity with all of the

anti-colonial liberation struggles. This direction exemplifies the essence of Lenin — it has never been more relevant and necessary.

The party will commemorate Lenin by devoting this Assembly to solidarity with Palestine and all movements for liberation from imperialist domination.

Along with our profound solidarity with Palestine, the International Assembly will also take up the global class struggle against capitalist exploitation, racism and fascism; the struggle against imperialist war such as NATO’s war in Ukraine; U.S. threats against China; the liberation of

Puerto Rico; the support of the struggles of Indigenous peoples, people of African descent and migrants; the defense of Cuba; the climate crisis; and the liberation of people with disabilities, women, gender-oppressed and LGBTQIA2S+ people.

Every struggle against oppression has a right to be heard. Workers World Party looks forward to sharing this powerful event with you and we encourage you to share this event with others.

We are still in the midst of a global pandemic. Please use masks, which will be provided at the Assembly, health precautions and social distancing. □