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Campus revolts inspire anti-imperialist solidarity

By Monica Moorehead

Faced with the ongoing U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in occupied Gaza that has claimed the lives of 34,454 civilians, with 77,575 people injured as of April 28, according to Gaza's Palestinian Ministry of Health, and caused the displacement of over 1 million people, the solidarity with Palestine is evolving into a global resistance to U.S. and Western imperialism.

The opposition has become omnipresent in the Global North, especially in the United States, where Gaza solidarity encampments have spread like a huge tidal wave since the first one began on April 17 at Columbia University. Within two weeks, students have set up encampments at over 100 universities and colleges.

These encampments have become "liberated zones," which include tents named for occupied Palestinian territories under siege, such as Gaza and Rafah. Donated food, water, medical supplies and blankets fill the sites, along with books and other literature for "people's libraries."

The encampments' demands are universal: All schools must divest funds from any part of their billion-dollar endowments that prop up the Israeli occupation; the U.S. government must cease supplying billions of dollars of weaponry to Israel with every congressional bill passed; and there must be a permanent end to the horrific genocide.

Encampments have also sprung up in parts of Asia, Australia, Canada and Europe.

Many encampments have faced police brutality and arrests, most notably at Columbia University in New York City, Arizona State University in Tempe, Indiana University in Bloomington, Emory University in Atlanta, Emerson College and Northeastern University in Boston, Washington University in St. Louis and Ohio State University in Columbus.

Dozens of pro-Palestinian activists have either been suspended or expelled by pro-Israel university administrations. Faculty members seeking to physically protect their students' First Amendment rights to protest have also been brutalized and arrested. Some have



Gaza students in Rafah, Palestine, April 28, 2024.

are reminded of our history of student struggle as well as the student uprisings of 1968, which challenged imperialism from Vietnam to Palestine and reshaped the face of Europe and the United States.

"Now, in 2024, the student movement is once again leading the way. From here in Gaza, we see you and salute you. Your actions and activism matter, especially in the heart of the empire, in the United States. As members of Congress agree to provide \$26 billion in additional weapons to bomb our people and continue the Zionist-U.S. genocide, you are taking meaningful action to shut down the war machine on your campuses.

"It is clear that a new generation is rising that will no longer accept Zionism, racism and genocide and that stands with Palestine and our liberation from

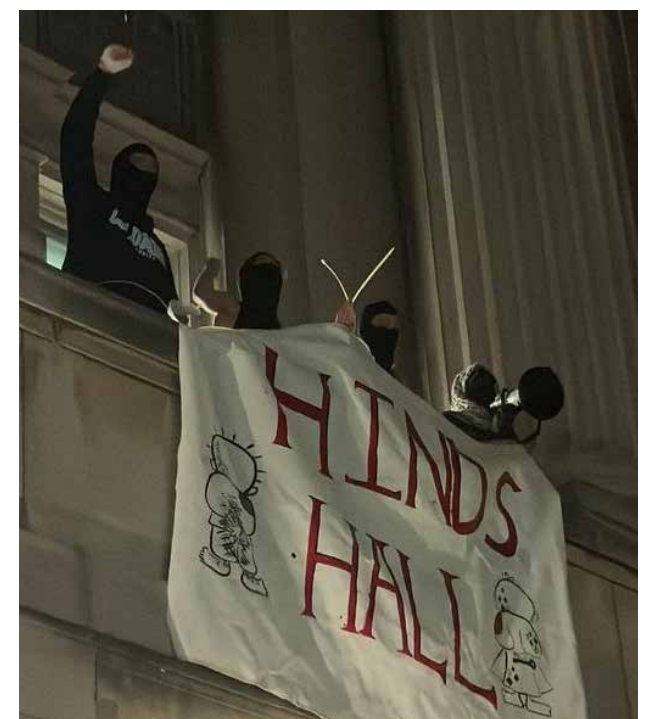
the river to the sea." (Read the entire statement at workers.org/2024/04/78323)

Repression fuels resistance

Palestinians continue to bear the daily brunt of Israeli airstrikes leading to massacres, like those at the destroyed Al-Shifa and Nasser hospitals in Gaza and Khan Younis respectively, with evidence of hundreds of civilians killed. The victims included children and health care workers, who were tortured, executed and even buried alive.

Israel and the U.S. are blockading the Freedom Flotilla, made up of three ships with 5,500 tons of humanitarian aid, which is waiting to leave for Gaza from Istanbul, Türkiye.

History shows that atrocities such as these will continue to fuel the revolutionary flames of a united Palestinian resistance. Their struggle will inevitably lead to the long overdue emancipation of an Indigenous people. This victory will include the right of exiled Palestinians to return to their homes. It will also hasten the demise of the utterly hated imperialist system, the root cause of so much exploitation, oppression and misery for all of humanity. □



Students take over and rename Columbia building in memory of six-year old Palestinian martyr, Hind Rajab, killed Jan. 29, 2024, by Israeli troops.

even lost their jobs.

Despite the vicious police repression, the students and their supporters have refused to be intimidated. They remain steadfast and resilient in forcing administrations to meet their demands. If any encampments get torn down by state repressive forces, the students find creative ways to relocate them.

Behind all the police terror lies real fear among the repressive state apparatus and the ruling class it protects. They fear that this youth and student uprising is radicalizing and changing class consciousness for unprecedented numbers of the working class. The most politically developed student organizers are linking the Palestine struggle to other important struggles like solidarity with migrant workers and with political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Solidarity appreciated from Global South

These campus uprisings, sparked by the genocide, mass starvation and ethnic cleansing U.S.-backed Israel has forced on the Palestinian masses, now approaching the seventh month, have evolved into an important and strategic front for the anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist struggle. And no one knows this better than the Palestinian people themselves; they understand that the enemy extends beyond Israel and also know who their friends and allies are. Solidarity must be and should be reciprocal.

The Palestinian people have a deep understanding and appreciation for what the eruption of the class struggle inside the belly of the beast — the U.S. Empire — means for their struggle. They understand that any challenge to the racist status quo inside the U.S. uplifts their 76-year struggle for national liberation and proves once again that solidarity knows no borders.

Once the campus revolts erupted inside the U.S., Palestinians, along with the masses throughout West Asia, paid tribute to these revolts with heartfelt thanks and solidarity. And now the developments inside the U.S. have inspired organized student movements in Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Jordan and Türkiye — according to the National Students for Justice in Palestine.

Gaza students acknowledge U.S. actions

In an April 25 open letter to the U.S. student movement, Gaza student organizations under the umbrella of the Student Frameworks Secretariat, wrote: "When we see videos and images from U.S. universities today, we

WW COMMENTARY



PHOTO: MIDDLE EAST OBSERVER

Yemenis express solidarity with U.S. students. Sana'a, Yemen, April 26, 2024.

Behind repression of campus occupations

Follow the money

In December 2023, Daniel Diermeier, chancellor of Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, wrote: “Universities are, by design, where we come to debate and probe the questions that matter to us most. And our explorations are richest and most fruitful when they are informed by a wide range of viewpoints.”

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Pure hogwash. The hypocrisy of what Diermeier calls “institutional neutrality” has been exposed before the world by the violent crackdown on the student upsurge that began at Columbia University on April 17. University administrations have employed violence against their own students to suppress their freedom of speech and assembly. They had occupiers brutally attacked by police, arrested, evicted, suspended from school and fired from their jobs.

Vanderbilt University is one of over 90 campuses (as of April 29) where students have constructed “solidarity encampments” to demand the university divest from Israel bonds and companies that prop up the apartheid state. Vanderbilt is among the 30 colleges and universities with the largest endowments and is currently the site of a tent occupation.

The chancellor’s commentary appeared in none other than Forbes magazine, which for decades described itself as a “capitalist tool” — hardly a paragon of neutrality.

But it’s worth examining the capitalist connections to the unequivocally non-neutral institutions of “higher learning” that are, in some cases, brutally suppressing student activism.

The 30 largest university endowments add up to \$483 billion — almost half a trillion dollars! This is a tremendous amount of wealth extracted from the labor of workers around the world. The endowment funds are then reinvested back into the capitalist economy, in corporations, private equity and hedge funds — and sometimes with direct purchase of Israel bonds. Many of the funds the endowments invest in also hold Israel bonds.

Several universities have invested

in companies that manufacture weapons for the Israeli military. The University of Pennsylvania financed the creation of Ghost Robotics, which produces the armed robotic “dogs” Israel is using in northern Gaza.

Often members of a university’s board of trustees are drawn from banks, corporations and Wall Street hedge funds. The president of Columbia University, Minouche Shafik, was formerly an official at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Private universities are themselves corporations. The Harvard Corporation brags on its web site of being “the oldest corporation in the Western Hemisphere.” Higher education corporations profit by charging exorbitant tuition fees while fighting university unions to keep wages low for clerical, food service, custodial, graduate students and other workers.

Even publicly funded university systems have multibillion-dollar endowments and strong corporate ties.

These institutions can, in turn, count on the repressive apparatus of the capitalist state to brutally attack student protests when they deem it necessary — and practical -- given that many campus protests have been strong enough to push back state repression.

The working class must act in solidarity with this heroic student revolt, one that is not only taking on Zionist apartheid, but is objectively confronting the whole capitalist class that dominates U.S. society. □



Encampment at New York University, April 22, 2024.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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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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Chile, 23 de noviembre, 2023.

¡Manos fuera del heroico levantamiento estudiantil en solidaridad con Gaza!

Workers World apoya plenamente el heroico levantamiento estudiantil estadounidense que ha proliferado en forma de campamentos de solidaridad en Gaza. Este levantamiento nacional fue provocado el 17 de abril, Día de los Prisioneros Palestinos, por estudiantes de la Universidad de Columbia en Harlem, Nueva York, exigiendo que esta escuela de la Ivy League desinvertiera todos sus fondos de dotación de las empresas que hacen negocios con el Estado de apartheid israelí, incluidos los fabricantes de armas. Se trata del mismo Estado, armado por el imperialismo estadounidense, que ha masacrado a más de 34.000 civiles palestinos -un gran número de ellos niños- y herido a más de 76.000 desde la Inundación de Al-Aqsa el 7 de octubre.

Tras las detenciones de más de 100 estudiantes en Columbia por el Departamento de Policía de Nueva York el 18 de abril, han surgido más de 40 campamentos más en todo el país en sólo una semana, con “zonas liberadas” que exigen una Palestina libre. Ninguna represión policial ha podido desalentar la resolución y determinación de estos estudiantes, que siguen fortaleciéndose.

Incluso miembros del profesorado han organizado paros en sus centros de enseñanza donde se están celebrando campamentos, rodeando a los estudiantes manifestantes y arriesgándose a ser detenidos, por

ejemplo en la Universidad Emory de Atlanta y en Columbia y The New School de Nueva York. Saludamos a los conductores de autobús de Nueva York

DECLARACION DE MUNDO OBRERO

que se negaron a llevar a los detenidos a la cárcel en nombre de la policía de Nueva York.

La falsa narrativa del “antisemitismo”

impulsada por las administraciones universitarias reaccionarias, la derecha y la administración Biden está siendo olvidada por el gran número de estudiantes judíos antisemitas que se han unido a estos campamentos. Están diciendo alto y claro que este horrible genocidio no se llevará a cabo en nombre del judaísmo.

Workers World condena la brutalidad llevada a cabo por la policía que demuestra una vez más de qué lado

está esta fuerza represiva. Las policías protegen la propiedad privada de la multimillonaria clase dominante, que incluye las superricas dotaciones universitarias que apuntalan la máquina de muerte sionista y terrorista.

La Red de Noticias de la Resistencia, la principal voz de la Resistencia Palestina, ha estado proporcionando cobertura y apoyo las 24 horas del día a este levantamiento estudiantil. La red afirma que estos campamentos han tenido lugar hasta ahora en 20 estados.

Al igual que la resistencia armada palestina debe ser defendida por la comunidad mundial, es imperativo que todos los sectores de la sociedad estadounidense, especialmente los trabajadores de todas las nacionalidades, salgan en defensa de estos desafiantes estudiantes. Ellos están llevando a cabo su propia lucha junto a sus hermanos palestinos, no sólo para ayudar a derribar el estado ilegal israelí, sino para resistir justificadamente a las tropas de asalto de la policía que hacen la voluntad de la clase capitalista opresora a escala mundial.

Workers World exige: ¡Que se retiren los cargos contra TODOS los estudiantes y profesores manifestantes! ¡FIN a la represión policial! ¡Victoria de la resistencia palestina! Del río al mar, ¡Palestina será libre! □



Campamento del CCNY, Nueva York, 25 de abril de 2024.

MO FOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Qué diferencia hace media decena

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

La guerra contra Gaza ha entrado ya en su sexto mes y no hay un fin inmediato a la vista. Más de 33.000 personas -hombres, mujeres y niños- han muerto. Miles de viviendas han sido destruidas. Y millones de palestinos se enfrentan a una hambruna inminente y la inanición más absoluta. Fíjense en que he dicho “la guerra contra Gaza” en lugar de “la guerra contra Hamás”, una organización islamista de resistencia. ¿Por qué he dicho esto? Porque la gran mayoría de los muertos son no combatientes. Miles son niñas o niños. ¿Debemos creer que eran bebés de Hamás?

El odio que los israelíes sienten hacia los árabes en general y los palestinos en particular es totalmente inaceptable. Pero este conflicto es más que racista y más que simplemente político. Es a la vez existencial y territorial. Es un conflicto colonial de asentamientos que codicia la tierra de los palestinos. No podría importarle menos la gente. ¿No explica eso la carnicería desnuda de la guerra? ¿No explica eso el promedio de cinco mil muertes por mes? No hay que mirar más allá del asesinato por parte de la Fuerza de Defensa Israelí (FDI) de tres rehenes judíos sin camisa que hablaban hebreo. Como dice el refrán: Dispara primero. Haga preguntas más tarde. Si estás en el territorio, eres un objetivo.

Y luego ocurre el asesinato de siete ayudantes de la Cocina Central Mundial, y los liberales se vuelven locos. A Israel le regañan. “Mal perro. Mal perro.”



Mumia Abu-Jamal

De veras? De veras? Unos 33.000 palestinos son masacrados y el silencio virtual es ensordecedor.

El Dr. Franz Fanon, en su obra clásica, Los Condenados de la Tierra, dijo que los conflictos coloniales ocurren entre dos especies distintas. Los colonizadores se consideran humanos. Los colonizados son menos que humanos. Por no ser libres, no son humanos, porque sólo los humanos son libres.

Los liberales llaman a un cese de fuego. ¿Por qué no vamos al fondo de las cosas y exigir un fin a la ocupación? ¡Los palestinos no merecen la libertad? ¿Los palestinos no merecen el derecho de existir? Los

palestinos no merecen un estado propio? ¿O estas cosas son sólo para los Israelíes?

Tal vez no estoy siendo justo. Tal vez. Pero luego pienso en las palabras de un diplomático israelí, un embajador que estaba discutiendo la paz con Palestina. Danny Danon, el Embajador de Israel a la Organización de Naciones Unidas (ONU), en un artículo de opinión para el New York Times en su edición del 24 de junio de 2019, escribió que a los palestinos sólo les hacía falta hacer dos cosas para establecer la paz: A. Cometer (sus palabras) suicidio nacional, y B. Rendirse. Piensen en eso. Un oficial colonial imperial francés no podría haberlo dicho mejor.

Estados Unidos no es un árbitro justo ni imparcial. Es profundamente parcial y arma al Israel del apartheid con armas, no de defensa, sino de ofensiva.

Las siglas FDI significan Fuerza de Muerte Israelí [“Israeli Death Force” en inglés].

Así que comencemos con un llamado: Cesen la ocupación.

Con amor, no miedo, soy Mumia Abu-Jamal.

15 de abril de 2024

Traducción: Amigxs de Mumia en México.
Comentario grabado por Prison Radio.
www.prisonradio.org/commentary/what-a-difference-half-a-dozen-makes