



'We are your red line'

By Betsey 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 as a people." (WTOP, June 9)

Protesters 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!"

Israeli Occupation Forces have been carrying out military operations in Rafah since May 27, when an airstrike killed 45 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



Protesters hold red banner while surrounding the White House, June 8, 2024.

WW PHOTOS: MARTA GUTTENBERG

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.

The demonstration was organized by a loose coalition of groups that included the Palestine Youth Movement, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Code Pink, Party for Socialism and Liberation and others. Organized buses brought people to the capital from at least 13 states. □

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 powerhouses 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

WORKERS WORLD
editorial



Bloody Blinken effigy in Washington, D.C., June 8, 2024.

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 management 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 groundbreaking 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.”

ALU 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 attack 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/2023/03/70079)

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 ceasefire in Gaza.

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



PHOTO: CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION

Amazon Labor Union President Chris Smalls and California union members rally against Amazon’s plans to buy the One Medical health care chain, San Francisco, July 26, 2022.

this week

♦ In the U.S.

- ‘We are your red line’ 1
- Amazon Labor Union joins the Teamsters 2
- Free Leonard Peltier! 3
- A poem to Leonard Peltier 3

♦ Around the World

- PFLP condemns Nusseirat massacre, U.S. role . . . 3

♦ Editorial

- Biden distorts D-day 1

online articles

♦ In the U.S.

- Journalist fired for pro-Palestine stance.LINK
- Attempt to shut down student-worker strike . . .LINK
- West Virginia for PalestineLINK
- Denver protest for PalestineLINK
- How the ‘War on Drugs’ tears families apart . . .LINK
- Calls to join Popular University for GazaLINK
- Cuban ambassador visits PortlandLINK

♦ Around the World

- Hezbollah’s response to IsraelLINK
- Hamas on Israeli bombing of UNRWA school. . .LINK
- U.S., NATO ignore ‘red lines’ in UkraineLINK
- NATO polices the world for imperialismLINK

Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 66, No. 24 • June 13, 2024
Closing date: June 12, 2024

Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes
Tear Down the Walls! Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Steve Gillis and K. James

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2024 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50.

Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited.

Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.

Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.

A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription.

Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404

New York, NY 10001.

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. □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

National Office
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Bay Area
P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
boston@workers.org
instagram: @wwpboston

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfc coast@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

PFLP condemns Israel's Nusseirat massacre and the U.S. role

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 world with the occupation. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine stated that the atrocity committed by the occupation forces this morning in Nusseirat Camp is one of the most horrific massacres in the history of humanity, demonstrating the criminality of the occupation army 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 our genocide 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



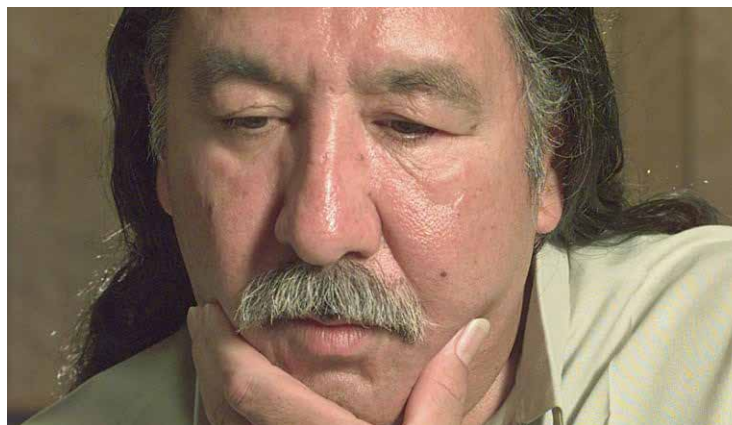
salutations to our steadfast people in the Gaza Strip, the families of the righteous martyrs and the families of steadfast Nusseirat Camp, calling for more solidarity, cooperation and unity with the camp's residents in light of the horrific massacres and crimes they have endured.

This statement was lightly edited.

Free Leonard Peltier!

By Jim McMahan

Lovers of freedom and justice are called upon to demand parole for imprisoned Native American freedom fighter Leonard Peltier. His parole hearing was on June 10. Peltier, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and of Lakota and Dakota descent, is 79, and has been unjustly imprisoned since 1976 — 48 years — for a crime he did not commit. Peltier is in declining health and has hoped he would live long enough to attend the hearing.



In 1973, the American Indian Movement led a 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Wounded Knee is the site where the U.S. Army massacred nearly 300 Lakota people in 1890. Wounded Knee II, as it was called, was held to protest a corrupt Tribal government in league with transnational energy companies that wanted to exploit Lakota land.

The Battle of Wounded Knee was a landmark event for the Native American movement, opening up the struggle for Indigenous sovereignty.

In a government counterattack, hundreds of FBI agents moved onto the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, organizing the infamous "reign of terror." The FBI and FBI-organized "goon squads" murdered people, and more people had their houses burned down or their cars run off the road. Whole villages were shot up. The terror inflicted on Pine Ridge, today the poorest place in the U.S., is not unlike the U.S.-Israeli genocide taking place in Gaza right now.

AIM answers call for help

The FBI-orchestrated attacks led elders on Pine Ridge to call on AIM for security. Leonard Peltier and others from AIM answered the call. The group set up a camp at the Jumping Bull Compound and participated in local survival programs.

On June 26, 1975, roadblocks were set up in the area of the AIM camp and local hospitals were notified to expect casualties. Two FBI agents, Jack Coler and Ronald Williams, drove into Jumping Bull, speeding in the manner of previous FBI drive-by shootings. A firefight quickly erupted and the AIM members defended themselves from what they saw as another murderous attack. The fight left the two FBI agents, along with AIM member Joe Stuntz Killright, dead.

What followed was a huge attack by 150 to 200 FBI agents, SWAT teams and other government agents. Encampment members, including Peltier, were forced to flee with the aid of local supporters.

The firefight created a diversion, allowing Dick Wilson, the corrupt Tribal chairman, to sign away a large part of the reservation to the U.S. government.

This was done so that transnational energy companies could mine uranium on the reservation.

Peltier said in "Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance": "I have no doubt whatsoever that the real motivation behind Wounded Knee II and the Oglala firefight, and much of the turmoil throughout Indian Country since the early 1970s, was — and is — the mining companies' desire to muffle AIM and all traditional Indian people, who sought — and still seek — to protect the land, water, and air from their thefts and depredations. In this sad and tragic age we live in, to come to the defense of Mother Earth is to be branded a criminal."

Peltier was captured in 1976 in Canada and extradited to the U.S. based on false affidavits coerced by the FBI. Peltier's two co-defendants from the encampment defense, Bob Robideau and Dino Butler, were found not guilty of murder by reason of self-defense. But Peltier's case was separated from Butler's and Robideau's "so that the full prosecutive weight of the federal government could be directed against Leonard Peltier," according to an FBI memo. (freepeltier.org)

In an atmosphere of fear and intimidation in Fargo, North Dakota, Leonard was found guilty by an all-white jury and sentenced to two consecutive life terms. Virtually the entire defense, which justified an acquittal in Butler's and Robideau's cases, was ruled inadmissible in Peltier's case by the judge. Through appeals, Peltier's lawyers have been able to disprove the case against him, to the point that the U.S. government prosecutors have stated that they don't know what role Leonard played in the firefight.

We will always uphold the courageous stance of Leonard Peltier and the people of Pine Ridge, along with the American Indian Movement and the entire movement for Native Sovereignty.

Contact the U.S. Parole Commission to demand parole for Leonard Peltier: U.S. Parole Commission, Acting Chairperson, Patricia K. Cushwa, 90 K St. N.E. 3rd Floor, Washington D.C. 20530; phone 202-346-7000; email USParole.questions@usdoj.gov

A poem to Leonard Peltier

By Julia Wright

To Leonard Peltier, an invocation for your Release after your parole hearing tomorrow

we know the sounds of Summer
coming -
there is the buzz of a bottle fly
there is a soaring eagle's cry
there is the whir of grass being mown
there is the swish of a kite high flown
and
children are laughing as they gather shells
along the free expanse of ocean -

but
what does
the absence
of hatred
sound like?

what does Peace
sound like?

what does Justice
sound like -
does it even ring a bell?

what would your release
sound like.....

after forty eight Summers
hearing none of Mother Earth's
renewal sounds
and now blind
in your cage?

(c) Julia Wright
June 9, 2024. All rights reserved.

