

Int'l Assembly in NYC salutes Palestinian resistance

By Sara Flounders and Monica Moorehead
New York City

The International Assembly Against Imperialism in Solidarity with Palestinian Resistance was held at the historic Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial & Educational Center in New York City on Jan. 21. Workers World Party, the organizer of the event, had chosen the date to honor the centennial of Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin, who died that day in 1924.

The unique assembly challenged U.S. imperialist efforts to isolate and demonize the Palestinian resistance and its allies. Organizers surrounded reports by Palestinian Resistance groups with statements from well-known national and international organizations that have decades of authority in the world movement for resisting U.S. imperialist blockades and sanctions, and by workers' parties and solidarity organizations from around the world.

The live-streamed event attracted participants from the Palestinian territories, South Africa, Vietnam, Australia, Canada, Peru, Spain, Ecuador, Germany, Britain, Croatia and Eswatini (aka Swaziland), according to organizers. Participants from at least 20 U.S. states also joined online.

From the region under imperialist attack, messages arrived from diverse organizations – with both secular and religious leadership – which are a determined part of the heroic resistance in Palestine and West Asia.

Global Leninist solidarity

This international solidarity included a delegation from Nicaragua's mission to the United Nations, and video talks and/or messages by Venezuelan official Carlos Ron Martinez, the Communist Party of Cuba and representatives of Communist parties from Ukraine, Brazil, Kenya, Denmark and Swaziland.

Also, messages were sent by the Rallye of African Workers in Senegal, Pole for Rebirth of Communism in France - PRCF and Socialist Unity Center of India. Additional Leninist and anti-imperialist authors and commentators sent evaluations of the struggle in this period since the events of October 7 in Palestine.

From the United States, communist, left, anti-imperialist and progressive forces sent representatives who addressed the Assembly. These included the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, United National Antiwar Coalition, BAYAN USA, Black Alliance for Peace, Party of Communists USA, December 12th Movement, A Call to Action on Puerto Rico, Marxist Youth League, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network, Veterans For Peace, Laundry Workers Center and U.S. Peace Council.

U.S. imperialism attempts to marginalize and isolate this revolutionary upheaval by



Speakers from more than 45 organizations in 30 countries on five continents expressed their solidarity with the liberation of Palestine at the International Assembly Jan. 21, the centennial of V.I. Lenin's death, in New York City.

WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

only naming Hamas as Israel's enemy – and then banning statements from Hamas from the media. Messages from: AnsarAllah in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, One Democratic State of Palestine, Islamic Jihad and Masar Badil (Alternative Revolutionary Path) confirmed the diversity of views in the region's resistance and their unity in action.



Rabab Abdulhadi (left) and Larry Holmes

International left forces from International Manifesto Group, Friends of Socialist China, China/U.S. Solidarity Network, a prominent TikTok blogger in China, International Movement for a Just World in Malaysia, a former comrade of African Marxist revolutionary Amílcar Cabral, Alex Saab Support Committee, and the House of Latin America in Tehran, Iran, sent messages that made the event buzz.

Palestinian resistance given a world platform

Monica Moorehead, a Workers World newspaper managing editor, chaired the "Voices and Defenders of Palestinian Resistance" panel. She referred to two prominent Black Liberation leaders, Malcolm X and Huey P. Newton, who both denounced Zionism during the 1960s. Moorehead underlined how since its 1959 founding, Workers World Party has taken a consistent principled stance defending Palestinians' right to their homeland.

The panel featured Palestinian educa-

tor and editor Rabab Abdulhadi, whose presentation linked Lenin's overall contributions on imperialism and national oppression to the struggle for Palestinian self-determination. Prominent Palestinian novelist and activist Susan Abulhawa and National Lawyers Guild President Suzanne Adely delivered recorded video messages.

A religious Jewish anti-Zionist perspective was presented by Neturei Karta



representative, Joseph Kohn. A secular view came from Michael Kramer, former Israeli soldier and now Palestinian resistance supporter, who spoke on the growing number of Israeli teenagers refusing military conscription.

What the Assembly sought

Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, opened the Assembly by reading an organizers' collective statement that the program's goal was to assert the political, legal and moral right to hear, discuss and meet with the resistance forces who are under attack with bombs the U.S. supplies Israel.

The statement asserted that all who agree with the charge of genocide, as presented in the lawsuit South Africa brought to the International Court of Justice, at The Hague, in the Netherlands, have a moral obligation to act to break the enforced isolation.

The Assembly organizers were determined to hold a large and secure in-person

meeting and a hybrid meeting on Zoom with re-streams to the social media sites of Instagram, YouTube, X and Facebook.

As an added precaution against the widespread shutdowns on corporate platforms – often made automatically by algorithms – they streamed the Assembly on a new channel on Telegram: Workers World Party.

There were two afternoon panels on workers' struggles and building internationalism. Richie Merino from the Bronx Anti-War Coalition chaired the first and Dianne Mathiowetz, a retired autoworker and United Auto Workers member, the closing session. The panels stressed the importance of organizing with working-class and oppressed communities.

Speakers included veteran activists with decades of organizing experience – Brenda Stokely, Omowale Clay and Esperanza Martell – along with young activists and worker organizers – Arjae Red and Alice Yaser.

First Secretary of Workers World Party Larry Holmes highlighted the opening morning panel. He also concluded the Assembly by challenging participants to re-engage with Lenin's perspective of merging the growing class consciousness of workers in the Global North with the revolutionary anti-imperialist movements of the Global South.

The program, including the statements from Palestinian resistance organizations often banned from corporate media, can be viewed on Workers World Party channels on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, X, and Telegram. Everyone in solidarity with Palestinian resistance is invited to re-stream the material and spread it as far as possible.

Contributions to the hall rental and technology expenses are needed and will be appreciated. Send via workers.org/donate.

Authors Sara Flounders and Monica Moorehead were program coordinators, along with Dianne Mathiowetz.

This is what Leninist solidarity looks like!

The International Assembly against Imperialism in Solidarity with Palestine, held Jan. 21 in New York City, exemplified the title of the old union classic, "Solidarity Forever." Representatives of working-class and national liberation movements in five continents took the time to prepare written or video messages — or spoke in person — for this historic event.

Workers World newspaper wishes to extend our profound gratitude to every resistance fighter who took part in the Assembly, making it a meaningful expression of global, anti-capitalist solidarity.

We especially want to thank all of the representatives of the Palestinian resistance and from the other representatives of the Axis of Resistance, since the struggle connected with October 7 is right now at the center of the world class struggle.

From Palestine and the Palestinian diaspora, these include: Rabab Abdulhadi, Palestinian-born U.S. activist, educator, editor, and founding Director and Senior Scholar of Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies at San Francisco State University; Khaled Barakat of Masar Badil — the Palestinian Alternative Revolutionary Path.

Also, Susan Abulhawa, prominent Palestinian novelist, activist and member of Workers World Party; Suzanne Adely, President of the National Lawyers Guild, Co-Director Food Chain Workers Alliance; Fouad Baker, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Foreign Affairs Department; Ihsan Ataya, Islamic Jihad



Nasreddine Aamir, Director of the Yemeni News Agency, Saba, Vice President of the AnsarAllah Media Authority

Politburo and head of the Department of Arab and International Relations; and Dr. Amal Wahdan, former Palestinian political prisoner, organizer with One Democratic State of Palestine and founder and editor of the Arab Gazette.

We also thank Dr. Ibrahim Mousawi, Hezbollah member of the Lebanese Parliament and editor of the weekly newspaper al-Intiqad (Criticism) in Beirut, Lebanon; and Nasreddine Aamir, director of the Yemeni News Agency and Vice President of the AnsarAllah Media Authority.

In addition, we salute the many internationalists from Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Panamá, Chile, and Brazil in South and Central America and the Caribbean, plus the U.S. and Canada in North America; from Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Portugal, Spain and Ukraine in Europe; and from the International Peace Initiative — Stop World War III; from Türkiye, straddling the continents; from the Philippines, China, Malaysia, India and Iran in Asia and the Pacific; from Cabo Verde, Kenya, Senegal and Swaziland in Africa; all who, with written or video messages, represented the solidarity and support for Palestine in much of the world.

Among U.S.-based organizations that had speakers were Workers World Party; BAYAN-USA; United National Antiwar Coalition; Party of Communists, USA; Freedom Road Socialist Organization; Laundry Workers Center; Million Worker March Movement; Marxist Youth League; and the December 12th Movement.

And of course, huge thanks to beloved political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal for his powerful greeting to the Assembly.

Internationalism reverberated throughout the program — held to commemorate the centennial of the passing of revolutionary Marxist and leader of the Bolshevik Revolution Vladimir Lenin. Among the greatest contributions of this communist leader and his party was to build the unity of the class struggle in the imperialist countries with the movement for national liberation in the countries oppressed by imperialism.

We thank all who participated to help bring that same spirit of Leninist solidarity to the world of 2024.

This is what solidarity looks like! ☐

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Videos, solidarity statements and articles from the Jan. 21 international assembly can be accessed at www.workers.org/videos-j21



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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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