



Hammas on ICC charges



Palestinian resistance is NOT a crime

Workers World is in full solidarity with the May 20, 2024, statement below and demands the ICC drop the arrest warrants against Hammas leaders, which falsely equate the heinous crimes against humanity carried out by the U.S.-backed apartheid Israeli state for the past 76 years with armed self-defense of the Palestinian resistance against the settler colonial occupiers. The right to resist by any means necessary is not a crime!

The Public Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court issued arrest and detention warrants against a number of leaders of the Zionist occupation.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hammas) followed up on the arrest and detention warrants issued today by the

Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court against only two war criminals of the Zionist entity. They are “Benjamin Netanyahu” and “Yoav Gallant,” who were proven to be involved in committing the crime of genocide, aggression and crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people.

The arrest and detention warrants against the aforementioned occupation leaders came seven months late, during which the “israeli” occupation committed thousands of crimes against Palestinian civilians, including children, women, doctors, and journalists, and destroyed private and public property, mosques, churches, and hospitals.

The Public Prosecutor should have arrest and detention orders against

all officials from the occupation leaders who gave orders, and soldiers who participated in committing crimes, in accordance with Articles 25, 27 and 28 of the Rome Statute, which emphasized the individual criminal responsibility of every official, commander, or any person who ordered, or instigated, committed, assisted or aided in the commission of crimes, or failed to take measures to prevent the commission of crimes.

The Hammas movement strongly denounces the attempts of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to equate the victim with the executioner by issuing arrest warrants against a number of Palestinian resistance leaders, without a legal basis, in violation of the international conventions and resolutions that

gave the Palestinian people and all the peoples of the world under occupation the right to resist the occupation in all forms, including armed resistance, especially as stipulated in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

Hammas demands the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to issue arrest and detention orders against all war criminals, including occupation leaders, officers and soldiers who participated in crimes against the Palestinian people.

It also demands the cancellation of all arrest warrants issued against Palestinian resistance leaders, as these warrants violate international conventions and resolutions.

This statement was lightly edited.

Solidarity with Iran



PHOTO: IRAN PRESIDENTIAL WEBSITE

President Ebrahim Raisi

Workers World extends its revolutionary condolences and heartfelt solidarity to the people of Iran with the tragic loss of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and others in a helicopter crash on May 19. We also extend our condolences to the Palestinian resistance who lost these two important allies in the struggle against the Zionist Israeli regime and U.S. imperialism. WW will continue its uncompromising tradition of defending sovereign countries like Iran against the biggest enemy of the world’s workers and oppressed peoples — U.S. imperialism. **Hands off Iran!!**

No PRIDE in genocide!

There’s no mention of the genocide taking place in Palestine in Tourist Israel’s promotion of Tel Aviv’s Pride march. The site describes the city as “the Gay Capital of the Middle East, and perhaps even one of the Gay Capitals of the World.”

Disgusting!

The horrific genocide, which has claimed well over 35,000 lives— a figure that does not account for thousands of people buried under rubble and not recovered— includes untold numbers of LGBTQIA+ Palestinians.

Solidarity with Palestine is the most important message anyone can bring to Pride events in their community. In too many places, Pride marches have become corporatized, with big contingents representing a whole range of capitalist firms. Some of those with a presence at Pride — such as the notorious Starbucks — are on the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions list of companies doing business with Israel.

Workers World salutes the many queer people here and around the world who want nothing to do with the “pink washing” of Israeli apartheid. We join with them in saying “No Pride in genocide.”

(For more see workers.org/2024/01/76525) □



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TEAR DOWN THE WALLS



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Hell No to bigotry!

Workers World hails Pride month

For over half a century, Workers World newspaper has covered global struggles to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence, including against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersexual, asexual, two-spirit and gender-nonconforming communities.

In recent months, youth, including LGBTQIA2S+ activists, have demonstrated strong solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people in Gaza. Encampments have sprung up at U.S. universities to demand an immediate end to U.S.-armed Israel's horrific bombing of Gaza, which has killed 35,000 people, a majority women and children.

This June, during Pride month, we particularly support our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Gaza, who are among those targeted by the Israeli state — killed, wounded, tortured and imprisoned — and in the occupied West Bank, currently under siege by Zionist settlers and Israel's Occupation Forces.

WW articles express our unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and their resistance movements. Our staff and writers offer our sympathy to everyone who has lost loved ones.

Turning to the U.S., our newspaper has extensively covered the hostile, bigoted anti-LGBTQIA2S+ legislative campaign sweeping the U.S., targeting, in particular, trans youth, aiming to deny them needed health care and participation in sports. WW articles have also upheld the struggles for reproductive justice, voting and civil rights, teaching about historic people's movements which have resisted racism and all oppressions — and opposed racist, homophobic book bans.

WW has backed up our activist coverage and analysis with publication of "The Gay Question: A Marxist

Appraisal," later reissued in "The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View." Our paper ran the "Lavender & Red" series by WW managing editor and renowned trans leader Leslie Feinberg; 25 articles are included in "Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba." Read both books at workers.org/books.

WW reporters on the ground — from Buffalo, New York, to Portland, Oregon, — write about the groundswell of worker organizing that has won union victories against corporate behemoths and sparked more organizing. This historic upsurge was fueled by the leadership and solidarity of young, multinational, queer, gender-nonconforming workers.

We cheer them on!

WW needs your support!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on its readers' backing. The Workers World Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help us publish this socialist newspaper, and later fund workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly newspaper's PDF is displayed for all readers.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles,

bulletins from national liberation movements, and articles by political activists and analysts abroad translated by our staff. Our writer/organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles, union drives and people's movements against war and racism and for the rights of women, workers, migrants, LGBTQIA2S+ and disabled people. The website is a resource for political activists.

While WW's staff is voluntary, the 12 printed issues each year and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Join the WW Supporter Program: Can you donate \$50, \$100, \$200 a year? Contributions of \$50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, email links to all articles posted online and, upon request, the book "What road to socialism?"

Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World; include your name, address and email. Send to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. □



Philadelphia, March 16, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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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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California courts on the hunt for 'Antifa conspiracy'

By **Teddie Kelly**

This month the Superior Court of San Diego County convicted two activists, Brian Lightfoot and Jeremy White, each on a felony count of "conspiracy to riot" as a result of their participation in a 2021 counterprotest against Trump-supporting white supremacists.

Lightfoot and White were the only two individuals to go to trial among the group known as the San Diego 11. In the preceding months, nine of the other protesters against the "Patriot March" in Pacific Beach all pled guilty to a variety of charges, including felony assault and unlawful use of tear gas.

Two of the San Diego 11 are trans women. One — Nikki Hubbard — has already been sentenced to five years in prison and is currently being held in a men's health facility in Stockton, California, in a clear violation of The Transgender Respect, Agency and Dignity Act (SB-132).

The unprecedented "conspiracy to riot" charges were based on messages exchanged among some of the activists. Evidence brought by prosecutors highlights the ability of cops and courts to seize all digital communications on an individual's phone — and to twist innocuous comments into proof of violent intent.

Brian Lightfoot, who is Black, was questioned on the stand about his use of common idioms originating from African American Vernacular English (AAVE).

"At 10 p.m., you talked about how it was going to be 'lit.' What did you mean by that?" asked Deputy District Attorney Mackenzie Harvey, implying that the slang phrase literally meant setting something on fire.

Likewise, prosecutors had a field day with a text message from Lightfoot where he said he planned on "holding space" for his fellow activists. This phrase, again popularized by Black activists, refers to creating an empathetic, nonjudgmental environment for oppressed people.

The prosecution suggested this meant Lightfoot "wanted to fight" and planned to physically occupy areas

to prevent right-wing marchers from assembling on the boardwalk that day. "They were looking to commit violence," the deputy district attorney said.

A DA on a crusade against "Antifa"

Since San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan took office in 2017, she has railed against Black Lives Matter activists, promising to uncover "the truthful nature of the protestors."

On a campaign website called ThreatToSanDiego.com, Stephan characterized her opponent as a puppet of Jewish billionaire and Holocaust survivor George Soros. (Archived: threattosandiego.com)

Stephan spoke of shadowy forces supporting the protests "behind the scenes" in 2020. "There are movements that are not what you would think of." When pressed to explain the comment, a spokesperson for the district attorney said, "There's nothing more we can share on this." (Times of San Diego, Sept. 16, 2020)

No charges were filed against any right-wing demonstrators who took part in the fighting at the pro-Trump march, which took place in the immediate aftermath of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot in Washington, D.C. Among the marchers were numerous members of the Proud Boys and the American Guard, an organization that advocates for "racial holy war," some of whom were called as key witnesses for the prosecution." (Court filing) At least five individuals present were confirmed to have participated in the Capitol insurrection just three days prior.

An emerging double standard

After a week of deliberation, the jury was hung on the vast majority of charges. Indeed, jurors cleared Lightfoot and White of the alleged assaults. However, the conspiracy charges on which they were convicted represent an escalation of the court's attacks on the right to free assembly.



Anti-fascist demonstration, San Diego, December 12, 2020.

"I think the door is wide open to now hold lawful protesters in violation of conspiracy law," said White's attorney, Curtis Briggs.

In April, U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California Cormac J. Carney dismissed assault charges against Tyler Laube, who confessed to punching a reporter at a "Make America Great Again Rally" in 2017. Carney blasted prosecutors for ignoring crimes committed by left-wing activists. "It was Antifa, a far-left extremist group, that posed the insidious threat to democracy." (Legal Affairs and Trials, May 4)

The judge had previously dismissed charges against white supremacists Robert Rundo and Robert Boman who, like Laube, are members of a white supremacist organization called Rise Above Movement. The group bills itself as "the premiere mixed martial arts club of the alt-right." So unusual was Carney's decision to summarily drop the charges against these avowed white nationalist militants that a Ninth Circuit judge put the ruling on hold and ordered the re-arrest of Rundo. (CNN, Feb, 22)

Meanwhile, the rest of the San Diego 11 are expected to be sentenced this June. Many of them face years in prison.

Former California federal prosecutor Patrick Cotter called the ruling "an insult to public intelligence" and said the decision to only prosecute left-wing activists constitutes "selective prosecution." (USA Today, May 3, 2021) □

Leonard Peltier: 'I hope I make it to June 10'

This excerpted article was published on May 7 in the Rapid City Journal, published in South Dakota.

By **Amelia Schafer and Kevin Abourezk**

At 80 years old, Leonard Peltier is approaching what may be his last attempt at freedom.

On June 10, the Anishinaabe elder will participate in what may be his final parole hearing. Peltier is currently serving two consecutive life sentences after being convicted of killing two FBI agents in 1975 at the Jumping Bull Ranch in South Dakota.

Peltier is asking for the public to spread the word about his parole hearing, said Dawn Lawson, secretary of the Leonard Peltier Ad Hoc Committee.

"For a long time, people have been dying in that prison and the (Federal Bureau of Prisons) is out of control," Lawson said. "They're (U.S. Penitentiary Coleman 1) currently on indefinite lockdown, not because anybody has done anything, just because they can. They (prisoners) are living in their own filth. Leonard is making an appeal to his people to please get anybody's attention."

In the past few months, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa citizen's health has taken a turn for the worse, so much so that his attorneys say they're concerned he won't make it to the June parole hearing.

"He didn't sound good when I spoke with him on the phone today (April 22), he doesn't even know if he's going to make it to next week," said Nick Tilsen, Oglala Lakota and CEO of the NDN Collective. "He told me, 'I hope I make it to June 10, and I hope I can make it 30 days after that.'"

Peltier has been struggling with health concerns for years. He's had trouble managing his diabetes while incarcerated, experienced the loss of vision in one eye, had open heart surgery, an aortic aneurysm, and is dealing with the lingering effects of contracting COVID-19.

On April 16, the Leonard Peltier Ad Hoc Committee issued a press release and organized a calling campaign to urge federal prison officials to address Peltier's health problems. Since then, Peltier's lead attorney, Jenipher

Jones, was able to arrange for a doctor outside the prison to meet with Peltier twice. The medical visit revealed Peltier was experiencing eye damage and would need to see a specialist, but prison officials said it would take eight to 10 months to coordinate such a visit.

Request for compassionate release

Tilsen called on the Biden administration to take action.

"This administration, the Biden Administration, has said that Native American rights are a priority to them,



Hundreds of demonstrators protest outside the White House in Washington, D.C., for the Free Leonard Peltier 79th Birthday Action, Sept. 12, 2023.

and yet they've got the longest sitting Indigenous political prisoner locked up and we've seen no action from the federal government," Tilsen said. "If he dies in prison this will forever be a part of that administration's legacy as it relates to Native people."

Tilsen said he's been fighting for Peltier's freedom since he was a small child. Now, his organization is on the front lines of Peltier's fight.

Within 30 days after the June 10 parole hearing, the parole commission will issue its decision. A recommendation will be delivered to the commission for a final decision to be made.

Since Peltier is a federal prisoner serving a sentence of 30 years or more, he is eligible for a parole hearing

within nine months of his eligibility date as determined by the Bureau of Prisons. This hearing may be his only shot.

"The parole hearing on June 10 is the most important parole hearing of Leonard's life," Tilsen said. "He won't live long enough for another parole hearing to come around."

"We want to make sure that the commissioners and the parole officer do feel the weight of this," Tilsen said. "He's dying in federal prison right now. They will be liable for his death. They're perpetuating civil rights and human rights violations."

If paroled, Peltier would plan to return to the Turtle Mountain Reservation, Lawson said. Peltier owns property in his community and if paroled would serve the remaining portion of his sentence there.

"This is going to be the deciding factor on whether he gets to go back to his homelands, to see his child, grandchildren, and his people," Tilsen said.

Former North Dakota state representative Ruth Buffalo has visited with Peltier several times and remained in contact with him, last speaking to him by phone earlier in April. She said she's concerned about his health, though he remains in good spirits and even made her laugh during their phone conversation. "He doesn't want any of us to feel sad for him," she said. "He hasn't given up, and he doesn't want any of us to give up."

But Peltier also doesn't want to die in prison, Buffalo said. "It's just time for him to be out, to be a free man in his country and to live the last days of his life with his family."

This story is co-published by the Rapid City Journal and ICT, a news partnership that covers Indigenous communities in the South Dakota area.

Amelia Schafer is the Indigenous Affairs reporter for ICT and the Rapid City Journal. She is of Wampanoag and Montauk-Brothertown Indian Nation descent. She is based in Rapid City. You can contact her at aschafer@rapidcityjournal.com.

Letters from our incarcerated readers

Re: "Stop First Amendment rights violations in Pennsylvania prisons!" Vol. 66, No. 8, February 22, 2024, by Joe Piette

Workers World,
Just getting around to responding to your article. Bryant Arroyo ("B") is my comrade. We worked together on litigation he filed against SCI-Frackville for the same type of retaliatory transfer to SCI-Coal Township for his involvement in First Amendment protected activity.

Why did they place B in solitary confinement? For introducing that prisoner to Workers World's paper; for explaining his struggles as they relate to disability rights; for filing multiple grievances over willful violations of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA); then for publishing that prisoner's disability struggles and how the prison staff blatantly violated his rights. All this is protected under both Article I of the Pennsylvania Constitution and the First Amendment, as is WW's right to print, as is prisoners' right to read it.

B is a jailhouse lawyer and writer for WW who was retaliated against. He was placed in solitary confinement for "colluding with prisoner Rinick to get an article from WW newspaper introduced into the facility." That was the pretext to retaliate against B.

The prisoner B was trying to help also reached out to WW [for] aid and assistance, because prison staff at SCI Coal Township did not employ him on jobs he and other disabled prisoners are capable of doing. He was also placed in solitary confinement.

WW has been publishing articles about prisoners' human rights being violated and prisoners being subjected to cruel and barbaric treatment for decades. Prisoners don't have to collude with each other to have a WW article on prisoner mistreatment introduced into any prison! We tell one another, "If an establishment newspaper ignores your valid concerns, contact Workers World. WW will investigate it and print it."

B was then transferred to another prison hundreds of miles out of his region for encouraging prisoners to tell their horror stories to WW and informing prisoners, who are paid slave wages, to write WW to get a free subscription. That's how we keep abreast

of what's occurring politically, socially and judicially, along with what's taking place relative to prisons and prisoners.

Free speech may in fact serve its highest purpose when it induces a condition of unrest or when it creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, even if what's printed stirs people into anger and frustration.

Read Mumia's book, "Jailhouse Layers," which discussed my work in being a prisoners' rights advocate and jailhouse lawyer who for decades has filed litigation against prison abuse, horror and cruelty,

**George "Rahssan" Brooks
SCI Coal Township
Pennsylvania**



GRAPHIC: KEVIN "RASHID" JOHNSON

Re: "Finally! DA admits hiding evidence in Melissa Lucio's case," Vol. 66, No. 17, April 25, 2024, by Gloria Rubac

I really enjoyed the Melissa Lucio piece you wrote in Workers World. Actually, your article was the best one I've read thus far. Normally, articles written in support of someone usually have something written also that undermines the reasons to support someone in the first place. Another thing about your article that I liked was its tone. What I mean by this is: Reading the article, I felt YOUR support of Melissa, not just you giving a reason to support her, or a basic update of the good news that has come down about her. Thank you! Take care. In Solidarity!

**Tony Egbuna Ford
Texas Death Row**

Israel is a society of human shields

By Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

*The Zionists kill
Palestinian children
claiming terrorists
attack from behind civilians
yet they
created Israel
use it as a whole society
of human shields
a nation of settlers
where Jewish identity
is used with impunity
to wield
violence genocide
ethnic cleansing occupation
of a true Semitic people
the Palestinian nation
indigenous
to the Levant
under racist doctrines
religionized by European implants
Palestinians expelled so they can't
return
giving citizenship to any
who claims Jewish identity
the open practice of racial supremacy
claiming the right to stand
take possession of Arab
schools homes land
and villages
a settler society
that continually pillages
brown people
driving
entire communities once thriving
into desert sands
where they can barely survive and
massacring
those who dare to defend
themselves and their families
those who take a stand
defying white supremacist Zionist plans
to ultimately remove ALL Arabs
take ALL their lands
distracting the world
reminders of Holocaust crimes
none of which
was committed by the people of Palestine
Zionist Ashkenazis
from victims in Europe
to villains in the Middle East
genocide applied
by settlers
pretending to seek peace
the whole world misinformed
by propaganda to keep hidden
a vision
of modern day Naziism
another version
of white supremacist racism*



Self-portrait of "Rashid" Johnson.

*the extermination of Palestine
the real antisemitism
a crusade genocide
in the name of religion
with false prophetic visions
of land supposedly god-given
to a claimed chosen people
the basis of
racist divisions
the same thing done
by whites
to American Indians
even within Israel
Black and Brown Jews are driven
to the bottom of society
a modern apartheid system
ruled over by
a rich white ruling class
and white politicians
all kept hidden
by the powerful Zionist
propaganda machine
whose indoctrination methods
were passed without seam
from Nazis to Zionist Ashkenazis
remember
during the holocaust
Zionists were Hitler's patsies
who didn't care what the cost
they shared a common vision
displacing other races to enforce racist
division
the basis of today's extermination
of Palestinians
turning Arab lands into killing fields
which they continue to steal
while hiding within
Israel
 Hamas can't hold a candle to
an entire society used as human shields*

Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, artist, writer and a founder of the Revolutionary Intercommunal Black Panther Party, has been imprisoned for 34 years.

Write to:
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Greensville Correctional Center
901 Corrections Way
Jarratt, VA 23870-9614

Abuse of Palestinian prisoners 'a crime that surpasses all limits'

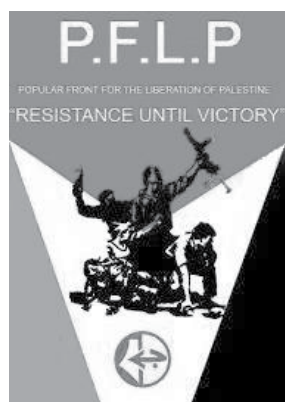
This statement was issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Office of Martyrs, Prisoners, and Wounded on May 11, 2024.

The international institutions, especially the Red Cross, are completely complicit in these heinous crimes.

What has been revealed about secret detention centers where brutal practices are committed against detainees from Gaza is a crime that surpasses all limits.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine confirmed that what was reported by the American network CNN about the brutal practices committed against Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip in secret detention facilities within the occupation entity is a crime that exceeds all limits, and a disgrace on the forehead of humanity.

The Front added that the international network's investigation revealed the conversion of military bases into secret detention centers in the Naqab Desert, where the worst forms of torture and abuse are practiced against Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip, including the injured, stripping them of their most basic human and legal rights. This constitutes genocide committed by the criminal Zionist enemy in every sense of the word.

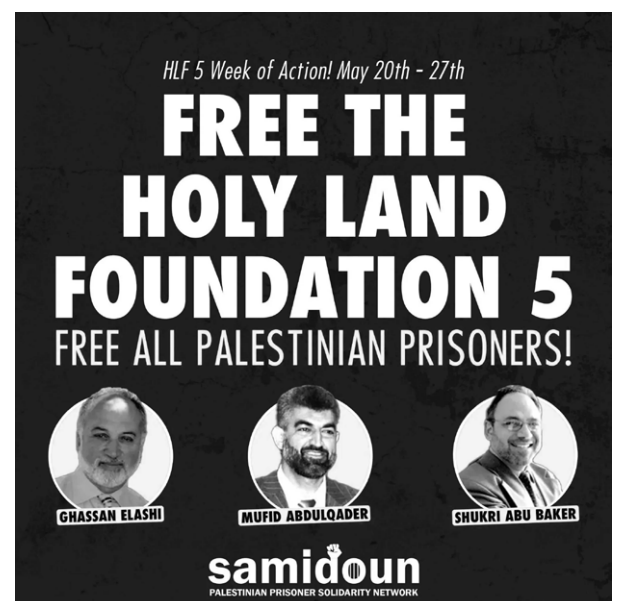


The Front emphasized that the international community and international institutions, led by the International Red Cross, are completely complicit in these horrific crimes, as they have failed in their responsibilities and have not intervened urgently to save the lives of these prisoners who are languishing in secret prisons despite the exposure of ongoing violations and torture for several months.

The Front considered that the occupation entity's enactment of the so-called "unlawful combatants" law,

which expanded the army's authority to arrest suspected militants as they describe them, surpasses even what occurred in Nazi and fascist prisons. This law gives the occupation legitimacy to execute prisoners and abuse them, which has been implemented on the ground with confirmed reports of several of these prisoners being martyred as a result of torture and systematic slow execution.

The Front concluded its statement by emphasizing the urgent need to dispatch an international mission to inspect these secret detention facilities and determine the fate of these prisoners, consider them as prisoners of war, ensure a minimum of their human rights, document all the crimes committed against them, and place them among the genocide files presented before the International Court of Justice. □



The Holy Land Five are five Palestinian humanitarian aid workers — Shukri Abu Baker, Ghassan Elashi, Mohammad El-Mezain, Mufid Abdulqader and Abdulrahman Odeh — who were prosecuted under the USA Patriot Act in 2004.

All five were associated with a popular non-profit, The Holy Land Foundation, whose fundraising efforts were mischaracterized as "material support" for terrorism on the grounds that the social services, health care and educational programs they funded won Hamas the "hearts and minds" of Palestinians.

The U.S. government attained convictions by use of classified evidence and prosecutorial misconduct. Twenty years later, the Holy Land Five are still held in federal prison.

African Liberation Day

Smash settler colonialism in occupied Palestine, Africa, the Americas and Oceania

By Monica Moorehead

The origin of African Liberation Day is rooted in 1958, when the first elected prime minister of Ghana, the great Pan-Africanist and socialist leader Kwame Nkrumah, convened the First Conference of Independent States held in Accra, Ghana. That conference was attended by eight independent African states.

Out of this gathering, April 15 was declared “Africa Freedom Day” to mark the annual progress of the national liberation movements to emancipate themselves from centuries-long foreign domination and superexploitation that began with the transatlantic slave trade. Two years later, 17 African countries won their independence, and 1960 was proclaimed the Year of Africa.

In his 1961 speech, “I Speak of Freedom,” Nkrumah stated: “For centuries, Europeans dominated the African continent. The white man arrogated to himself the right to rule and to be obeyed by the non-white; his mission, he claimed, was to ‘civilize’ Africa. Under this cloak, the Europeans robbed the continent of vast riches and inflicted unimaginable suffering on the African people. “It is clear that we must find an African solution to our

problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world.” (marxists.org)

On May 25, 1963, over 30 African leaders held a historic summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to create the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The OAU represented the independent struggles on the African continent against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism and for a united Africa, both in the past and in the present. The OAU then declared May 25 “Africa Freedom Day” to be “African Liberation Day (ALD).” These demonstrations have historically been held on the last Saturday in May.

The first ALD was held in the U.S. on Saturday, May 27, 1972, in Washington, D.C., where tens of thousands of mainly people of African descent rallied on the National Mall to connect with the struggles throughout the African diaspora.

This May 25, on the 61st anniversary of the founding of the OAU, the major theme of ALD will be “Same Struggle: Smash Settler Colonialism in Occupied Palestine, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania!” Protests will take place in Africa, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere worldwide.

This year’s ALD will take on a special meaning, not only because of the unprecedented global solidarity with the Palestinian resistance against the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza and the West Bank, but also because of the ouster of French colonial troops in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso in 2023. The Nigerien government officially demanded that U.S. troops be expelled from their soil on March 16, 2024.

Despite the decades-long struggle against imperialism, including the debt crisis imposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the African masses continue to fight back for their sovereignty and right to self-determination.

Today, at least 54 African countries will commemorate African Liberation Day to say that African people are one united people despite any artificial borders established by their colonial oppressors.

The writer attended the first African Liberation Day in Washington, D.C., in 1972 at the age of 20.



Union-busting tactics behind loss at Mercedes

By Martha Grevatt

After polls closed on the morning of May 17, United Auto Workers supporters learned they had lost the representation election at the Mercedes plant in Vance, Alabama. About 90% of workers eligible to vote took part in the election, with 56% of them voting against the union.

After the tremendous win for the United Auto Workers at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee — a 72% vote for UAW representation announced April 19 — Mercedes bosses were determined not to see a repeat at their U.S. plant. The vote against the union, even after a majority of Mercedes workers had signed cards in favor of UAW representation, was impacted by the company’s “carrot-and-stick” tactics designed to sway voters’ minds.

The “carrot” tactic was employed in the form of a sudden pay increase for all workers and the elimination of pay tiers, which separate workers doing the same work into higher-paid and lower-paid employees. In addition, Mercedes fired its CEO of U.S. operations. The new CEO, Federico Kochlowski, roamed the plant in the weeks leading up to the election, shaking hands and appealing to workers to give him a chance.

The “stick” involved firing union supporters, along with mailings, signs and banners, daily in-plant videos, and mandatory captive audience meetings with intimidating messages. Mercedes contracted with the professional union-busting consultant firm RWP.

Alabama politicians, including Gov. Kay Ivey, echoed the company’s propaganda claims that workers would somehow be better off without a union. A local minister joined in the chorus of lies. “Alabama is not Michigan, and we are not the Sweet Home to the UAW,” Ivey wrote after the election results became known.

The struggle continues

The UAW has filed Unfair Labor Practices charges with the U.S. National Labor Relations Board, and the German government is investigating the Stuttgart-based company for violations of German labor laws. Because of Mercedes’ illegal union-busting, it’s possible that the NLRB will order a rerun of the May 13-17 election. If not, the UAW can file for a new election in May 2025.

The issues that led about 70% of Mercedes workers to sign union cards — including overloaded jobs and mandatory 10-12 hour shifts — are not going to vanish. In any case, the 2,045 union supporters who voted “yes” are not about to throw in the towel. “We’ll try to figure out how to shore up for the next time. Because there will be another time. We’re not just going to shrug and walk away,” said battery worker Robert Lett. (Labor Notes, May 17)



Pro-union Mercedes workers rally before the union representation election.

PHOTO: UAW

In a statement posted on the UAW website, International President Shawn Fain said: “The UAW will continue to lead the fight against corporate greed and runaway inequality. And through that fight we’ll change the nation and the world for the better.” (uaw.org)

Only 7.5% of workers in Alabama belong to a union, compared to 23% in Hawai’i and 20% in New York, the states with the highest union density. A union win at Mercedes, like that at VW, will go a long way in the difficult but necessary struggle to unionize the U.S. South.

Martha Grevatt has been a UAW member since 1987.

6,000 academic workers hold one-day strike, win

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

United Automobile Workers Local 4121, representing academic workers at the University of Washington, won a breakthrough victory for increased living wages on May 14. They achieved this with a large mobilization of workers and through mutual solidarity with the Free Palestine protest campus encampment in Seattle.

The academic workers are teaching assistants, research assistants, readers/graders, tutors and in other positions. They do much of the teaching at the 49,000-student university. Their slogan is “U of W works because we do.” The workers’ wages are low when they’re employed, and there is often no work in the summer months.

“The wages are not liveable in high-priced Seattle,” the striking workers said again and again.

For decades, the U of W received more research funds from the federal government than any other public university. It has no shortage of operating funds.



Striking University of Washington academic workers, May 14, 2024, Seattle.

WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

Under the tentative agreement, which union members will vote on, but whose acceptance has been recommended by the student-workers’ negotiating committee, the union made the following gains: They won an

unprecedented 36% increase in their base pay over the life of the contract. They also gained a \$1,560 per quarter childcare subsidy, along with other improvements. The many immigrant workers in the union won paid-leave time for immigration appointments and hearings.

Before the strike, the academic workers held two sit-ins on campus to pressure the administration with their demands. The workers also held a joint action with Resist U.S.-Led War, which organized the Palestine Solidarity Encampment at U of W.

The union held a large rally next to the administration building on May 14, strike day. At the rally, a student spoke from the student-occupied encampment led by the United Front for Palestinian Liberation.

Following the rally, many strikers hurried over to the administration building, where negotiations were going on between the union and the school’s top officials. The UAW strikers crowded into the hallways and held a sit-in. By early the next day, the workers had a victory with the new tentative contract. □

Nakba Day: The struggle continues for a free Palestine

By Brenda Ryan
Brooklyn, New York

People all over the world demonstrated during the week of May 12–19 to commemorate the 76th anniversary of Nakba (“the Catastrophe”), the day on May 15, 1948, when the new Zionist state of Israel culminated its brutal removal of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their lands.

Thousands of people rallied on May 18 in the Bay Ridge neighborhood of **Brooklyn**. A massive force of cops lined up in front of demonstrators on each side of the street wearing helmets and carrying plastic wrist ties.



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Nakba commemoration, Brooklyn, New York, May 18, 2024.

Nerdeen Kiswani, one of the organizers of the event from Within Our Lifetime, led a chant: “Why are you in riot gear? There is no riot here.” She noted that a Nakba protest has been held in the heart of the Palestinian community in Bay Ridge for the last 10 years and this was the first time the cops stopped people from gathering on the street.

Protesters peacefully marched down Fifth Avenue and side streets. Then cops suddenly brutally attacked individuals, throwing them to the ground with three or more cops straddling each person, punching them, and handcuffing them. Blood streamed down the face of one protester. Cops have repeatedly brutalized those protesting

the genocide in Gaza at university encampments and on marches through city streets.

Kiswani wrote on X (formerly Twitter): “It is agonizing to repeatedly witness NYPD brutalize my friends and the most kind-hearted people dedicating their life to fighting against the genocide of my people. Waiting hours and days to know if they are okay. Illegal arrests for cases that get dismissed. They just enjoy beating us.”

Despite a steady drizzle throughout the action, several hundred demonstrators gathered at **Philadelphia’s** City Hall in the late afternoon on May 18 for a commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the Nakba. Colorful banners — depicting the economic contributions of several Palestinian cities taken over by the Israelis in 1948 — were visible throughout the crowd.

The rally, organized by the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition, included contingents from Philadelphia AnakBayan, Korea Peace Now, and workers marching behind a banner that read: “Workers United for Palestine.”

The march that followed detoured from its original planned route along the Ben Franklin Parkway to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and instead marched into West Philadelphia to within a block of Drexel University. Following a short rally, demonstrators surged past police cars and bicycles, and marched to join the Freedom School for Palestine being created at the Gaza solidarity encampment at Drexel. Despite a heavy police presence in the area, the encampment has survived two nights.

In **Cleveland**, a number of Case Western Reserve University students are facing academic discipline, including withholding diplomas for graduating seniors, for participating in the Palestine Solidarity Encampment on campus. Not intimidated, students and pro-Palestine community activists organized a “Peoples Commencement” on May 19 at the former site of the encampment.

Supporters of Palestinian liberation also held a rally and march on May 15 — Nakba Day.

On May 18, the **Portland, Oregon**, branch of



PHOTO: CINDY LU

The 76th anniversary of Nakba observed with a militant march in Philadelphia, May 18, 2024.

Workers World joined hundreds of Palestinians, workers, students, activists, and other members of the community to commemorate Nakba Day, a solemn day of remembrance for all the victims of the fascist apartheid state of Israel. Organizers gave speeches, sang songs, and took to the streets to march in support of Palestinian liberation. The coalition that organized the protest included groups as diverse as other Marxist-Leninists, student groups from the local universities, healthcare workers, union organizers, teachers and more.

Martha Grevatt, Betsey Piette and Evan Reif contributed to this article.



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Portland, Oregon, Nakba commemoration, May 18, 2024.

Cambridge remembers Nakba Day

By Will Hodgkinson
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Around 200 demonstrators gathered on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus in Cambridge on May 15 to demand an end to the Zionist genocide in Gaza and the liberation of Palestine. Members of the Boston Coalition for Palestine, including the Palestine Youth Movement, the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and student organizers at MIT, organized the action to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Nakba — the 1948 genocidal colonization of Palestine.

During the Nakba, Zionist militias demolished 400 towns and villages, killed at least 15,000 Palestinians, and drove over 750,000 people off their ancestral lands. The land stolen by Zionist settlers in 1947-48 makes up over 70% of the Palestinian territory claimed by the Zionist state today. (tinyurl.com/5ahbkzp4)

When Zionist propagandists celebrate “Israeli Independence Day” in May, they are, in fact, admitting that the establishment of the Israeli state required land theft and ethnic cleansing on a massive scale.

The rally was held at the MIT Palestine solidarity encampment, which was established to demand that MIT end its extensive ties to weapons and technology industries and divest from the Zionist state. This encampment is one of well over 100 liberated zones activists have established on university campuses worldwide.

As speakers at the rally stressed, the Zionist genocide begun by the 1948 Nakba has escalated to an unprecedented degree. Since October 7, Zionist forces have murdered over 36,000 Palestinian men, women and children. Thousands more people remain buried under rubble, and that death toll, as unthinkable as it already is, will continue to rise.

In May, occupation forces began their

murderous assault on the city of Rafah on the southern border of the Gaza Strip, where almost 1.5 million Palestinians are sheltering. Many of them were displaced by prior Zionist ethnic cleansing operations starting in October. In the past week, almost 800,000 people have fled Rafah, but have nowhere left to go. Zionist forces routinely bomb the areas designated as “safe zones.” (tinyurl.com/mrfvf2up)

This ongoing genocide in Gaza has also betrayed the weakness of the Zionist settler state and the U.S. empire that supports it. For all their brutality, the occupation forces in Gaza have utterly failed to defeat the Palestinian resistance.

Worldwide, the movement for Palestinian solidarity continues to grow despite an unprecedented crackdown. Across the U.S., police have raided student encampments, detaining and brutalizing hundreds of activists. Last week, Cambridge cops attacked the MIT encampment, arresting 19 students. (tinyurl.com/fd3rfbym)

Opening the rally, Fawaz Abusharkh, a leader of Palestine House of New England, said, “We know history is on our side.” Addressing the Zionist counterprotesters standing across the street, protected by a police cordon and swaddled in Israeli and American flags, Abusharkh declared that the ruling class failure to suppress the movement for Palestinian liberation “is why they’re going wild and they’re going fascist. Because they know this is the end, and that is what empires do before they fall down.”

Cheers and chants of “globalize the Intifada!” drowned out the jeering Zionists.

An organizer of the Harvard University encampment said: “So long as Palestinians suffer by the actions of the empire we find ourselves in, we will continue to dissent. So long as the Nakba intensifies we will con-

tinue to agitate. Our eyes are all on Gaza, and we situate our struggle for liberation not only in the gates of Harvard Yard or MIT but against all walls of oppression we seek to dismantle.

“The student intifada learns from its comrades in Palestine who continue to shake off their oppressors, and the student intifada is here to stay until all shackles are removed!” He pledged that the campaign of repression student activists have experienced will not dampen their commitment to the struggle against the Zionist genocide.

In recent weeks, hundreds of high school students across the U.S., including in Somerville, Massachusetts, have staged mass walkouts in support of Palestine.

Reiterating student and youth support for Palestinian liberation, a Somerville High School student said: “Something needs to change and we all have to speak about this. Throughout history we have seen the strength and effectiveness of student uprisings, and we are here to be part of that change. We have strength in numbers and we will not stop fighting until we see a free Palestine in our lifetime.”

Ahmad Kawash, another leader of Palestine House of New England, emphasized the gains made in the worldwide struggle for the liberation of Palestine: “From Gaza and Palestine and from the land of Rafah, the resistance is writing the epic of return.” Praising the resurgence of global solidarity, which has confounded Zionist hasbara [propaganda] campaigns, Kawash declared: “The biased media and Zionist propaganda were unable to falsify the facts. All of this made the people see the truth.”

“We’ve got students, workers, and

revolutionaries marching side and by side, and we have won the battle of ideas,” a PSL organizer said. “The whole world is on our side and a free Palestine is inevitable!”

Following the rally, demonstrators took over the streets of Cambridge as they marched to the home of MIT’s president, Sally Kornbluth. Many flew Palestinian flags. Crowding the street outside Kornbluth’s mansion, they chanted “We won’t back down!” as they demanded an end to genocide Zionist apartheid and a free Palestine. □



WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

Nakba commemoration, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 15, 2024.

California grad

By Martha Grevatt

Faced with brutal police and vigilante attacks against encampments on University of California system campuses, the union representing 48,000 UC graduate students has authorized a strike. United Auto Workers Local 4811 has pointed out that the cop brutality, which university administrations are complicit in, is a worker safety issue. The strike vote concluded on May 15, with an overwhelming majority favoring the strike.



Student police

2024 campus encampment movement

WW COMMENTARY

Rebellion is justified!

By A. Beanblossom

A. Beanblossom, a member of the Marxist Youth League Propaganda Committee, gave this talk on May 15 to a meeting of the Buffalo Workers World Party branch.

A movement that began on April 17 with the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Columbia University in New York City has since spread to universities all over the world. From Alberta, Canada to Buenos Aires, Argentina, from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Cape Town, South Africa, in Kyoto, Japan, and throughout the Indigenous Maori college system of New Zealand, students and community members have shown solidarity with the Palestinian people by occupying space on their public and private universities.

The student encampment movement of 2024, what some have called the “Student Intifada,” has gone truly worldwide!

It is not a matter of mere happenstance that the encampment movement began and spread like wildfire in the sixth and seventh months of the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people by the illegal Zionist occupation.

As Monica Moorehead pointed out in a Workers World article published on May 6, working-class and oppressed youth have watched on our phones and televisions for months as the occupation has used bombs, tanks, white phosphorus and the depriving of international humanitarian aid against a population on the brink of starvation. This is all to advance an ethnic cleansing campaign against an Indigenous people under the guise of “self-defense.” (workers.org/2024/05/78509)

The occupation forces have killed over 35,000 civilians and injured over 78,000. Some 2 million people have been displaced inside of the Gaza Strip and pushed into overburdened and overflowing refugee camps, and this is all without mentioning the thousands still trapped beneath the rubble and buried beneath the earth, yet uncounted.

For young people living in the U.S. (and I’m sure this goes for other youth in other imperialist countries as well), we have been organizing, demonstrating and demanding that the U.S. government cease providing the occupation with billions of dollars in weapons and munitions for months. About 400,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 13 to demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire after three months of demonstrations in cities, towns and universities all over the U.S.

Need for escalation of tactics

The representatives of the imperialist ruling class responded by sending more aid to the occupation. Around this time, it became clear to us all, if it wasn’t already clear before, that a significant escalation of tactics was necessary in order to apply more domestic and international pressure on the U.S. ruling class. While marches can be a significant show of strength for our class, more was needed.

Some activists pivoted to attempting to get student associations and city councils to pass ceasefire resolutions. Others (including members of Buffalo’s Marxist Youth League) occupied or demonstrated outside the offices and events of local politicians. It wasn’t until April 17 though, that the movement would witness a significant advance in its tactics and notoriety, with the birth of the Columbia University Gaza Solidarity Encampment.

This was an ingenious escalation which brought the massive discontent seen in street demonstrations all



University of Pennsylvania, May 10, 2024.

over the world to a U.S. institution directly complicit in financing and equipping the occupation. It helped to bring this discontent to the universities in a more organized and entrenched form. Within less than a month, there were over 100 Gaza Solidarity Encampments on campuses across the U.S., advancing demands that college administrations divest from corporations and funds with ties to industries making weapons used in the genocide of the Palestinian people.

The students have not just called for divestment, but for a permanent end to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. In response to these demonstrations of solidarity, university administrators have called in police departments decked out in riot gear and equipped with rubber bullets, flashbang grenades and drones to smash the encampments.

Over 3,000 students have been arrested over the last month in the U.S.; many have been suspended, expelled and evicted from campus housing for their participation in the movement. Example after example of police violence and discrimination has occurred at Emory University, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Texas at Austin, California State Polytechnic, New York University, Columbia and even right here at the University at Buffalo.

Cops rush to quash Buffalo encampment

When we tried alongside other organizations and community members to set up a Gaza Solidarity Encampment at the University of Buffalo with some 80 or so people, we were smashed by the police. Dozens of pigs from at least five local police departments were called in to break up the peaceful demonstration. They waited until just before nightfall, around when Muslim students participating in the demonstration had evening prayers, and then demanded that demonstrators disperse.

Those still defending the encampment formed a wall in front of Muslim students as the police advanced in droves, holding the pigs off as fellow students finished their prayers. At this point, though, the number of students had diminished significantly and the distribution of forces heavily favored police.

Fifteen people, including about seven students, were violently arrested by the pigs here in Buffalo, who were clearly targeting students of color — especially Muslim students. One youth was forced to the ground and held down by four officers during her arrest, over her friends’ protests. Police removed a young woman’s hijab from her head. An officer used his body to lean on a student’s head and neck. And one Palestinian organizer with Liberation for One, Liberation for All Buffalo had his head slammed against a doorway and was further assaulted by police while in custody.

Stories like this one played out over and over on campuses throughout the U.S., with varying levels of police brutality — but also of success. In some illustrative cases, at universities like Cal-State Polytechnic, UCLA and the City College of New York, students were able to not only defend their encampments for extended periods, but fought back against the police, transitioning from the occupation of space in protest to direct confrontation with the state.

At other universities, student associations and administrations have, under pressure, agreed to student demands. This was the case at State University of New York Binghamton, SUNY Stony Brook, UC Davis and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

In the majority of cases, the encampments have either been willingly disbanded or forcefully smashed at the point of contact with the pigs, with students and community members taking arrests in many cases. But the state has made a crucial mistake: The cops do not understand that when they crush one mushroom under their boots, it spreads the spores — so that with each encampment they tear down, with each person they injure or arrest, 10 more of us come to take their place.

Encampments raise the level of struggle

Whether each individual encampment lasts a few hours or a few days or is smashed immediately is not the point, because each attempt helps to raise the level of the struggle as a whole, by inspiring others to take organized action of a similar sort and by teaching the movement new lessons. Each attempt shows the administrators, the politicians and the pigs that we will not stop fighting back against the war machine until the seemingly endless money-faucet to Israel runs dry, until the bombs stop dropping and until we put an end to the genocide.

Look at a map of the encampments now that have been put up in countries all over the world. Look at London. Look at Paris and Mexico City. Look at the massive solidarity demonstrations taking place in Türkiye and Yemen. The fight for an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people is a truly international one today, and we cannot afford to ignore how the flames of the student movement right here in the center of the empire have worked to rejuvenate and embolden the global struggle.

Many of us will go further. We will not stop until Israeli apartheid falls, because we see in the illegal Zionist occupation the same kind of militaristic, white supremacist society that the U.S. empire is. We see that Israel is just its most visible tentacle, a testing ground for new drones, new bombs and new crowd control devices to be used on working-class and oppressed peoples all over the globe.

Palestine and the struggle against capitalism

We know that the International Occupation Forces train with the pigs right here in the U.S. and that they share equipment, tactics and information. So when we talk about the police as a tool of white supremacy, used to control, criminalize and intern working-class and oppressed people in support of the interests of our capitalist ruling class, we have to understand that the IOF are another powerful appendage of that same system.

Therefore, we know that our liberation is deeply tied up with that of the Palestinian people, that any victory of the Palestinian resistance against the illegal Zionist occupation and the U.S. empire is also a victory for us, because it weakens our oppressors right here. If we hope to one day live in a world free from capitalist exploitation and oppression, white supremacy, cis-heteropatriarchy and militarism, we must also hope for and provide material support to the struggle for a free Palestine.

One more thing, on the subject of violent versus peaceful protest in the movement, deserves saying: The corporate media, the politicians and the school administrators want us to focus on the disruptive or violent tactics used by students and community members to protest the occupation because they can use that to try to justify putting us down using their own violence. What we have to be clear about amongst ourselves and with others who ask or try to criticize us is that the real violence is the violence of the genocidal Zionist occupation, which has spent months slaughtering and starving a civilian population.

Therefore, we are justified in using any means necessary to help put a stop to the genocide and our government’s complicity in it. Don’t let them confuse you. Our resistance has had the sympathy of the overwhelming global majority and has been tame when compared to the atrocities being committed by the U.S. and Israeli governments.

This talk has been edited.

students strike over police attacks



nt workers at UC Santa Cruz launch strike against attacks on Palestine Solidarity Encampments.

On May 20, 1,500 student workers at UC Santa Cruz took to the picket lines.

Whether or not the strike spreads, the vote is significant, as it builds unity between the courageous student encampment movement and campus workers. Making police violence a union issue expands the scope of labor demands beyond traditional bargaining subjects such as wages

and benefits. The strike brings the union deeper into the movement for divestment from the Israeli genocidal apartheid state.

Some union members are calling on Local 4811 to take the struggle even further and demand “Cops off campus!”

UAW Local 4811, formerly Local 2865, has waged several strikes in recent years over economic issues and Unfair Labor Practices. In 2014, Local 2865 was the first UAW local to pass a resolution supporting the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement. □

DIVEST NOW! A revolutionary demand

By Sara Flounders

Why have student encampments for Palestine ignited such an uproar of brutal repression, vicious police attacks, mass arrests, overwhelming condemnation in the corporate media and a new level of reactionary legislation in Congress?

The demand to divest, raised at almost every encampment, exposes the insidious inroads of the military-industrial complex into the heart of almost all higher education institutions in the U.S. today.

This demand to “divest” has revolutionary implications. Divestment is not just a threat to university boards, administrators and their alumni funders. It is a threat to the established capitalist order. It is a demand to break with the corporations engaged in looting the world. Hundreds of billions of dollars — perhaps trillions — are at stake.

The demand to divest is universally embraced by Palestine supporters, especially in U.S. campus actions. It flows naturally from months of horror, watching massive levels of destruction on densely populated civilian centers in Palestine and learning that institutions — where student, staff, community and union funds are directly involved — are funding these massive war crimes.

Groups of students gathered around small camping tents on campus lawns and school plazas hardly appear threatening. If the gatherings were for music or sports, they would go largely unnoticed. However, the Gaza Solidarity Encampments have raised the level of confrontation a step beyond mass demonstrations. The demands to divest and disclose the investments are a direct challenge to the capitalist system.

The entire established political order acts like it is under attack. It is. Students are ripping off the sinister corporate mask.

State repression squelches free speech

Long established rights of free speech and freedom of assembly are being overwhelmed in tear gas and pepper spray. Elected officials, at the city, state, and federal level, Democrats and Republicans alike and police agencies at every level have acted in unison to shut down the Gaza Solidarity Encampments across the U.S. and now globally.

Students are being summarily suspended, expelled from campus housing, fired from academic jobs, their

scholarships canceled. In desperate efforts to shut down debate and silence the demands, universities are moving classes entirely online and even canceling graduation ceremonies. The irony is that many graduating in 2024 had limited in-person education when they left high schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Social media, streaming videos and TV news are recording and showing the brutality of the mass arrests. The sheer number of arrests in the U.S. has sent out shock waves throughout the international community. The gloves are off.

During months of demonstrations and rallies opposing U.S. support for Israel’s brutal invasion of Gaza, there have been thousands of arrests. But more than 2,900 arrested or detained at 57 campuses in two weeks’ time

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Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, April 2024.

PHOTO: @LOVEANDSTRUGGLEPHOTOS

is an ominous message of heightened repression across the U.S. (tinyurl.com/yc2cry3k)

Endowments aid Israel’s war machine

Investments of billions of dollars of university endowment funds and Pentagon and Department of Defense research grants directly aid the Israeli war machine and are intertwined with top U.S. military contractors. Students, in mass actions and with detailed research, are exposing and challenging this corporate, military takeover of higher education.

The clear demand at campus actions to divest is linked to demands for “full disclosure” of the scale of the investments and the research grants for weapons, surveillance and even direct support for Israeli colleges. Many

campus protests raise that Israel’s bombs have destroyed all of the universities in Gaza.

The demand to pull out of U.S. corporations supplying equipment and materials used in perpetrating a genocide in Gaza highlights the vast web of corporate entanglement. The endowments at U.S. institutions of higher education reach approximately \$840 billion, received through tax-exempt donations from ruling-class figures determined to shape institutions to serve continued capitalist rule. (Vijay Prashad, as cited in Tricontinental News, May 3, in “Campus Encampments challenging global imperialism,” Workers World, May 7)

Department of Defense dominates STEM studies

Far exceeding the accumulated endowments are funds directly pumped into universities by the Department of Defense. These research and development grants dominate the budget of entire departments, especially in STEM — science, technology, engineering, mathematics — fields.

The threat to withdraw government funding is all-powerful. The majority of science research projects are dependent on the Pentagon’s earmarked funding.

Solving planetary problems of food, health and climate are not on the Pentagon’s agenda. Its focus is on research and development of deadly, high-tech weapons.

A clear demand has arisen out of a living struggle that is embraced by millions who are in motion, who have learned the bitter truth that it is decades of U.S. political support, infusions of weapons and massive funding that is responsible for the Zionist war machine. This one word “Divest” challenges and exposes the whole corrupt edifice of collaboration with Zionism and with expanding U.S. wars around the globe.

The students, faculty, staff and their supporters are courageously raising a revolutionary demand that challenges the whole underpinning of education in the U.S. today. What is at stake?

The billionaire Alex Karp, CEO of Palantir, a CIA-backed surveillance and data mining-tech company tied to U.S. intelligence cartels and to Israel, summed up the debate from the viewpoint of the U.S. ruling class: “We think these things that are happening across college campuses are a sideshow. No, they are the show. If we lose the intellectual debate, you will not be able to deploy any army in the West, ever.” (Palantir on X, May 8)

Disclose! Divest! We will not stop! We will not rest! □

Malcolm X, Ho Chi Minh, ¡presente!

By Workers World Party

This edited statement was first published May 18, 2017, on workers.org.

May 19 is also the birthday of long-time revolutionary Yuri Kochiyama, a Japanese survivor of the U.S. concentration camps created during World War II and one of the people with Malcolm X when he was assassinated. In addition, May 19 is the birthday of the late, award-winning, radical playwright and activist Lorraine Hansberry, whose works include “A Raisin in the Sun” and “To be Young, Gifted and Black.”

We celebrate on May 19 the birthdays of two world-bending revolutionaries: Ho Chi Minh and Malcolm X.

Born in 1890 in central Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh was the Marxist-Leninist communist who forged and led a people’s movement and army that defeated the invading imperialist might, first of France and then the U.S. and ultimately liberated Vietnam from colonialism.

Born in 1925 in the U.S., Malcolm X was the African American leader who raised to global attention the concepts of Black nationalism, Black self-defense and

the right of self-determination of Black peoples. Malcolm X also made a major contribution to the global movement for Pan-Africanism.

Neither met the other, yet their deeds and words intertwine; and together they continue to inspire us toward revolution.

At this moment, as the U.S. ruling class fans the deadly fires of racist hatred, Malcolm X and Ho Chi Minh unite to give a profound lesson in building international solidarity with oppressed peoples and nations.

In 1924, a year before Malcolm X was born, Ho Chi Minh made a presentation at the Fifth Congress of the Communist International in Moscow during a session on the “National and colonial question.” He emphasized the importance of support for the Black liberation struggle in the U.S.

Ho Chi Minh stated: “It is well-known that the Black race is the most oppressed and the most exploited of the human family. It is well-known that the spread of capitalism and

the discovery of the ‘New World’ had, as an immediate result, the rebirth of slavery. ... What everyone does not perhaps know is that after 65 years of so-called emancipation, [Black people in the U.S.] still endure atrocious moral and material sufferings.” (workers.org/2015/05/19953)

Malcolm X, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, put the Black liberation struggle in a worldwide context 40 years later, in 1964. He said: “It is incorrect to classify the revolt of [Black people] as simply a

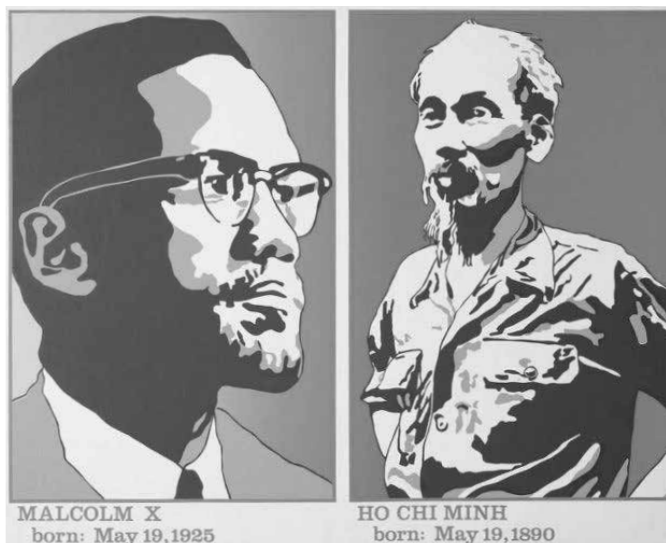
racial conflict of Black against white or as a purely American [U.S.] problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.” (Malcolm X Speaks)

Malcolm X acknowledged the centrality of the national liberation war led by Ho Chi Minh to that global rebellion, when he noted, “Viet Nam is the struggle of all Third World nations — the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.” (1972 interview with Yuri Kochiyama)

The voices of both these revolutionaries ring out with the clarion call of solidarity as the path to a future of justice and liberation. They remind us that we of the multinational, multigendered, global working class have a common oppressor in imperialist capitalism.

We can resist its racism, its anti-woman and anti-LGBTQ2S+ bigotry, its anti-immigrant hatred.

We can — we must — rise up in resistance. □



AI: The machine intelligence of imperialism

By Daphne Barroeta

Part 1 discussed “Digital labor and material.” (Available at workers.org/2024/04/78192) Part 2 takes up how capitalism uses Artificial Intelligence to push workers to the limit, some of which I experienced while working at the Tesla Gigafactory.

Part 2: Labor under surveillance

My work at Tesla provided one example of “surveillance capitalism,” a term coined by Shoshana Zuboff, a Harvard professor who studies and writes about the sociology of technology. An October 2019 article in The Guardian reporting on Zuboff’s tour discussing her book on surveillance capitalism reports on the situation we workers face and the term Zuboff coined:

She said: “It is a movement founded on predictive algorithms, mathematical calculations of human behavior. Surveillance capitalists ‘sell certainty to business customers who would like to know with certainty what we do. Targeted adverts, yes, but also businesses want to know whether to sell us a mortgage, insurance, what to charge us, do we drive safely? They want to know the maximum they can extract from us in an exchange. They want to know how we will behave in order to know how to best intervene in our behavior.

“The best way to make your predictions desirable to customers is to ensure they come true: ‘to tune and herd and shape and push us in the direction that creates the highest probability of their business success.’ There’s no way ‘to dress this up as anything but behavioral modification.’ In 2012 and 2013, Facebook conducted ‘massive-scale contagion experiments’ to see if they could ‘affect real-world emotions and behavior, in ways that bypassed user awareness.’”

Responding to Zuboff’s point, I’d say the ruling class does use technology to manipulate us and also offers us minor amenities — like “free” Spotify for music at work or “free” trail mix in the breakroom. These crumbs are meant to distract us from the ways in which digital technology is being used to enhance the exploitation of the working class. Disguising exploitation increases antagonisms among the workers, with their physical workplace itself and with their supervisors, all in a prison-esque atmosphere.

From architecture to information systems, the modern computer office space holds a semi-carceral status in its design. This prison-like status goes beyond the work zones. Capital, that is, the boss, using digital technology, encroaches on rest areas, common spaces, even public and domestic spaces.

While the term “surveillance capital” is colloquially useful, it is my belief that relying on this term too heavily creates an artificial distinction that can lead us to believe that some corporations, or some bosses, are better to work for than others, that it is up to their individual ethics how intensely the workers are exploited.

Capitalists aim to maximize profits

The truth is that capitalists do what is in their fiduciary interests. That is, they are driven to maximize profits, and that means maximizing exploitation of labor. At the end of the day, every boss is a class enemy of the workers and will use whatever tools are necessary to continue the exploitation of the working class, including superexploiting workers of oppressed nationalities, and will plunder the land and its resources.

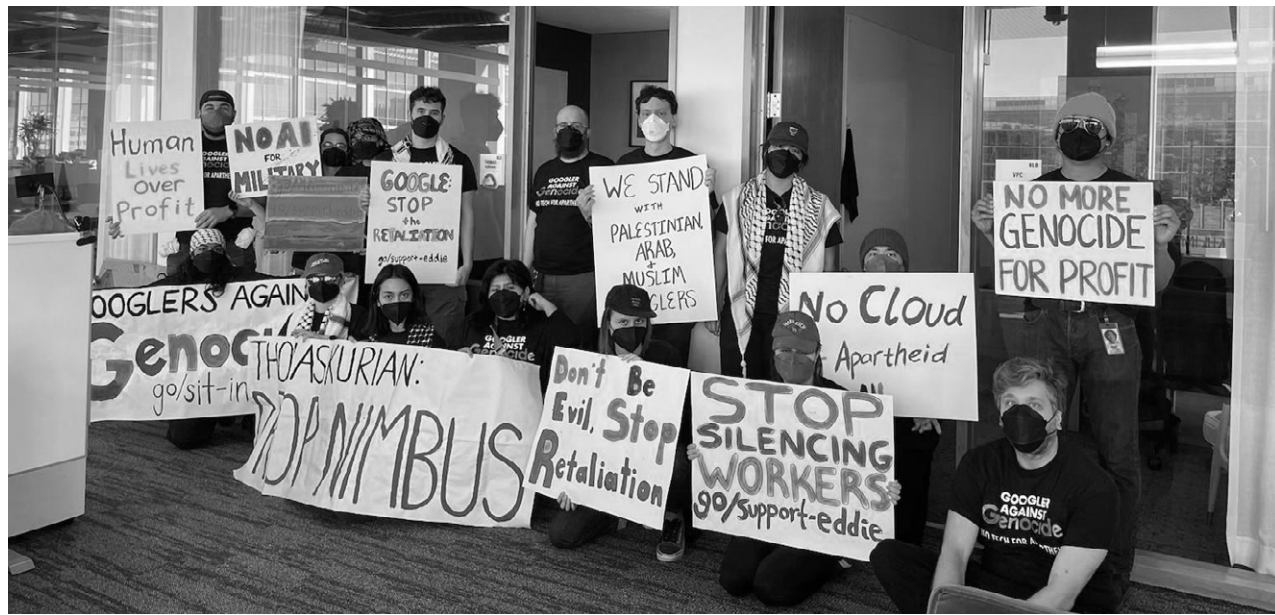
Furthermore, this technology measuring labor productivity is no crystal ball. Rather it exists as a logistical and statistical analysis that predicts the probability that something could happen — not a certainty. It employs strategies, interventions to maximize this probability through behavioral modification, when an individual is making a specific decision (such as ordering food online) based upon previous behavior patterns.

While working at the Tesla Gigafactory, I experienced these interventions.

Our office was designed very much like a cross between a military installation and a prison. There were very few windows, and the windows we did have all had thick steel bars. We had security gates and constant facility monitoring, all focused on the workers.

Despite the heavy surveillance we faced, when it came to protecting the vehicles owned by workers, the plant security staff was unable to protect these vehicles from being broken into or stolen. And when this happened, security prevented the workers from taking photos for insurance, claiming this was “a potential breach of the NDA and Tesla security.”

Specialized algorithms tracked our keystrokes and used them to generate numbers that measured our performance. Management graded us harshly using these metrics. Although I had several documented disabilities that should have prevented harsh treatment, supervisors lectured me about my productivity several times. Why? Because my tracker showed too many five-minute spaces in my day when I needed to pee or massage away my wrist pain — caused by carpal tunnel syndrome combined with fibromyalgia (generalized widespread pain and chronic fatigue).



Google workers protest using AI for genocide, Sunnyvale, California, April 16, 2024.

Our office was extremely dark, while the keyboard monitors were too bright, which hurt my eyes to look at — especially for hours on end. The tracking forced team members to compete with each other through the quality check system. The feedback did not improve the self-driving AI we were working on — but instead was used to determine who would receive a raise at the end of the half-year term of an amount ranging from one to 10 cents.

From architecture to information systems, the modern computer office space holds a semi-carceral status in its design. This prison-like status goes beyond the work zones. Capital, that is, the boss, using digital technology, encroaches on rest areas, common spaces, even public and domestic spaces.

Since I was a union organizer, I found that management increased their monitoring of me to include constantly surveilling me on my breaks; and at several points I remember my fellow union committee members and I needing to go for walks outside the facility, because management was recording our conversations with other workers to use against us.

Surveillance to disrupt organizing

Our cellphones were also jammed except for emergency 911 calls. This made communication with each other or with the outside world extremely hard without encrypted communications, specifically chat applications that ran on the WiFi. If we used the company’s internal digital forum, conversations in one “private” area of a digital chat space or in a “private” email thread would suddenly become open topics of conversation between a supervisor and a department. Thus the need for real-time and truly private communication was born.

Tesla workers are not alone in being subject to algorithmic management. Workers of all types — ranging from restaurant service staff to delivery drivers, medical staff, engineers, designers and insurance adjusters — are subjected to it in some capacity or another.

This increasing growth of “digital managers” shows us that even those who are not direct employees, but might

consider themselves small business people, have interests threatened by the corporation’s digital technology. The sooner we all recognize who our enemies are — the big capitalists who exploit all of us — the more likely we can make our working-class interests prevail.

Tech industry management gains if it tricks us into believing that we can be pro-establishment techies who sell their lives to some firm and in exchange can own our personal mini-tech business or be an “influencer.” This is a fantasy which is described in more detail in an article by Jathan Sadowski.

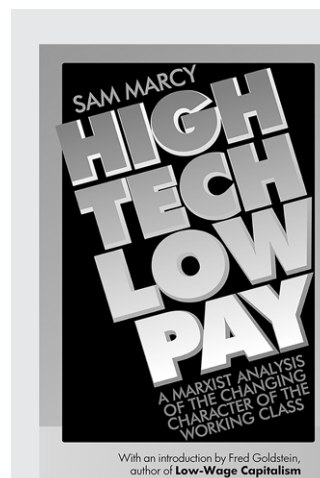
Discussing a concept called “the mega-algorithm,” Sadowski describes this myth: “The mega-algorithm doubles back and promises your reunification with this alienated self through ‘authentic’ (or ‘creative’ or ‘social’) work completed on your own time. ... The techno-utopic discourses of emancipation and community that surround the technologies and sociopolitics of that underpaid laborer trying to hustle for a paycheck. No you’re actually an entrepreneurial individual,” Sadowski adds with sarcasm, “building your personal brand.” (New Inquiry, April 2015)

To put this differently, our networked and computerized systems exist as a sort of massive digital ecosystem of machines that work in tandem with each other (hence “mega” + “algorithm”). These machines require some type of human labor to operate correctly, and the ruling class exploits the workers who keep these machines working. If we recognize our status is limited to being the tiny cogs in a great exploitation machine, we become dangerous to ruling-class interests.

To prevent this change in our consciousness and keep us complacent, the capitalist bosses, or people they hire, tell us that our hard work is instead part of “building your own brand” or some other capitalist myth meant to make our exploitation seem worthwhile and sensible to ourselves. This general pattern holds whether it involves maintaining the highest tier machine learning platform to the most basic internet routing system.

As I will take up in future articles, there are workers behind every single tool and machine in existence, and it is the responsibility of these workers to recognize their class interests in the global class war. A first step is to withhold their labor from militarized or quasi-militarized technology. For the revolutionary and progressive members of our class who are outside of technical work, we must remember to be in solidarity with one another and support our fellow workers.

Part 3 to come: *The media of digital capital.*



High Tech, Low Pay
A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy

With an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein, author of *Low Wage Capitalism*.

Free download at workers.org/books

The demise of a dying regime

“The war in Gaza is aimless, and we are clearly losing it. We are forced to return to fighting in the same areas, losing more soldiers, losing on the international stage, damaging relations with the United States, and causing the economy to collapse. Show me one thing we have succeeded in,” stated Knesset (Israeli parliament) member Ram Ben-Barak, the former deputy director of the Mossad and director general of the Ministry of Intelligence Services and the Ministry of Strategic Affairs stated on Israeli Army Radio. (english.almayadeen.net, May 18)

Meanwhile, former Zionist war minister Avigdor Lieberman stated: “There is no victory in the north or the south, and we are like a ship without a destination. We have completely lost our way.” (reddit.com/May 18)

Straight from the horses’ mouths! These two representatives of the apartheid Israeli regime have confirmed what top Zionist leaders Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant and National Security Minister Ben Gvir won’t say publicly: that U.S.-backed Israel is losing the war politically, morally and militarily.

The Council on Foreign Affairs stated on its website that the U.S. has made over 100 military aid transfers to Israel since October 7. These transfers have resulted in the mass slaughter of over 35,000 Palestinian civilians — including over 15,000 children — and the wounding and disappearance of close to 90,000 others due to unrelenting Israeli airstrikes. Gaza’s entire infrastructure, including housing, schools, hospitals, roads, mosques, electricity and more, have either been totally destroyed or severely damaged.

Humanitarian aid for more than 1 million starving Gazans has been obstructed by the ongoing genocide, including the sabotage of food and other life-saving measures by armed fascist, Zionist settlers, who live on stolen Palestinian lands.

And despite all of the military firepower the terrorist Israeli repressive state has at its disposal, its occupation forces continue to suffer loss of life and other casualties, as well as the destruction and capture of military equipment, at the hands of a united Palestinian resistance of many factions, mainly using small arm weaponry.

The Israeli regime has reported that thousands of soldiers are in need of psychological therapy for post traumatic stress syndrome from battle fatigue, and a growing number of them are committing suicide.

And the Spanish government just announced that it will not send any more weaponry to Israel. Hezbollah continues to assault Israeli settlers and the Israeli military bases from southern Lebanon. The Yemeni Naval Forces continue to patrol and stop any Israel-bound ships and U.S. military carriers in the Red and Mediterranean Seas.

A doomed regime

That the Israeli Occupation Forces have been unable to conquer Gaza has caused an ever growing schism within the Israeli war cabinet and throughout Israeli society. Some cabinet members have threatened to resign unless the Israeli government negotiates with the resistance to bring about a permanent ceasefire to guarantee the

release of the October 7 hostages, alive or dead.

There are mounting protests in the streets demanding the resignation of Netanyahu for not prioritizing bringing the hostages home through a negotiated agreement. Stones were thrown at Gvir on May 18 by Israeli settlers, which prompted him to draw his gun.

On the political front, the worldwide student Intifada continues to take the lead with its unwavering solidarity and pressure on universities to divest parts of their endowments from companies, especially military industries, that do business with Israel. There are growing demands to ban Israeli sports teams from international competition, such as the upcoming FIFA soccer tournament and even the Paris Summer Olympics Games.

The pro-Palestinian masses of Egypt and Türkiye, whose reactionary regimes have a sordid history of complicity with Israel, have pressured those regimes to distance themselves from the Zionist state. That’s why Egypt and Türkiye joined the case South Africa brought before the International Court of Justice in late 2023 that charged Israel with committing genocide in Gaza.

All of these developments and more show that the days of the illegal Israeli state, built on the backs of the massacres, mass displacement and racist settler colonialism for the past 76 years, are numbered. And there is nothing the Israeli regime can do — even with the support of their biggest imperialist ally — to reverse this escalating trend of isolation and resistance on all fronts. □

Palestinian resistance denounces U.S. floating pier in Gaza

By Sara Flounders

An ominous U.S. escalation of 1,000 U.S. troops to Gaza is cloaked in the phony guise of a humanitarian mission. The statements from the Palestinian Resistance, published below this introduction, explain the political danger.

Here is some background: The militarized floating dock, rammed into the coast of Gaza, is a plan proposed by Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu to President Joe Biden on Oct. 22, 2023. (tinyurl.com/yc5mnw55)

The Trident Pier was then publicly announced with great media fanfare at Biden’s State of the Union address on March 7, 2024. Israel “fully supports” the creation of such a facility, an Israeli official immediately told Reuters. (tinyurl.com/taand3pe)

The giant dock and causeway, one-third of a mile long (550 meters), was built by U.S. military engineers and assembled by the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, with final assembly by the Israeli military in the Israeli port of Ashdod.

The minimal amount of aid must be loaded and unloaded five times before distribution. Every pallet is inspected by the U.S. forces and Israeli forces.

Aid groups have criticized the pier as a costly and ineffective distraction. It is designed to deflect attention from Israel’s blockade of all land deliveries. According to the Egyptian Red Crescent, 1,574 trucks were stuck in Al Arish, Egypt, blocked from entering Rafah with critically needed food.

Although a minimum of 500 trucks a day are needed to avoid famine, this pier would initially only handle 90 trucks a day and stop in bad weather, high waves and rough seas. Who is responsible for actually delivering the aid is also unclear based on past Israeli attacks on aid distributions. (tinyurl.com/hd7zu3je)

The plan has aroused suspicion because the U.S. has long used Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore piers to land troops and equipment in areas where the U.S. military has no access to a fixed pier.

The pier, built at a cost of \$320 million, is part of the enormous \$26 billion in additional aid to Israel that Biden recently approved as part of the supplemental aid package. That package was a public statement of complete support for genocide in Gaza.

Committing 1,000 U.S. troops confirms the U.S. determination to escalate the brutal aggression against the Palestinian people.

The following statements were issued on May 18, 2024, on the Resistance News Network Telegram thread.

Gaza Government Media Office

The floating water dock off the coast of Gaza does not meet the needs of our Palestinian people for food. We demand the opening of land crossings and the immediate and urgent entry of aid and goods through them.

The U.S. administration is trying to beautify its ugly face and appear civilized by establishing a floating water dock off the coast of Gaza City, claiming its purpose is to deliver humanitarian aid and food to our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, who are subjected to policies of starvation, forced displacement, and genocide carried out by the “israeli” occupation army with active participation, full involvement, and real endorsement from the U.S. administration.

Since the start of this genocidal war, the U.S. has continued to supply the occupation with over 200,000 rockets and bombs, some carrying 2,000 pounds of explosives, used by the occupation to annihilate entire residential neighborhoods. This has resulted in over 35,000 martyrs, more than 79,000 wounded, and 10,000 missing.

We question the intentions of the U.S. administration, which is managing and perpetuating the genocide war, forming a protective wall for the “israeli” occupation, and continuing its absolute support for the war against civilians.

The U.S. administration has opposed the cessation of this war against civilians, children, and women, against the housing sector, infrastructure, and humanitarian services sectors in the [United Nations] Security Council multiple times. Additionally, it has not exerted real pressure on the occupation to open the crossings and allow aid to enter, but has instead been an obstacle to any solutions for the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. The floating water dock does not meet the food needs of our Palestinian people.

Amidst the policy of starving 2.4 million people in the Gaza Strip, including 2 million displaced persons who live on daily aid and require more than seven million meals daily, what it will provide will not break the famine or cover this immense need for our people in the Gaza Strip. Instead, it will give the occupation a chance to prolong this war that has consumed everything.

We demand the immediate and urgent opening of

the land crossings and the entry of various aids and fuel through them. We also express our deep astonishment at the introduction of patchwork and partial solutions, circumventing real solutions to the deep humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip that continues to affect civilians with all harshness.

We hold the “israeli” occupation and the U.S. administration fully responsible for the deliberate and premeditated policy of starvation and blockade against our defenseless Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

We also hold them responsible for the continuation of the genocide war and the commission of crimes against humanity, international law, and global human rights principles.

We call on all free countries of the world and all international and UN organizations to exert real and effective pressure on the occupation and the U.S. administration to stop the genocide war, end the ongoing aggression against the Gaza Strip, and halt the supply of deadly weapons from the occupation’s allies aimed at killing civilians, children, and women.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Central Media Department

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine reaffirms: The Floating Port is a source of concern and warns of underlying plans, asserting that the presence of U.S. and other forces is an occupation force.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine reiterates its concern about the establishment of a floating port by the U.S. administration on the coasts of the Gaza Strip, warning of the risks of using it to implement other objectives and plans such as displacement or protecting the occupation rather than transporting aid.

The Front also warns any Palestinian, Arab, or international parties against aligning with the U.S. administration or working at this port, emphasizing the need to open all crossings in the Gaza Strip, including the Rafah land crossing, as an alternative to this port to ensure the flow of aid into the Strip without restrictions or conditions.

The Front stresses that the Rafah land crossing is a purely Palestinian-Egyptian sovereign crossing and that its management mechanism is determined by the Palestinian side in agreement with the Egyptian side, away from the control or intervention of the occupation.

The Front reaffirms its position against any U.S., Zionist, or any foreign presence in the Gaza Strip, whether at the Rafah crossing or any place on the land or coasts of the Strip, asserting that it and the resistance will continue to treat these forces as an occupying force.

These statements were lightly edited.



Egyptian protesters demand an end to ties with Israel, Cairo, May 20, 2024.

Ukraine crisis nears cracking point: New NATO escalation?

By John Catalinotto

Recent gains by the Russian military on the battlefield in Ukraine have sharpened the possibility of a new escalation of U.S.-NATO aggression, designed to prevent a collapse of the dependent Kiev regime and continue the proxy war against Russia. Leading U.S. and European Union officials threaten to expand the war in Ukraine, urging rocket strikes inside Russian territory and even the use of NATO troops.

With such aggressive military steps — impossible without U.S. approval — the Western officials risk a direct confrontation between NATO and the Russian military, both armed with nuclear weapons. They threaten a much wider conflagration, already a risk from the Israeli genocide in Gaza and the Pentagon's moves to surround China with military bases in the Pacific.

That such steps are even discussed means that the economic and political problems of the U.S.-led imperialist system have reached an acute crisis stage. Only the intervention of the masses can prevent this crisis from leading to a calamity, as it did 110 years ago. Then two hostile imperialist alliances, each controlling empires that they built through plunder, laid waste to Europe in World War I.

Regarding Ukraine, the current pressures pushing toward escalation include:

- (1) failure of the U.S. State Department and CIA neocons to eliminate Russia as a geopolitical rival, their last major success being the 2013-14 Maidan coup in Kiev;
- (2) failure of U.S. and E.U. sanctions against Russia to isolate the Russian economy from countries in the Global South and especially from China;



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

January 2023 protest against U.S. proxy war in Ukraine, Times Square, New York City.

- (3) strong interest in ruling sectors of Western capitalism to continue the war in Ukraine;
- (4) ascendance of E.U. politicians who adopt policies completely in line with Washington.

Threats against Russia

The Ukraine war flowed from the 2014 Maidan coup that expelled an elected Ukrainian president, friendly to Russia, and replaced him with a president hostile to Moscow and allied with pro-fascist forces in Ukraine. This opened eight years of war that the Kiev regime waged against the ethnic Russian and anti-fascist populations in Ukraine's Donbass region who had founded the Luhansk and Donetsk Peoples Republics in response to the coup.

Along with the festering civil war in Ukraine, Russia was threatened by the continual expansion of NATO closer to its western and northern borders. With 16 members as 1999 began, NATO expanded to 30 by the end of 2021, some of them former Soviet republics or members of the Soviet Union-led Warsaw Pact.

NATO has been holding annual military exercises, drawing ever closer to the Russian borders, while the U.S. puts air bases capable of strikes on Russian cities within a half-hour of their targets. These steps finally provoked Moscow to send its military into Ukraine in February 2022.

Since then, Washington has used Russia's intervention to line up European politicians behind its policies or to use those politicians who have always served U.S. interests, whatever their reason. French President Emmanuel Macron, E.U. President Ursula von der Leyen, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and British Chief of the Defense Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin provide a few examples.

Baerbock (Green Party) pushes to send long-range missiles to Ukraine, those capable of striking inside Russia. Radakin told the April 25 Financial Times that attacks against civilian targets deep inside Russia must be intensified. Von der Leyen pushed for unwavering support for Ukraine against Russia.

Macron has been speaking openly

of sending forces "on the ground" from NATO countries to Ukraine. "If Russia were to win," he said on prime-time TV on March 14, "we would no longer have security in Europe." (politico.eu) The threats to send in NATO troops have continued. Now these pro-U.S. politicians all have a stake in preventing a defeat of the Kiev regime in Ukraine.

Private money

More important than the politicians are those in the imperialist ruling class who profit directly from the war and those who have invested in rebuilding Ukraine post-war.

The military capitalists flourish as the war drags on. They will fight to the last Ukrainian, Russian or anyone else. The investors profit best if the Kiev regime exists when the war ends and if it can keep paying interest on its debt. The investment funds BlackRock and J. P. Morgan have approached these investors and taken their money. They will take what they can from Ukraine as collateral.

While the media reports describe the weapons for Ukraine as "aid," Kiev must finance the war by incurring foreign debt, which as of the end of 2023 totaled \$161.5 billion. There is a lot of money riding on that government continuing to exist and pay its debts.

Since elements of the imperialist ruling class are guided by these irrational drives for profit, there is no way to appeal to their reason. Everyone else, however, must take seriously the imperialist politicians' reckless calls to put NATO troops on the ground or to fire rockets on Russian cities. The Russian government has said it takes them seriously and will counter them.

Those who oppose imperialism must mobilize to stop the war in Ukraine from escalating. No other steps can stop it. □

Texas governor pardons murderer of BLM protester

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

On May 16, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott pardoned Daniel Perry, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison for murdering a man protesting with Black Lives Matter in July 2020 in downtown Austin, Texas.

Perry, a 30-year-old white man who had posted numerous racist statements on social media, drove his car into the crowd and killed Garrett Foster, one of the protesters. Foster, who was also white, was pushing his life partner in her wheelchair when he was gunned down.

In July 2021, nearly a year after the killing, Perry was indicted by a Travis County (Austin) grand jury on charges of murder and aggravated assault. He was tried and convicted by a trial jury in April 2023, and sent to prison on May 10, 2023. Abbott asked the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to investigate the murder charge, and after a year the board, all appointed by the governor, recommended a pardon.

After George Floyd, a Black man, was murdered in May of 2020 by three racist Minneapolis cops, outrage spread from coast to coast and around the world. The Black Lives Matter movement grew by leaps and bounds and included people of all ages and nationalities.

Outraged by this pardon, reactions were swift. Whitney Mitchell, Foster's



Garrett Foster with partner Whitney Mitchell.

partner, said that she had expected to grow old with Foster before Perry murdered him. Mitchell said: "Daniel Perry texted his friends about plans to murder a protester he disagreed with. After a lengthy trial, with an abundance of evidence, 12 impartial Texans determined that he carried out that plan and murdered my Garrett.

"With this pardon, the Governor has desecrated the life of a murdered Texan and U.S. Air Force veteran, and impugned that jury's just verdict. He has declared that Texans who hold political views that are different from his — and different from those in power — can be killed in

this state with impunity."

Senator Borris L. Miles, an African American state legislator, immediately wrote to the governor, saying, "The pardon sends the wrong message and is a slap in the face to the judicial process. This is not the Texas I want to see. I want a Texas where a conviction handed down by a jury of your peers has meaning. I want a Texas where Fox News does not dictate state policy. I want a Texas where the law is applied equally. Until I see that Texas, I will continue to speak out on travesties such as this."

The governor's pardon of Perry contrasted with his position after the pardons board recommended a posthumous pardon for George Floyd, who had a minor drug conviction while living in Houston. Abbott took no action in Floyd's case, denying him a pardon.

Abbott's pardon of Perry came despite new evidence that surfaced following his conviction. The Austin American Statesman reported on April 13, 2023, that a Travis County state district judge unsealed court records that reveal anti-protester social media posts and racist messages that the jury did not see or hear while deciding whether to convict Perry on a murder charge. The posts unsealed May 16, 2023, included hateful messages, with the admission, "It is official I am a racist."

In another Facebook post on June 1, 2020, white supremacist Perry wrote a vile message which dehumanized and slandered Black people, using racist stereotypes. He viciously attacked the Black Lives Matter movement, attempting to whip up more racist hostility against the countrywide mobilization calling for "Justice for George Floyd," which began May 26, the day after his murder by police.

Abbott's bid for Trump VP

According to a May 17 article in the Texas Monthly, the news of the pardon came "soon after Abbott deployed state police, heavily armed, to crack down on another peaceful protest movement that is unpopular among his supporters: the rally at the University of Texas Austin against Israel's conduct during its war against Hamas in Gaza."

Abbott's outrageous actions are part of his agenda to appeal to Trump for a vice-presidential spot on the Republican ballot. His racist disregard for migrants, for pushing charter schools instead of funding public education, for allowing prisoners to die from the Texas summer heat — these actions put Abbott on the other side of the barricade from the majority of Texans in his class war on working people and oppressed peoples across this vast state. □



¿Agitación exterior?

6 de mayo de 2024

Dejemos claro desde el principio que es perfectamente legal, normal y excelente ofrecer solidaridad, ánimo, apoyo material y, si se pide, asesoramiento y formación a los estudiantes que se oponen al genocidio. Incluso es deber de los organizadores experimentados ofrecer tales actos de solidaridad.

Cuando los medios de comunicación corporativos, como hicieron el 1 de mayo y en torno a esa fecha, escriben sobre «agitadores externos» que participan en los campamentos, rozan el ridículo. Si políticos como el alcalde de Nueva York, Eric Adams, y la gobernadora de Nueva York, Kathy Hochul, atacan los campamentos como un hervidero de agitadores externos, sabemos que se están agarrando a un clavo ardiendo. Y que mienten, mienten y mienten.

Con estas fanfarronadas mentirosas, los políticos y los medios de comunicación están encubriendo el papel de los verdaderos agentes externos que han intervenido en las universidades. Estos actores son traídos para perturbar las protestas y perjudicar a los estudiantes. En algunos casos —en lo que respecta a la derecha MAGA— su objetivo es destruir las organizaciones educativas que consideran insuficientemente racistas, xenófobas y sexistas.

Los agitadores externos más obvios son la policía estatal y local. Se trata de profesionales, mercenarios, sin vínculos esenciales con la educación, a los que las administraciones escolares llaman desde el exterior para invadir los campus y detener y golpear a los estudiantes.

Está el Congreso de Estados Unidos, cuyas comisiones citaron a rectores y presidentes de universidades para que respondieran a preguntas descaradamente viciosas y ridículas bajo amenaza de desacato. Incluso

exigieron la dimisión de los dirigentes de la Universidad de Pensilvania, Harvard y el MIT, obligando a los dos primeros a dimitir y demostrando a todos los dirigentes universitarios que más les vale ponerse duros con los estudiantes. Esos fascistas del Congreso están fuera de lugar.

editorial

Se han unido a la refriega grandes donantes de dinero a las dotaciones universitarias, amenazando con retener los fondos si las administraciones de las escuelas no hacen caer la ira del Estado capitalista sobre los estudiantes pro-palestinos -



Campamento estudiantil por Palestina, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 2 de mayo de 2024.

no los expulsan también. Estos ricos donantes pueden ser antiguos alumnos, pero no son ni estudiantes ni profesores y desde luego no son trabajadores de la universidad. Son agentes externos, agentes externos con dinero, y en los Estados Unidos capitalistas, el dinero habla.

Agentes externos menos obvios son los elementos fascistas que se hacen pasar por estudiantes locales que

atacan los campamentos, a menudo empleando la violencia (UCLA). A veces incluso gritan consignas anti-judías que, según los medios de comunicación, proceden del campamento (Universidad Northeastern de Boston).

Luego están los medios de comunicación corporativos, que en algunos casos realizan ataques descarados y en otros sutiles. La prensa sensacionalista y los telediarios se limitan a calumniar a los estudiantes tachándolos de violentos y antisemitas, aunque saben que estas afirmaciones son falsas. Los escritores de opinión proimperialistas y proisraelíes más sofisticados sermonean a los estudiantes sobre supuestos errores en sus tácticas. Su objetivo común es desmoralizar a los activistas.

La verdad es que miles de estudiantes han sorprendido a todos —incluidos los que gobiernan Estados Unidos— y han dinamizado y animado a los pobres y oprimidos de todo el mundo. Cuando han sido atacados por la policía, han atraído aún más apoyo de compañeros estudiantes, profesores y trabajadores, dentro y fuera de sus campus, que también se han llenado de energía.

Durante seis meses, quienes participaron en los campamentos vieron cómo Israel cometía un genocidio en tiempo real, captado en las redes sociales. Vieron cómo el gobierno estadounidense armaba a Israel y le proporcionaba apoyo político, diplomático y logístico, es decir, cómo era cómplice del genocidio.

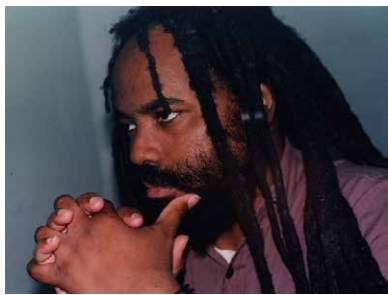
Y ahora, como el niño que no tuvo miedo de señalar la desnudez del emperador, los de los campamentos han hecho que millones de personas más sean conscientes de estos crímenes del imperio estadounidense. Los estudiantes no necesitan más agitación «externa». Ya están haciendo lo correcto.

Como cualquiera que luche contra un monstruo, a estos estudiantes les viene bien la solidaridad. Y cualquiera que se oponga al genocidio debería mostrarles esa solidaridad. □

Mumia habla con estudiantes de la CUNY

26 de abril

Mumia: Hermanos, hermanas, camaradas, amigas y amigos, les saludo desde el sistema estadounidense de encarcelamiento masivo. Me parece que ahora participamos en algo llamado educación masiva, y la Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York (CUNY), Columbia, Emory y USC forman parte de este proceso. La educación es sobre la represión que Gaza sufre ahora.



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Es maravillosa la decisión que ustedes han tomado de romper el silencio y hablar en contra de la represión que ven con sus propios ojos. Por eso, forman parte de algo masivo. Están al lado correcto de la historia.

Ustedes se oponen a un régimen colonial de colonos que roba la tierra de la gente indígena del área. Dicen que esto está mal. Les insto a denunciar el terrorismo que está azotando Gaza con todo su poder, toda su voluntad y toda su fuerza. No se inclinen ante las autoridades que les exigen guardar silencio.

Es el momento —este día, esta hora, este instante— de ser escuchado. El momento de sacudir la tierra para que la gente de Gaza, la gente de Rafa, la gente de Cisjordania, y toda la gente de Palestina pueda sentir su solidaridad con ellos. (*Aplausos y gritos de la gente.*)

Soy alumno del gran Frantz Fanon, ahora fallecido. Leo sus libros todos los días y pienso en sus ideas. Y cuando veo lo que pasa en Gaza ahora, reconozco a sus residentes como “los condenados de la tierra” que están luchando para liberarse de generaciones de ocupación. Por eso, no es suficiente, hermanos y hermanas, exigir

un cese de fuego. Qué tal esto: Que su demanda sea ¡Alto a la Ocupación! ¡Alto a la Ocupación! ¡Alto a la Ocupación!

(*Gritos de apoyo. Los estudiantes corean ¡Alto a la Ocupación! ¡Alto a la Ocupación! ¡Alto a la Ocupación!*)

Que esto sea su grito de batalla porque es el llamado de la historia, de la cual todas y todos ustedes forman parte.

Son parte de algo magnánimo, magnífico, algo que cambia el alma, la vida, la historia. No

suelten este momento. Háganlo más grande, más masivo, más poderoso para que resuene hasta las estrellas. Me emociona su trabajo. Les quiero. Les admiro. ¡A movernos!

(*Gritos de apoyo. ¡A movernos! ¡Gracias Mumia! ¡Ladrillo por ladrillo, muro por muro, liberemos a Mumia Abu-Jamal! ¡Ladrillo por ladrillo, muro por muro, liberemos a Mumia Abu-Jamal!...*)

Johanna Fernandez: ¡Mumia! Espera. ¿Tenemos más tiempo?

Estudiantes: ¡Sí! ¡Sí!

Johanna: Te tengo una pregunta, Mumia. ¿Cómo se relaciona la liberación de Palestina con la liberación de todas y todos nosotros y la raza humana? Esto empieza con Palestina, pero se extiende a

todo el sistema global.

Mumia: Piensen en esto. Este momento se hizo posible por la tecnología que existe en los bolsillos de millones de personas en todo el mundo. Sus teléfonos celulares. Piensen en lo que pasó con el hermano George Floyd, quien fue asfixiado con una rodilla en el cuello hace apenas unos años. Esto desencadenó un movimiento internacional que no se había visto en generaciones.

Lo que ustedes están viendo ahora en sus teléfonos —no en televisión sino en sus teléfonos celulares— es un tipo de represión invisible contra un pueblo sin poder que ha estado tras los muros de Palestina durante generaciones, un pueblo que ha sufrido 75 años de ocupación sin la libertad de abrir el agua o repeler los ataques aéreos de los F18 (aviones de combate). Cuando ven ese tipo de represión, todo lo que pasa se magnifica y los conmueve.

Si ustedes no tuvieran corazón, no se conmovieran, pero sí tienen corazón. Ven la realidad y los conmueve. Conmueve su alma y nos conecta como seres humanos ¿verdad? Los conmueve la opresión. Dice el Corán que “la opresión es peor que la muerte” porque la opresión destruye el alma, el espíritu, la esperanza de ser humano. ¡Así que sigan, sigan adelante!

(*Gritos*)

Johanna: Gracias.

Mumia: Gracias. Gracias a todas y todos. □



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Campamento de estudiantes a CUNY en solidaridad con Palestina, Ciudad de Nueva York, 26 de abril de 2024.