South Africa puts Israel on trial before the world

By Monica Moorehead

No matter the judges’ decision on the historic complaint brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the highest court under the auspices of the United Nations, by the South African government against Israeli genocide in Gaza on Jan. 11, the hearing itself will have everlasting political ramifications worldwide.

The 84-page document includes devastating, factual evidence on the heinous terror that Gazans have experienced since October 7 and continue to experience at this writing. As of Jan. 14 — 100 days since the genocide began — the Gaza Ministry of Health reported that close to 24,000 people have been slaughtered, with 70% of the victims being children and women. Over 60,000 people have been wounded. Countless thousands more Palestinians have been buried under rubble caused by indiscriminate Israeli airstrikes. More than 2,000 massacres have been carried out, wiping out whole Palestinian families and bloodlines. (Resistance News Network)

Most of these horrific statistics have either been minimized or censored altogether by the Western corporate media since October 7. This, amongst other reasons, is why the South Africa complaint is so timely and significant.

In its introduction presented to the ICJ, South Africa states, “The acts and omissions by Israel complained of by South Africa are genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group, that being the part of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip (‘Palestinians in Gaza’).

“The acts in question include killing Palestinians in Gaza, causing them serious bodily and mental harm, and inflicting on them conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction. The acts are all attributable to Israel, which has failed to prevent genocide and is committing genocide in manifest violation of the Genocide Convention, and which has also violated and is continuing to violate its other fundamental obligations under the Genocide Convention, including by failing to prevent or punish the direct and public incitement to genocide by senior Israeli officials and others.”

Israel: the world’s social parish

The fact that the fascist Netanyahu government could not ignore this complaint has led to further isolation of this Nazi apartheid state. This is a political victory in itself. Israel’s weak rebuttal to the complaint has been to label the South African legal team as being “antisemitic” and a “legal arm of Hamas.” In its opening remarks during the ICJ proceedings on Jan. 12, Israel characterized the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) as being a “terrorist” organization over 130 times and used Hamas as a flimsy excuse for decimating all infrastructure in Gaza and its population for 100 days.

“The strength of a united Palestinian resistance since October 7 has wreaked havoc on the Israeli economy, with losses in the tens of billions of dollars in U.S. military equipment, along with thousands of casualties, dead and disabled.

On the centennial of Lenin’s death

A strong class orientation is needed in 2024

By Larry Holmes

The writer is Workers World Party’s First Secretary.

The necessity for a strong class orientation and internationalism in understanding and in deeds is decisive in the spirit of the 100th anniversary of the death of Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the great Bolshevik Revolution in the former Soviet Union.

The relationship of class forces

Obviously, every communist should know that the class struggle, and all that it requires from the working class, ideologically, organizationally and strategically, is central to Marxism/Leninism and the goal of socialist revolution.

It is necessary to remind ourselves of the relationship between the working class and revolutionary theory. It is more helpful if the way that we remind ourselves of this does not rely on theoretical conceptions alone that can seem

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Workers World hails South Africa’s solidarity with Palestine

A statue of Nelson Mandela, erected by the Palestinian people, stands in Ramallah, on the occupied West Bank, in recognition of his support for their struggle, as leader of the African National Congress.

In 1990, after Mandela’s release from prison, he explained the WWP’s support for the Palestinian struggle: “They fully support the anti-apartheid struggle. They do not support us only in rhetoric. They are placing resources at our disposal, for us to win the struggle.”

Mandela condemned the Israeli state for supplying South Africa’s repressive apartheid government with weapons to use against the people. (Israel even offered the fascist regime nuclear weapons!)

For years, Mandela drew parallels between the Palestinian and South African peoples’ struggles for liberation and stressed the importance of global support for both. This resolution solidarity with the Palestinian people is being shown at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, where South Africa has brought charges against Israel of genocide. This is a principled act of courage and solidarity.

The people of the world have shown their solidarity with Palestine by demonstrating in the millions. Workers World hails those actions and unswervingly supports the Palestinian people. Our staff members join the protests opposing Israel’s genocidal and Washington’s lockstep support and provision of 2,000 pound bombs.

Unlike the corporate media, WW is partisan: Our paper has always sided with the Palestinians and their resistance organizations, just as our newspaper supported the militant anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.

Adhering to our principled support for national liberation movements, WW reprints and posts at workers.org statements issued by anti-Zionist resistance forces and their global allies and those of movements fighting imperialist domination and war.

WW calls for solidarity with the Palestinian people—and all oppressed and exploited peoples worldwide.

WW needs your help!

Workers World newspaper relies on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was founded 47 years ago to help build this socialist newspaper, which prints one issue a month. This fund also supports the website workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the week’s signed commentary is displayed.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people’s movements against racism and war for and women’s, workers’, migrants’ LGBTQ2+ and disabled people’s rights.

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the printed issue and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payment to read their articles, WW does not.

Our articles are free to all readers.

Join the WW Supporter Program!

Can you donate $50, $100, or $200 per year? Contributing $50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, an emailed PDF of every weekly issue and, upon request, a copy of the book “What road to socialism?”

Your donations can help get class truth to more readers. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.
Fight back against Northeastern’s racist attack on Palestinian solidarity!

By Will Hodgkinson

Some 30 courageous Northeastern University (NEU) student activists rallied Jan. 10 in front of Ell Hall, where disciplin ary hearings for three student supporters of Palestinian liberation were scheduled to take place. Huskies for a Free Palestine, a member group in the Boston Coalition for Palestine, organized the action to demand that the NEU administration drop all trumped-up “disciplinary” charges against its members and for Northeastern’s total divestment from the Zionist state of Israel.

The university is targeting students for protesting the ongoing Zionist genocide in Gaza. On Dec. 3, the University’s Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, with offices in Ell Hall, brought these charges against students who organized a Dec. 1 sit-in at the Curry Student Center to protest the University’s investments in the Israeli state’s murderous terror campaign in Gaza and the West Bank.

Jan. 10, the day of NEU’s show trial, was also the day before South Africa made its opening arguments before the International Court of Justice at The Hague, in the Netherlands, where the Zionist state faces judgment for its ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people.

Other Palestine solidarity groups and alumni have rallied in support of the stu dents. On Dec. 13, NEU alumni published an open letter denouncing Northeastern’s witch hunt, demanding “that the University end targeted discipline and repression, and respect the rights of all Northeastern community members to demonstrate and orga nize on campus.”

Other NEU alumni posted messages on Huskies for a Free Palestine’s Instagram page: “As a Palestinian American Northeastern alum I am APPALLED to be associated with my alma mater,” wrote one supporter. “Your disciplinary charges are unjustified and moti gated. I vow to never encourage another pro spective student to consider NEU again.”

NEU administration’s response to the solidarity action on Jan. 10 was an intensi fied crackdown. Campus cops and adminis trators pounded the public green where the demonstration was taking place, demanding students show their IDs and refusing to let in activists, including members of Workers World Party Boston, who had shown up in support.

Defying the police, protesters chanted “Not another nickel, not another dime, no more money for Israel’s crimes!” and “In our thousands, in our millions, we are all Palestinians!” in support of their comrades, with several waving Palestinian flags.

Part of broader effort to quash student solidarity with Palestine

Northeastern’s persecution is part of the ongoin g efforts by Israel and its bourgeois institutions to quash the inter national Palestinian solidarity movement. Nearly all major universities in the U.S. and Western Europe have threatened and tried to intimidate activists associated with international Palestinian solidarity move ments, including Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).

At Northeastern, last month, right-wing billionaire donors, led by hedge fund boss Bill Ackman, forced Harvard President Claudine Gay to commit to reversing its 2019 decision to divest from Raytheon and Boston Dynamics, which sup port Huskies for a Free Palestine, please visit their Instagram page at: tinyurl.com/2x75y6ed. 

The fight against Israeli apartheid is a fight for freedom for us all

The original statement can be found at araborganizing.org.

The Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC) holds the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence we’ve witnessed across historic Palestine. In the U.S., we work to support the struggle for freedom and justice in Palestine, in our region and globally.

Recent events did not occur in a vac uum but as a result of unrelenting colonial aggression. For the last two decades, 2.3 mil lion Palestinians in Gaza have been forced to live in a dense, open-air prison, besieged by Israel in violation of international law. Two thirds of the population in Gaza are refugees who were forcibly displaced from other parts of Palestine. Half of the population is unem ployed, and the vast majority are impoverished and are denied regular access to food, water and health care by the Israeli siege. Completely surrounded by a militarized barrier, Gazans are denied freedom of move ment. In 2018, the United Nations deemed Gaza “unlivable,” and since then, Gazans have experienced multiple bombardments by Israel, intensifying an already untenable situation.

The apartheid regime has cut off all food, water and electricity to Gaza and has engaged in carpet bombing of residential buildings, markets, schools, health facili ties and mosques. Across the occupied West Bank, residents fear the worst, with many trapped in their homes as armed Israeli settlers threaten pogroms against Palestinian families, and closed military checkpoints prohibit any freedom of movement. Israeli officials promise to “open the gates of hell,” labeling Palestinian “human ani mals,” and the massacres in Gaza have commenced with full support and aid from the U.S. government.

After the past 75 years, Israeli violence has structured every aspect of Palestinian existence. From systematized land seizures to routine airstrikes, from arbitrary imprison ment to military checkposts, enforced family separations to targeted killings, Palestinians have been forced to live in a state of death, both slow and sudden.

All forms of resistance—peaceful and otherwise—have been brutally repressed by the Israeli regime. Even the most moderate international human rights organi zations have labeled Israeli apartheid’s structural and military violence as genocidal. Here in the U.S., Palestinians in the diaspora—along with our allies—have been met with hate, violence, slander, crim inalization and blacklisting.

Today, Palestinians are entering uncharted territory, facing the most brutal Israeli violence in history. Many have asked why the Palestinian people have not been met with the same solidarity that came so easily to the people of Ukraine. The coming days will require a firm stance against colonialism and a renewed commitment to ending the brutal occupation.

While the U.S. government and so many of its allies clamor to blur the drums of war and annihilation, we remain inspired by the steadfastness of our people, and we remain committed to the righteous struggle for freedom, justice and self-determination.

We call on all to boycott Israel. We call on institutions to divest from Israel. We call on the U.S. government to sanction Israel and end the billions in military aid. We call on our community and allies to take action to stop ongoing annihilation of Palestine by demanding an end to the siege on Gaza, an end to the occupation, freedom for politi cal prisoners and an end to U.S. aid to apart heid.

The current violence could end immedi ately if those in power took even a small step back from the brink of war.

While we understand the feelings of despair, confusion and fear that may be gripping our families, friends and commu nity, we take this moment as an invitation to recommit ourselves to the revolutionary roots of Palestinian liberation—where the struggle to abolish apartheid, Zionism and fascism in our homeland is one and the same with an international struggle for economic and political democracy, for education and health care for all, for the right to relations to land, for social justice, gender justice and climate justice, shaped in the interests of working people.

We fight for the day all peoples in historic Palestine and all peoples of the world can live in dignity and peace.

End the War on Gaza! Free Palestine! Long live international solidarity! AROC envisions powerful and liberated Arab communities living with freedom and self-determination, from the Bay Area to our homelands. We are abolitionists, feminists and internationalists who believe that the liberation of SWP (South West Asian North African) people is inextricably tied to the liberation of all oppressed people.

Midwives protest firings at NY Presbyterian Hospital

Nurses and midwives from the Bronx and Manhattan joined a rally Jan. 11 in support of midwives who recently received letters of termination from New York Presbyterian Hospital. They spoke outside Presley’s Allen Hospital at the northern tip of Manhattan, demanding that management reverse its decision to fire the midwives.

This issue is vital not only for the working midwives, but for the patients they serve, who are mainly Black, Brown and immigrant women from Harlem, Washington Heights and the Bronx. The midwives have a long history of safely caring and advocating for their patients. The New York State Nurses Association, which represents the midwives, organized the event.

— Report and photo by Ellen Catalinatto

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Death penalty in U.S. is dying—but not dead yet

By Gloria Rubac

It is a slow and painful death, but executions in the U.S. are on the decline. The death penalty is gaining its last breaths as even Republicans are condemning it these days. The big picture of capital punishment is that the United States is moving away from the death penalty. Here are some new facts:

- For the first time in the U.S., a majority of people believe that the death penalty is applied unfairly, according to an October 2023 Gallup Poll.
- Twenty-two of thirty states, either abolished the death penalty (23) or have a moratorium on executions in place (3).
- In 2023, only five states conducted executions and seven states imposed new death sentences, the lowest number in 20 years.
- There were three people exonerated on death rows in 2023, bringing the total number of exonerations to 195 since the death penalty was reinstated in the U.S. in 1976.

Texas was one of just five states to carry out executions in 2023, but led the country with eight people put to death. The other four states were Alabama (2), Florida (6), Missouri (4) and Oklahoma (4).

Even in Texas, which leads the U.S. with total 356 executions, change is coming. Death sentence convictions have fallen from a high of 48 in 1999 to three people sent to death row by Texas juries in 2023. Convictions with a death sentence have been in single digits for the past nine years in Texas.

Virginia made history in 2021 when it became the first former Confederate state to abolish the death penalty. Now two other former Confederate states, Kentucky and Missouri, along with Ohio, have bills to abolish the death penalty before their legislatures.

Rep. Jim Murphy, a Missouri Republican, told the media that he “believes the death penalty is something that we really need to examine and put to an end because there’s just too many errors to be made and it’s just too big of an issue to ignore.” (Online.com/murphyjkn)

So, there is definitely some good news. But the horrors of executions do continue unabated.

Death penalty still despicably racist, and torture

But the flip side of this big picture is that the death penalty is still despicably racist, and is still torture. It is still killing people who had totally incompetent attorneys, people who are mentally ill, and people with extremely low mental abilities. And it is still killing innocent people.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center, “79% of the people executed this year [2023] had at least one of the following impairments: serious mental illness, brain injury, developmental brain damage, an IQ in the range considered intellectually disabled, and/or chronic serious childhood trauma, neglect and/or abuse. One-third or eight of the people executed had all three. At least three prisoners were under the age of 20 at the time of their crimes.”

This is because important death penalty proponents and district attorneys, more often than not, dehumanize people in order to rationalize their killing. Prosecutors make those on trial out to be “monsters” who have to be killed. Now Glossip has been allowed his appeals to be heard.

Glossip is asking the Supreme Court to throw out his 2004 murder conviction.

The New York-based Innocence Project said that Richard Glossip’s case is “a harrowing example of how the justice system can fail an innocent person. Glossip’s nine execution dates and three last meals. His ninth execution was stayed by the courts last May as Glossip was saying his last goodbyes to his loved ones, and now Glossip is asking the Supreme Court to throw out his 2004 murder conviction.

The Rev. Jeff Hood, a spiritual advisor, plans to minister to Kenneth Smith in the death chamber. Hood said the Alabama Department of Corrections asked him to fill a form acknowledging the risks and agreeing to stay 3 feet away from Smith’s gas mask. Hood, a death penalty opponent, said that shows there is a risk to witnesses alongside the execution.

“They’ve asked me to sign a waiver, which to me speaks to the fact that they’re already concerned that things could go wrong,” Hood said in an interview with NBC News after he filed a lawsuit against the Alabama Department of Corrections.

Mental illness and the death penalty

In a particularly sad case, Terence Andrus took his own life on Jan. 21, 2023, after struggling with mental illness while on Texas death row. On June 13, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court denied Andrus’s petition for certiorari and summary reversal. Andrus was sentenced to death in 2012 after receiving allograft legal representation at trial. His case went back and forth in several courts as Andrus kept trying to win a new trial but never succeeded. His suicide was the result of the system’s failure.

Syed Rabbani was sentenced to life in prison on Nov. 14, 2023, after spending 35 years under an unconstitutional death sentence in Texas. Since his conviction, his mental and physical health has significantly deteriorated. He is now bedridden, blinded by cataracts, and rendered nearly immobile and uncommunicative by a stroke.

On March 7, 2023, Andre Thomas’s April 3 Texas execution date was withdrawn. Thomas lives at the prison’s psychiatric facility, where he suffers from schizophrenia. He permanently blinded himself by gouging out both of his eyes in separate incidents—first while awaiting trial, and then again soon after arriving on death row. After he took out his second eye, he ate it. Why Thomas wasn’t determined to be mentally unfit for execution is a question never answered.

Before the crime, Thomas sought treatment for the symptoms of his severe mental illness, but no one responded to his increasingly desperate pleas for help over the course of many years. In 2004, he attempted suicide because he could no longer tolerate the voices in his head.

There are enough sad stories to fill a book. But the main thing is that this country, which was founded on a belief in justice for all, is committing murder after murder after murder. Period.

The death penalty may be on its way out. But incarcerated people and their families and supporters must continue to struggle to dismantle the prisons and execution chambers brick by brick and wall by wall until the day comes when we have created a society that rules with justice for all.

Gloria Rubac is a leader of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.
Fighting for disability rights behind bars

By Billy Rinick and Joe Piette

The disproportionate incarceration of people with disabilities in the United States is a serious and growing problem. As the prison population grows, more inmates are reporting physical disabilites. The U.S. has also seen a rise in the number of inmates with intellectual and developmental and cognitive disabilities in prison. National surveys now indicate that as many as 34% of inmates in state prisons report a disability. It is the responsibility of the prison system to address the needs of these inmates, including providing them with appropriate medical care and accommodations. Inmates with disabilities face unique challenges behind bars, including difficulty accessing necessary medical treatments and facing discrimination from prison staff. The current system often fails to adequately address the needs of inmates with disabilities, leading to a cycle of incarceration and health problems.

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 the suffering and deaths of civilians, including thousands of children. The occupation army, which has occupied Palestinian lands for over 70 years, has repeatedly violated the rights of Palestinians, including their right to self-determination and self-governance. The occupation army has used force and violence to maintain its control over Palestinian lands, including through the use of military conscription. The occupation army has used conscription to ensure a constant supply of soldiers to its war effort, including against the Palestinian people.

Cities, unions back Gaza ceasefire

By Dave Welch

Every week, more U.S. cities are calling for a cease-fire in Gaza, where Palestinians face increasing violence from the Israeli occupation army. According to a list compiled by Newsweek magazine, city councils and labor unions are calling for a cease-fire, with over 24,000 Palestinians having been killed and an estimated twice as many wounded, mostly civilians, including thousands of children. The Palestinian people, who are resisting occupation and colonization, have the right to self-determination and self-governance. The ceasefire agreement reached in May 2023 is a step towards peace, but it is not enough. Palestinians living in Gaza and the occupied territories need more support and resources to achieve lasting peace and justice for all.
Western corporate media whitewash on hearing of Israeli genocide

By Otis Grotewohl

The South African government defended Israel’s bombing campaigns against the genocidal actions of Israel during their initial presentation in front of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, Jan. 11.

South Africa’s legal team consists of a multinational and multigenerational group of advocates, including Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, Aletta Hасс, John Dugard and Max du Plessis, plus other junior and external counsel members. Many members of the team wore Palestinian keffiyehs along with scarves featuring the colors of the South African flag.

Prominent South African lawyer Adila Hassim passionately told the court, “Israel has subjected Gaza to what has been described as one of the heaviest conventional bombing campaigns in the history of modern warfare.” (BBC, Jan. 11)

In his closing remarks, South African counsel Tembeka Ngcukaitobi stated, “The evidence of genocidal intent is not only chilling, it is also overwhelming and incontrovertible.” (Timeslive, Jan. 11)

South Africa is a country that legally defeated a white-supremacist, apartheid state system in 1994. It is also the first country to courageously bring charges of genocide against Israel before a world court.

More than 20 countries are publicly endorsing South Africa’s case, including socialist Cuba and the pro-worker governments of Brazil, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Despite the strong global showing of solidarity, the Western corporate press has egregiously censored the proceedings as a strategic attempt to discredit South Africa’s claims and to underplay the justified grievances of the people of Palestine.

Corporate press displays empathy towards Israel

Much of the corporate media downplayed the arguments made by the South African attorneys, while at the same time presenting Israel as a “victim” simply defending itself.” Take for example the first sentence of a Reuters article: “Israel on Friday rejected as false and ‘grossly distorted’ accusations brought by South Africa at the U.N.’s top court that its military operation in Gaza is a state-led campaign of genocide (Jan. 12) The author legitimizes Israel’s deceitful response to the charges of genocide at the very beginning of the article, setting its tone.

Unlike South Africa’s diverse legal team, the Israeli respondents are predominately white. In a sick twist of irony, Germany has decided to testify on Israel’s behalf, a decision which the bourgeois press has been happy to report. Numerous U.S. media headlines, have highlighted Germany is calling South Africa’s charges “baseless.”

Israeli representatives peddled false claims about the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement of Gaza and denounced its supporters. The U.S. corporate media has also been pushing misinformation about the Palestinian resistance movement in recent months. Neither the Israeli legal team nor the bourgeois press willingly admit that the people of Gaza overwhelmingly voted for Hamas as their legitimate representative during the 2020 legislative elections.

Thousands shut down port to demand Gaza ceasefire

By Dave Welsh

Block-the-boat protesters, calling for a cease-fire in the 100-day-old Israeli military assault on Gaza, shut down the port of Oakland starting at 5 a.m. on Jan. 13. Mass picket lines were honored by members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Locals 10 and 34, who refused to cross the lines. Protesters said they were attempting to block the loading of a U.S. military ship ferrying weapons from West Coast ports to Israel, as well as to stop the genocide in Gaza.

On Jan. 11, in another act of solidarity with Palestine, the government of South Africa presented charges of genocide against Israel before the International Court of Justice. The Israeli regime has killed at least 24,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 7 and wounded 60,000 people, two-thirds of them women and children.

South Africa’s charges were filed in The Hague, Netherlands.

One of the key fighting organizations during the South African freedom struggle, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), has said multiple international mechanisms that were meant to protect human rights and international law.

In addition, the book “The Umpson Alliance: Israel’s Secret Relationship with Apartheid South Africa” documents Israel’s provision of arms, including nuclear weapons, to the racist South African regime during the 1970s and 1980s to the nascent South African freedom movement at that time. Now South Africa is calling out the Israeli regime for genocide against the people of Palestine.

As early as 1962, ILWU members staged a boycott of apartheid South African cargo, picketing on the docks of San Francisco. In the late 1970s, after the 1976 Soweto massacre by the racist government, the ILWU protested the docking of the Nedlloyd Kimberley, which was carrying South African cargo, in various ports.

Then in 1984, the ILWU refused to handle South African cargo for 14 days when the Nedlloyd Kimberley docked in San Francisco. With that dramatic act, the anti-apartheid movement spread like wildfire across the U.S., especially on college campuses.

The recent block-the-boat action continues the decades-long history of class solidarity between West Coast longshore workers and workers living under apartheid in both South Africa and occupied Palestine.

South Africa puts Israeli genocide on trial

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Hundreds of Israeli teenagers are risking jail time for refusing to serve in the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).

Palestinians thank South Africa

On Dec. 30, one day after the South Africa complaint was made public, an International Coalition to Stop Genocide in Palestine was formed, spearheaded by groups such as Black Alliance for Peace, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network, National Lawyers Guild and others. To date, over 1,200 groups have signed on to the coalition including Workers World Party, Antiwar Coalition and the International Action Center.

Ajamu Baraka, chair of the coordinating committee of the Black Alliance for Peace, stated in a Jan. 3 press release: “The action by the South African government is a courageous attempt to do no less than salvage the credibility of the international mechanisms that were meant to protect human rights and international law. The genius African petition is recognized as it is a legal and moral imperative for states and international civil society to oppose impunity. Genocide has everywhere been identified as one of the most egregious international crimes. If the Israeli state and its backers are allowed to escape justice and impunity, it will only strengthen Israel’s illegal occupation and strip the current international system of justice of any legitimacy.”

Go to blackallianceforpeace.com/movement-news/Israel2ICJ to read the entire statement.

On Jan. 11, the opening day of the ICJ hearing, hundreds of Palestinian residents living in Ramallah, in the Occupied West Bank, gathered around the statue of the legendary African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela to give praise to the South African government. A youth band played the national anthem of South Africa, while the rest of the crowd waved both the Palestinian and South African flags.

The South African and Palestinian struggles have three important things in common: Both have experienced the horrors of apartheid, both have organized armed resistance and both have shown solidarity with each other for many decades. In 1997, Mandela stated, “We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.” (aljazeera.com, Dec. 5, 2023)

This same South African government has vowed to bring the war crimes of the U.S. government to the ICJ to expose its complicity with the Israeli genocide against the Palestinian people. □
‘Don’t let Israel succeed in its aims’

By Frank Barat

The following article covers the first part of an interview with Palestinian author and activist Susan Aluhawa by Frank Barat, the film director and film producer on Dec. 29. Their full conversation can be found at tinsarup.com/3q4b0c9.

Frank Barat: How do we build on the horrors that are happening in [Gaza], and how do we make sure this actually changes everything in terms of the way people think of Israel, of its supporters, of its backers? The numbers are horrifying. In Gaza, over 1,000 people have been killed; over 11,000 homes completely destroyed; 170,000 partially destroyed; 305 schools partially damaged and destroyed, 1,500 industrial facilities, 30 hospitals—three churches—we can go on and on.

And even though horrifying, these numbers don’t reflect the true nature of what’s happening. What is the work through social media, through your books, you’ve been one of the best persons in reframing the way we see Palestine and humanizing it for the ones who see Palestinians. So, when I give you these numbers, what do they mean to you?

Susan Aluhawa: Honestly, I feel very emotional hearing even the numbers, because every day I scroll through the videos and the images, and I know the profound despair that underpins all of that. I also imagine this sort of industrialized terrorism is still ongoing with no end in sight.

Those numbers also grossly underestimate the true harm that has been done. We know that there are thousands, if not tens of thousands, of people who remain trapped under the rubble. We know there are people who died or are dying alone in the dark and the cold. Nobody is able to get to them. Nobody knows they’re there.

And when you imagine the way that people have died so far, you know it’s not just individual people. It’s in the most gruesome ways—people literally being buried alive.

I think there’s probably no more horrifying way to die than to be buried alive, to be crushed under the weight of walls and ceilings that once contained your memories and your family and your life. At any point, this will end. If it must. But the extraordinary destruction puts a big question mark on the future. Where do people return to? What do people return to? Whatever do they do in the meantime?

These are all things that we have to start thinking about and preparing for to ensure that Israel is not successful in its aims, even when its true aims are not what they declare officially.

We know this is not about Hamas. It’s certainly about the hostages.

This is about colonial conquest, as it has always been. That’s the essence of designs as a colonial, European, racist, supremacist movement initiated to violently colonize Palestine and steal everything from it. And that is the point. And that is what they hoped all along, that they could make the Palestinians’ lives so miserable and desperate that people would just leave of their own accord.

Like all colonizers and all racists, they underestimate the humanity and the attachment of Indigenous people to their homes and their lands. And with that, they have often viewed Palestinian lives as demographic threats. You know, they have been, for the past 20 years or so, speaking openly about how worse some day than between the river and the sea, the number of Palestinians versus Israeli Jews could become equal or worse, even outnumber them. So, for years they have been planning genocidal actions like what we’re seeing, and they found an opportunity now to execute that.

We salute Yemen—it’s people, leadership and army—for their unwavering advocacy for the legitimate and just cause of the Palestinian people.

The U.S. and Britain are instigating a regional war to protect “Israel’s” ability to carry out a months-long massacre of Palestinian children in Gaza and to safeguard the financial interests of the apartheid state and its corporate backers. The fearful Yemeni people, with nothing to lose and all to gain, have the potential to ignite the entire region.

Masses protest U.S.-British air strikes

Mass demonstrations in Sana’a, Yemen, have erupted in response to the bombings. It has become open season for U.S. and British military bases across the region. Yemen’s strike capacity extends far beyond Yemen, and their deep alliances with other resistance groups should not be underestimated.

Today, the defenders of justice, soldiers of righteousness and keepers of honor are Yemeni. We witness a people engaged in a war solely to defend human dignity, without any ulterior or profit motives. The anti-imperialist people of the world resist the Western hegemony and stand with Yemen. We demand the U.S. and Britain remove their presence from the Red Sea, the Gulf of Oman and all of West Asia.

We salute Yemen—its people, leadership and army—for their unwavering stance in upholding the cause of Palestine and supporting Gaza, regardless of the consequences. We declare our unwavering support for our Yemeni siblings in the face of this brutal and immoral aggression.

We deplore that the U.S. empire will teach the U.S. empire a lesson in humility. Yemen will be the graveyard of invader; you will forever remember Yemen’s heroism.

Victory for Yemen is a victory for all of us. The Bronx stands united with Yemen.

The Bronx is united with Yemen

Statement of the Bronx Antwwar Coalition, Jan. 12, 2024

The Bronx Antwwar Coalition strongly condemns the U.S.-led and British coalition bombing of Yemen, a nation that fulfilled its duty under Article 1 of the Genocide Convention to defend Palestine and penalize Israel for committing genocide in Gaza.

Yemen exercised its authority over its territorial waters, including the Red Sea and Bab El Mandeb Strait, having the right to control the passage of ships. The U.S.-British bomb in an illegal act of terror and a gross violation of Yemen’s sovereignty. The U.S.-British aggression against Yemen lacks any justification, as there was no threat to international navigation in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

Yemen’s targeting was solely focused on “Israel” ships or those destined for the ports of occupied Palestine. Yet, Yemen’s nonviolent efforts to impede genocide have been met with predictable Western violent response.

Yemen has not caused harm to anyone; it is simply making it challenging for Israel to obtain the war supplies required to continue their genocidal acts. Biden’s bombing of Yemen took place after the first day of proceedings in the International Court of Justice, in which Israel was exposed as a genocidal, colonial, settler state created by Britain and adopted by the U.S.

With the recent bombing, the U.S. and Britain have targeted Yemen, an already oppressed Arab nation whose people have waged war against years for years due to their opposition to the Zionist genocida in Gaza. The Yemeni people have suffered hundreds of thousands of deaths between 2015 and 2022, defending themselves from an unsuccessful attempt to prevent Ansar Allah from gaining power.

The U.S. has a long history of bombing Yemen, and the Saudi-Utied Arab Emirates-led and U.S.-backed war on Yemen has resulted in one of the world’s most severe humanitarian crises.

The U.S. has made a grave error in bombing Yemen, as Washington has underestimated Yemen’s unwavering support for Palestine and Gaza. Yemen will persist in its religious and humanitarian stance, standing firmly with Gaza and utilizing all available means to support its people. The U.S. aggression will only strengthen the Yemeni people’s resolve and determination, bolstering their ability to defend themselves and to continue advocating for the legitimate and just cause of the Palestinian people.

The U.S. and Britain are instigating a regional war to protect “Israel’s” ability to carry out a months-long massacre of Palestinian children in Gaza and to safeguard the financial interests of the apartheid state and its corporate backers. The fearful Yemeni people, with nothing to lose and all to gain, have the potential to ignite the entire region.

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Death to U.S.-British-Western imperialism!

Long live resistance, from Palestine to Yemen!
A strong class orientation is

most vital, politically healthy part of the working class there are Palestinian Arab workers who are 20% to 25% of the population and also 25% of the working class.

They are the social and political link between the class struggle and the liberation struggle until something changes in the remaining part of the working class. If we were there, part of our work would be to push workers to save themselves, break with Zionism and help unite the world’s working class. How much time and effort communist and advanced workers should devote to this task would depend on the needs of the Palestinian resistance.

Class and the struggle against racism

For communists with a class orientation, our participation in the struggle against racism and all other forms of oppression has a distinct political objective. Our goal is not only to be in solidarity with the oppressed, it is to educate and call on the working class to take the lead in this struggle.

The end goal for us is to maximize class unity, without which it will be impossible to make a revolution and establish socialism. The struggle against all forms of oppression is central to our existence and work, because we cannot understand or should understand that the greatest obstacle to our class is fragmentation.

The connection between class orientation and internationalism

There are many good developments that tend to strengthen working-class solidarity. As we have talked and written about for a considerable time, changes in technology have enabled the working class to interact and coordinate the class struggle on a global and immediate level in a way that did not exist before. But changing the relationship of forces can’t be left up to chance. Rather, they came into being to serve imperialism.

But changing the relationship of forces can’t be left up to chance. Rather, they came into being to serve imperialism. The BRICS alliance: Its significance and the political struggle

A contradictory development that working-class organizations, leftists, revolutionary and progressive forces everywhere, including ourselves, are struggling over is how to view the alliance between Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa referred to as BRICS.

A considerable number of other countries, including Iran, as well as Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, have joined this alliance. For the moment, in practical terms, this is the main opposition to U.S. imperialism. It poses an enormous problem for U.S. imperialism. The bases for this alliance are complex and fluid, but most essentially this alliance reflects a worldwide geo-political sea change. That change is the crumbling of the U.S. imperialist empire and the rise of China. Obviously, the social and political characters of the countries in this alliance are diverse. Therefore, the BRICS alliance must not be considered an example of working-class internationalism.

The existence of this alliance impacts the global class struggle, but it is not based on class unity or class struggle. BRICS is based on curtailting U.S. imperialism hegemony, especially in relation to the Global South, but also China, Russia and other countries. In a sense, this alliance is temporarily filling that vacuum created by the inability of the world’s working class, as of yet, to be strong enough to occupy the position of the main opposition to U.S. imperialism and capitalism in general. BRICS is important to countries like Iran and Venezuela, etc., because it partially shields them from being isolated in relation to U.S. imperialism. This is of particular importance to China as the danger of war grows.

Is the role of the working class in the United States unique?

The relationship between the working class in the U.S. and the workers and the oppressed in every other part of the world is dialectical. The struggle all over the world has the effect of weakening U.S. imperialism, which in turn creates the basis for greater revolutionary consciousness and ultimately revolutionary class struggle at the center.

In this context, it becomes important for the working class and the politically advanced forces in the U.S. to understand their responsibility to the workers and oppressed everywhere. A century ago, Lenin believed that ultimately the
needed in 2024

Continued from page 8

development and struggle emanating from the working class in the U.S. would decide the fate of the world revo-

lution. The world has changed over the past century, and Lenin’s views can no longer be debatable. We would still argue that Lenin’s assessment remains essentially correct.

Why trade unionism cannot be the only form of class organization

From a revolutionary Marxist perspective, one of the most basic misconceptions about the working class is that the trade union movement is not only the main and preferred form of working class organization, but the ONLY form of worker organization.

Most socialist groups and forces, including relatively revolutionary forces, have succumbed to this misconception. This misconception fortifies the idea that the best that the working class can hope for is the ability to negotiate the conditions of its exploitation with their employers. It presupposes that since revolutionary class consciousness, internationalism and the struggle for social revolution are beyond the aims of trade unionism, then these goals are more or less permanently off the table of the class struggle.

It also promotes the false idea that there are finite limitations to the political development of the working class, including the right and the necessity for the working class to engage in political struggle independent of the capitalist ruling class. The class struggle is not only a struggle for economic demands; it is a political struggle and ultimately a political struggle for power. The trade unionist is a part of the political struggle, but they are not capable of manifesting its full potential.

The contradictions of the trade unions do not in any way alter the need to support them. And I’m not talking just about the party with Party in the name, but also about the workers of other political and initiatives can’t be suppressed by those in the trade unions who might be inclined to do that.

Again, the struggle for class consciousness is more critical now than ever. The last few years have opened the road forward for the working class. The intervention of radical young workers into the organizing drives at Amazon, Starbucks and many other companies marks the beginning of a sea change in the political development of the working class. The big workers strikes and the beginning of a sea change in the transformation of Amazon, Starbucks and many other companies marks a major breakthrough.

This has a devastating impact on classwide consciousness. Of course, this is not to ignore that unions are changing. Union workers are pushing back against the ingnared culture in unions to compete with each other and limit their obligations to their own members and even more so to the Democratic Party.

Today, unions are more inclined to actively support the struggles of workers in different unions, different industries and different locations. This tendency is vital, and it must expand; otherwise, capitalism will continue to benefit from the fragmentation of the working class.

The tendency toward wider concrete workers’ solidarity has not yet reached the level of a sea change. But it is another symptom of how the working-class movement is undergoing a transformation to a more inclusive and radical stage.

Labor and Palestine: The transformation of the working class is underway

It seems that the level of trade union response to the pogroms in Gaza is impressive and unprecedented, con-
sidering not so long ago, trade unionists might hesitate before saying anything at a union meeting in solidarity with the Palestinian freedom struggle.

The unions, with perhaps a few exceptions, are not announcing support for the Palestinian resistance. They are responding to the genocide, destruction and eth-

necial cleansing that the U.S. government and Israel are perpetrating on Gaza. Their demand is for a cease-fire, which while hardly revolutionary, objectively helps the Palestinian resistance. But the response from labor is a big breakthrough.

Labor’s response reflects the social character of the global working class, against Zionism and genocide, which is generally young workers of all nationalities. This is a sign that underneath there is a powerful yearning in the working class to break with U.S. imperialism, move in the direction of internationalism.

Organic developments are strengthening class con-
sciousness and internationalism in the trade union movement. It may be that some of the radical movement needs to catch up with this tremendously consequential process.

If the working-class orientation of the movement is not as strong as it needs to be, there are other ideas that can fill the void left by such a weakness, ideas that tend not to strengthen class consciousness.

The transformation of the working-class movement will pave the way for new developments. What could be a more logical reflection of this transformation than that it’s somewhat between likely and inevitable that in the near future another attempt to form a labor party will be launched that will be more meaningful than prior failed attempts to form a labor party in this country.

The presidential elections this year may postpone this development, but it also may speed it up. The political character of such a party will fall in the general category of social democracy. Critical to the political character of such a development, and of great importance to us, will be the relationship of a new labor party to the Democratic Party. In addition, the degree to which such a party is connected to real workers’ struggles and to a section of the working class, especially the most oppressed workers, will be of the utmost importance.

Depending on the political character of such a party, it may be very important for revolutionary forces to ensure that it is anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and anti-war. Such a strategy will be more possible if there is a marked shift in the working-class orientation of the mass movement.

Regarding solidarity with the Palestinian resist-

ance and the working class, many of us were excited to support the organizing drives at Amazon, Starbucks, among migrant workers and elsewhere. That understood, is it any less legitimate or import-

ant to organize workers as workers to mobilize in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance, especially against the imperialist power that makes Israeli genocide possible?

Fascism and the 2024 elections — What is the main danger?

The prospect of Trump becoming president again, the scary things that he says he will do if elected, the pros-
ract, not another Jan. 6, and what will be the reaction to the Trump court cases is going to make discussion of the danger of fascism in 2024 perhaps wider and more serious than it was in 2016.

The basis for the danger is either deeply concerned that a Trump win will harm their democracy, or they are whipping up that idea in order to frighten people into voting for Biden.

This will require reopening the discussion of all ques-
tions related to the development of fascism, such as what is fascism, is a Marxist view of this question still relevant or would the response of the move-

ment to this danger?

There are many factors that play into the rise of Trump and the concentration of neo-fascist forces. Among these factors are the social crisis of the population of the decline of U.S. imperialism; the Democratic Party’s abandonment of the working class; and the decomposition and internecine feuding of the U.S. capitalist political establish-

ment and of capitalist society in general.

The main danger facing the workers and oppressed at this time is that whatever is happening in the ruling class, the petty bourgeoisie, the economy and the world, the workers and oppressed are at the mercy of enemy class interests, because they don’t have sufficient vehi-

cles for our class to harness and fight for our own class interests.

The struggle against war and the danger of fascism is a political struggle that is clearly international in scope. For some, even those who consider themselves socialist, the struggle against war and fascism is separate from the working-class struggle. We know that that is not so. But it’s not good to merely understand this.

This issue has some urgency that clearly opens the struggle against war and fascism a workers’ struggle. How do we do that? In 2024, history and the global working class is calling upon all of us to be ready to hear the call to rise to the occasion.
Delegation to Honduras condemns U.S./Canada-backed dictatorship’s crimes

This news release was issued January 10 in Honduras.

Members of a 10-day U.S./Canada delegation, hosted by the Cross Border Network of Kansas City and the Honduras Solidarity Network in the United States, investigated and documented how the two nations prioritize protecting the political, economic and military interests of their governments and corporations over the rights and interests of the Honduran people.

The delegation visited communities affected by mining and land grabbing, met with labor movement activists and spoke with U.S., Canadian and Honduran officials on how the United States and Canada continue to support human rights violations, inequality and dispossession of the Honduran people resulting from the crimes of the narco-dictatorship that ruled Honduras since the US- and Canadian-supported coup in June 2009.

Since then, both the U.S. and Canada have covered up and lied about their “democratic” ally [former Honduran President] Juan Orlando Hernandez, who they knew was trafficking drugs for years.

Since the restoration of democracy with the election of Xiomara Castro as Honduras’ first woman president [who took office in January 2022], both countries continue to interfere in the attempts of the Castro government to undo the damage done by the narco-dictatorship or to pass laws that help to ameliorate the growing poverty of the majority of the population.

Last October, the [U.S. and Canada]reetings problems.

The delegation found that extractive industries like mining in Guapinol; the loss of sovereignty, as in the CAPTA [Central America Free Trade Agreement]-imposed NAFTA tribunal on the $10.7 billion ZEDE [Employment and Economic Development Zone] project against Honduras; the dispossession of campesinos in the Aguan Valley and Garifuna communities along the north coast; and Canada’s praise for the U.S. and Canada] exacerbate problems.

The delegation found that the U.S. workers.

To sum up: The U.S. and Israel are the oppressor states and the aggressors in the Red Sea. The Yemenis have every right to shell shipping to stop genocide. And all U.S. workers suffer from Washington’s expansion of the war. Yemen is not the enemy of the U.S. working class.

We must reach out to these workers so they join in the demands: Stop bombing Yemen! Stop the genocide in Gaza! Down with the imperialist ruling class!
By Arjae Red

Dismantling Western hypocrisy on Xinjiang and Gaza

The movement in the U.S. supporting Palestine’s national liberation has drawn truly massive numbers of people in action. On Jan. 13, for example, a reported 4,000 participated in a march outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., marking the largest pro-Palestine demonstration in U.S. history.

To counter this growing outpouring of support for Palestine in the center of world imperialism, Western propagandists are trying to mislead the popular outrage towards People’s China. They are trying to revive the discredited “Uyghur genocide” narrative, making bogus comparisons between the Israeli settler regime’s treatment of Palestinians and the treatment of Uyghur people by the Chinese government and Communist Party. A closer look at each situation reveals enormous differences.

Who do we believe?

The intense propaganda characterizing “Uyghur genocide,” starting in 2016, saturates the U.S.-based anti-China think tanks and corporate media. There is no evidence that the Uyghur people themselves, with a two-fold intent: rather than destruction and extraction of wealth and labor, people of all ethnicities and languages, as well as the languages of other ethnic populations in the region, in public schools. Before the Chinese Revolution, these languages were suppressed.

The People’s Republic is thoroughly multinational, based on the political rule of an alliance between the workers, peasants and other progressive classes, led by the Communist Party.

The Chinese People’s Republic inscribed into its political framework regional autonomy for formerly oppressed nationalities, like the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, Historic Uyghur cities, such as Ürümqi, which had been renamed “Dihua” (meaning “to civilize”) following a 1955 Qing Dynasty invasion, regained their original Uyghur names.

Uyghur culture is widespread and celebrated in today’s China, which includes teaching the Uyghur language, as well as the languages of other ethnic populations in the region, in public schools. Before the Chinese Revolution, these languages were suppressed.

The People’s Republic is thoroughly multinational, based on the political rule of the working class and guided by the Communist Party. Its public goals involve developing a socialist economy and maintaining social harmony between ethnicities.

Israel destroys, China builds

Videos abound of the unmitigated destruction of Gaza by Israel. Occupation Forces. The IOF have bombed and bulldozed entire city blocks to dirt and rubble, razing homes, hospitals and schools.

Over decades, Israel has kept Gaza under a brutal blockade and crushed Palestinian business. Israel’s attacks have left the population without food, water, medicine and electricity.

Rather than division and extraction in Xinjiang, Beijing’s policies promote development. Major infrastructure projects have built housing, schools, hospitals and high-speed public transport. These projects have supported business. Poverty alleviation is the number one method for reducing poverty and income inequality, ethnic relations, and less susceptible to being recruited by separatist extremist organizations.

Thus, the Chinese government put the people first, prioritizing education and good health. Education and health care are free to all.

We have a responsibility to engage with the Chinese government’s approach to eliminating poverty and improving living standards for the people of Xinjiang.

Drawing a line for the anti-imperialist movement

It is critical that organizers against imperialism and supporters of decolonial movements around the world have a clear and sober assessment of developments in each country and the forces behind them.

We have a responsibility to engage with the Chinese government’s approach to reducing poverty, improving living standards, and building a socialist future. We must continue to support the Chinese government’s efforts to eradicate poverty, improve living standards, and build a socialist future. We must continue to support the Chinese government’s efforts to eradicate poverty, improve living standards, and build a socialist future.

For the Chinese government’s efforts to eradicate poverty, improve living standards, and build a socialist future. We must continue to support the Chinese government’s efforts to eradicate poverty, improve living standards, and build a socialist future.

Palestinian self-determination vs U.S.-promoted Uyghur separatism

The Palestinian movement for self-determination is a mass movement with broad support from people within historic Palestine and from the diaspora, organizing nationally as a response to Israeli colonial occupation.

The Uyghur separatist movement, on the other hand, is primarily pushed by U.S.-based anti-China think tanks and NGOs, usually with millions of dollars of U.S. funding and full support from the State Department and corporate media.

There is no evidence that the Uyghur separatist forces, represented mostly by the so-called “East Turkestan” is a group that is opposed to China’s approach to eliminating poverty and improving living standards for the people of Xinjiang.

We must continue to say: Free Palestine from the river to the sea! U.S. hands off China!
Acusaciones de violación utilizadas como arma para justificar el genocidio

Por Martha Grevatt

Para justificar linchamientos, el KKK y otros grupos terroristas de supremacía blanca han invocado durante mucho tiempo el estereotipo racista de que los hombres negros son violadores. Esto incluye a Emmett Till, de 14 años, en 1955, cuyo supuesto delito fue silbar a una mujer blanca en Mississippi. El Estado capitalista ha hecho lo mismo. Los acusados de Scottsboro, nueve adolescentes africanos-americanos de Alabama falsamente acusados de violar a una mujer blanca en 1931, languidecieron en prisión durante años hasta que un movimiento mundial los liberó.

La instrumentalización de estereotipos racistas no es sólo cosa del pasado. En múltiples violaciones cometidas durante su campaña presidencial en 2016 y más recientemente en 2021, el ex presidente Donald Trump clamó a los inmigrantes mexicanos de documentados como “asesinos y violadores.”

Ahora estamos viendo la misma táctica empleada contra la resistencia pales- tina, más concretamente contra Hamas, Movimiento de Resistencia Islámica. Esta vez el llamado “Iberal” New York Times ha puesto las acusaciones, publicadas por pri- mera vez el 28 de diciembre, en la portada de su edición dominical del 31 de diciem- bre. El Times afirma haber “investigado” afirmaciones que se hicieron a principios de este año - afirmaciones que Electronic Intifada promovidas por grupos hebreos de la falsa investigación los medios de comunicación que invocan habitualmente la teoría de la CNN, el diario israelí describe como académica feminista y experta interna- cional en derechos humanos que dirige una “comisión independiente” que inves- tiga las supuestas violaciones masivas del 7 de octubre. Aparece en un artículo del 1 de diciembre con un titular que afirma que ha recogido “testimonio tras testimonio” de tales atrocidades. Sin embargo, Haaretz no cita ni un solo testimonio real de supervivientes.

En Haaretz, Elkanay-Leyva cita como prueba el testimonio coaccionado de dos combatientes de la resistencia captura- dos, proporcionado por la fuerza policial israelí Shin Bet, que emplea habitual- mente la tortura, incluida la violación, para obtener confesiones. Elkanay-Leyva incluso ofreció como “prueba” fotográfica una foto que en realidad fue tomada en mayo de 2023 de una niña kurda fuera de Palestina. Elkanay-Leyva no es quien CNN, Haaretz y The Times afirman que es. Como señaló Mondoweiss, el prominente artí- culo no es más que propaganda unila- teral destinada a justificar el genocidio estándar de “guerra santa” por el Estado de Israel.

Israel condona la violencia sexual contra los palestinos

En contraste con las fabricaciones de Israel está su práctica -que se remonta a su creación- de permitir la violación de palestinos. Las mujeres palestinas fueron violadas y asesinadas durante múltiples masacres, y el miedo a ser violadas fue una de las tácticas utilizadas para desplaza- r a 750.000 palestinos en 1948. En las cárcel de Israel se cometen violaciones y otras formas de violencia sexual y tortura, a menudo con el objetivo de forzar una confesión. Se calcula que hay 8.000 presos palestinos entre rejas, la mayoría de ellos no acusados de ningún delito. Los hombres capturados por las IOF desde el 7 de octubre han sido obligados a desnudarse y ser fotografados, un acto de extrema humillación y degradación.

En 2002, el rabino Eyal Karim hizo la escandalosa declaración de que era permitible para los solda- dos “satisfacer la inclinación al mal acostándose con atractivas mujeres gentiles [es decir, palestinas] en contra de su voluntad, por consi- deración a las dificultades a las que se enfrentan los soldados y por el éxito general.” (Mondoweiss.net 8 de agosto de 2022)

En 2016, fue nombrado rabino coronel del Rabinato Militar israelí, o rabino jefe de las IOF, con el geste- nte ocupar en la actualidad. Opiniones similares fueron expre- sadas por el destacado rabino Shmuel Eliyahu y el destacado profesor Mordechai Kedar de la Universidad Bar-Ilan en 2002. La tasa de violaciones denuncia- das dentro de Israel ha aumentado un 30% desde 2015, y la gran mayo- ría de los casos se cierran sin car- tos. El porcentaje de mujeres que denuncian violaciones en Gaza, en cambio, es extremadamente bajo.

La mayoría de las sobrevivientes de violación no tienen testigos presenciales de su sufrimiento, pero la gran mayoría de los acusadores dicen la verdad. ... Sin embargo, es necesario reconocer que hay situaciones reales en las que las acusaciones de violación usadas como arma para justificar el genocidio. Cada una de estas acusaciones puede ser enviadas a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

La cultura de la violación y propaganda de guerra

La violencia sexual es un crimen terri- ble. Millones, tal vez miles de millones, de mujeres y personas oprimidas por razones de género la han sufrido directamente. La cultura de la violación -la cultura de nor- malizar o trivializar la agresión o el abuso sexual- degrada a todo ser humano oprimi- do por las relaciones patriarcales.

La mayoría de las sobrevivientes de vio- lación no tienen testigos presenciales de su sufrimiento, pero la gran mayoría de los acusadores dicen la verdad. Sin embargo, con demasiada frecuencia es la mujer la que es juzgada en un caso de violación. “Creer a las supervivientes” es impor- tante para cuestionar la narrativa de que las víctimas de violación mienten, imagi- nan cosas, no tienen pruebas o de alguna manera provocaron el agresor.

Sin embargo, es necesario reconocer que hay situaciones reales en las que los ras- tas y los propagandistas de la guerra inven- tan acusaciones. Lo hacen para apoyar la simpatía del público que es más mordaz y caprichoso que cualquier que haya experimentado el horrible crimen de la violación. Durante las guerras de EE.UU./ OTAN contra Yugoslavia y Libia se hicieron denuncias indocumentadas de “cambos de violación”.

La culturización de la violación y propagandita de guerra

El grupo Speak Up, “Una iniciativa feminista para apoyar a las víctimas de la violencia en todos sus formas”, afirma: “Expulsar los cuerpos de las mujeres y las acusaciones de violación como propaganda de guerra conlleva profundas y amplias implicaciones, que afectan no sólo al con- flicto inmediato, sino que también infuyen en las actitudes y percepciones globales sobre las mujeres. Este enfoque menos- cabe la credibilidad de los casos legítimos de violación sexual.

“Puede provocar escépticismo e incre- dibilidad cuando las sobrevivientes com- parten sus experiencias, perpetuando una cultura de silencio e impunidad. Además, podría provocar una reacción global con- tra las esfuerzos para abordar la violencia de género y defender los derechos de las mujeres, y disminuye la credibilidad de las iniciativas internacionales destinadas a prevenir y responder a la violencia sexual en los conflictos.” (speakup.org)

La cultura de la violación prevalece bajo el sistema capitalista de explotación. Su impacto más fuerte es en la etapa del imperia- lismo lo sufre los pueblos nacionales oprimidos, tanto dentro de los países impe- rialistas como en los coloniales. La supremacia blanca, el colonialismo de colonos y la cultura de la violación van de la mano.

La lucha contra todas estas violaciones es una lucha contra el imperialismo. En este momento, la tarea más importante de los anticolonialistas es magnificar la solidari- dad con Palestina y su resistencia en todo el mundo. □

Marcha de mujeres por Palestina, Yakarta, Indonesia, 15 de octubre de 2023.