

Rafah massacre confirms

Israel refuses ICJ order to halt genocide

Israel's murderous May 26 airstrike targeting Palestinians living in tents in Rafah killed nearly 50 people, with many being burnt alive or decapitated. This massacre underlines the Israeli regime's defiance of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) May 24 ruling that Israel must suspend its military campaign in Rafah in southern Gaza.

The Rafah massacre shows that Israel's warmakers also flout the charges the International Criminal Court (ICC) brought earlier against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Galant for the genocide they have ordered against the people of Gaza.

An airstrike against a civilian population living in tents is one more egregious crime in Israel's ongoing genocidal war on Palestinians in Gaza.

The Israeli pariah state has chosen to again display its arrogance and contempt for international institutions. What is new since last October, however, is that these United Nations institutions have finally charged Israeli officials and the Israeli state itself with serious war crimes.

Have no illusions regarding these courts. Neither the ICJ nor the ICC on their own can stop the genocide or arrest Israeli leaders. They have no apparatus to enforce their decisions. That the courts declared these rulings, however, indicates a change in the world's attitude toward Israel.

The ICJ, also called the World Court, was established in 1945 as the U.N. was being set up and the U.S. was dominant worldwide economically and militarily;

the ICJ adjudicates general disputes **between nations**, which all U.N. members recognize.

In 2001 the Rome Statute, which has been ratified by 124 nations, but not by the U.S., Israel, India, China or Russia, established the ICC.

The ICC can investigate and charge **individuals** with crimes like genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression, like the charges brought against Netanyahu and Galant. To date nearly all such cases have been brought against political leaders in Africa or of other less powerful or rich states.

The ICC also charged three leaders of Hamas with war crimes regarding the events of October 7. This charge has no basis, as the October 7 uprising was the legitimate response of a colonial population to 76 years of oppression, which is a right under the U.N. Charter. The charges are thus a travesty, as Hamas, along with other resistance forces, had a right to take up arms against the occupation.

Despite these spurious charges against Hamas leaders, that Israeli government officials might face arrest in world capitals is an unexpected defeat, not only for Israel, but also for U.S. imperialist interests.

That these cases were decided in the two international courts is important not because they resolve Israeli aggression – nor do they punish U.S. imperialism for backing and arming this aggression – but as a symptom that mass worldwide anger against the Israeli regime has reached new levels. The

popular anger against Israel is so strong and widespread that it has pushed governments to react.

Remember that last summer Israel was on the verge of normalizing relations with Saudi Arabia. Now masses of people take the streets and occupy universities in solidarity with Palestine. Instead of recognizing Israel and normalizing relations, nations have been disrupting their relations with Israel to protest the genocide in Gaza. Jordan, Bahrain, Türkiye, Colombia, Honduras, Chile, Belize, South Africa and Chad have recalled their ambassadors to Israel or severed ties altogether.

On May 27, Israeli occupation forces killed two Egyptian troops at the Rafah border, another crime that could ignite a

mass reaction among the tens of millions of Egyptians who are in solidarity with Palestine.

Imperialist regimes, often long-term allies of Israel, even those continuing to arm Israel like France's, have criticized Israel's policy of attacking Rafah. Spain, Norway and Ireland have recognized the Palestinian state.

Despite their shortcomings, the courts' statements are symptoms of the growing worldwide solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. They signal an opening for anti-imperialists to help build an even more massive movement for the liberation of Palestine.

The courts won't resolve the Palestinian liberation struggle, but the movement can use whatever truth they bring to the world to mobilize for Palestine's freedom and to discredit the criminal Israeli state and its imperialist U.S. backers. □

WORKERS WORLD
editorial



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Despite pouring rain, thousands in Manhattan protest Israeli massacre of displaced Palestinians in Rafah camp, May 27, 2024.

Philly health workers say

'Bombing hospitals is a war crime!'



Philadelphia, May 19, 2024.

PHOTO: HCW4PALESTINE INSTAGRAM

By Marie Kelly
Philadelphia

Philly Health Care Workers for Palestine (HCWL4Pal Philly), Families for Ceasefire, Drexel University Medical Students for Palestine, and the Philly Palestine Coalition gathered at Seger Park, just blocks away from Philadelphia's Independence Hall on May 19. The purpose of the rally and march was to emphasize their unwavering support for health care workers in Gaza.

Preparation for the event included art builds and securing speakers who could talk about the ongoing genocide and how

it is has decimated the health care system in Gaza, targeting doctors, nurses and aid workers with unspeakable atrocities. Banners exclaimed: "Bombing hospitals is a war crime!" and "Remember hospitals in Gaza targeted by the IOF!" Banners listed the names of hospitals that were destroyed or rendered almost inoperable because of Israeli airstrikes, raids, and sniper attacks.

Also displayed and carried were a quilt comprised of facemasks with names of martyred health care workers written on each mask and a streamer of 500 patient identification bands, each one showing

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Philly health workers say ‘Bombing hospitals is a war crime!’

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the name of a martyred Palestinian. Also shown were framed pictures of Palestinian health care workers who were killed by the Israeli Occupation Forces while they tended to some of the thousands of victims of this genocide. These pictures were distributed to marchers to carry. These protesters wore “bloodied” white lab coats or patient hospital gowns.

Speakers at the park explained that the purpose of the rally was to honor health care worker martyrs, describe the untenable conditions of the hospitals in Gaza, and show how major health care networks in Philadelphia are complicit in the carnage by their silence and even more explicitly by their research funding and initiatives with direct ties to the Israeli apartheid state.

The rally then took to the street as marchers blocked traffic along a route through the historic area of downtown Philadelphia. The route was planned to call attention to two major health care systems in Philly: Penn Medicine of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Chants from the marchers were loud and consistent. People enjoying brunch at outside tables at the many eateries along the way were mostly supportive except for a group of Zionists who shouted obscenities as marchers passed by without engaging.

Marchers stopped first outside of a Penn Medicine hospital building. As marchers carrying banners gathered at the intersection, a Philly nursing student and member of HCW4Pal Philly chapter gave a fiery speech. She inspired the crowd by invoking the revolutionary spirit of Malcolm X, Ho Chi Minh, and Lorraine Hansbury; coincidentally, all three had birthdays on the day of the march.

Jefferson’s biotech for Israeli military

The end point of the march was on Jefferson Health Sciences campus, home of the Jefferson Israel Center. According to their website, the Center was launched in 2018 when “Jefferson and the Israeli Innovation Authority (IIA) jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding, with the IIA committing \$1 million to Israeli biotech start-ups for the primary purpose of expanding product development and validation within the Jefferson Health

ecosystem.” (tinyurl.com/Jeff-Israel-Ctr-website)

The IIA supplies the Israeli military with biofuel for their military vehicles. The organization is part of the Medical Technology Energy Consortium (MTEC) established by the U.S. Military and Department of Defense.

Neither Penn Medicine or Jefferson Hospital has condemned the genocide nor the targeting of their colleagues in Gaza, in direct violation of the medical and nursing codes of ethics.

Speakers at Jefferson included a doctor, recently returned from aid work in Gaza, who as a direct witness, described horrible conditions. A social worker who was fired from Jefferson for her pro-Palestine views also spoke.

19.7-minute die-in on the asphalt

The event ended with a moving tribute to our martyred Gaza colleagues. Initially, it was to take place in a park on the Jefferson campus but graduation festivities were in full swing. So the marchers in hospital gowns and lab coats performed a die-in on the asphalt in the middle of the street outside the health science center, holding the photos of their martyred comrades.

Before taking their places on the asphalt, several marchers read testimonies from Gazan health care workers describing dire conditions in their hospitals due to the IOF genocide. Organizers handed out leaflets that listed each hospital with facts about its current state. Most have been bombed to oblivion. Some have been raided and taken over by the IOF. A few are still trying to function with inhumane supply shortages and under threats of Israeli bombardment.

Finally, all the die-in participants remained lying down for 19.7 minutes, representing the April 2024 statistic released by UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] of 73 incidents per day – one every 19.7 minutes –when a hospital is targeted or a health care worker in Gaza is murdered, or kidnapped and tortured.

A vocal and violin performance of “Sawfa Nabqa Huna” added to the solemnity of the moment. The title of the song translates to “We will stay here.” This is the same powerful protest song sung by the steadfast doctors at Al-Awda Hospital in October 2023; the video went viral. □



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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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Manifesteros egipcios exigen el fin de los lazos con Israel, El Cairo, 20 de mayo de 2024.

La desaparición de un régimen moribundo

“La guerra en Gaza no tiene rumbo y la estamos perdiendo claramente. Nos vemos obligados a volver a luchar en las mismas zonas, perdiendo más soldados, perdiendo en la escena internacional, dañando las relaciones con Estados Unidos y provocando el colapso de la economía. Muéstrame una cosa en la que hayamos tenido éxito”, declaró a la Radio del Ejército israelí Ram Ben-Barak, miembro de la Knesset (parlamento israelí), ex subdirector del Mossad y director general del Ministerio de Servicios de Inteligencia y del Ministerio de Asuntos Estratégicos. (espanol.almayadeen.net, 18 de mayo)

Mientras tanto, el ex ministro de guerra sionista Avigdor Lieberman declaró: «No hay victoria en el norte ni en el sur, y somos como un barco sin destino. Hemos perdido completamente el rumbo». (reddit.com/18 de mayo)

¡Directamente de la fuente! Estos dos representantes del régimen del apartheid israelí han confirmado lo que los máximos dirigentes sionistas, el primer ministro Benjamin Netanyahu, el ministro de Defensa Yoav Gallant y el ministro de Seguridad Nacional Ben Gvir, no dirán públicamente: que Israel, respaldado por Estados Unidos, está perdiendo la guerra política, moral y militarmente.

El Consejo de Asuntos Exteriores declaró en su sitio web que Estados

Unidos ha realizado más de 100 transferencias de ayuda militar a Israel desde el 7 de octubre. Estas transferencias han provocado la matanza masiva de más de 35.000 civiles palestinos —entre ellos más de 15.000 niños— y a las heridas y desaparición de cerca de otras 90.000 personas debido a los incesantes ataques aéreos israelíes. Toda la infraestructura de Gaza, incluidas viviendas, escuelas, hospitales, carreteras, mezquitas, electricidad y demás, ha quedado totalmente destruida o gravemente dañada.

La ayuda humanitaria para más de un millón de gazatíes hambrientos se ha visto obstaculizada por el genocidio en curso, que incluye el sabotaje de alimentos y otras medidas para salvar vidas por parte de colonos sionistas fascistas armados, que viven en tierras palestinas robadas.

Y a pesar de toda la potencia de fuego militar de que dispone el Estado represivo terrorista israelí, sus fuerzas de ocupación siguen sufriendo la pérdida de vidas y otras bajas, así como la destrucción y captura de equipo militar, a manos de una resistencia palestina unida de muchas facciones, que utilizan principalmente armamento de pequeño calibre.

El régimen israelí ha informado de que miles de soldados necesitan terapia psicológica para el síndrome de estrés postraumático provocado por la fatiga de

la batalla, y un número creciente de ellos se está suicidando.

Y el gobierno español acaba de anunciar que no enviará más armamento a Israel. Hezbolá sigue asaltando a los colonos israelíes y las bases militares israelíes desde el sur del Líbano. Las fuerzas navales yemeníes siguen patrullando y deteniendo en los mares Rojo y Mediterráneo a los barcos que se dirigen a Israel y a los portaaviones militares estadounidenses.

Un régimen condenado

El hecho de que las Fuerzas de Ocupación israelíes hayan sido incapaces de conquistar Gaza ha provocado un cisma cada vez mayor dentro del gabinete de guerra israelí y en toda la sociedad israelí. Algunos miembros del gabinete han amenazado con dimitir a menos que el gobierno israelí negocie con la resistencia un alto el fuego permanente que garantice la liberación de los rehenes del 7 de octubre, vivos o muertos.

Cada vez hay más protestas en las calles exigiendo la dimisión de Netanyahu por no dar prioridad a traer a los rehenes a casa mediante un acuerdo negociado. El 18 de mayo, colonos israelíes lanzaron piedras contra Gvir, lo que le llevó a desenfundar su arma.

En el frente político, la Intifada estudiantil mundial sigue tomando la delantera

con su inquebrantable solidaridad y su presión sobre las universidades para que desinvirtan parte de sus dotaciones de empresas, especialmente de industrias militares, que hacen negocios con Israel. Cada vez hay más peticiones para que se prohíba a los equipos deportivos israelíes participar en competiciones internacionales, como el próximo torneo de fútbol de la FIFA e incluso los Juegos Olímpicos de verano de París.

Las masas propalestinas de Egipto y Türkiye, cuyos regímenes reaccionarios tienen un sórdido historial de complicidad con Israel, han presionado a esos regímenes para que se distancien del Estado sionista. Por eso Egipto y Türkiye se unieron al caso que Sudáfrica presentó ante la Corte Internacional de Justicia a finales de 2023 y que acusaba a Israel de cometer genocidio en Gaza.

Todos estos acontecimientos y otros más demuestran que los días del ilegal Estado israelí, construido a lomos de las masacres, los desplazamientos masivos y el colonialismo racista de los colonos durante los últimos 76 años, están contados. Y no hay nada que el régimen israelí pueda hacer -incluso con el apoyo de su mayor aliado imperialista- para invertir esta tendencia creciente de aislamiento y resistencia en todos los frentes. □



GRÁFICO: VOICES4 LONDON

Solidaridad internacional y LGBTQIA+ con Palestina.

No hay Orgullo en el genocidio

En la promoción que hace Tourist Israel de la marcha del Orgullo de Tel Aviv no se menciona el genocidio que tiene lugar en Palestina. El sitio describe la ciudad como “la Capital Gay de Oriente Medio, y quizás incluso una de las Capitales Gays del Mundo”.

¡Qué asco!

El horrible genocidio, que se ha cobrado más de 35.000 vidas —cifra que no tiene en cuenta los miles de personas sepultadas bajo

los escombros y no recuperadas — incluye a un número incalculable de palestinos LGBTQIA+.

La solidaridad con Palestina es el mensaje más importante que cualquiera puede llevar a los eventos del Orgullo en su comunidad. En demasiados lugares, las marchas del Orgullo se han corporativizado, con grandes contingentes que representan a toda una serie de empresas capitalistas. Algunas de las que están presentes en el Día del

Orgullo, como la famosa Starbucks, están en la lista de empresas que hacen negocios con Israel del Boicot, Desinversión y Sanciones.

Mundo Obrero saluda a las muchas personas queer aquí y en todo el mundo que no quieren tener nada que ver con el «lavado de cara rosa» del apartheid israelí. Nos unimos a ellos para decir “No al orgullo en el genocidio”.

(Para más información ver workers.org/2024/01/76525) □

At Wayne State encampment, spirits are high

By Arjae Red
Detroit

May 24 — Students at Wayne State University in Detroit are now on the third day of their encampment, which was set up in front of David Adamany Undergraduate Library to demand that the university divest from Israel.

Students played music, sang and chanted for Palestine. Muslim students conducted prayer. Spirits are high. The encampment, which functions like a small city, is supplied with food and dining areas, medical tents, and even an outdoor movie theater that students are using to screen documentaries about Gaza.

The encampment is fortified on all sides, with students showing no sign of leaving.

After getting a tour of the grounds,

Workers World spoke with some of these students. They've received much material support from the community, from food and water to barricades. But they said what they need the most is ultimately more people to join them.

University repression teaches resistance

Looking at the encampment, it appears as if it's been there for weeks. Students explained that the encampment was able to be established so quickly, because many of the students had experience supporting the University of Michigan encampment, which lasted for about three weeks and was finally cleared out on May 22.

A student told WW: "The police are just basically teaching us how to organize and defend these encampments. Each time the police clear out an encampment,

students are able to quickly reassemble it somewhere else. They can crush one, and another will pop up. They can't take away the skills we've learned in the struggle."

The full effects of the movement on the

consciousness of today's youth have yet to be seen. The universities that are so often the breeding ground of liberal indoctrination have become schools of resistance and struggle, like at Wayne State. □



Wayne State University encampment, May 24, 2024.

WW PHOTO: ARJAE RED