By Betsy Piette

Over 75,000 pro-Palestine protesters surrounded the White House in Washington, D.C., on June 8, creating a symbolic two-mile-long “red line” to call out President Joe Biden’s hypocritical rhetoric in May when he said he would withhold weapons to Israel if they launched an assault on Rafah in Gaza. Many people were dressed in red and carried long red paper banners bearing the names of the more than 36,000 Palestinians killed in the war so far.

Calling for an end to the war in Gaza, the demonstrators loudly told Biden: “We are your red line!”

Nas Issa, with the Palestinian Youth Movement, said: “A red line is supposed to mean that there are consequences for the actions of rogue states like Israel. And we’re here as a movement to say that if Biden won’t draw the red line, we will.” (WTOP, June 9)

Protestors chanted popular slogans: “Globalize the Intifada!” and “There is only one solution, Intifada revolution!” and “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!”

Israel’s Occupation Forces have been carrying out military operations in Rafah since May 27, when an airstrike killed 43 people living in tents, using bombs produced in the U.S. Other more recent airstrikes targeted a United Nations school in northern Gaza on June 7, killing three people, the day after Israel attacked another U.N. school in central Gaza, killing at least 33 people, including women and children – again with U.S. made weapons.

The latest massacre in Nuseirat in central Gaza, resulted in the needless deaths of 200 Palestinians in order for the IOF to rescue four Israeli hostages. That attack was carried out with the direct support of the U.S., including the use of the U.S. military-built floating pier, allegedly constructed to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Biden distorts D-day

The 80th anniversary of the D-day landing at Normandy, France, reworked a scenario imperialist officials have used before to bolster their prestige, increase their electability or mobilize for battle against their foreign enemy of choice.

The powerful media machine of imperialist propaganda – think Hollywood – present World War II and especially the Normandy landing as the Western imperialist powers’ contribution to a heroic victory of Western democracy over totalitarianism, meaning over Adolf Hitler and Nazism.

President Joe Biden – called “Genocide Joe” for his support of Israel in Gaza – chose D-day to urge NATO members to be “freedom fighters” and escalate NATO’s current offensive against Russia. This goal is the most dangerous misuse of the Normandy landing and must be countered.

Before June 6, 1944, little of the Allies’ anti-Nazi propaganda had turned into effective participation in the war against Germany. Until then, most U.S. military action was directed against Japan as these two imperialist powers fought for control of the Pacific.

D-day itself was the first major Allied intervention, opening a Western Front against Germany. Some 150,000 U.S., British and Canadian troops made the largest amphibious landing ever on the beaches of Normandy. Airborne troops jumped behind German lines the night before.

On D-day alone, about 6,000 German troops and 4,400 Allied troops were killed. By the beginning of 1945, the Allied troops, along with France’s Communist-led partisans, had liberated France from the German occupation. In May of 1945, Germany surrendered.

Impact of war on the Eastern Front

It distorts history, however, to call D-day the decisive battle in the war against Nazi Germany. It was small in comparison to battles on the Eastern Front, where the Soviet Union made much greater contributions to the defeat of German imperialism.

Until the Battle of Stalingrad, in Russia, the German Army seemed omnipotent. The socialist Soviet Union’s victory there on Feb. 22, 1943, marked a turning point in the war in Europe. The combat in Stalingrad left approximately 1 million dead on both sides. With this defeat, highlighting Germany’s weaknesses, the morale on the Allied side rose throughout Europe, while that among Axis troops fell.

Despite its own great casualties in Stalingrad, the Soviet Red Army continued on the offensive. Soon it was confronting two million German troops in the Battle of Kursk, considered the largest tank battle in history. Some 7,500 Soviet tanks faced more than 3,000 German tanks. More than 2,000 German aircraft faced 3,400 Soviet planes.

During the months of fighting around Kursk, there were a half-million troops killed on each side, and many more wounded or captured. The German army again lost this decisive battle.

As significant as the Normandy landing was for the troops who fought, it was small in comparison to battles on the Eastern Front. It can only be described as grotesque that during a ceremony commemorating Normandy, the Western imperialists minimized the Soviet contribution – including the contribution of the Russian republic. Consider that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics lost 27 million people, half of them civilians.

The imperialist leaders, "Genocide Joe" Biden above all, had the gall to use the ceremony to try to mobilize NATO for war against Russia. Only 10 years ago, at the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landing, with Vladimir Putin present, then French President François Hollande had made sure to praise the Soviet contribution to the victory over Adolf Hitler’s Germany.

This year, following the ceremony, current French President Emmanuel Macron – who recently called in 3,000 French troops to stop a righteous rebellion in Kanaky – turned 180 degrees from Hollande’s 2014 comments.

Macron said France would provide Ukraine with Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets and would train Ukrainian pilots to fly them against the Russian forces. He said that French pilots would train Ukrainian pilots to fly the jets and added that France would equip and train an entire brigade of 4,500 Ukrainian soldiers.

By their distortion of the Normandy landing in a war against Nazi Germany, the imperialist leaders present at the ceremonies obscured their siding with Ukrainian fascists in their current anti-Russian offensive and took another step toward a conflagration in Europe. It is apparent that what is needed worldwide to stop that conflagration – and especially in the NATO countries – is a popular mobilization against war and against NATO.

For more details on the threat of a major war, see workers.org/2024/06/79079
In a historic advance
Amazon Labor Union joins the Teamsters

By Martha Grevatt

On April 1, 2022, the Amazon Labor Union made history when it won — by a landslide — a union representation election at Amazon’s JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island, New York. JFK8 became the first unionized Amazon facility in the U.S.

After the vote, in an attempt to overturn the election, Amazon Labor Union leaders filed a number of charges against the ALU with the National Labor Relations Board, along with charges against the NLRB itself. The NLRB ruled against Amazon on every count.

Since then, the company has stalled negotiations and continued its union-busting tactics at other locations that the union has tried to organize. The ALU still does not have a first contract at JFK8.

Now things have changed. The ALU, which began as an independent union, will now have the material resources needed to take on Amazon.

On June 5, the Teamsters union made this ground-breaking announcement: “In a milestone for organized labor, the Amazon Labor Union has formally affiliated with the 1.3 million-member International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The affiliation supplies renewed representation and stronger resources for Amazon workers — behind the wheel and inside warehouses — as they organize and demand a contract from the global behemoth.” (teamster.org)

The Teamsters board voted unanimously to approve the affiliation, which ALU members will vote on in the coming weeks. The newly chartered ALU-International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) Local 1, which will represent the 8,000 workers at JFK8, will have jurisdiction over all Amazon facilities in the five boroughs of New York City and “will have access to the financial and organizational resources of the Teamsters International Union, the Teamsters Amazon Division and Teamsters Joint Council 16 in New York.”

President Chris Smalls said: “Our message is clear. We want a contract and we want it now. We are putting Amazon on notice that we are coming. It is time to bargain.”

Capitalist class vs. ALU

For the crime of taking on one of the world’s biggest corporations and winning, the ALU, President Smalls and other African American ALU leaders have drawn the ire of the ruling class. The capitalist mouthpiece, The New York Times, launched a thinly-veiled smear on Smalls in March 2023, drawing attention to an opposition group, the ALU Democratic Reform Caucus. The Times followed up with a second article in July 2023 on a court action by the caucus to force an election of officers. (workers.org/2023/07/090795)

Regardless of the motives of the Reform Caucus, the goal of the Times and the class it speaks for was to undermine the ALU and exacerbate divisions — including differences over prioritizing contract negotiations at JFK8 versus unionizing more Amazon facilities. Clearly, both needed to take place simultaneously, a difficult feat for an organization with limited resources.

With the affiliation to a major union that has over 1 million members, those limitations are no longer an obstacle. The union statement indicates that the opposition group also supports the ALU joining the Teamsters. The ALU may have to fight with the Teamsters to assert its political positions, which include support for Palestinian liberation and opposing the U.S. blockade against Cuba. The Teamsters union has not even joined other major unions that have taken a moderate position in favor of a cease-fire in Gaza.

Nevertheless, this historic development is an advance for Amazon workers everywhere and for the whole working class. ☞

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, tactics on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ 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 ginned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless rulings 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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The following statement was issued by the Central Media Committee from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on June 8, 2024, on Resistance News Network.

According to various news sources, 274 Palestinians were martyred and more than 400 wounded as a result of the Nusseirat massacre as of June 8.

The Nusseirat Massacre only proves the terrorism, criminality and complicity of the occupation in the aggression against innocent people. The Front explained that the criminal occupation army launched a brutal attack on the heart of the camp and its crowded market, using all kinds of weapons in the bombing and mass killing of residents, claiming its aim was to extract some of its captives from the hands of the resistance, resulting in more than 55 martyrs and many more wounded.

The Front emphasized that the Palestinian resistance is obligated to continue defending our people against acts of genocide and will not retreat even a single step from fulfilling this sacred duty. The Front further clarified that the massacre also exposed the role and malicious schemes of the United States and its objectives behind the pier that it established on the Gaza coast to participate in the aggression against our people.

Documented evidence and recorded visual scenes confirmed that this pier area was used by the occupation in its brutal assault on Nusseirat Camp and in securing an exit for the terrorist groups affiliated with the occupation army that participated in committing the massacre.

The Front asserted that the occupation, along with all its supporters and participants in its crimes, are deluded in thinking that massacres and crimes will force our people and resistance to retreat from our legitimate demands to halt the genocide or accept conditions imposed by the occupier to continue giving more under a farcical agreement crafted by war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu with the assistance of his partner [President Joe] Biden.

The Front stated that the clear truth understood by our people is that there is no alternative but to continue defending ourselves, our existence and our rights. The Front concluded its statement by expressing deepest condolences and salutations to our steadfast people in the Gaza Strip, the families of the righteous martyrs and the families of steadfast Nusseirat Camp, calling for more solidarity, cooperation and unity with the camp’s residents in light of the horrific massacres and crimes they have endured.

This statement was lightly edited.