

# MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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# Floating pier off Gaza: pretext for U.S. intervention

By **Monica Moorehead**

The heinous genocide of the people of Gaza by U.S.-backed Israel has lasted five months as of March 7, resulting in the massacre killing over 31,000 Palestinians and wounding nearly 80,000.

Presently, hundreds of thousands of people face a slow, agonizing death by starvation. The Israeli Occupation Forces continue to block Gaza's Rafah border with Egypt. There some 1,500 trucks wait, ready to bring food, water, medical supplies and other humanitarian needs to besieged Gaza, stopped by the IOF.

In response to the roadblocks by the Israelis, some countries, including the U.S., have been making air drops of food to Gaza. The amounts are a mere pittance compared to what is really needed. Some drops ended up in the sea, out of reach of the people. Some contained expired food. Five Gazans, including children, were recently killed when these heavy crates fell on them and crushed them.

The Palestinian resistance has stated on multiple occasions that these air drops are insufficient and ineffective in meeting the humanitarian needs of the people — and they are also humiliating.

The Biden administration, which has been complicit since day one in this genocide, announced last week its plans to build

a floating pier, allegedly to bring humanitarian aid to Gaza. This pier reportedly will take up to two months to build. The Pentagon also announced plans to send 1,000 U.S. troops to help build the pier.

At the same time the administration made this announcement, it was revealed that the U.S. has continued to send more weapons to the Zionist regime.

In a March 10 statement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, emphasized that, "The behavior of the American administration in the previous days and its suspicious movements, such as its announcement of establishing a floating sea port on the shores of the Gaza Strip that takes time to build, and its continuation in supplying the occupation with huge and unprecedented amounts of ammunition and weapons by air bridge non-stop as revealed by American media, does not indicate a change in the American stance from the war on the Strip. Rather it indicates insistence on prolonging the duration of the battle and besieging the Strip security and field under humanitarian justifications." (Resistance News Network)

### UNRWA staff members tortured

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has provided aid for displaced Palestinians since 1950. In February UNRWA issued a report stating

that some of their staff members were illegally detained and then coerced by Israeli authorities, who used torture, into falsely stating that the agency worked in concert with Hamas in carrying out the Oct. 7 uprising.

These accusations led to the firing of some of the UNRWA staff and the defunding of hundreds of millions of dollars from the agency. The Belgian government accused Israel of bombing the Belgian Agency for Development Cooperation in

the Gaza Strip when officials in Brussels refused to rescind their funding from the UNRWA.

At least 150 UNRWA staff members have been killed by the Israelis since Oct. 7.

Despite UNRWA coming under attack, the agency announced efforts to use an Israeli military road bordering Gaza to test its suitability for delivering humanitarian aid to northern parts of the enclave, according to a U.N. official. □



New York City, Union Square, March 8, 2024. International Working Women's Day rally takes to the streets in solidarity with Palestine. Cops attacked the march, injuring and arresting youthful demonstrators. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

## Philadelphia Martyrs Day march for Palestine

By **Betsey Piette**

Over 1,000 people marched in rain and sometimes gale force winds in recognition of Palestinian Martyrs Day and International Working Women's Day in Philadelphia on March 9. Starting with a rally at Rittenhouse Square, the crowd took to the streets, heading around City Hall and up North Broad to Spring Garden Street. They ended outside the headquarters of arms manufacturer Day & Zimmermann. At a closing rally there, protesters carried mock cardboard missiles with slogans targeting the company

for profiting from genocide.

The privately owned munitions manufacturer outsources to several U.S. factories that produce much of the artillery munitions used by the Israeli Occupation Forces in Gaza. This includes the highly explosive M830A1 rounds Israeli tanks fired at a United Nations school in Gaza in November.

Israeli tanks fired M830A1 rounds Jan. 29 that killed 6-year-old Hind Rajab, her six family members and the medics who attempted to rescue her in the Gaza neighborhood of Tel al-Hawa. The serial number on an exploded round found inside

the ambulance indicates it was produced by Mason & Hanger, a subsidiary of Day & Zimmermann.

In honor of International Working Women's Day, March 8, some speakers addressed the particular plight of Palestinian women in Gaza, where Israel has killed an average of two women an hour since October 7.

Speakers throughout the protest included representatives from Philippine rights group Anakbayan, Palestine prisoners support group

Samidoun, Health Care Workers for Palestine, Temple University Students for Justice in Palestine and the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition, which organized the event. Workers World Party Philadelphia is a member of the coalition and was an endorser of the rally. □



Philadelphia, March 9, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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## State of the Union speech

# Biden defends genocide

Mainstream Democrats appear to be breathing a sigh of relief after President Joe Biden’s State of the Union speech March 7. What was unofficially the first campaign speech for Biden’s reelection in November has been deemed well-delivered and coherent — even “fiery.”

Workers World sees things differently. We noticed that Biden began his speech with a call to arms — as in more arms to Ukraine to continue the U.S./NATO proxy war against Russia, which Congressional Republicans demagogically oppose.

And we noticed that the few minutes devoted to the genocide in Palestine — during a 67-minute speech — reiterated U.S. support for the Israeli apartheid state.

Biden might appear fiery, but not to anyone who has been at a Palestinian solidarity demonstration, where the speakers represent the oppressed masses and turn their suffering and resistance into passionate words. What Biden did was read prepared lines and raise his voice.

The president bragged that 1,000 U.S. troops will be deployed to the Mediterranean Sea to build a “floating pier” to allow material aid to enter Gaza. But this plan has been widely criticized by the Palestinian resistance, as well as United Nations representatives and groups such as Doctors Without Borders and Save the Children. And there is a concern that, under the guise of delivering aid, Washington will find an opening

to move its troops into Gaza.

Neither the U.S. nor Israel has budged an inch when it comes to opening the border crossings where aid trucks are blocked from delivering aid to Gaza. Three times the U.S. has used its veto power in the U.N. Security Council to kill resolutions mandating a permanent ceasefire. Biden only meekly admonished Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying that, “Protecting and saving innocent lives has to be a priority,” while still continuing to provide arms to the apartheid state.

### Biden and Netanyahu united

There is no real rift between Biden and Netanyahu. Perhaps it looked to be a breakthrough when Vice President Kamala Harris supposedly called for a ceasefire. Yet she only called for a “temporary” ceasefire and, “Harris reiterated the Biden administration’s ‘unwavering’ commitment to Israel’s security and its right to defend itself from the threat of future attacks by Hamas.” (NPR.com, March 4)

The very next day Harris met with Benny Gantz, a member of Netanyahu’s war cabinet, who proclaimed on Oct. 11, “Now is a time for war.” (Reuters.com, Oct. 11, 2023)

If there is any real rift, it’s between Biden and rank-and-file, working-class voters, who are choosing “uncommitted” on primary election ballots in record numbers. First, around 13% of Michigan Democratic

voters, over 101,000, filled in the circle for uncommitted on Feb. 27. In Dearborn and Hamtramck, Detroit suburbs with large Arab and Muslim communities, a majority chose uncommitted.

Then on March 5 — called “Super Tuesday” for the large number of state primary elections — nearly 19% of Minnesotans who voted in the Democratic primary made the same choice. Smaller but significant percentages were recorded in other states, and on March 6 “uncommitted” garnered a whopping 29% of the vote in Hawaii.

While the votes took place within the confines of the capitalist Democratic Party, they reflect the mass anger over the genocide in Gaza. No one with even modest progressive leanings wants to see Donald Trump — who is every bit as pro-Zionist as Biden — win the November election. But millions of U.S. workers are also disgusted with “Genocide Joe.”

The fact that those two are presented as the only choices for U.S. president in November exposes the much-hyped sham that is capitalist “democracy.” As Karl Marx wrote in “The Civil War in France” in 1871, “The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.” □

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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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