Palestinian Resistance to racist settlers:

‘Leave stolen land!’

By Monica Moorehead

On July 3, a 20-year-old Palestinian Abdelwahab Khalayleh, who is from Samu’ in Al-Khalil, located in the occupied West Bank, carried out a stabbing attack. Called “Operation Sacred Revenge,” this act in Tel Aviv resulted in the wounding of 10 Zionist settlers. Khalayleh was martyred following his heroic efforts. This operation was not an isolated incident but part of a much larger ongoing and justified response against the fascist settlers, who are an armed extra-legal terrorist extension of the occupation force and the apartheid, settler-colonial state of Israel.

The Al-Aqsa Flood initiated by Hamas on October 7 has brought about a new reality for these fascist settlers despite their ongoing atrocities. Ever since the Nakba in 1948, Palestinians have been driven off their ancestral lands by heinous tactics carried out by these armed vigilantes, with massacres, beatings and arson. In many instances, Palestinians are forced out of their homes at gunpoint to make room for these fascist settlers, many of whom originate from the U.S. and other parts of the Global North. Palestinian lands have been illegally deemed “state lands” and put up for sale at cheap prices for settlers to acquire.

On October 7 changed everything. The Al-Aqsa Flood initiated by Hamas on October 7 has brought about a new reality for these fascist settlers despite the ongoing horrific genocide of the Palestinian people that has spread from Gaza to the West Bank.

Due to the air strikes carried out by the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, an integral part of the Axis of Resistance, settlers throughout the West Bank are being rightfully targeted, forcing thousands of them to flee Israel on a daily basis.

The Israeli regime has reported that at least 260,000 settlers have been “displaced” in northern occupied Palestine since October 7 and that 39% of them are now living in hotels. Some of these settlers have established their own “refugee” camp.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a war criminal, has been forced to cut $500 million shekels (the equivalent to $135 million) from some government ministries to pay for the evacuation of some of them being shut down. Palestinian lands are being met with protests, leading the resistance to continue their aggression against our Palestinian land and sanctities.

The resistance has shown that there is no safe place for these racist settlers to reside peacefully on stolen Palestinian lands even as their ongoing atrocities continue. “We in the Hamas movement affirm that these fascist decisions will only add to our stationed people’s and their valiant resistance’s adherence to the option of remaining steadfast on this land, the escalation of resistance and clashes with the occupation on all axes, until the sweeping of their occupation’s adherence to the option of remaining steadfast on this land, the escalation of resistance and clashes with the occupation on all axes, until the sweeping of their occupation,” said the Hamas government.

Auctions being held by Zionist institutions in the U.S. to sell off Palestinian lands are being met with protests, leading to some of them being shut down. Hamas stated: “The zionist occupation authorities’ approval of the construction of 5,300 new settlement units in the settlements of the occupied West Bank is a clear expression of the zionist extremist government’s disregard for all international laws and resolutions that criminalize settlement and an affirmation of its continued work to seize more Palestinian land at a time when it is unleashing herds of criminal settlers to continue their aggression against our Palestinian people in the cities and towns of the West Bank, with full protection from the terrorist occupation army. We call on the United Nations and the international community to take effective steps to deter this terrorist entity, to stop its brutal war on our people in Gaza and the West Bank and its frantic attempts to change the facts on the ground and to hold it accountable for the ongoing war crimes it is carrying out in full view of the entire world.” (Resistance News Network, July 4)
Support for Zionism collapsing on all fronts

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant’s July 1 admission— that his country’s army needed 10,000 more soldiers immediately — might have shocked the world even one year ago. But since Hamas launched the Al-Aqsa Flood operation on October 7, the Zionist apartheid state has been beset by a multitude of crises. In the past nine months, about 900 officers in the Israeli military “have requested to review the release of their contracts.” (palestinechronicle.com, July 10)

It may not be that every one of these 900 officers is motivated by conscience. But whatever the motive, these figures point to the fact that Israeli military morale is at an all-time low.

To meet the need for soldiers, Israel’s Supreme Court ruled unanimously against the exemption from conscription of ultra-orthodox Haredi Jews. This ultra-orthodox community comprises about 13% of the population. It has been a base of support for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. And it wants to keep its long privilege of being free from conscription and forced service in the military.

The Netanyahu regime has cracked down on every expression of dissent, which includes Haredi protests against conscription. It includes demonstrations by families of the dead, hostages demanding the prime minister agree to a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement with Hamas. It includes forces within Israel that are publicly expressing opposition to the war.

That’s what happens during an illegal and unwinnable war.

Workers World Party’s youth group, the Multigendered Organization that Not Only Aims to Abolish the Beast, is 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.

If Israel ever was a stable “democracy” in the region, those days are gone. There is no going back.

Youth Against War and Fascism, at one time Workers World Party’s youth group, formed the Committee to Support Middle East Liberation around 1969. Its signs and buttons read: “U.S. out of the Middle East! Palestine will win!”

Today, we could not be more proud of the Palestinian Resistance for creating the possibility of that slogan becoming a reality.

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!

Support for Zionism collapsing on all fronts

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The People vs. the State

By Sue Harris

The following is a report on discussions between political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and five student activists from encampments for Palestine Liberation during a webinar July 3 titled “The People vs. the State.”

Shena Sood of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home pointed out that many of the students in the encampments had heard about Mumia’s struggle for the first time. She also said that Mumia’s failing health was due to medical neglect by the prison system as true of many political prisoners.

Next came a brief statement by Jasmina Fernandez of the Campaign and professor of history at Baruch College, of the City University of New York, who went over some of the legal chicanery committed by the state in originally convicting Mumia.

Fernandez shared a clip of Mumia speaking to the City College of New York student encampment. He sounded wonderful despite poor health. He said the students must speak out against the terrorism, “with all of your might—with all of your will—that it’s time right now, this day, hour, moment to be heard! … to the people of Gaza, Rafah, the West Bank, you can feel your solidarity.”

Mumia added: “It is not enough to demand ceasefire! Demand cease occupa-tion!” The prison recording sounded every three minutes throughout his talk. It only served to intensify his message.

The students were then introduced. They included: Hanae Hameed, Arzoo Malik, CCNY; Besam Ahmad, Temple University; Safiyaa Ogandipe, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Steff Reed, Union Theological Seminary (UTS); and Nicolas Brown, Columbia University. Though they came from different universities, the students were unanimous in their response to Mumia’s message and in their views towards the struggle.

Hadeeqa Arzoo Malik said, “Everyone is aware of the connection between pris-oners of war and people dying in Gaza.” She said the rule of the students is to be “breaking down the barrier between stu-dents and the community” to unite the non-left association.

Besam Ahmad, who had participated in the Gaza encampment at the University of Pennsylvania, stressed the quality of “steadfastness” that she saw in Mumia, how despite 42 years of imprisonment, he is still going, just like the people of Gaza. Students have a tradition of protest, he added.

Safiyya Ogandipe, too, pointed out that she felt immense trust in the others at the encampment, in their ingenuity and commitment.

Arzoo Malik said she felt great pride in CCNY and their tradition of struggle. She stressed that CCNY is in Harlem, a com-munity rich in activism, “where the lines between the students and the people of the community are blurred.” She said that the activism didn’t stop after the encampment ended, and that having built connections, they continued struggling, because “if you love what you do, it’s energizing.”

Ahmed said she never felt what she was doing was a sacrifice: “I was continuing the work my grandparents died doing in Palestine, … We need to do this. It’s not a burden! I chose it.” She added they had to continue, because “genocide doesn’t stop when the bombing ends. … We’re here to free all people!”

Steff Reed said that he had to acknowledge his own privilege as a student by expressing satisfaction with UTS begin-ning to divest and his role in making that happen.

Arzoo Malik ended by saying she was delighted that all the students felt united about the encampments: “Nothing mat ters when you pursue something righ-teous. … Life is bigger than you. … I feel proud of being labeled as a domestic terrorist!”

Mumia praises ‘unity’

And then Mumia came on the call. In answer to the students’ questions, he said he was honored to be on the call with them. “You act with class and class con-sciousness.” He was thrilled about the arrested Columbia students demanding that the arrested CCNY students be treated with the same respect as they were. “You responded as human beings! You’re on the right path of history.”

Answering Reed’s question about the role of students, Mumia said: “Every movement needs music to move people. … Find what turns you on.” He said it felt wonderful speaking to the students. It took him back to his youth and the Vietnam War—which “was also a war of settler-colo-nialism.” He added, “It’s clearer now with Gaza, that is an open prison!”

Mumia ended by saying that the watchword was “Unity”: “You are rocking this country. … People are studying this move-ment all over the world, because it’s a moment of freedom within repression!” He quipped, “If Huey [Newton] and Eldridge [Cleaver] had had your media, we wouldn’t be!” But then he added: “Don’t rely on corporate media. You have your own. So people outside of the circle of students should commend you.”

The prison recording ended the call, and when it did, the students called out triumphantly, “We did it!”

Note on videos

This report was based on two videos. The longer version included an introduc-tion by Tg, a Mumia Campaign representa-tive who gave a speech to the ancestors. He said that political prisoners are all part of the same struggle, whether they are Palestinian, Sudanese, Haitian, from the United States or any-where — and we cannot turn our back on them. He also mentioned that Mumia was in his 42nd year of incarceration and in that time has written 13 books important to the struggle. (youtu.be/IytJJz-GXZo)

The shorter version of 14 minutes shows only the final 14-minute actual dis-cussion by Mumia and the students. (youtu.be/UrUHVLllzzxk_4)

Voters in France block racist National Rally

By G. Dunkel

Much to the surprise of many observers of France’s parliamentary election, young people who supported the leftist New Popular Front coalition could joyfully cele-brate the July results. They told the fas-cist National Rally, known for its racism, Islamophobia and fascism, to “f**k off!” That was the best result from a still unre-solved class struggle in France.

The period leading to that election started just after June 8 when President Joe Biden was in France for D-Day ceremonies commemorating WCW’S proxy war in Ukraine. He attended a military parade along the Champs-Elysées after laying a wreath at France’s tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This was followed by a sumptuous, highly chic, glamorous dinner at the Elysée Palace that let President Emmanuel Macron pump up the NATO of the New Popular Front. (Workers.org, July 11, 2023)

European election result

The next day, when Macron got the results of the European Union election, he unleashed the crisis. The National Rally (formerly the National Front) got over 15% of the vote, more than double the vote for Macron’s party. In response to this humiliating electoral setback that indicated massive loss of support for his regime, Macron announced that he would dissolve the parliament and call an election on June 30 and July 7 for the French Parliament, with the election campaign beginning June 16.

Whatever his reason, Macron’s decision to call the election raised the possibility that the National Rally could win and perhaps even get a majority of seats in the European Parliament. That would have guaranteed that the National Rally would provide France’s next prime minister, with Macron remaining president.

The National Rally openly attacks workers, people of color, women, gay, queer and trans people and some of its election posters urged the mur-der of leftist candidates. Its main political leader, Marine Le Pen, who has attempted to polish its image to make it an acceptable party on the French electoral spectrum, focuses on bashing migrants. This party engages in demagoguery that has attracted support from some alienated sectors of society.

A group of nominally left parties — France Insoumise, which has called for recognition of Palestine, the Communist Party of France, Greens and the Socialist Party (the last two parties really support the capitalist establishment) — formed the New Popular Front (NPF) to better confront both the National Rally and Macron’s Ensemble coalition. None of these parties actively oppose NATO.

Macron himself is unpopular and for many years has been scoring only 25% of the vote. The New Popular Front alliance came in second with nearly 28%, and Macron’s electoral coalition Ensemble barely got 20% of the vote, about 50% of eligible people voted.

Because many people wanted to prevent a National Rally victory, and some were attracted to the left coalition, popular inter-est in the elections was much greater than in other recent parliamentary votes. Over 3 million voters made a formal request to vote by mail — many being on vacation in July. French television showed dozens of people hav-ing political debates on the beach.

The NPF made sure that its pro-worker program, which includes map-ping the 2023 French pension reform law, increasing public sector salaries and wel fare benefits, raising the minimum wage by 3%, freezing real estate taxes, of good items and energy — was well publicized. Its support for Palestinian statehood and opposition to the genocide in Gaza was much more.

In the second round, only candidates who can get a certain minimum (12.9%) of votes are on the ballot. By mapping the 2023 French pension reform law, increasing public sector salaries and welfare benefits, raising the minimum wage by 3%, freezing real estate taxes, of good items and energy — was well publicized. Its support for Palestinian statehood and opposition to the genocide in Gaza was much more.

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