

South Africa charges Israel with genocide

By Monica Moorehead

The South African government filed a historic case against apartheid Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing the settler-colonial regime of crimes of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza after nearly three months of indiscriminate Israeli bombardment, which has massacred more than 21,000 civilians, including at least 10,000 children.

The hearing is scheduled for Jan. 11.

This racist aggression has caused widespread destruction in what is considered the largest open-air prison in the world and one of the most densely populated areas. Close to 2 million Palestinians have been displaced, resulting in widespread hunger and diseases.

In an 84-page application to the ICJ on Dec. 29, South Africa described Israel's actions in Gaza as "genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnical group." (tinyurl.com/2p9ac3rk)

The South African government feels a particularly close political affinity with the plight of the Palestinian people, having fought a decades-long heroic national liberation struggle of their own against a white supremacist, apartheid state that ended in a legal overthrow of that fascist regime back in the early 1990s.

The ICJ has had a sordid history of either ruling on behalf of imperialist governments and their puppets such as Israel against

oppressed and/or sovereign governments, or to censor genuine complaints such as the one South Africa just filed. Even though the ICJ has not formally responded to the complaint to date, Israel felt compelled to respond right away, falsely labeling it as being "antisemitic."

Statements from two Palestinian resistance groups — Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) and the Popular Front for the

commence investigations against the criminal "Israeli" entity for committing the genocide against our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

South Africa's move is an important step towards holding the leaders of the entity, the criminals of our age, accountable for the most heinous massacres known to humanity in our contemporary history. We call on all nations to submit

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Central Media Department: The PFLP calls for everyone to follow this step in prosecuting the leaders of the occupation and all those who colluded with them. The PFLP welcomed South Africa's submission of a request to the International Court of Justice to bring a lawsuit against the "Israeli" entity for committing acts of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

The Front again praised the advanced positions of South Africa, which it has taken since the beginning of the aggression, whether in its political and diplomatic steps or its widespread popular movement, stressing the need for these positions to be emulated by all countries of the world that stand by our people and condemn the Zionist war of genocide and adopt stances different from some of the countries that are complicit and partnering with the entity in these crimes.

The Front concluded on the importance of South Africa's step to put an end to the Zionist crimes of genocide against civilians, health facilities, services, and infrastructure, and to prosecute the leaders of the Zionist occupation as war criminals in international courts for the unprecedented crimes and massacres they committed, emphasizing the need for this trial to include all the leaders of countries who provided protection, cover, financial and arms support, and political backing to the "Israeli" entity. □



March in Cape Town, South Africa, Oct. 22, 2023.

Liberation of Palestine —praising the South African complaint on Dec. 30 were published on the Resistance News Network. Their lightly edited short statements are below:

Hamas: We highly appreciate South Africa's initiative to file a request in the International Court of Justice to

similar files and requests to the competent criminal courts, both national and international, against this Nazi entity, as it poses a threat to international peace and security, and to ensure that it does not escape punishment for the brutal crimes committed against children and unarmed civilians in the Gaza Strip.

WW COMMENTARY Rape charges weaponized to justify genocide

By Martha Grevatt

The KKK and other white supremacist terrorist groups have long invoked the racist stereotype of Black men as rapists to justify lynchings. This includes 14-year-old Emmett Till in 1955, whose so-called crime was to whistle at a white woman in Money, Mississippi. The capitalist state has done the same. The Scottsboro defendants, nine African American teenagers in Alabama falsely accused of raping a white woman in 1931, languished in prison for years until a worldwide movement freed them.

The weaponizing of racist stereotypes is not just a thing of the past. On multiple occasions, including during his presidential campaign in 2015 and more recently in 2021, former President Donald Trump slandered undocumented Mexican immigrants as "murderers and rapists."

Now we are seeing the same tactic employed against the Palestinian resistance, more specifically Hamas, Islamic Resistance Movement. This time the "liberal" New York Times has put the allegations, first published Dec. 28, on the front page of its Dec. 31 Sunday edition. The Times claims to have "investigated" claims that were made earlier this year —claims that Electronic Intifada debunked in a video posted Dec. 4.

Drawing a parallel with the historical use of racist

stereotypes in the U.S., Electronic Intifada states, "There's a similar and equally sinister dynamic to Israeli propaganda now targeting Palestinians. Its purpose is to demonize them and soften up public opinion to tolerate or support Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza."

The rape allegations were already widely promoted by the U.S. and Israeli media, including CNN and Haaretz, before the bogus Times investigation. None of the sources had any firsthand testimony from survivors of alleged mass rape and there was zero forensic evidence.

Only a few individuals claim to have observed sexual assault after the Israeli Occupation Forces supposedly collected over 1,000 testimonies and 60,000 video clips. This calls into question the charge that mass rape was somehow an official policy of the resistance.

The so-called expert

CNN and Haaretz, and now the Times, have promoted Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy, who the Israeli daily newspaper describes as a feminist scholar and international human rights expert heading an "independent commission" investigating the alleged mass rapes of Oct. 7. She is featured in a Dec. 1 article with a headline claiming she has collected "testimony

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Longtime fighter for Black rights, political prisoners and human rights in general, Ralph Poynter peacefully passed away Dec. 25. More at workers.org/2024/01/75923.

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Boston Coalition for Palestine tells 'First Night' 'No celebration during genocide!'

By Steve Gillis
Boston

Thousands of people answered the call of the Boston Coalition for Palestine (BCFP) on New Year's Eve, 2023. They crashed the City's Amazon-underwritten "First Night" party downtown and fulfilled their own demand that there be "No celebration while a genocide is happening!"

Despite a massive police presence — whipped up by breathless on-scene TV newscasters reporting the Anti-Defamation League's warnings of "extremist and terrorist" threats — BCFP security details formed up at police barricades in front of the John F. Kennedy Federal Building adjacent to City Hall Plaza. Palestinian resistance songs soon reverberated off the plaza's buildings, with gathering protesters moving to its rhythms, competing with the sponsors' staged red, white and blue-themed program.

Rally emcees and lead chanters Yafa Suleiman of BCFP, Layan Alnajjar of Connecticut's We Will Return Palestine and Zaid Almadi of Braintree for a Free Palestine fired up the crowd. Ahmad Kawash of the Palestinian House of New England opened the rally with a song for Gaza's martyrs.

Speakers representing Indigenous nations; Jewish and Muslim clergy; union, student, antiwar and socialist constituent organizations in one voice decried the ruling class's "party-as-usual" denial of 2023's televised mass slaughter of Palestinian civilians and resistance fighters



WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

'Free Palestine in 2024' at First Night on Boston Common, Dec. 31, 2023.



WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

Workers World Party-Boston's banner in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance, Boston Common, Dec. 31, 2023.

alike by the Israeli Occupation Forces. All elevated BCFP's central demand to "End all U.S aid to Israel," the financial and political source of the Zionist regime's settler-colonial land theft and weapons of mass destruction.

When protesters took the streets at the corporate sponsors' well-publicized "invitation to the public to walk in the parade" behind the bands and performers, they were immediately blocked by an armed bike patrol and surrounded by local, state and national repressive forces, with drones in the sky and snipers on the roof.

The chanting, with fists raised, by the mass number of courageous people from Greater Boston's multinational communities, overcame the state's initial response. The BCFP "Free Palestine" banner and women of a dance collective, dressed in red and holding child-sized shrouds, led the militant marchers undaunted into the parade route, with thousands of spectators cheering and raising fists in solidarity. Many who had come as a family outing joined what became indisputably the annual First Night's largest marching contingent ever.

It was chilling and terrifyingly relevant when, at 7 p.m., the star-spangled "rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air" fireworks momentarily drowned out a coalition speaker at the closing rally on Boston Common. But the spirited crowd quickly fired up all available megaphones and overcame the warlike interruption with an ever-louder chant of "There is only one solution, the Intifada Revolution!"

See BCFP's Dec. 29 press release for further information and full listing of the coalition's over 35 constituent organizations at workers.org/2023/12/75914. □

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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 never-ending 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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Texas governor turns cops loose on migrants

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

One week before Christmas, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott outdid himself by signing into law a bill that authorizes police of any agency, anywhere in the state, to arrest any person they think looks “illegal.” Senate Bill 4 goes into effect March 5, the day of Texas’ presidential primary, along with Senate Bill 3, which allocates about \$1.5 billion to support Texas’ ongoing efforts to build a wall at the Mexican border.

Texas’ SB4 was signed into law with outlandish drama right on the Texas/Mexico border in Brownsville, Texas. As he signed the bill, Abbott was seated with other racist politicians, behind a table with a sign, all in caps, reading ‘TEXAS’ HISTORIC BORDER SECURITY.’ Above and behind the crowd was a giant Texas flag held up high by a large construction crane. Ironically, the U.S. flag was missing.

In recent legislative sessions, Texas had enacted attacks on women, trans people and youth. The lawmakers outlawed diversity, equity and inclusion offices in state universities. Its abortion laws are among the most restrictive in the U.S. Rather than face criminal charges, parents of trans youth are leaving the state to access the proper health care their children need. Women are leaving as well after being denied life-saving reproductive health care, which has been declared illegal.

Abbott has called four special sessions of the legislature to attempt to put into law that private and religious schools be



Demonstrators respond to Abbott’s reactionary law.

funded by the state, cutting money from already underfunded public schools. All this is on top of Abbott’s Operation LoneStar, a multibillion-dollar state campaign to strengthen the border to brutally stop migrants with razor wire, floating buoys and National Guard troops.

Abbott has consistently pushed the boundaries of law regarding migrants, even ordering the bussing of migrants to cities with Democratic mayors across the country. So, what does this newest reactionary law mean for Latinx people in Texas? Racial profiling by police will increase even more.

Millions of U.S. residents, including citizens, can be arrested and deported without due process.

SB4 encourages racial profiling

Latinx people are now the largest ethnic group in Texas, numbering over 40%. According to the U.S. Census numbers from June 2023, they outnumber whites for the first time since 1850, as reported by The Texas Tribune. (tinyurl.com/yuhe73x9) This legislation makes racial

profiling easier. “Why do people who look like me now have to carry our passports around with us?” asked Texas state Rep. Armando Walee.

Activists and legal organizations were prepared before Abbott even signed SB4. They filed a federal civil rights lawsuit the very next day. The American Civil Liberties Union and the Texas Civil Rights Project filed on behalf of El Paso County and two immigrant rights organizations.

One, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, is a nonprofit legal service organization serving the legal needs of low-income noncitizens and asylum seekers in West Texas, Southern New Mexico and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The other, American Gateways, is a nonprofit organization founded in 1987 and incorporated in Texas with offices in Austin, San Antonio and Waco. They provide a broad range of low and no-cost legal services to noncitizens throughout the region, including asylum seekers and victims of family violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Opposition swift in response to SB4

The chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, Texas State Rep. Victoria Neave Criado, said the new laws will potentially harm all Latinos.

Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, issued the following statement: “SB4 is Governor Abbott’s shameful and malicious attempt to carry out the Trump agenda of mass deportation. But immigrants are and have always been essential to the fabric of Texas, which is why we have seen powerful community

organizing and widespread opposition from diverse constituents, including law enforcement.”

She stressed: “Immigrants and our allies will not stand for being terrorized by Abbott and this cruel bill. SB4 is hateful, ideology-driven, race-based policy. Texas voters will not forget who turned their backs on their neighbors, family and friends to enact this shameful law.”

“Under the new law, 79 different law enforcement agencies, from constables to school resource officers in the Houston area alone, will have the power to arrest undocumented immigrants,” said Cesar Espinosa, executive director of Familias Inmigrantes y Estudiantes en Lucha (FIEL) [Immigrant Families and Students in Struggle], an active civil rights organization in Houston.

FIEL has begun holding town hall meetings about SB4 with its 16,000 members, many of whom are undocumented immigrants. Espinosa said, “These people make up a significant portion of the Texas labor force and contribute to the state’s economic success.”

Tsion Gurmu, legal director at the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), said: “Black and Brown people, regardless of citizenship, are already racially profiled and over-policed, and SB4 empowers local law enforcement to continue trampling on our rights.”

Gurmu emphasized: “Every second of the day, Black and Brown communities are criminalized, whether that be by ICE, state and local law enforcement, school security or vigilantes. Historically, criminalization of Black people in the U.S. has been used as a tool to maintain a system of white supremacy!” □

Rape charges weaponized to justify genocide

Continued from page 1

after testimony” of such atrocities. Yet not one actual survivor testimony is cited in Haaretz.

In Haaretz Elkayam-Levy cites coerced testimony from two captured resistance fighters as proof — provided by the Israeli police force Shin Bet, which routinely employs torture, including rape, to extract confessions. Elkayam-Levy even offered as photographic “evidence” a photo that was actually taken in May 2023 of a Kurdish girl outside of Palestine.

Elkayam-Levy is not who CNN, Haaretz and The Times claim she is. As Mondoweiss pointed out after the CNN report, she “is indeed an expert, but not of human rights law. In her former positions, including a post for the Israeli government’s Attorney General’s Office in the International Law Department, she provided the legal justification for Israeli officials committing human rights violations against Palestinians.

“She had previously published a ‘guidance for policy making, government officials and legal advisors in the management of hunger strikes.’ There, she provided a detailed legal manual to ‘standardization through legislation and regulation’ for forced feeding — a brutal act of torture used to break political prisoners.”

In addition, Elkayam-Levy is a former member of the Israel Occupation Forces Spokespersons Unit. (mondoweiss.net, Dec. 1, 2023)

There is nothing substantially new in the latest, 3,500 word New York Times piece. The previously reported lies are basically regurgitated and presented

as an “investigation.” The prominently placed article is nothing but one-sided propaganda intended to justify the U.S./Israeli genocide.

Israel condones sexual violence against Palestinians

In contrast to Israel’s fabrications is its practice — going back to its creation — of allowing the rape of Palestinians. Palestinian women were raped and murdered during multiple massacres, and the fear of being raped was one tactic used to displace 750,000 Palestinians in 1948.

Rape and other forms of sexual violence and torture are carried out in Israeli prisons, sometimes with the goal of forcing a confession. An estimated 8,000 Palestinian prisoners are behind bars, the majority of them not charged with any crime. Men captured by the IOF since Oct. 7 have been forced to strip naked and be photographed, an act of extreme humiliation and degradation.

In 2002, Rabbi Eyal Karim made the outrageous statement that it was permissible for soldiers to “satisfy the evil inclination by lying with attractive Gentile [i.e., Palestinian] women against their will, out of consideration for the difficulties faced by the soldiers and for overall success.” ([Mondoweiss.net](https://mondoweiss.net), Aug. 8, 2022)

In 2016, he was appointed Rabbi Colonel of the Israeli Military Rabbinate, or head rabbi of the IOF, a position he still holds today. Similar views were expressed by prominent Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu and prominent professor Mordechai Kedar of Bar-Ilan University in 2002.

The rate of reported rape inside Israel has risen 30% since 2015, with the vast

majority of cases closed without charges. The percentage of women alleging rape in Gaza, on the other hand, is extremely low.

Rape culture and war propaganda

Sexual violence is a terrible crime. Millions, perhaps billions, of women and gender-oppressed people have directly experienced it. Rape culture — the culture of normalizing or trivializing sexual assault or abuse — demeans every human being oppressed by patriarchal relations.

Most rape survivors do not have eyewitnesses to their suffering, but the vast majority of accusers are telling the truth. Yet all too often it is the woman who is put on trial in a rape case. “Believing survivors” is important in challenging the narrative that rape victims are lying, imagining things, have no proof or somehow provoked the assailant.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to recognize that there are real situations where racists and war propagandists fabricate allegations. They do this to appeal to the instinctive sympathy with anyone who has experienced the horrible crime of rape. Undocumented claims of “rape camps” were made during the U.S./NATO wars against Yugoslavia and Libya.

When rich and middle-class women’s organizations buy into this propaganda they are essentially accomplices to genocide and actually harm the cause of rape survivors.

The group Speak Up, “A feminist initiative to support victims of violence in all its forms,” states: “Exploiting women’s bodies and rape allegations as war propaganda carries profound and extensive implications, affecting not only the imme-



Women march for Palestine, Jakarta, Indonesia, Oct. 15, 2023.

diated conflict but also influencing global attitudes and perceptions about women. This approach undermines the credibility of legitimate cases of sexual violence.

“It may lead to skepticism and disbelief when survivors share their experiences, perpetuating a culture of silence and impunity. Additionally, it could provoke a global backlash against efforts to address gender-based violence and advocate for women’s rights, and it diminishes the credibility of international initiatives aimed at preventing and responding to sexual violence in conflict.” (speakupeg.com)

Rape culture prevails under the capitalist system of exploitation. Its strongest impact in the stage of imperialism is experienced by nationally oppressed people, both inside the imperialist countries and in the colonies. White supremacy, settler colonialism and rape culture go hand in hand.

The fight against all oppressions is a fight against imperialism. Right now, the most important task of anti-imperialists is to magnify solidarity with Palestine and its resistance across the globe. □